



Our Mission: To sustain a team of county and business leaders who mobilize resources to improve the education, health, safety, nutrition, and care of all children in St. Lucie County.

THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

March 2019 Issue

A Message From The Director:

March 1 is Employee Appreciation Day. I am reminded of my long career of working for and alongside many agencies in our community and across the county that provide life changing services to protect and support the lives of children, youth and families. Without question, many of us are required to do much with very little, with some quietly providing their own resources and volunteer time to see about others they serve. Without dedicated employees who are willing to give their best despite funding and staffing limitations, where would we be? Please join me in expressing deep gratitude and appreciation for all of the employees of the Roundtable, our Board members, and partner agencies and organizations whose employees work tirelessly to serve children, youth and families in St. Lucie County.

March is also the month that spring begins. I love spring because it symbolizes new beginnings. For many of the families we serve, life has provided all types of challenges, tragedies, heartbreaks and disappointments many of us have not experienced or have been able to overcome. There are families we serve across the county that need a little, while others need a lot of help. What is your portion? Think about your individual role and/or the role of your agency of providing hope for new beginnings and opportunities for families to change the trajectory of their lives. Whether you are providing access to food or family counselling, employment or education, healthcare or housing, or a myriad of support services for youth and families, these are the pieces of the puzzle that form the safety net and a bridge to higher ground. We have a few of our community partners featured in the newsletter that are doing just that. Check out page 5 to see what is going on to improve health outcomes in our community. Hats off to our Health Department, under the leadership of Clint Sperber, that continues to forge partnerships to improve the health of our community, especially those that are most vulnerable. On page 4, our very own Board chair Mayor Hudson is featured providing Fort Pierce's first State of the City Address. We are very excited about all of the new initiatives that are springing forth in the Sunrise City that will surely improve the lives of its residents. We look forward to you sharing with us the piece of the puzzle your organization or agency is providing to be highlighted in future newsletters, because.....We are better together!

Teresa Bishop



THANK YOU ALL We're the BEST TEAM EVER

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.

	Jamuary 22, 2019	
DRUG FREE ST.LUCIE	I would like to comgrantiate you for successful coalition and in your community. As you how, the Academic you is to estable work with like-minded coalitions to develop a prevention efforts. By completing the five pro- eases the academic of the second second second completencies attributable to successful and su completencies attributable to successful and su coalition will be recognized for completion of the Acad at CARCA 29th Nisman Leadership frommer coalition will be recognized for completing the substance abuse prevention efforts in your con- collations. We hope that you are proud of this accomplicit representatives from your collision to intel Graduation Celebration. The Graduation Celef from 8.00-310 PM in Potoma Edulorom AB coalitions. If you have any quecilon or need additional in plasse remain me at transinget code a seg-	hard work and dedication you put forth for your old a Lamring community where coalitions can like and suffice took that will enhance their ducts community assessment, logic model, intig pulato, each coalition has demonstrated the staring coalitions. The start of the start of the start of the start of the start of the start of the being held at the Gaylerd National Hoet and Network 94, 2019. At the celebration, each e Academy, and more importantly, for leading to mentian due would like to invite you and the the CADCA Frem and participate in the brain will be held Taxoday. February 5, 2019. Please see the enclosed document of graduatin
	Building Drug-Free Communities	Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America 625 Slaters Lane, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314

Roundtable Executive Director Teresa Bishop, Drug Free St. Lucie Coordinator Kristy Conway and Drug Free St. Lucie Chairman John Poli attended the CADCA 29th Annual National Leadership Forum held in Washington D.C. in which they attended numerous trainings to develop skills and best practices that can be facilitated here in St. Lucie County. With this came the opportunity to have a private meeting with Congressman Brian Mast to discuss our local substance misuse issues as well as the work that we are doing to make prevention a priority in St. Lucie County.

Kristy Conway was honored to receive the National Coalition Academy Graduation certificate on behalf of Drug Free St. Lucie for her completion of the three-week long Academy sessions that were required. The National Coalition Academy (NCA) is a comprehensive training program developed by CADCA's National Coalition Institute and teaches leaders "what they need to know" (the core competencies) and "what their team needs to do" (the essential processes) to establish and maintain a highly effective anti-drug coalition. By the end of the year-long training, in order to graduate, Coalitions will have developed five essential products (1) a community assessment, (2) a logic model, (3) a strategic & action plan, (4) an evaluation plan and (5) a sustainability plan.

EXADCA[®] Building drug-free communities.





Youth Leadership Joint Meeting

On January 30th Youth Leadership St. Lucie held its first joint meeting of 2019. Two special guests addressed the group. Strather Dupree, Director of Articulations and Partnerships for Indian River State College spoke to the youth about some of the opportunities provided by the college and discussed the diversity of the degree programs being offered at this time. Mr. Dupree encouraged the youth to consider remaining in St. Lucie County to obtain an Associate of Arts Degree before launching out into the state of Florida and other states in the nation. Mr. Dupree is also the co-founder of E.N.D. It! Youth Leadership members will be attending their Beatz Conference, which will address a variety of skills needed to develop youth leaders.

Dr. Michael Grant, Director of Enrollment Management, gave the youth reasons to attend IRSC. Dr. Grant explained how colleges calculate the students' Grade Point Average and how to navigate the process to remain scholarship and grant eligible once a student enrolls at the college. Dr. Grant also explained the financial advantages of obtaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree from IRSC instead of going out of state. He challenged every student in Youth Leadership to come by his office with their parents or legal guardian and take a tour of the campus with him before deciding which college he/she will attend. Mr. Dupree and Dr. Grant were advocates for saving money and getting a high-quality secondary education at our local college Indian River State College.

Youth Leadership St. Lucie Young Floridians Nominees

Youth Leadership St. Lucie is proud to announce that three of our members were recently nominated to receive a Young Floridians Scholarship. All three young ladies were beyond deserving of the scholarship in the category for which they were nominated, yet only one of them was awarded a scholarship. Congratulations to nominees Macy Nielander and Emily DiBernardo, and to recipient Sabrina Dorisca.

We are extremely proud of you...keep reaching for the stars!!!



acticed



The City of Fort Pierce is showcasing its rich history and ready for its bright future, according to Mayor Linda Hudson, who presented the City's first "State of the City" address, February 12, at the Sunrise Theatre. A crowd of nearly 400 citizens attended the free event, where Hudson talked about the 118-year old city's efforts to promote local artists, like the Florida Highwaymen and A.E. Beanie Backus, as well as author and anthropologist, Zora Neale Hurston, who lived her last years in Fort Pierce.

Hudson also shared current and future economic growth including the new businesses along the Jenkins Road corridor, the new businesses at the Port of Fort Pierce, the future redevelopment of the 7-acre former King power plant in downtown Fort Pierce, and the revitalizing of the U.S. 1 corridor. She shared good news about school graduation rates, which reached 91.8% in the most recent school year. Indian River State College is once again an Aspen finalist for community college excellence.

The City will place renewed emphasis on the Sunrise Theatre as an important community asset, and is proud of the revitalization of the Indian Hills Golf Course. Significant resources have been devoted to reducing crime and building better relations with the community, including being the first police department to provide body worn cameras for all sworn officers. The City is also spending considerable resources on major storm water quality improvement projects like Moore's Creek, Veterans Memorial Park, Indian Hills Recreation and Restoration area, and the islands that protect the Marina and the waterfront.

The City has created a new Recreation Department and in the first year, 500 young people and 70 volunteers participated. Thanks to partnerships with Allegany Franciscan Ministries, Indian River State College, St. Lucie Economic Development Council, Career Source Resource Development and Treasure Coast Manufacturers, residents of Lincoln Park will have the opportunity to retrain for better careers.

Fort Pierce Mayor Linda Hudson is the first female to be elected as Mayor, but Hudson announced "I would rather be known as the Mayor who led this City to be the best it could be."







St. Lucie - Go Red for Women

The Employee Wellness Committee kicked off American Heart Month by encouraging employees to GO RED FOR WOMEN on Friday, February 1st. Employees celebrated by wearing red, walking during lunch break, and bringing heart healthy snacks to meetings. Communications around reducing the risk of heart disease will be shared each week during the month of February and link employees to information and resources on quitting smoking, increasing physical activity, eating for heart health, controlling blood pressure and having cholesterol tested.





Giving Kids A Smile

The American Dental Association launched the national Give Kids A Smile program for dentists to join with others in the community to provide dental services to underserved children. Department of Health-St. Lucie school health nurses have planned, coordinated and truly solidified a partnership with local dentists, Indian River State College School of Dentistry and HANDS Pediatric Dental Program (free clinic) to make certain we aid children that would not receive dental care.

In January, 58 children received a dental cleaning, x-rays, sealants and an exam by Dr. Ardalan. In February, 32 students received restorative dentistry from Dr. Ardelan, Dr. Arias, Dr. Chris Dermody, Dr. Blank, Dr. Vanavost, Dr. Lamoli and Ervin Valcin, dental hygienist with the HANDS Pediatric Dental Program, will case manage six of the children that require care in the operating room.

Food for Families

The St. Lucie County Food Policy Council (FPC) had the opportunity to work with the Macedonia Community Center on Delaware Avenue. The FPC worked with volunteers at the Center and handed out food to families in the community. The families received different varieties of foods and fresh fruits and vegetables.



<u>St. Lucie County Residents Complete Their Year-Long Journey to</u> <u>One Billion Steps</u>

To tackle sedentary rates, the Healthy St. Lucie Coalition and Department of Health-St. Lucie challenged residents to collectively reach the goal of one billion steps by December 31, 2018. Healthy St. Lucie used an online platform to collect and track steps throughout the year. Participants were recruited at community events, worksites, and community organizations. Themed mini-challenges were hosted to stoke the competition and maintain momentum. St. Lucie County residents reached their goal on January 21, 2019. The 2018 Billion Steps Challenge campaign rallied 1,377 participants and 122 teams from 35 unique organizations. Feedback on the challenge was gathered through a survey. A total of 147 participants responded. Below is a sample of questions and the top three responses:

What successes did the challenge have on your health?

34% reported *they lost weight*32% reported *helped me manage my stress*34% reported *improved my outlook on life*

What barriers did you face in staying active and reaching your daily goal?

35% identified *not enough time* 30% identified *being too tired* 25% identified *physical limitations*

What would help you to overcome the barriers you indicated above?

44% selected *incorporating small change throughout the day to increase my activity*33% selected *scheduling regular exercise time*27% selected *exercising with someone or a group*



Plans are underway to use this feedback to shape communications and collaborations with partners for the 2019 Billion Step Challenge.







From Poverty to Self-Sufficiency

With great passion, excitement and community support, United Against Poverty launched its Success Training Employment Program (STEP) at our St. Lucie UP Center in 2018. There is no easy solution to poverty but, with STEP, we can now help our community start permanently ending the cycle of poverty the hard way-- one family at a time. "The Success Training Employment Program was a lifeline for me. I had not been in the workforce for a very long time, and I was doubtful at best about my abilities. STEP gave me the skills and resources I needed to believe in myself and land a new career!"-Marcia

STEP is a workforce training program designed to help individuals overcome multiple barriers to employment by learning both the hard and soft skills that make desirable employees.

Phase One, taught by our STEP Coordinator, provides 120 hours of classroom instruction that focuses on emotional intelligence training, job acquisition and workplace skills that help participants overcome the obstacles holding them back. Participants spend six weeks in a cohort setting learning both the hard and soft skills that make them in demand for employment. They graduate with eight certifications, marketable resumes, interview and public speaking skills and a new understanding of themselves and others; ready to be successful in the workplace.

Upon completion of the in-class portion, students graduate into Phase Two which focuses on connecting participants with employment opportunities. Our Treasure Coast Workforce Development Manager, works with each graduate to identify career pathway appropriate job openings and prepares them for interviews with partnering employers. When not working directly with participants, the Workforce Development Manager is out in the community meeting regularly with our employer partners and identifying new employers willing to help change the lives of future STEP participants!

STEP students enter Phase Three when they have obtained employment. At this time, the student is paired with a Success Coach, who continues to work with each individual on their customized Success Plan for up to 3 years. The personal Success Coach provides participants with the support needed to overcome potential obstacles before they become issues in the workplace. Coaches also provide support to reach short and long term goals for career development, education, savings, credit improvements and debt reduction- so that participants are able to become strong candidates for career advancement and move towards financial security on their pathway to self-sufficiency.

Since its launch in St Lucie in 2018, STEP has employed thirty nine out of the forty five participants who graduated from Phase One, which is a rate of 87%. In addition, 18 families have already soared above the 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) and 3 families has surpassed the 201% of the FPL, within the last six months. STEP first launched at our sister campus in Indian River County in 2015, and at the UP Orlando location in 2016. Since then, the program has successfully assisted nearly 400 individual's secure full-time employment! There is no easy solution to poverty but STEP has been proven to raise household income an average of \$16,000 while lowering expenses related to government benefits, creating an average economic impact of \$51,000 per family, per year.

Canieria Gardner, the Executive Director of United Against Poverty St. Lucie stated "Our participants are Angels with broken wings, it's our responsibility to mend those wings and provide them the necessary tools they need to become successful and self- sufficient. The best gift you can give a child is a parent that is motivated and striving for excellence, because success trickles down to the children in the household."





Debbie Hawley, Chairman of St. Lucie County School Board, was honored at this month's Chamber of Commerce Ladies Luncheon. Ms. Hawley's is a staunch advocate for children and public education. As a three-term School Board member, Chief Operating Officer for Big Brothers Big Sisters, and involved community member, she is a catalyst for acceleration of literacy, expansion of mental health service, and improvements in safety and security.

Congratulations Ms. Hawley!



GREAT FUTURES START HERE.



Youth of the Year

The Ken Pruitt Club was well represented when their candidate, Kayla Williams was chosen as this year's Youth of the Year! Kayla will now contend for the State of Florida Youth of the Year title and a \$5,000 college scholarship from Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Congratulations Kayla!





CITY OF FORT PIERCE PRESENTS MOVIES IN THE FORT

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 AT 7:00PM Fort Pierce Police Department (920 US HWY 1)

COME ENJOY A FREE FAMILY, FRIENDLY Movie on US, JUST Bring a blanket And chairs!

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 772-467-3031



4TH ANNUAL

SUNDAY • APRIL 7, 2019 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

CHUCK'S SEAFOOD

822 Seaway Drive Fort Pierce, FL 34949 \$50/person • limited seating





Lunch

RSVP to Carin Smith by March 29: carin.smith@tcslc.com or 772-462-2119

Minor Auto Repair Program

The Minor Auto Repair Program offers income eligible households assistance with small repairs such as batteries, tires, water hoses, brakes, engine belts, etc. Repairs must be needed to maintain employment, education/training or to manage ongoing health care. Proof of ownership and insurance is required. Assistance based on available funding.

Applicants must:

- Live in St. Lucie County.
- Complete an intake application to confirm eligibility. Verifying documentation required.
- Be able to provide documentation of need: work and/or school schedule, ongoing medical issues, household bills, etc. . . .



Future Meeting Dates

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

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)

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 United Way of St. Lucie.

LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK

Time and location TBD.

SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD – VIOLENCE & DELINQUENCY WORKGROUP

February 25th; Time and Location TBD.

STEERING COMMITTEE

Quarterly; Time and Date TBA. Location: Children's Services Council.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (Drug Free St. Lucie)

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

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TASK FORCE

Last Wednesday of every month at 1:30pm. Location: TBD

YOUTH LEADERSHIP ST. LUCIE

Port St. Lucie YLSL: Port St. Lucie Police Department 6-8pm, 2/13, 3/13, 4/17, 5/15 Fort Pierce YLSL: River Walk Center 6-8pm, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7 Joint YLS Meetings: 6-8pm, 2/27 (PSLPD), 3/26 (River Walk), 4/30 (River Walk), 5/29 (PSLPD)

Roundtable of St. Lucie County LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN

Executive Committee

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

Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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Teresa Bishop, Executive Director TBishop@RoundtableSLC.org

Kim Thomas-Pate, Operations Manager KThomas@RoundtableSLC.org

Dana Stonelake, Administrative Assistant DStonelake@RoundtableSLC.org

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www.RoundtableSLC.com



www.Facebook.com/RoundtableSLC

"Roundtable of St. Lucie County"

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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, Bob Meadows
- * 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
- Communities Connected for Kids, Carol Deloach
- * Department of Children & Families, Robert McPartlan
- Department of Juvenile Justice, Wydee'a Wilson
- * 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 Trevor Banks
- * 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, Nate Spera
- * 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**, Delores Hogan Johnson
- * Steering Committee, Angela Roberson
- United Way of St. Lucie County, Karen Knapp

We envision a community where county leaders, businesses and residents are united to provide all children of St. Lucie County the resources they need to thrive, be successful and achieve their full potential.

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

Child & Adolescent Health Tricia Goulet, Chair Tricia.Goulet@FLHealth.gov

Safe Kids Coalition Ronda Cerulli, Coordinator 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 Chair, TBD

Violence & Delinquency Workgroup Bill Tomlinson/Will Armstedt, Chairs

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

Behavioral Health Task Force

Cassandra Burney, Tonya Andreacchio, and Jody Hays