



Building a Community that Supports the Success of Children

THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

March 2017 Issue

A Message From The Director:

In February, the Roundtable hosted a three day Youth Leadership Retreat for 50 teens from across St. Lucie County. The teens learned strategic planning, and conducted a community assessment, problem analysis and logic model to identify root causes that need to be addressed to prevent marijuana and alcohol use among teens. The Retreat was led by three youth trainers from Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America's National Youth Leadership Retreat. The teens enjoyed the retreat, and many are now working on Youth in Action projects to implement their strategies. Thank you to Southeast Behavioral Health Network and Children's Services Council for making this event possible for St. Lucie County youth!

This month, I encourage you to register for "From Youth at Risk to Kids at Hope," A Positive Youth Development Symposium hosted by the Roundtable on March 28 and 29 at the Fenn Center. We are bringing in speakers from across the nation to share best practices on addressing disparities in juvenile justice, education and public health, and dealing with the trauma that permeates so many of our children's lives. The keynote speaker is Antwone Fisher, whose life is chronicled in the 2002 movie of a foster child who triumphed despite horrific adversity. We are asking Roundtable members and staff, community partners, youth service providers, educators, police officers, juvenile probation officers, case workers, guardians ad litem, attorneys, judges, parents, and anyone who wants to be part of the solution to attend this Symposium. On March 30 we will have a birthday party with Rick Miller to celebrate 10 Years of Kids at Hope in St. Lucie County. These events are free for St. Lucie residents, courtesy of Children's Services Council, Port St. Lucie Police Department, St. Lucie School District, Indian River State College, St. Lucie County Community Services, and Allegany Franciscan Ministries. Space is limited, so go to www.RoundtableSLC.org to register now!

Shaniek Maynard





The Drug Free St. Lucie (DFSL) Network of the Roundtable of St Lucie County is now officially a CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America) certified coalition! Congratulations to Coordinator, Kim Thomas-Pate, and DFSL for all their hard work!

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.





Youth Leadership Retreat

On February 18th, the Roundtable of St. Lucie County kicked off a three-day Youth Leadership Retreat. Over the course of the event, the Roundtable hosted 50 youth for the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) National Youth Leadership Institute (NYLI). CADCA is the nation's leading drug abuse prevention organization that represents over 5,000 community coalitions across the U.S. and over 100 coalitions in twenty countries on five continents. CADCA preaches that in order to create population-level change, we must engage all sectors of a community especially youth! The NYLI empowers over 1,200 youth yearly across the U.S. and abroad to fight drug use and other problems plaguing their communities.

CADCA flew in three youth trainers (ages 25, 24 and 18) from across the U.S. to work with St. Lucie County teens, led by CADCA Consultant and St. Lucie County resident, Teresa Bishop. On Day 1, the youth learned the basics of strategic planning (Apple, Cherry, PIE – which stands for Assessment, Capacity, Planning, Implementation and Evaluation) and conducted a community assessment of their neighborhoods, identifying substance abuse issues faced by teens in each area of our community and hot spot areas (which the youth identified as "where it goes down"). They also were trained in cultural competence, or the ability to understand and work with people that are from different cultural and social backgrounds. The teens engaged in a moving activity called a "cultural competence circle". They stood in a huge circle outside and the facilitator said, "Walk into the middle of the circle if you like the color blue". Everyone who liked the color blue walked into the circle and looked at each other to realize that they have this in common. Although the questions started off mundane, they soon involved deeper issues: "Walk into the circle if you've ever been bullied", "Walk into the circle if you have a family member with a substance abuse problem", "Walk into the middle if you've ever lost someone you love". The facilitator then gave the students the opportunity to ask questions. One student called out: "Walk into the circle if you've ever dealt with depression, anxiety or had a suicidal thought". Another said, "Walk into the circle if your parents have separated". That question was followed by "Walk into the circle if you have absolutely zero contact with one of your parents". Another said, "Walk into the circle if you've been physically abused". The students were amazed that question after question sent numerous teens, of all colors, ages and genders, into the middle of the circle. This powerful exercise helped them understand that they are more alike than different, and they are stronger when they understand one another. That exercise set the tone for an incredible weekend of understanding and collaboration.

On Day 2, the teens conducted problem analyses and drafted logic models. They identified specific strategies around what can be done to prevent youth substance abuse. They also took part in a "privilege walk", which is an exercise to highlight how people benefit or are marginalized by systems in our society without even realizing it is happening. Again, the teens were moved by their experience.

On Day 3, the youth were taught how to do a project called Photovoice, which uses digital pictures to educate and create awareness among leaders and the general public regarding issues facing the community. Over the next few weeks, the teens will develop their Photovoice projects. They are hoping to unveil their work at the Kids at Hope Mini-Masters.

The NYLI Teen Retreat was an incredible leadership development and community change opportunity for St. Lucie County teens. We sincerely thank our sponsors --- Southeast Behavioral Health Network (Ann Berner, Executive Director) and Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County (Sean Boyle, Executive Director) for their support.





CADCA youth trainers: Anath Ghoush, Sheri Jones, Alex Cook, along with CADCA Consultant Teresa Bishop.























SPEAKERS' BUREAU

In February, the Speakers' Bureau featured several exciting speakers. Attorney Donald Watson, a partner at Gary, Williams, Parenti, and Watson, was the guest speaker at Fort Pierce Westwood High School. Mr. Watson gave a brief history lesson on Wilma Rudolph, one of the most celebrated female athletes of all time, who overcame a number of debilitating childhood illnesses. Wilma made the 1960 Olympic Team, where she was the first woman in history to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympics. Mr. Watson used her story to remind the students that on the road ahead, there will be obstacles, struggles, and triumphs, but they must work hard and persevere through those times. He also spoke about the difficulties he faced throughout his life. He overcame those challenges and graduated Salutatorian of his class, and earned his undergraduate degree from Yale University prior to receiving his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Miami School of Law. He worked as Assistant State Attorney in the Broward County State Attorney's Office prior to joining his current firm which he has been with for 28 years. Attorney Watson told the students to "visualize yourself being successful," and you will succeed.

Mr. Thom Jones, President of the Education Foundation St. Lucie, was the guest speaker at Dan McCarty Middle School. Mr. Jones spoke about the obstacles he faced throughout life, and the challenges he had growing up. Mr. Jones shared with the students how he began his career as a bank teller, he continued his education and eventually became bank president. Mr. Jones wanted the students to remember to be aware of the adults placed in their lives, and he recalled a story about a caring adult who was there for him.

Mrs. Gwendolyn McLeod, the CEO/ Founder of We Leap Inc., was the guest speaker at Pace Center for Girls. Mrs. McLeod shared stories about her childhood experiences and the difficult things she witnessed growing up, telling the young ladies that "despite all the odds, I stand before you happy, healthy, and whole. I'm a survivor". Mrs. McLeod described how We Leap provides teens a safe place to talk about domestic violence. Mrs. McLeod shared that despite growing up in a cycle of domestic violence, she was able to earn a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree in Organizational Learning & Leadership at Barry University. Mrs. McLeod emphasized to the students that regardless, whether you choose to attend college or enter the job force straight out of high school, be great at whatever it is that you want to do.

Mr. Joseph Dillard, a Consultant, Author, Motivational Speaker, and owner of JD3 Enterprises, was the guest speaker at Dale Cassens Educational Complex. Mr. Dillard shared his very difficult and painful life journey. Mr. Dillard explained to the students that throughout the years he's learned to turn his pain into passion in order to help discover his true purpose in life. He acknowledged that during his teen years he became a product of his way of thinking and his environment, and unfortunately it led him down the wrong paths. He now strongly believes in his 6 P's: Prior Proper Planning Prevents Poor Performance. He shared with students not to dwell on what some may say about you. Importance comes from what you tell yourself. Talk about where you want to be in life and that is where you'll be. He closed his presentation by saying "success waits for you; all you have to do is reach for it"!

Thank you to Dr. Donna Mills and the St. Lucie County School District for partnering with Kids at Hope for the Speakers' Bureau!







TEEN ZONE ANNUAL REPORT

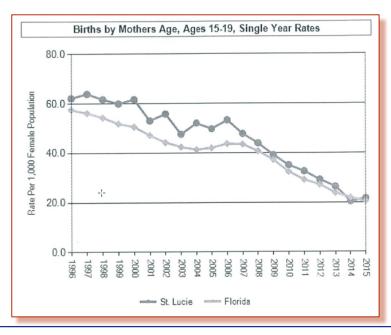
An initiative of the Roundtable's Child and Adolescent Health Network, Teen Zone was founded in 2009 and has grown every year since. Back when Teen Zone was being planned, the teen birth rate in St. Lucie County was close to 50 births per 2,000 females age 15-19 per year. Today it is just over 20 – this dramatic decrease is due to fewer unplanned pregnancies as a result of outreach, education, and increased access to services.

Teen Zone offers free, confidential reproductive health services for teens age 13-19. The clinic is open from 2pm to 6pm on the first and third Tuesday of every month. Teen Zone offers birth control pills, Depo Provera shots, and Nexplanon (a long-term hormonal implant). Condoms are provided at each visit and clients receive education to help them minimize their risk for pregnancy and STDs.

By increasing the percentage of clients that use condoms and hormonal birth control, Teen Zone is helping to reduce teen pregnancy rates and STD transmission. These services allow teens to graduate high school, attend college, and join the workforce.

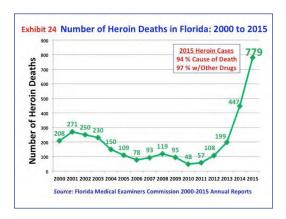
Teen Zone provided family planning services to 234 adolescent females in 2016. We estimate that these services averted at least 48 pregnancies. This results in fewer births covered by Medicaid. Teen Zone also identified 22 cases of Chlamydia and 2 cases of Gonorrhea.

Teen Zone saved taxpayers \$300,564 in 2016, representing a return on investment of \$12 for every \$1 spent on Teen Zone operations.



Opioid Task Force in St. Lucie County

In 2015, heroin-related deaths increased 74% compared to 2014 in Florida. Since 2011, heroin deaths have increased by 1,267%. 49% of these deaths occur among those below the age of 35. National studies show that the rapid growth of new heroin users is occurring among young adults ages 18 to 35, with most becoming addicted to prescription pills prior to using heroin. The majority of heroin related deaths in Florida occur in the Southeast region of the state, which includes St. Lucie County.



As a result of these alarming statistics, an Opioid Task Force has been formed in St. Lucie County to address the heroin epidemic that is impacting our community. Current membership includes representatives from the St. Lucie Fire District, FDOH-St. Lucie, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Port St. Lucie Police Department, Medical Examiner's Office of District 19, Lawnwood Regional Medical Center & Heart Institute, New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, and the Roundtable of St. Lucie County. During the first meeting, the group discussed how the epidemic is impacting our community, dispensing and administration of Narcan (used to treat narcotic overdoses), and ongoing prevention efforts within their organizations. For more information about the work of the Opioid Task Force, or to learn how you can get involved, please contact Florida Department of Health Administrator, Clint Sperber at Clint. Sperber@flhealth.gov.

Fort Pierce and St. Lucie Youth Councils Formed

On February 21 teens participating with Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie Youth Councils met at the River Walk Center. City of Fort Pierce Marketing Specialist Joe Sweat worked with the Fort Pierce students as they discussed their homework from the previous meeting, "Three things that are troubling for Fort Pierce youth". One student said "Once we finish high school, we feel stuck"; another student voiced concerns about the resources/ opportunities available for those who have graduated. The Fort Pierce Youth Council will be the official youth ambassadors to city leaders, and their role is to advocate for their peers in Fort Pierce. The next assignment for the youth is to research what other youth councils around the country are doing in their communities. Students also voted on YLC officers. The teens selected to serve are Aleshia Johnson, Chairperson; Jarnecia Frierson, Vice Chairperson; and Dystani Chery, Secretary. The first official item the group voted on was to start using KIK (a phone app) as a way to communicate with each other. The ambassadors play an important role - they represent themselves, Youth Leadership St. Lucie, and the City of Fort Pierce. While Fort Pierce youth met with Mr. Sweat, the PSL Youth Council met with Councilwoman Stephanie Morgan and Chief John Bolduc. They talked about ways to increase teen activities in Port St. Lucie, including possibly hosting movies in the park and advocating for a skateboarding park before the Port St. Lucie City Council. They also talked about how to better advertise all the teen activities Port St Lucie currently offers through twitter and Instagram. They discussed new restaurant and retail investments coming to Port St. Lucie that may offer part time job opportunities for teens. The students are excited about continuing to work with Councilwoman Morgan and Chief Bolduc, and next month will have the opportunity to meet with Parks and Recreation to further discuss their ideas.

The next YLSL meeting is Tuesday, March 7 at 6:30pm at the River Walk Center in Fort Pierce where students will meet with Superintendent Wayne Gent. For more information, please contact facilitator Megan Pack at MeganTreasureHunter@gmail.com.

5-2-1-0 LET'S GO!

Florida Department of Health School Readiness and School Health went to Sunrise Country Preschool and brought the 5-2-1-0 Let's Go! message to 75 preschool children and 8 staff. The children learned about the importance of eating 5 fruits or vegetables a day and making healthier food choices during snack time or meal time. School Readiness provided samples of fruits/vegetables and had the children and staff dancing.







Boy Scout Troop 473 Learns About The Dangers of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Tricia Goulet presented information about alcohol, drugs, and smoking to Boy Scout Troop 473 from St. Anastasia Catholic School on February 8, 2017. One of their requirements as Boy Scouts is to attend a community drug, alcohol, and smoking awareness class for their 2nd class rank. The boys learned about the impact, dangers, statistics, and facts of alcohol, drugs, and smoking. Congratulations Troop 473 for learning how to protect yourselves and your community from substance abuse!





Hibiscus Center Holds Ribbon-Cutting for Emergency Shelter

TCPalm - February 14, 2017: Tracy Savoia, YourNews Contributor

Hibiscus Children's Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to announce the opening of its newest program, Sanctuary4Kids Emergency Shelter in Port St. Lucie.

Local leaders and community supporters helped celebrate the opening of this special home that will provide a safe haven to abused, abandoned and neglected children who need a temporary "soft landing" after being removed from an abusive home. This beautiful home was generously donated by the Guardians for New Futures, and the campaign to build the home was led by Board President and child advocate Debbie Butler.

The three-bedroom home can serve six children at a time, from ages birth to 17 years. The many toys, books, games, encouraging quotes, large stuffed animals and soft pillows throughout the home create a feeling of warmth and welcomes children of all ages. One of the closets is filled to capacity with hand-quilted blankets for the children, and a large toy chest is filled with soft stuffed animals so that every child will have their very own to keep.

Hibiscus Children's Center CEO Paul Sexton welcomed the guests and expressed heartfelt gratitude to Butler, the Guardians for New Futures and all of the volunteers and supporters who have made this wonderful project a reality.

He stated, "Children are traumatized when they are removed from their homes, regardless how well each person involved does their job. This welcoming home will help to minimize the trauma experienced by abused children and help them feel that they are cared for and safe."

Port St. Lucie Mayor Greg Oravec shared a few words before helping cut the ribbon. Hibiscus is grateful to Oravec for his support, as well as the support of Chief of Police John Bolduc, and Assistant Chief of Police Richard Del Toro Jr., who were also in attendance. They would also like to thank Terissa Aronson, president/CEO of the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, for coordinating the official ribbon-cutting ceremony.

If you would like more information about the Hibiscus Children's Center Sanctuary4Kids Shelter, find out how you can volunteer or get involved, please contact 772-340-5750 or visit HibiscusChildrensCenter.org.





FROM YOUTH AT RISK Roundtable TO KIDS AT HOPE

Mini-Masters

A Positive Youth Development Symposium

TUESDAY MARCH 28TH, 8am-4pm

Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Juvenile Justice, Education, Child Welfare and Health

WEDNESDAY MARCH 29TH, 8am-4pm

Using the Power of Connection to Heal Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Rick Miller, Founder, Kids at Hope

Antwone Fisher, Author, Poet & Screenwriter

> Wydee'a Wilson, Chief Probation Officer 19th Judicial Court

> > David Wallace, LCSW-R LaSalle Residential School Albany, NY

Screening of RESILIENCE A powerful new film examining the impact of ACEs on youth outcomes.

Michael Finley, Director of Site Management, Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness and Equity Workshops provided for
Educators, JPOs, Law
Enforcement, Judiciary, Youth
Providers, Case Managers,
Guardians ad Litem, Public
Health Professionals, Community
Leaders, Parents and all who
are committed to making St.
Lucie a Community where ALL
children can succeed,
No Exceptions!



Register Now at: www.RoundtableSLC.org Questions: (772) 871-5880





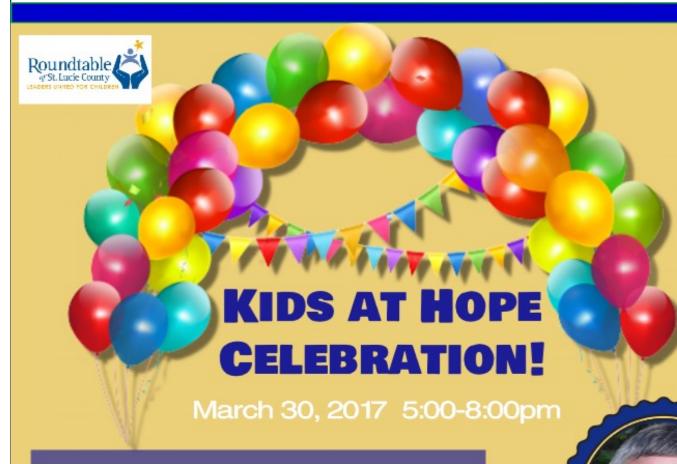








Havert L. Fenn Center 2000 Virginia Ave. Fort Pierce, 34982



Join us for a Meet & Greet with Kids at Hope Founder Rick Miller to learn more about the role of KAH in St. Lucie County and the National Framework. Community partners will be on hand to share ideas and implementation plans that they have used at their sites.

Schrieber Conference Center, IRSC Pruitt Campus 500 NW California Blvd., Port St. Lucie, 34986

RSVP at www.RoundtableSLC.com







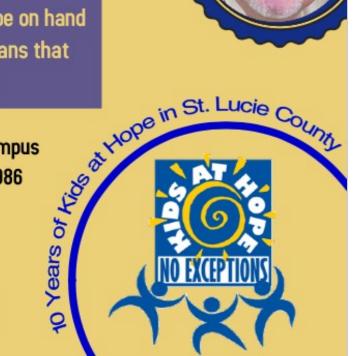












In The Image of Christ, Inc. Proudly Presents.....

Prayer for the Healing of Hids Banquet



Old City Hall 100 US Hwy 1 Fort Pierce, FL 34950

Dinner will be served. Tickets are \$25/person, \$40/Couple or \$175 Group Tables of 8.

For tickets please call Michelle Santiago @ 772-461-7788.

All proceeds go toward the Memorial Gardens @ Dreamland Park, a community of Lincoln Park Council of Ministries.

In The Image of Christ, Inc. is a 501(c) (3) non profit organization.

Mt. Bethel Human Services Cordially Invites You

United in Faith Pastoral Breakfast Dedicated to to the

Helping Foster Children in our Community

March 10, 2017 8:30 AM

Treasure Coast Hospice Ft Pierce, Fl. 34981 5090 Dunn Road

and to RSVP, please contact For additional information

Dr. Rosby L. Glover (772) 252-4757

'Whoever welcomes this child in my name, welcomes me." -Luke 9:48

home care in the Treasure Coast. Come find out There are approximately 600 children in out of how you can help!











12th Annual

Treasure Coast Police Officer's Ball



Join Emcee

Fort Pierce Police Chief Diane Hobley-Burney

«L

Special Guest Speaker Congressman Brian Mast

Saturday, March 25, 2017

For an elegant evening honoring Law Enforcement Officers

ALL PROCEEDS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND GO TO BENEFIT FORT PIERCE PAL YOUTH CRIME PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Cocktails and Silent Auction: 6:00pm

Dinner and Live Auction: 7:00pm

Dancing until 11:00pm

AT THE FORT PIERCE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE CENTER

903 S. 21st STREET, FORT PIERCE, FL

OPEN BAR

FORMAL ATTIRE (BLACK TIE OPTIONAL)

\$100 PER PERSON

CALL PAL 772.466,0606 or MELISSA 772.370,0066 FOR TICKETS OR INFORMATION



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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: Tonya Andreacchio, Children's Services Council



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"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, Richard Stetson
- 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, John Thompson
- ❖ Florida Department of Health in St. Lucie County, Clint Sperber
- **❖ Fort Pierce Police Department**, *Diane Hobley-Burney*

- ❖ Guardian ad Litem, Vern Melvin
- **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**, *Hazel Hoylman*
- ❖ Port St. Lucie Police Department, John Bolduc
- * Roy A. Hunt Foundation, Andrew Hunt
- **St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce**, *Terissa Aronson*
- **❖ St. Lucie County Department of Health,** Clint Sperber
- **❖ St. Lucie County Fire District,** George Emerson
- **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*, *Ir*.
- **Steering Committee**, Tonya Andreacchio
- United Way of St. Lucie County, Karen Knapp

Our Networks & Sub-Committees

Steering Committee

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"Bridges to Prosperity"

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Lincoln Park Advisory Committee

Denise Sirmons, Chair DeniseTreasureHunter@gmail.com

Restoring the Village Youth Initiative

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John Poli, Chair JPoli@nhtcinc.org

Kim Thomas-Pate, Coordinator KThomas@RoundtableSLC.org