



Building a Community that Supports the Success of Children

THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

January 2018 Issue

A Message From The Director:

Happy New Year!!! We are always amazed at how quickly the new year comes. The year 2017 was yet another exciting year for the Roundtable. We welcomed new members to the board, I was blessed to join the Roundtable and hire new staff that now stands at 11, and we received new federal funding to support our efforts to reduce substance abuse. Our networks are growing strong and implementing the 5 year strategic plan. I am confident we are well positioned to tackle a wide range of issues impacting our community and see great gains in 2018.

All of this requires leadership to get the job done, and that we have!!! As I have been making rounds meeting with the leaders of organizations that make up the Roundtable, I am both encouraged and humbled by the level of commitment and focus by the leadership and respective organizations to work toward creating a community where children and families can thrive, work, play and live. Over the past year, I witnessed many of you coming together, working tirelessly and generously, providing your time, expertise, leadership and support to improve the outcomes for children and families in our community. Without you, none of this would be possible. For that, we say thank you!

In 2018, there will be more opportunities for the Roundtable to continue to build on its successes. Kicking off the year, in February our new Project Coordinator and I will have the opportunity to go to Washington, DC to represent the Roundtable's Drug Free St. Lucie and participate in workshops and training with substance abuse prevention leaders from around the country and the world. We will also have the opportunity to participate in Capitol Hill Day and meet with legislators regarding substance abuse prevention for our community and state. In addition, we are looking forward to working with Lion's Quest International to provide Social and Emotional Learning training and technical assistance covering a wide range of topics, and capacity building for youth serving organizations in our community.

In the new year, I am looking forward to "leveling up" in our partnerships amongst Roundtable member organizations and the community as we lead the way for change. Let's resolve to identify creative ways to collaborate and continue momentum towards a better St. Lucie, a place where all children are capable of success, no exceptions!

Teresa Bishop







Kristy Conway was hired as our Drug Free Communities Coordinator. She has been involved with the Roundtable since 2008 as a Kids at Hope trainer. She comes to us from New Horizons of the Treasure Coast where she served as a Prevention Specialist at C.A. Moore Elementary and Dan McCarty Middle School. She also serves as a domestic violence advocate assistant with Safe Space as well as a facilitator for the Adult Education Department at Indian River State College. Kristy has two adult children who live in Georgia, and. has been a St. Lucie county resident for 25 years. She has 3 grandchildren and 1 on the way. She loves to spend time with Buster who was rescued from the Humane Society 5 years ago.

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.

RESTORING THE YILLAGE YOUTH INITIATIVE

Youth of the Month!

My Journey from Boy to Man – The Jakeem E. Story

Hi, my name is Jakeem, I'm 21 years old and I grew up in Fort Pierce with my mom and my five sisters and my brother. I also have a beautiful 2-year old daughter named Ja'kia. This is my story about how I got involved in the streets and with gangs to present time as a productive citizen with a job, studying for my high school diploma and saving up to get my own transportation. In other words, this is my journey from being a young boy to becoming a man.

In 2008, I attended Samuel S. Gaines K-8 where I was making mostly A's, but was sent to Delaware Ave School to make up some credits. At Delaware Ave I was picked on and called "church boy" because I wasn't in the streets and I used to go to church every Sunday with my family. I got tired of getting picked on, so I started hanging out with these kids who were in a gang known as the V-side.

One Friday night I met up with one of my "brothers", and he brought some weed and liquor for us to try. Since I had never smoked or had alcohol before, I was thinking, "man you about get me killed by my mama, she do not play that." But I did it anyway and that was a crazy night. I had my first high and hangover. I was eleven years old. That Saturday I stayed in all day thinking about what I had done and worrying about my mom finding out about it.

A few days later I was approached about joining a gang. I said I didn't want to because I had hopes and dreams for myself, but they told me I could still pursue my goals and still hang out with them. So I asked what I needed to do. I was told to fight somebody, which I did. Afterwards they gave me a new nick name "2 pop." From there on I started to get influenced by the others in the gang, skipping school, fighting and getting in trouble at school, and getting suspended. My mom didn't understand why I was changing and acting like that, but I just told her, "nothing" and kept doing what I was doing. Life in the streets meant that you had to defend yourself or you would get beaten up or worse, shot at. So we carried guns to protect ourselves, and if anyone from "the other side" was seen in our area (or "caught slipping" as we call it), you had to take action, or you would be seen as weak and thus a potential victim. But even so, I was still jumped, shot at and beaten up many times. Eventually, my "brothers" gave me a black flag and told me I had gotten my first strike, and I remember wondering what I had done to get here. In 2010 I got my first charge and was given probation, and so the years went by. Growing up, I never knew my dad, and I yearned for that male attention and love. My mom did a lot for me, but there are things only a man can teach you. I did have people, even other men, in my life that cared and tried to get me out of trouble. I was involved with Men of the Sword, and I went to the Boys and Girls Club, but as the saying goes, you can tell me the stove is hot, but I have to burn myself before I feel the pain myself, and learn from it.

In 2015, I was referred to Restoring the Village Youth Initiative, I got an outreach worker assigned to me and he helped me set some goals for myself and helped motivate me to strive to reach them. With support from my outreach worker and the program, I completed the "Getting Ahead Program", I got my Security Guard License and started working at Walmart and Burger King. I enrolled in the Acceleration Academy pursuing my high school diploma, and completed anger management classes. I went on trips with them and learned new things. They helped me get doctors and dental appointments, ID cards and study for my driver's license, and eventually I saved enough money to get a scooter so I could get myself to and from work. All this time I was still living in the community, still hanging with my "brothers", though slowly but surely moving away from "that life". Even so, living in the "hood" meant I still had to take precautions, and one day I got caught up with a gun, and was arrested and went to jail. None of my brothers came to see me, or tried to help me. I saw them posting "free" me on social media, but in the end, they were not there for me. The outreach workers, however, continued working with me and getting me back on track. Not only did they mentor me, but they became father figures for me and gave me what most people couldn't, fatherly love.

I am a man now. I have held down a job for over a year. I am six credits away from getting my high school diploma, and once again I am pursuing my hopes and dreams. I am a man now! I am somebody!

Thank you Mr. Beauford, Darcy, Mike, Lue, Trayvon, Antonio, Randy, Thernell, Denise, Shaniek, Monica, Ken, Kevin, Jeron, and Marcus. Thank you Roundtable for this program!



RTVYI Spreading Christmas Cheers!

Forrest Grove MS Mentor Motivational Speakers

On December 18th, the Outreach Workers spoke with 6th graders at Forrest Grove Middle School. The event was part of Men and Women of the Sword's 3-day Motivational Speaking Program at the school. The talks were so powerful and positively received by students and staff at the school that we were asked to make this a regular event throughout the year.





Christmas Lunch at the Juvenile Detention Center

For the third year in a row, the Outreach Workers brought McDonald's lunches to youth confined at the Juvenile Detention Center on Christmas. The outreach workers, who took time away from their families on Christmas, talked to the youth about staying positive and to make changes once they get released. Director Dedilia Finlayson was grateful to Restoring the Village for taking the time out on Christmas Day to show love to the youth at the St. Lucie Regional Juvenile Detention Center. She said, "The Outreach Workers modeled what we try to teach our kids daily, giving back and serving others. The kids thought this was awesome and felt special. As they were serving the kids, they took the time to encourage them, putting smiles on their faces. We had a couple of youths tell my officers that they got more here (in Detention) than they would have if they were home." Participating in this annual event makes the Outreach Workers feel good as well.



Restoring the Village Youth Initiative Client Gift Exchange

Thanks to a generous contribution from Toys for Tots this year, we were able to present our clients who are parents with Christmas gifts for their kids. Outreach Workers spent an entire day delivering gifts to youth in the community. As you can see, there were lots of big smiles and appreciation. One client said, "this is the first time I've been able to give my son something from me, and it feels good".



Police-Youth Dialogue

On December 7th the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office organized its third Police-Youth Dialogue. Roundtable Executive Director Teresa Bishop and Kids at Hope Coordinator Kevin Singletary were there to observe, while Restoring the Village Youth Initiative Coordinator Monica Jakobsen was one of the community facilitators.

Earlier this year, twelve deputies from the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office and twelve community members were trained and certified to facilitate these police-youth dialogues, utilizing a model developed by the River Phoenix Center for Peacebuilding (RPCP) and Gainesville Police Department. The model is designed to "facilitate healing and trust building by bringing together black and brown youth and law enforcement officers to address issues and concerns that impact their daily lives. Through direct dialogue and dynamic interactions, we are dismantling layers of prejudice, stereotypes, bias, fear and mistrust between these groups and finding common ground. By strengthening community policing practices, training officers on adolescent brain development, further enhanced de-escalation skills, and increased officer discretion to not arrest, law enforcement agencies can preempt high impact encounters with community members."

The dialogue starts out with youth and officers attending separate sessions before coming together to share perspectives they have of each other, discussing similarities and examining their own hopes and dreams. This is followed by the sharing of a meal, where the youth and the deputies are able to spend time one-on-one and talk more in depth. The last session of the evening is an experiential learning exercise where the youth are put in the position of a law enforcement officer conducting a traffic stop and are introduced to the day to day stress experienced by law enforcement. Dialogue participants (both youth and deputies) were overwhelmingly positive about the experience.



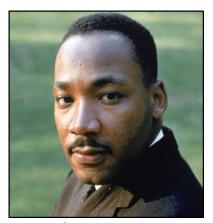


Youth Leadership St. Lucie (Fort Pierce)

Youth Leadership in Fort Pierce is off to a roaring start. The students are excited about tackling the issues affecting teenagers in Fort Pierce. The top three issues voted on in Fort Pierce were: (1) Community issues (lack of constructive activities for teens); (2) School issues (more educational programs); and (3) Social Issues (teen pregnancy, unsafe sex, and cyber bullying). During the meeting, the students elected their officers for the 2017-2018 year. Each person desiring to hold a leadership position had two minutes to state the reasons why he or she should be elected, and all of the students participated in the election process. The installation service for the newly elected officers will be held at the next meeting in January. City Manager Nick Mimms will conduct the swearing-in ceremony. The officers' parents are invited to witness this momentous occasion. The group is excited to make a change in Fort Pierce.



Saint Lucie County Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Celebration



34th Anniversary January 5-21, 2018

Theme: "The Color of Unity"

2018 Officers Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee

Chairperson 1st Vice Chairperson 2nd Vice Chairperson Recording Secretary Corresponding Secretary Treasurer Financial Secretary Assistant Financial Secretary Chaplain Parliamentarian Immediate Past Chairperson Scholarship Chairperson IRSC Liaison SLC School Board Liaison Lincoln Theater Chairperson

Ruth Davis Dianne Williams-Johnson Larryton McNealy Twonnett Brunson Chasity Harris Cheryl McCrary Rashandia Johnson Luvenia H. Morgan Reverend Delores Williams LaShonda Henderson Dianne Williams-Johnson Gertrude Walker Andre Hawkins Dr. Kevin Perry Margaret Benton

Advisory Board Members

Simmie Burns Rudy Howard Roderick Johnson Gloria Johnson-Scott Alice Lee Arlena Lee Larry Lee, Jr. Dr. Chris Taylor Gertrude Walker

Martin Luther King, Jr. Activities

MLK Activities

January 5 – 12, 2018 "Week of Kindness" Treasure Coast Chapter of Charmettes, Inc. Luvenia H. Morgan • (772) 577-0060

Friday, January 5

"Opening Reception" Indian River State College, Koblegard Student Union 3209 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Marilyn Pryor • (772) 370-8702

Saturday, January 6

"Free Prostate Cancer Screening" Hands Clinic

> 3855 S. U.S. #1, Fort Pierce Time: 8:00 a.m.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Roderick Johnson • (772) 359-5651

Saturday, January 6 "Youth Symposium"

Lincoln Park Academy Auditorium 1806 Avenue I, Fort Pierce Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Bonita Williams - (772) 370-9003

Saturday, January 6 "MLK Spelling Bee"

Lincoln Park Academy Auditorium 1806 Avenue I, Fort Pierce Time: 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Katherine Christopher • (772) 323-5355

Sunday, January 7 "Ecumenical Service" Miracle Prayer Temple 3215 Avenue Q, Fort Pierce Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. MLK Commemorative Committee Ruth Davis • (772) 224-4006

Special Thanks To:



MLK Activities (continued)

Monday, January 8 "MLK NAACP Ceremony" Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 1306 Avenue E, Fort Pierce Time: 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. SLC Branch of NAACP Betty Barnes • (772) 528-2774

Saturday, January 13 "Awards Breakfast"

Indian River State College Treasure Coast Public Safety Training Complex 4600 Kirby Loop Road, Fort Pierce Time: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. Gloria Johnson-Scott • (772) 332-7193

Sunday, January 15

 "5K Marathon" Old Fort Park
 975 S. Indian River Drive, Fort Pierce Time: 6:30 – 10:00 a.m.
 SLW Lions Club/Fort Pierce Lions Club
 & MLK Commemorative Committee Margaret Benton • (772) 708-6034

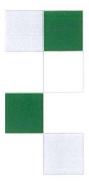
Monday, January 15 "Grand Parade"

Avenue I and Dr. Martin Luther King Blvd. Lineup at 9:00 a.m. • Parade at 10:00 a.m. MLK Commemorative Committee Cheryl McCrary • (772) 985-7012

Monday, January 15

"Festival in the Park" Lawnwood Stadium 1302 Virginia Avenue, Fort Pierce Time: 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. MLK Commemorative Committee LaShonda Henderson • (772) 301-2389 Twonnett Brunson • (772) 579-6162

Monday, January 15 Health Fair @ Festival in the Park Lawnwood Stadium Time: 12:00 noon – 5:00 p.m. St. Lucie County Health Department Arlease Hall • (772) 370-1391



Area 15 Perinatal HIV/AIDS Symposium

Friday, January 26, 2018 9:30am – 3:00pm

Indian River State College Public Safety Complex

4600 Kirby Loop Road Fort Pierce, FL 34981

Save the Date



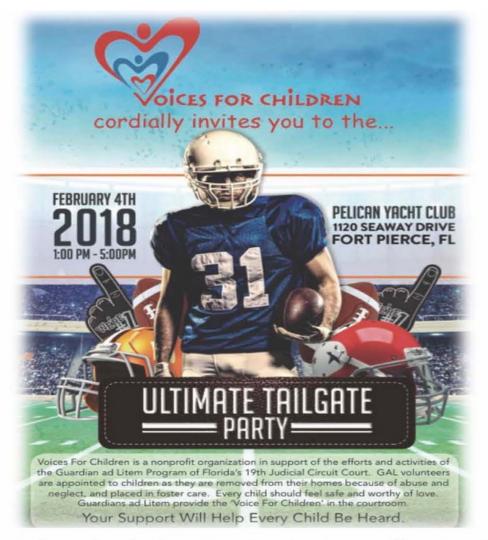
Registration and Breakfast 9:30AM Care of Pregnant Women with HIV/AIDS: Preventing Perinatal Transmission 10:00AM Moti Ramgopal, MD, FACP, FIDSA, CPI Perinatal HIV Exposure and Care of HIV Infected Babies 11:00AM TBA 12:00PM Lunch Pharmacotherapy Considerations for Pregnant Women 12:45PM Marylee Worley, PharmD 1:45PM Break Panel Discussion 2:00PM Wrap-Up/Evaluations 3:00PM











Delicious Food • Open Bar • Surprise Guests • Photo Booth "Live" Auction • Mini Silent Auction • 50/50

> Raffle Drawing for a Brand New Sunrise Ford Focus

Special Guest Speaker

Edna Marie Howard "A True Guardian ad Litem Success Story"

Please Respond by January 15, 2018 Seating is Limited

For more information, text or call 561-452-6638 (Complimentary Valet Parking)

> Tickets \$125 (\$85 Tax Deductible)

Home in time for Kick-Off!





NETWORK MEETINGS

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

First Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm at Children's Services Council.

CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH (Healthy St. Lucie)

Healthiest Weight: Meetings are bi-monthly. Infant Mortality: Meets quarterly. Teen Pregnancy: Meeting date TBD

CHILD WELFARE

First Tuesday quarterly at 10:00am at Children's Services Council.

ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY (Bridges to Prosperity)

Third Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm at the UP Center on Orange Avenue.

LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourth Thursday of every other month at 12:00pm at the Department of Health 714 Avenue C, Fort Pierce.

SAFE KIDS COALITION (Unintentional Injury)

First Thursday of every month at 9:00am at Garber Buick GMC on US1. (Does not meet in July or November)

VIOLENCE & DELINQUENCY WORKGROUP

Quarterly on third Tuesday at 2:00pm. Location – State Attorney's Office on 2nd Street.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Third Tuesday of every month at 2:00pm at the State Attorney's Office on 2nd Street.

SCHOOL DELINQUENCY NETWORK

Meets monthly. Date, time, and location TBD.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Third Thursday of every month at 9:00am at Children's Services Council.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Drug Free St. Lucie)

Second Tuesday of every month at 11:00am at Children's Services Council.



Executive Committee

Chair: Chief John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Department
Vice Chair: Mayor Linda Hudson, City of Fort Pierce
Secretary: Wydee'a Wilson, Department of Juvenile Justice
Treasurer: Clint Sperber, Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County
Past Chair: Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
At-Large Member: Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition
Steering Committee Chair: Angela Roberson, Florida Department of Health

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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Visit us at:

www.RoundtableSLC.com



www.Facebook.com/RoundtableSLC

"Roundtable of St. Lucie County"

Please email newsletter submissions to Dana Stonelake: DStonelake@RoundtableSLC.org

OUR SPONSORS:











Our Members

- 19th Circuit Public Defender's Office, Diamond R. Litty
- * 19th Judicial Circuit State Attorney, Bruce Colton
- * 19th Judicial Circuit Judge, Tony Schwab
- * Board of County Commissioners, Linda Bartz
- * Career Source Research Coast, Brian Bauer
- * Children's Services Council, Sean Boyle
- * City of Fort Pierce, Linda Hudson
- * City of Port St. Lucie, Stephanie Morgan
- **Department of Children & Families**, Robert McPartlan
- * Department of Juvenile Justice, Wydee'a Wilson
- * Devereux CBC, Carol Deloach
- * Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County, Tony Loupe
- * Economic Development Council, Peter Tesch
- * Florida Department of Corrections Circuit 19, Michael Davis
- * Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County, Clint Sperber
- * Fort Pierce Police Department, Diane Hobley-Burney

- * Guardian ad Litem, Paul Nigro
- * Housing Authority of Fort Pierce, Andrea Kochanowski
- * Indian River State College, Andrew Treadwell
- * Kids Connected by Design, Lisa von Seelen
- Lincoln Park Council of Ministers, Pastor Ken Mills
- * Port St. Lucie Police Department, John Bolduc
- * St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, Terissa Aronson
- * St. Lucie County Department of Health, Clint Sperber
- * St. Lucie County Fire District, TBD
- St. Lucie County School District, E. Wayne Gent
- * St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Garry Wilson
- Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network, Ann Berner
- **State Representative**, *Larry Lee*, *Jr*.
- * Steering Committee, Angela Roberson
- United Way of St. Lucie County, Karen Knapp

Our Networks & Sub-Committees

Steering Committee

Angela Roberson, Chair Angela.Roberson@flhealth.gov

Academic Success

Deborah Hawley, Chair Deborah.Hawley@StLucieSchools.org

Economic Sufficiency

"Bridges to Prosperity" Al Rivett, Chair Al@alrivett.com

Child & Adolescent Health

Tricia Goulet, Chair Tricia.Goulet@FLHealth.gov

Safe Kids Coalition

Ronda Cerulli Ronda.Cerulli@FLHealth.gov

Child Welfare

Paul Nigro, Chair paul.nigro@gal.fl.gov

Kids At Hope

Kevin Singletary, Coordinator KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org

Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison KReid@RoundtableSLC.org

Safe Neighborhoods

Monica Jakobsen, Chair MJakobsen@Roundtableslc.org

Lincoln Park Advisory Committee

Betty Bradwell, Chair BJBradwell52@gmail.com

Restoring the Village Youth Initiative

Monica Jakobsen, Coordinator MJakobsen@RoundtableSLC.org

Substance Abuse Prevention (Drug Free St. Lucie)

John Poli, Chair JPoli@nhtcinc.org

Kristy Conway, Coordinator KConway@RoundtableSLC.org