



Building a Community that Supports the Success of Children

THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

February 2015 Issue

A Message From The Director:

January flew by and we are not slowing down anytime soon! From our inspiring week with Kids at Hope Founder Rick Miller, to our heart warming site visits to Kids at Hope schools, to the search for a project coordinator for the Restoring the Village Initiative, to our ongoing community assessment and data collection for Communities that Care, to the launch of a new Getting Ahead class, to a new Substance Abuse Prevention grant, we have packed quite a bit into the first month of 2015! Thank you to all who supported these efforts. None of this would be possible without you.

During our week with Rick Miller, we explored ways St. Lucie County can deepen and widen its commitment to Kids at Hope, which teaches unequivocally that all kids are capable of success, no exceptions. As a community, we have made great strides and are at the forefront of the KAH movement. We want to make sure we are not just giving lip service to the "believed and practiced here" mantra, but are truly practicing what we preach when it comes to our youth. In that vein, KAH Community Coordinator Denise Sirmons will be reaching out to each of you to get your ideas on how we can take KAH to the next level.

As we head into February, Roundtable staff will focus primarily on grant applications. I would like to extend a special thanks to all of our grant funders, past, present and (hopefully) future for supporting our initiatives: Children's Services Council, United Way of St. Lucie County, St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners, the Community Coalition Alliance of Southeast Florida, the Roy A. Hunt Foundation, and Allegany Franciscan Ministries. Without your generous support, we could not execute and sustain the work of building a community of opportunity where every child succeeds.

Thank you for reading this Newsletter. I trust you will find it informative and useful. If at any time you have questions or comments, please see me, Kim Thomas or the appropriate network chair or initiative coordinator.

Best regards,

Shaniek Maynard





Shaniek Maynard, Kim Thomas, Rick Miller (KAH Founder and Chief Treasure Hunter), Denise Sirmons, and Melissa Hamblin



Rick Miller speaks to Roundtable members.



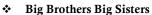
Rick Miller demonstrates "The Mental Blueprint" with St. Lucie County School Board member, Dr. Donna Mills.

The Roundtable of St. Lucie County is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization comprised of agencies working together with partners and stakeholders throughout the community to address the issues our children face at the root level. Its members are leaders of all aspects of society who come together to build a community of opportunity where every child succeeds.

The Roundtable operates through networks, each of which focuses on key aspects that affect the lives of our children.

Community Leaders Kids at Hope Forum

On January 20, 2015, the Roundtable hosted a Community Leaders Kids at Hope Forum with the theme "Restoring the Village, Restoring our Youth." Rick Miller, Founder of Kids at Hope, led a spirited discussion involving agency leaders, elected officials and practitioners. During the Forum, leaders discussed how to dig deeper with Kids at Hope, by making sure we support our KAH partners in continuing to connect kids with caring adults, and empowering children to articulate their futures in each of the four destinations. We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Forum, including:



- Boys & Girls Club
- Children's Services Council
- Commissioner Johnson
- ❖ Department of Juvenile Justice
- Department of Children & Families
- Devereux
- Fort Pierce Police Chief Amandro
- . Guardian ad Litem
- Health Department
- **❖** Housing Authority
- ❖ Hunt Foundation
- ❖ IRSC
- **❖** Lincoln Park Advisory Committee
- ❖ Mayor Hudson
- ❖ Mayor Oravec
- * PAL
- * PACE
- Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation
- **St. Lucie County School Board Members**
- ❖ Sheriff's Office
- ❖ Vice Mayor Bartz

A special thank you to our Forum Committee for all the planning that went into the event: Sherman Conrad (Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation), Melissa Hamblin (St. Lucie County School District), Debbie Hawley (St. Lucie County School District), Sherita Johnson (City of Fort Pierce), Shaniek Maynard (Roundtable), Terry Roberts (Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation), Denise Sirmons (Roundtable) and Kim Thomas (Roundtable).

We also appreciate our sponsors, Children's Services Council and United Way of St. Lucie County for covering the cost of the forum, the City of Fort Pierce for sponsoring the luncheon, St. Lucie Public Schools for sponsoring transportation, and Indian River State College for providing the space for our Train the Trainer Academy. Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Kids at Hope and the children of St. Lucie County!







CONGRATULATIONS!

Bayshore Elementary, Village Green Environmental Studies School, Allapattah Flats K8, Oak Hammock K8, and Samuel Gaines Academy for receiving the National Honor Award for the National Kids at Hope Day Contest!

For more information, visit: http://kidsathope.org/who program.html

Kids At Hope in Action!

The Community Leaders Hope Forum participants enjoyed site visits at three Kids at Hope Schools in St. Lucie County: Allapattah Flats K-8, Weatherbee Elementary, and Samuel S. Gaines Academy.



Upon arrival at Allapattah Flats K-8 School, guests walked through a Tunnel of Hope, where students and staff held signs with positive messages. Many of the students created posters depicting what they want to be in the future, such as a police officer or teacher. As the tunnel made its way inside, the Elementary Advanced Choir sang uplifting songs, including Pharrell's "Happy." Principal Patti Galloway gave a welcoming greeting and described

how the faculty, staff, and students incorporate the Kids at Hope beliefs and practices into everything they do. Select students then described how they have benefited from being in a school environment that embraces Kids at Hope. In closing, the guidance counselors, assistant principal, and a parent shared the different ways Kids at Hope has impacted their work and their children's lives.

The next stop on the tour was Weatherbee Elementary School. Principal Mike Hitsman greeted guests with a reception in the media center. Students recited the Kids at Hope Pledge and staff stated the Treasure Hunter's Pledge. A power point was delivered, explaining the many ways Kids at Hope is infused



Hope in action.

into events and activities, such as student-led conferences and destination days. The group was especially touched by a student's award-winning speech inspired by the message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She emphasized how the world will be a better place if we all learn to work together as a team, despite differences and difficult situations. Guests were then invited to observe students in their classrooms to see Kids at

Lastly, Samuel S. Gaines Academy greeted the Community Leaders Hope Forum group with a Tunnel of Hope. Staff and students high-fived as everyone walked through. Even the Pre-K kids were there with ribbons and signs. With beautiful weather, an outside reception area served as the perfect location to hear the school choir sing about music in learning. After a group photo, the visitors were ushered inside where Principal Traci Wilke and her staff provided a presentation on how the school uses Kids at Hope as the

foundation for student learning and programs. one such program, Students from (Advancement Via Individual Determination), proudly spoke about how they have grown and developed new skills and confidence. Other students then brought in their school binders and described to guests what they have learned and the progress they've made thanks to Kids At Hope!





29 New Kids At Hope Trainers!

The 2015 Kids at Hope Trainer Certification Academy took place on January 22nd and 23rd at the Indian River State College Schreiber Center. Many thanks to Dr. Mary Locke for letting us utilize the Center free of charge. Participants came from many organizations, agencies, counties, and schools. Rick Miller, Kids at Hope Founder and Chief Treasure Hunter, prepared a new crop of trainers to deliver the belief and practices within our community and continue to carry the torch so that all students are capable of success, no exceptions.

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Congratulations

- ♦ Louisette Almeus- Getting Ahead Graduate
- ♦ **Yiding Betancourt** Roundtable of St. Lucie County
- ♦ **Lisa Bollinger-Head-** Samuel S. Gaines Academy
- ♦ **Jennifer Bozenbury-** Port St. Lucie High School
- ♦ Regina Brown- Renaissance Charter School
- ♦ Kristy Conway- Roundtable of St. Lucie County
- ◆ Tracee Diaz- Port St. Lucie Police Department
- ♦ Kathryn Diskin- Oak Hammock K-8 School
- ♦ Helene Drouin- New Horizons
- ♦ Andrew Esposito- Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation
- ♦ Jessica Evans- Samuel S. Gaines Academy
- ♦ Cassandra Flores- Allapattah Flats K-8 School
- ♦ Tracy Hogan- Oak Hammock K-8 School
- Stacy Howell- Port St. Lucie High School

)

Graduates!

- ♦ Jean Jocylin- Port St. Lucie High School
- ♦ **Kathleen Manchester-** Southport Middle School
- ♦ Emily Picarello- Renaissance Charter School
- ♦ Janea Rolle- Lincoln Park Advisory Council
- ♦ **Gregory Simpson-** Gifford Youth Achievement Center
- ♦ Leslie Spurlock- Indian River County
- ♦ **Jenna Stinett** Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ♦ Dana Stonelake- Roundtable of St. Lucie County
- ♦ Joe Taylor- Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation
- ♦ Rashad Thomas- Port St. Lucie Parks & Recreation
- ♦ Wendi Todd- West Gate K-8 School
- ♦ Delores Williams- Sword Outreach
- Casey Wood- New Horizons
- Kristie Wuycheck- Oak Hammock K-8 School
- Robin Zide- Indian River State College



Rick Miller congratulates graduate Geegee Betancourt!



Kids At Hope Trainer Academy attendees.



The Kids At Hope Trainer Academy Graduates!

TREASURE HUNTER PLEDGE

As an adult and Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe all children are capable of success. NO EXCEPTIONS!

Substance Abuse Network

This month the Community Coalition Alliance of Southeast Florida announced that it was awarded additional grant funds to the Roundtable's Substance Abuse Network. As a result, the Roundtable will receive funds to promote three promising campaigns:

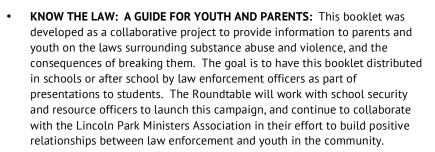


• FRIDAY NIGHT DONE RIGHT: This is a social norm campaign that emphasizes things teens would rather do instead of drink or do drugs. The Roundtable will sponsor two large-scale teen events—one in Port St. Lucie and one in Fort Pierce – for youth to have fun in a safe and drug free environment. The Fort Pierce event will bring together the hundreds of teens in the Lincoln Park area who have participated in Restoring the Village focus groups over the last six months. These teens have been very candid with community leaders

about their experience with violence and substance abuse in our community. We want to recognize and celebrate them, acknowledging that while it's often the negative that gets the attention, we know that the majority of

youth in our community are making right choices. The theme for these Kids at Hope events is "Friday Night Done Right: No Alcohol, No Dope . . . JUST HOPE!"

• PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST: St. Lucie County's data shows that teens who drink alcohol primarily obtain it, not from liquor stores, but from either their own homes or their friends' homes. The PARENTS WHO HOST LOSE THE MOST strategy is a public awareness campaign educating communities and parents about the health and safety risks of serving alcohol at teen parties. The program concentrates on celebratory times for youth, such as homecoming, prom, holidays, graduation and other times when underage drinking parties are prevalent. By distributing marketing and awareness materials throughout the county, the Network will encourage parents to send a unified message that teen alcohol consumption is unhealthy, unsafe and unacceptable. The Network will partner with local businesses, such as formal wear shops, limo services, flower shops and liquor stores, around prom and graduation time to spread the word.







If you are interested in helping with any of these campaigns, or if you are aware of a local event where we can market to local teens and parents, please contact Kim Thomas.

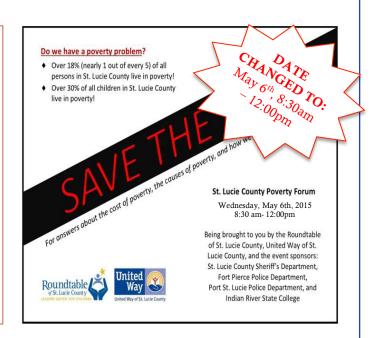
The Roundtable's Substance Abuse Prevention Network focuses on preventing underage drinking and substance abuse through



POVERTY FORUM UPDATE:

The date of this year's Poverty Forum has been changed to accommodate the schedule of the main presenter. Jodi Pfarr is a certified Bridges national consultant and the author of "Tactical Communications for First Responders". The new date is Wednesday, May 6th from 8:30am to 12:00pm at the IRSC Fort Pierce Main Campus (specific room to be determined). The morning session will conclude with breakout groups to discuss ways St. Lucie County can effectively address poverty and improve the lives of its citizens living in it. That afternoon, Ms. Pfarr will be addressing first responders on the Treasure Coast.

The day with Ms. Pfarr is being sponsored in part by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, the Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie Police Departments, as well as the United Way of St. Lucie County, the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, and Indian River State College. Additional sponsorships are being sought. Please contact Al Rivett for more details.



<u>UPCOMING BRIDGES OUT OF</u> <u>POVERTY TRAININGS:</u>

The next full-day Bridges training will be held on Friday, February 20th from 8:00am-4:00pm in Room R-132 on the IRSC Fort Pierce Main Campus.

A half-day training has been scheduled for Roundtable Members and other community leaders who are unable to commit to a full day for Friday, March 13th from 12PM to 4:30 PM (lunch will be provided) in Room E-201 on the IRSC Fort Pierce Main Campus.

Please contact Kim Thomas to confirm your attendance at either training.

NEW GETTING AHEAD CLASSES FORM:

On Monday, January 26th, 15 people began their journey to escaping the cycle of generational poverty. Grace Way Village is hosting this 9 1/2 week class, which is being facilitated by certified Getting Ahead facilitators Kevin Singletary and Sonia Dupree. A second class is being offered by the First United Methodist Church of Fort Pierce with certified facilitators Pastor Tim May and Cathy Kruegger beginning on February 24TH, 2015.

Bridges Out of Poverty is an approach that helps employers, community organizations, social service agencies, and individuals address poverty in a comprehensive way. Participants learn ideas, structures, and concrete tools a community needs to prevent, alleviate, and reduce poverty. The goal of the program is to help employers and directors to improve job retention rates, build resources, improve outcomes, and support those who are moving out of poverty.

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH NETWORK

Be a Part of Community Health Improvement Planning

The Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County has been engaging community partners in community health improvement planning since 2005. Many collaborators have helped the Department of Health create plans for projects and initiatives that have helped the people in St. Lucie County become healthier. However, our county is challenged by socio-economic factors, including children living in poverty and high unemployment. We know that income and education levels have a strong influence on a community's health. Our community is working on initiatives that address some of the root causes of poverty and is creating a culture that supports children's ability to succeed. The Health Department believes that these efforts will also result in improved health and is planning to convene all of our community partners and stakeholders to a health improvement session during the month of April 2015. The Health Department will announce the day of this important event very soon, and extends a cordial invitation to all partners to participate.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS NETWORK

The Safe Neighborhoods Network is thrilled to announce that it has partnered with Dr. Sharon Hayes, Psychology Program Coordinator and Faculty Member at Kaiser University, and her students to assist with the community gang assessment. Dr. Hayes' students will input and analyze hundreds of surveys to give a preliminary view of the community's perspective on gangs and violence in Fort Pierce. The team from Kaiser will also look at ways to engage hard to reach residents – such as high-risk youth and gang members - in the assessment process, and develop focus group strategies for talking with law enforcement and community leaders.

In January, two Safe Neighborhoods Subcommittees on Intervention and Law Enforcement Data met to develop crucial aspects of the Initiative. Intervention met to begin identifying critical agencies that must be represented in developing case management plans and providing resources to youth in the Restoring the Village Initiative. They also began developing referral criteria for youth to participate. Law Enforcement Data also met to untangle the disparity between data on gangs and violence and community wide perception. This Subcommittee, which consisted of detectives and officers from law enforcement, the Juvenile Detention Center, School Security and Juvenile Probation, focused on identifying what they see on the streets that the data does not capture. They developed specific recommendations, including broadening criteria for the Initiative to include younger teens and females engaged in gang violence who are not necessarily "documented" under Florida law. They also developed recommendations about continued officer training and agency collaboration. These recommendations will be included in the assessment report.

The next Safe Neighborhoods Meeting is set for February 17, 2015. At that meeting, the Network will use assessment information to identify a target population of youth to recruit for the Initiative, and prioritize three to five crucial problems that must be addressed to deal effectively with the gang problem. The Network will also develop specific goals and objectives for the Initiative. At the March meeting, Safe Neighborhoods will use the goals and objectives to identify activities and services for the program, anticipate barriers and begin finalizing their recommendations for the Roundtable. In February, the Roundtable's Subcommittees on Jobs and Transportation will meet. The Network hopes to have all hiring done and be serving youth by May/June 2015. If you are interested in participating in Safe Neighborhoods or the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee, please contact Kim Thomas.

Youth Leadership Council

The Roundtable would like to thank Chris Adams from United Way of St. Lucie County and Isabella Escalona from Parent Academy for being guest speakers at our Youth Leadership Council in January.

February Guest Speakers:

February 10th **Commissioner Chris Dzadovsky**

February 24th Interim Chief Frank Amandro. Ft. Pierce Police Department and

Chief John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Department



"IN THE NEWS"

Your Voice News & Views - St. Lucie West/Tradition, December 26, 2014

Organization helps kids get shoes



skoppel@YourVoiceWeekly.com

ST. LUCIE COUNTY - In 2009. a crew of firefighters for the St. Lucie County Fire District responded to a fire alarm at a school. There was no fire, but firefighter Fred Barbera noticed that a child had holes in his shoes. Barbera and a colleague went out and bought the child when out and bodght the rind shoes and socks, but Barbera wondered if they could do more to help other kids. He approached Catherine Chaney, who handled of the community relations for the fire district.

"I approached the fire chief (Ron Parrish) and he said, "Let's do it," Chaney said. "We figured we could buy 200 pairs. We went to the Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County and asked them to identify kids who needed

The group called its effort "L'il Feet," and teamed up with the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, a nonprofit organization, to collect donations. Healthy Start and, more recently, Devereaux Com

munity Care, became the orga-nizations that identified kids in need of shoes.

mead of shoes.

The organizers decided that the best way to distribute shoes was to have a "Shop Day." They partnered with Payless Shoes in St. Lucie West and Fort Pierce.

"We have 'Shop Days' where children come in with parents or guardians and make selections," Chaney said. "They have \$20 gift cards. It's been great. The children enjoy it and it gets crazy at Payless. We have brought a fire truck and things they're interested in. We get great comments from the parents."

By the second year, other organizations had signed on and the

By the second year, other organizations had signed on and the August Shop Day, chosen so kids would have new shoes for school, distributed 300 pairs, using discounts from Payless to increase buying power. PGA resident and local businessman Larry Lee, now a state representative, committed to a fundraising concert that raised \$1,455. Lee sits on the LiT Feet board.

By the third year, two separate Shop Days were organized to make it easier for parents. Shoes are intended for infants to children up to 8 years old.

dren up to 8 years old.

The major fundraising event
for L'il Feet is a Boot Auction.
There have been three so far.

"We teamed up with Art Mundo in Fort Pierce," Chaney said.

"They take old boots and trans-

form them into works of art. We send out invitations to a silent and live auction. There's been a great response. It usually raises \$3,000 and we have sponsors. We've been committed to 500 pairs of shoes since those first years. It's Just been great. People have come out of the woodwork, supporting us."

Among major contributors are the TD Foundation (a program of TD Bank), American Legion Auxiliary Unit 355, Big Heart Brigade of the Treasure Coast, Early Learning Coalition, Healthy Families and Kids Connected by Design, Paul Jacquin and Sons, Dr. Patrick Kelly, DVM, Children's Services Council, the League of Women Voters, Dr. Daniela Saadia and Martin Memorial Neurology, Seacoast National Bank, Star and Shield (insurance), Vakani Orthodontics Bluebird Productions, St. Lucie County Firefighters Benevolent Association, Air Methods (an air medical transportation corporation), a &C Concrete Pools, and the Fort Pierce Lions Club.

For Chaney, this has been a rewarding experience that has helped many youngsters start school with confidence. She has only one regret.

only one regret.
"I am surprised there is such a big need."

For more information, or to make a donation, contact Cath-erine Chaney with the St. Lucie County Fire District at (772) 621-3333.



Executive Committee

Chair: Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council **Vice Chair: Chief John Bolduc**, PSL Police Dept.

Immediate Past Chair: Chief Ron Parrish, SLC Fire Dept.

Secretary: Karen Knapp, United Way SLC

Treasurer: Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition SLC **At-Large Member: Larry Lee**, SLC Dept. of Health

Steering Committee Chair: Clint Sperber, SLC Dept. of Health

Contact us at:

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

546 NW University Blvd. Port St. Lucie, FL 34986 Phone: (772) 871-5880 Fax: (772) 408-1111

Visit Our Website:

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Email:

Shaniek Maynard, Executive Director SMaynard@roundtableslc.org

Kim Thomas, Project Coordinator KThomas@roundtableslc.org

Esperanza Morales, Accounting
Esperanza.Morales@UnitedWaySLC.org

Newsletter Submission Deadlines:

Submission	Monthly
Deadline	Meeting
12/19/2015	1/9/2015
1/23/2015	2/6/2015
2/20/2015	3/6/2015
TBD	TBD
4/17/2015	5/1/2015
5/22/2014	6/5/2015

The Roundtable Review is published monthly.

Please feel free to submit articles, photos, news, or other information. We hope to include information covering a variety of topics related to all of our Networks. We are open to and appreciate all feedback!

Send your submissions or feedback to:
Dana Stonelake StonelakeDM@gmail.com

See deadline chart for submission dates.

OUR SPONSORS:









Our Members

- **St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce**, Terissa Aronson
- ❖ Fort Pierce Police Department, Sean Baldwin
- ❖ Lincoln Park Council of Ministers, Eldrew Baldwin
- ❖ City of Port St. Lucie, Linda Bartz
- **❖ Port St. Lucie Police Department,** *John Bolduc*
- **Children's Services Council,** Sean Boyle
- ❖ 19th Judicial Circuit of Florida, Bruce Colton
- * Devereux CBC, Carol Deloach
- **Board of County Commissioners,** Chris Dzadovsky
- City of Fort Pierce, Linda Hudson
- * Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Andrew Hunt
- ❖ United Way of St. Lucie County, Karen Knapp
- Housing Authority of Fort Pierce, Andrea Kochanowski
- **St. Lucie County Department of Health,** Larry Lee

- **State Representative**, *Larry Lee*, *Jr*.
- Indian River State College, Mary Locke
- **Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County**, *Tony Loupe*
- * St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Ken Mascara
- ❖ Department of Children & Families, Robert McPartlan
- **Guardian ad Litem,** Vern Melvin
- **St. Lucie County Fire District,** Ron Parrish
- **St. Lucie County Department of Health,** Clint Sperber
- **& Career Source Research Coast,** Richard Stetson
- **Economic Development Council**, Peter Tesch
- * Kids Connected by Design, Lisa von Seelen
- ❖ Department of Juvenile Justice, Wydee'a Wilson
- **St. Lucie County School District,** Genelle Yost

Our Networks & Sub-Committees

Academic Success

Chair - Position Currently Open

Economic Sufficiency "Bridges to Prosperity"

Wydee'a Wilson, Chair Wydee'a.Wilson@djj.state.fl.us

Child & Adolescent Health

Donna Harris, Chair Donna.Harris@FLHealth.gov "5-2-1-0 Let's Go!"

Tricia Goulet, Chair Tricia.Goulet@FLHealth.gov

"Injury Prevention/Safe Kids Coalition"

Sonya Gabriel, Chair Sonya.Gabriel@FLHealth.gov

Kids At Hope School Coordinator

Melissa Hamblin
Melissa.Hamblin@StLucieSchools.org

Kids At Hope Community Coordinator

Denise Sirmons
DeniseTreasureHunter@gmail.com

Substance Abuse Prevention

John Poli, Chair JPoli@nhtcinc.org

Safe Neighborhoods

Daniela Dreizehnter, Chair DDreizehnter@fppd.org

"Lincoln Park Advisory Committee"

Marjorie Harrell, Chair Gharr89247@yahoo.com