



Building a Community that Supports the Success of Children

THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

January 2015 Issue

A Message From The Director:

Happy New Year! Last year brought many changes to the Roundtable, and this year will be just as exciting. 2015 is a special year for us because it is the Roundtable's 20th Anniversary. Five Chief Executive Officers from the FPPD, DJJ, DCF, CSC and the City of Port St. Lucie created the board in 1995. Their goal was to develop a comprehensive plan to better the lives of children in St. Lucie County. Two decades and more than twenty member agencies later, that is precisely what the Roundtable and its partners have done.

This commemorative moment makes it an apt time to think about the State of our Union. When you look at our mission – to build a community that supports the success of children – we have come incredibly far. In collaboration with our partners, we have helped to achieve substantial decreases in the numbers of teen pregnancy, youth delinquency, school suspensions and underage drinking in our county. But there is still work to do. Where do we go from here? And what must each of us bring to the table to get there?

This year, we will engage in this conversation and lay the foundation for moving forward. In January, we will strategically plan our next steps with Kids at Hope at the KAH Community Leaders Forum. Over the next months, we will expand operations considerably as we hire a coordinator and outreach workers to help our gang involved youth. At our Retreat, we will use the Communities that Care model to select priority risk and protective factors to focus on through the upcoming years. We will further the discussion at our Annual Poverty Forum, as we continue addressing poverty in St. Lucie County.

As we engage, please think about the resources you can add to these efforts, and how you can help remove barriers to our children's success. This year, we will celebrate past accomplishments, and get inspired to move forward with the work to come. May 2015 be a successful, rewarding and productive year for you and your agencies. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Sincerely,
Shaniek Maynard



Volunteers for the 2014 Toy Giveaway hosted by the Viola G. Smith Foundation and SLC Roundtable.



Marty Baum, the Indian River Keeper, visits Youth Leadership students. The January speaker will be Sean Boyle, Executive Director – Children's Services Council.

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.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS NETWORK:

Experiencing success in school lifts self-esteem, inspires academic commitment and instills a positive view of school. This "experience of success" is the mission of the Roundtable's Academic Success Network. We work with the community to promote higher graduation rates, increase proficiency in reading and math and keep our children in school until they graduate.



KIDS AT HOPE HOLIDAY TOY GIVEAWAY

The Holiday Toy Give-Away, hosted in conjunction with the Viola G. Smith Foundation for Underprivileged Kids, was a huge success. On December 20, 2014, Kids at Hope Community Coordinator Denise Sirmons and Roundtable staff served approximately 500 Fort Pierce residents (youth and adults) with toys, gift cards, bicycles, music and fun. Ms. Santiago of the Viola G. Smith Foundation provided all the wrapped gifts. We are thankful to the City of Fort Pierce for donating use of the Percy Peek Gymnasium for this event. We are also grateful to the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office for donating over twenty bicycles, and to the St. Lucie County School District's Principal Association for raising money to donate three brand new bicycles as gifts for the teenagers. After the event, the parking lot of the Percy Peek Gym was filled with excited teens on bikes for Christmas!



"Over 500 bikes raffled to kids!"



More than 500 residents served at the Toy Giveaway.



Superintendent Genelle Yost, Tammy Feller, and Shaniek Maynard with bicycles donated by St. Lucie County Principals Association.



Ft. Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson and Sheila Santiago of the Viola G. Smith Foundation at the Toy Giveaway.

More About the Viola G. Smith Foundation for Underprivileged Kids

The Viola G. Smith Foundation for Underprivileged Kids was founded in 1997 by Ms. Shelia Santiago in remembrance of her mother, Viola G. Smith. Ms. Smith had a passion for helping others so it was only befitting that her daughter create a foundation in her name. The Foundation has been in existence for 17 years, and during the past decade has provided toys each Christmas for children in St. Lucie County, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Vero Beach, Bahamas, and Haiti. The Foundation has provided an estimate of 20,000 toys and more than 1,000 bicycles and other gifts for children since it was created.

The Roundtable enjoyed partnering with Ms. Santiago to bring the Toy Give Away to the Lincoln Park area this year. We look forward to working with the Foundation in the future! Thank you Ms. Sheila!!

Rick Miller Visits in January!

COMMUNITY LEADERS KIDS AT HOPE FORUM

The Roundtable is pleased to announce the Community Leaders Kids at Hope (KAH) Forum scheduled for January 20-21, 2015. The "Hope Forum" will feature Rick Miller (Founder of KAH and Chief Treasure Hunter), panel discussions to explore strategies to further KAH in St. Lucie County, and site visits to witness the transformative power of the KAH belief and practice. KAH is a paradigm shift from viewing youth as "at risk" to viewing them as "at hope". The KAH philosophy teaches that all kids are capable of success, no exceptions. The Roundtable launched KAH in St. Lucie County seven years ago and we have seen strong success. Since 2007, hundreds of community, school, city and county employees and residents have been trained in KAH, and thousands of children have been impacted. The cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, as well as St. Lucie County have all adopted resolutions to be Kids at Hope communities. In addition, 24 schools have become Kids at Hope schools as part of the school district's five-year plan.

So where do we go from here? The Roundtable is hosting the Hope Forum to empower community leaders to continue transforming our community through Kids at Hope.

The Forum will be held at the Children's Services Council, 546 NW University Blvd., Port St. Lucie.

The cost of the two day forum is \$75, but the cost is waived for Roundtable members, elected officials, and/or public administrators.



DON'T MISS THE KIDS AT HOPE TRAIN THE TRAINER ACADEMY

On January 22-23, 2015, the Roundtable will offer a Two Day Kids at Hope Train the Trainer Academy. Taught by Kids at Hope Founder Rick Miller, this two day certification training event prepares individuals and teams to train their colleagues and other community members in Kids at Hope Module I. The Academy explores the science of hope, optimism and success and empowers trainers to teach community members to instill these principles in all children without exception.

Target Audience: Individuals and/or teams who wish to become Kids at Hope certified trainers. Trainers will be certified to deliver Module I training.

The training will be held on January 22 - 23, 2015, 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., at the Indian River State College/Ken Pruitt Campus (Strategic Planning Room), 500 N.W. California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34986. The cost is \$150.00 for the two-day training, materials and lunch. Thank you to Indian River State College for providing space for this training.

We encourage all Roundtable members to consider sponsoring an employee to become a certified Kids at Hope Trainer. That way, your agency will have a certified Kids at Hope Trainer *on staff* to help continue infusing Kids at Hope throughout your agency and our County.

Space is limited for both these events, so please RSVP without delay. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Kim Thomas at kthomas@roundtableslc.org or (772) 871-5880.

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!



KIDS AT HOPE



In November, St. Lucie County Schools participated in the National Kids at Hope Day! The theme this year was “We Connect- The Power of Aces.” One of the Kids at Hope leading principles states that children succeed when they have meaningful, sustainable relationships with caring adults. Our Kids at Hope Schools uniquely incorporated this theme into special events. Some schools even entered the National Kids at Hope Day Contest, with each entry receiving a certificate and a Four Aces poster.

Allapattah Flats celebrated National Kids at Hope Day in conjunction with Veterans Day. To honor all of our service personnel Allapattah Flats proudly conducted a Tunnel of Honor. The entire school of over 1,000 students and staff lined the school walkway, waving American flags and cheering for veterans, first responders, police, deputies, firefighters and Coast Guardsmen as they walked through the tunnel.

At Forest Grove Middle School they implemented an initiative to foster a strong bond between the students and their Ace. Each month the students will vote on the Ace that inspires them to succeed academically and flourish positively socially. They have been informed that the Ace with the most votes will attend a very special lunch with the administrative team at Forest Grove.

Bayshore Elementary had a night where the Aces shined. Teachers and parents were recognized for being Aces to students and every student won a prize.

Windmill Point celebrated “ACES in our Lives”! These ACES were honored during a lunch with their student.

Oak Hammock K-8 School implemented an anti-bullying campaign from November through January that empowers all Treasure Hunters and students to find the treasures in all members of the school community. They will be closing their campaign with the school-wide signing of a pledge to be a Treasure Hunter by seizing Moments of Truth to stand up against bullying.

Samuel S. Gaines Academy students discussed their Aces on the morning announcements. Students held up a poster-sized Ace card, described their Ace and explained why they are important. A faculty member also gave a special “tip of the day,” focusing on the power of Aces in students’ lives.

Northport K8 School celebrated by infusing a Power of Aces mini-lesson into their morning period. It included a class discussion on students’ Ace of Hearts and Ace of Clubs and why these adults are important, followed by writing thank-you cards to these Aces.

During student led conferences at Weatherbee School each student took a letter and sat with their parent(s) or other caring adult and wrote down why they are a Kid at Hope. The letters were then posted outside of the individual teacher’s room spelling out “Kids at Hope, No Exceptions!”

-- Reprinted from St. Lucie County Schools – www.stlucie.k12.fl.us





KAH Day Continued...

SCHOOL ZONE

Northport embraces Kids at Hope!

By Lynne Gruszka
YourNews contributor

PORT ST. LUCIE – Every morning and at every school event, Northport K-8 students and teachers recite their “Kids at Hope” pledge. The meaning of the pledge is permeating the very fabric of the school in many ways.

An example of student connection to the meaning of “Kids at Hope” can be found in Ann Barbare’s middle grades Intensive math class. Mrs. Barbare and her students worked diligently to make an engaging board with the theme of finding the students “Ace of Hearts” who is the parent

or guardian and their “Ace of Clubs” who is any other caring adult who knows and understands the students skills and talents. Students and teachers have meaningful conversations throughout the day about individual talents, dreams and goals.

Often times, the “Ace of Clubs” is the child’s teacher or perhaps a mentor or tutor from Big Brothers, Big Sisters or AmeriCorps. The administrators and teachers, in partnership with the parents and families, are finding the deep value in building working relationships to demand high expectations from students and help each child to believe in them-

selves and to ferret out compassion, leadership skills, abilities and desires.

The Northport community believes, along with the entire school district, that all children are capable of success, no exceptions! It is the pleasure of the school community to highlight the very best assets of each and every child.

Northport K-8 School is an authentic “Work In Progress” and we acknowledge that we, as a community, are constant learners and are ever evolving. Our “Kids at Hope” success stories will definitely become more and more plentiful!

New Kids At Hope Schools:

Savannah Ridge Elementary
(October 2014)

Southport Middle School
(November 2014)

West Gate K-8
(January 2015)

Port St. Lucie High School
(January 2015)

SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS NETWORK

ST. LUCIE COUNTY

\$135K grant helps launch Fort Pierce gang initiative

■ Aims to prevent youth from joining gangs, provides outreach

By Elliott Jones
elliott.jones@scripps.com
772-978-2210

FORT PIERCE — A federally funded initiative to steer Lincoln Park youths away from gangs and violence is starting to take shape, thanks in part to a new \$135,000 grant from the Allegany Franciscan Ministries Foundation of West Palm Beach.

Part of that grant — which was awarded in December — is for hiring three people to work directly with gang members, said Shanek Maynard, executive director of the Executive Roundtable of St. Lucie County. The round-table is heading up the initiative.

The initiative aims to offer assistance, including jobs, to help nonviolent gang members out of their problems, Maynard said.

Northwest Fort Pierce has a larger-than-normal amount of poverty and gun violence compared to other places of similar population, about 15,000, according to a report by the Florida Department of Health, police statistics and the U.S. Census. And it is where "some of our most vulnerable" live, said Allegany Franciscan Ministries spokeswoman Upendo Shabazz-Phillips.

The grant is to the Executive Roundtable, a nonprofit group of community leaders that helps set priorities for public and private financial support for youth programs in St. Lucie County.

But before outreach workers can be hired, there needs to be an executive director. The search to hire that person is underway.

\$65,000 a year, which would come out of a \$208,000 anti-gang grant the U.S. Department of Justice awarded to the city in the fall.

Interviews are to start in January.

Once hired, the person would work for the Executive Roundtable, which is the city's partner in the initiative.

Last year, the round-table agreed to make countering youth violence a top priority.

Police would still handle those who are involved in the shootings, Maynard said.

Trying to nudge nonviolent gang members toward other lifestyles won't be easy, Maynard said.

At the beginning of 2014, Maynard and several others from St. Lucie County attended a National Gang Center training session in Texas that emphasized establishing one-on-one ongoing relationships with gang members, including sheltering them at times.

"The main part of this is making sure we have the resources in place" to help them, Maynard said. That means having an actual job lined up, not just a referral to a job agency.

"If we say to these young men that they can turn from wrong to right, we have to have the resources," Maynard said.

To do that, Maynard and others will turn to community groups and businesses, said the former assistant U.S. attorney in Fort Pierce. She stepped out of that job to head up the Executive Roundtable.

At the same time, Allegany Franciscan Ministries continues its own

and health problems in the Lincoln Park community. That started midyear.

"We have been listening to and learning from many members of the Lincoln Park and Fort Pierce communities in the past six months through community meetings," Shabazz-Phillips said.

They've heard that people want to address gang violence in the Lincoln Park community, she said.

The more well-adjusted children are, the more likely they are to make good choices in life — to stay in school, not to use alcohol or drugs, to delay sexual activity, and to reject a life of crime. Our goal is to keep children on the right path to becoming successful adults.

The Safe Neighborhoods Network seeks to help children make good choices in life, such as stay in school and not committing crimes. Our goal is to support the development of well-adjusted children who, in turn, become well-adjusted adults.



BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY, ST. LUCIE

Economic Sufficiency Network of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County

CONGRATULATIONS!

“Getting Ahead” Graduate

ROSEMITA PIERRE!



Rosemita Pierre graduated from “Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin’ By World” in November 2014, and she has just completed her 11 month dental assisting course through the Fortis Institute.

Rosemita took her radiology license exam on December 6th, 2014. If this were the good news it would be enough, but there is more! Rosemita has already accepted a position at Aspen Dental in Tallahassee and will start work on December 29, 2014. She and her daughter, Aneila, are excited to move to Tallahassee where they have family. Dental assisting is not Rosemita’s only goal though; she also is saving to make the initial investment in becoming a *Mary Kay* Independent Beauty Consultant and is already building a prospective client base.

Congratulations Rosemita! We continue to be proud of your progress and accomplishments!

Do we have a poverty problem?

- ◆ Over 18% (nearly 1 out of every 5) of all persons in St. Lucie County live in poverty!
- ◆ Over 30% of all children in St. Lucie County live in poverty!

SAVE THE DATE

For answers about the cost of poverty, the causes of poverty, and how we can make a difference!

St. Lucie County Poverty Forum
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
8:30 AM-12:00 PM

Being brought to you by the Roundtable of St. Lucie County, United Way of St. Lucie County, and the event sponsors:
St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department,
Fort Pierce Police Department,
Port St. Lucie Police Department, and
Indian River State College

THE BRIDGES TO PROSPERITY

ANNUAL POVERTY FORUM

The Roundtable is pleased to announce that the Annual Bridges to Prosperity Poverty Forum will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 from 8:30am to 12pm at the Kight Center on IRSC’s Main Campus. The purpose of the Forum is to bring community stakeholders and business partners together to develop a strategic plan to continue addressing poverty in St. Lucie County. The featured speaker is Jodi Pfarr of Minneapolis, a national expert who has advised several city and county agencies on projects relating to poverty issues.

After the forum, Bridges to Prosperity will host a specialized 3-hour training for first responders featuring Jodi Pfarr. The training will focus on effective interactions with citizens of diverse economic backgrounds. Pfarr is a former certified critical debriefer and chaplain with the St. Paul Police Department. She is also the author of the book “Tactical Communications for First Responders.” She conducts community sensitivity trainings with first responders throughout the country.

The Roundtable is thankful to our three law enforcement agency partners, the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office, the Port St. Lucie Police Department, and the Fort Pierce Police Department, for sponsoring the Poverty Forum. The Roundtable also thanks IRSC for donating space, and United Way for funding the Bridges Initiative.

Can't make an 8 hour Bridges Out of Poverty Training? Join us for a half-day training on Friday, March 13th from 12pm – 4:30pm! This training is only for Roundtable members and select business and agency partners. Lunch will be served. Contact Kim Thomas for more information.

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.



Contact us at:

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Visit Our Website:

www.RoundtableSLC.com

Follow us on Facebook:

www.Facebook.com/RoundtableSLC

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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

Newsletter Submission Deadlines:

Submission Deadline	Monthly 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!

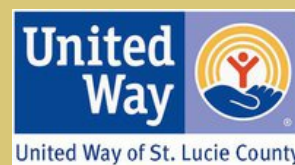
Send your submissions or feedback to:

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

"5210 Let's Go!"

Tricia Goulet, Chair

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"Injury Prevention/Safe Kids Coalition"

Sonya Gabriel, Chair

Sonya.Gabriel@FLHealth.gov

Kids At Hope School Coordinator

Melissa Hamblin

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Kids At Hope Community Coordinator

Denise Sirmons

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Substance Abuse Prevention

John Poli, Chair

JPoli@nhtcinc.org

Safe Neighborhoods

Daniela Dreizehnter, Chair

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"Lincoln Park Advisory Committee"

Marjorie Harrell, Chair

Gharr89247@yahoo.com