



## THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

May 2017 Issue

### A Message From The Director:

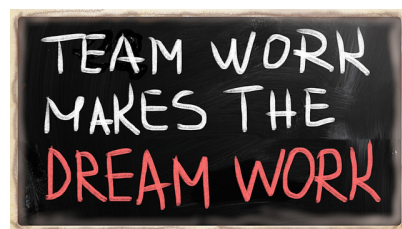
Since this is the last newsletter before Summer break, I'd like to take a brief moment to acknowledge all of the direct services accomplished by Roundtable staff this school year. In 2017-18, the Kids at Hope and Restoring the Village Teams:

- re-launched Youth Leadership St. Lucie, working with 30 teens from across the county twice a month to develop leadership skills,
- hosted a three day Youth Leadership Retreat for over 50 teens alongside national facilitators,
- facilitated three months of KAH Mentoring Meetings, preparing 40 teens to attend the Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference through sessions on community engagement, civility, and leadership,
- facilitated monthly Transparent Tuesday sessions, providing an opportunity for community role models to meet with and inspire RTVYI clients,
- hosted 12 weeks of Anger Replacement Therapy (ART) Classes for specific RTVYI clients dealing with anger management issues,
- facilitated bi-weekly mentoring meetings between City of Fort Pierce employees and students at Performance Based Academy,
- provided opportunities for teachers, school staff, after school providers, and community volunteers to help kids plan successful futures through destination boards and passports, St. Lucie Schools Speakers Bureau, Tunnels of Hope, and Student Led Conferences,
- helped caring adults connect with youth in meaningful ways through ACES Tracking,
- provided direct outreach services to more than 60 youth in the Restoring the Village Youth Initiative, and
- hosted a Mini-Masters Youth Development Symposium featuring national speakers on trauma and reducing disparities involving 150+ community providers and activists.

As you can see, our staff may be small in number, but we are mighty in impact.

Thank you team for all you do,

**Shaniek Maynard**



**Roundtable Retreat**  
**Friday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**8:30am – 11:30am**

Location:  
**Children's Services**  
**Council**  
**Breakfast will be served.**

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.



## **SLC Teen Leaders Meet with Superintendent Wayne Gent**

Youth Leadership St. Lucie empowers teens to become good community problem solvers, communicators and advocates, and gives them a voice in Roundtable initiatives. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, Youth Leadership St. Lucie members had an opportunity to have a Roundtable discussion with Mr. Wayne Gent, Superintendent of St. Lucie Public Schools, at the River Walk Center in Fort Pierce. In preparation for this meeting students worked vigorously to research hot topics throughout their schools, such as athletic fees, Florida Virtual School/ Dual Enrollment policies, a need for specialized counselors to assist with mental health issues, and the need for quality textbooks at non-traditional schools. During the discussion, students not only introduced some of the problems they were experiencing, they also provided solutions. Mr. Gent listened intently, shared his history in St. Lucie County, provided students with answers, and discussed how to make their proposed solutions happen. Now that Youth Leadership students have talked with Mr. Gent, they are more eager than ever to continue the conversation, and are looking forward to more discussions with our School District, and sitting down with our local state legislators to advocate on additional youth interests.

Following Youth Leadership St. Lucie's meeting with Mr. Gent, students split into their Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie Youth Councils. Fort Pierce youth met with Mr. Joe Sweat, Marketing Specialist, where they further discussed developing city pride initiatives. Port St. Lucie youth met with Chief John Bolduc and Ms. Kelly Tiger, Recreation Manager for PSL Parks & Recreation Department. Ms. Tiger came bearing gifts, presenting each teen with a Kids at Hope bag full of flyers and materials about PSL activities and events. Teens talked with Ms. Kelly about increasing teen-specific activities, such as teen dances, movies in the park, and a social media campaign to get teen activities publicized (Ex., #PSLTeensRock). In May and June, Youth Leadership students will speak at a PSL Council Meeting, attend the DADDY Play by END IT! to combat human trafficking, exhibit their Photo Voice project to community leaders, launch a social media campaign to prevent youth substance abuse (#DRYLife- Drugs Ruin Your Life), and facilitate an anti-bullying project at this year's Juneteenth Celebration in Fort Pierce. For more information on Youth Leadership St. Lucie, please contact KAH Coordinator Megan Pack at [MeganTreasureHunter@gmail.com](mailto:MeganTreasureHunter@gmail.com).



## Speakers Bureau Appreciation Breakfast

On April 28, the Kids at Hope team assisted Dr. Donna Mills and St. Lucie Public Schools in hosting an Appreciation Breakfast at Westwood High School in honor of Volunteers participating in the Speakers' Bureau. Dr. Mills began the Speaker's Bureau over three years ago at Westwood, and since then it has grown to nine schools monthly throughout the district. The purpose of the Speakers Bureau is to bring community members into St. Lucie Schools to share their life stories with students to inspire success. The Breakfast honored the individuals and schools who have participated over the last three years. Over 50 community members attended, and it was an awesome opportunity to share the history and purpose of the Speaker's Bureau. Honorees were serenaded by Fort Pierce Westwood High School Show Choir, and breakfast was catered by the award winning culinary students in the Panther's Bistro Café. Principals Ellen Harden of Dale Cassens Educational Complex and Glenn Rustay of Northport Middle School talked about the Speakers Bureau's impact on their students, and Superintendent Wayne Gent emphasized the importance of community involvement in helping students set and attain their future goals. At the end of the event, Fort Pierce Westwood High School Principal John Lynch and Intern Principal Joseph Lezeau led community members on a tour of the school's Attractor Programs, including Certified Nursing Assistant, Agricultural, and Veterinary Assistant Programs.

We partnered with the Speakers Bureau this year because the project embodies every aspect of Kids at Hope. It engages community members in working together to **Believe** in St. Lucie County kids, **Connect** with them as Caring Adults, and assist students to **Envision their own successful Futures** in life. It also assists with the Roundtable's goal of increasing academic success by encouraging and supporting efforts to bring community resources to public schools through partnerships with volunteers, local professionals, and businesses. The Speakers Bureau gives community members the opportunity to inspire student success, and to see firsthand the great opportunities and achievements of St. Lucie County Schools.





# VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR



**And the Winner is .....BETTY BRADWELL!**

On April 21st, Fort Pierce resident and community activist Betty Bradwell received the Florida Department of Health- St. Lucie County Award for Volunteer of the Year. Ms. Bradwell has served St. Lucie County tirelessly for decades. She is a founding member of Fort Pierce's Community Mobilization Team, and assisted the community during implementation of the federal Weed and Seed program in the early 2000s. She is a member of and advocate for the Treasure Coast chapter of Parents of Murdered Children. Formerly the Vice President, she now serves as the President of the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee, which works with the Roundtable of St. Lucie County to identify initiatives and services that are needed in the Lincoln Park area. As President, her role is to advocate for positive change in Lincoln Park and assist in making it a safe place to live and work. Ms. Betty is a faithful member of St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church, and works in their community kitchen providing hot meals to those in need every Thursday. She has been a volunteer with the Health Department for over ten years, doing HIV/AIDS and Diabetes outreach in the community. She is a council member for Allegany Franciscan Ministries Common Good Initiative and a Community Ambassador for the Fort Pierce Police Department. She participates with the Guardian ad Litem program, United Way School Supplies Program, American Cancer Society, Kids at Hope, National Night Out, Marine Toys for Tots Initiative, and ALPI Eastern Regional Advisory Council. She is a Shelter Supervisor for the Red Cross. Everywhere there is positive work being done to improve St. Lucie County and help those in need, Ms. Betty is there with a smile on her face working hard to make it happen. She is an Outstanding Asset to our community, and truly deserved the recognition from the Health Department as Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations Ms. Betty!





**LPAC**  
Mobilizing Our Community, Uniting for Peace,  
and Creating Safe Neighborhoods



## **Lincoln Park Advisory Council Continues Its Work in North Fort Pierce**

In April, the Lincoln Park Advisory Committee (LPAC) facilitated several community listening sessions in Fort Pierce. The purpose was to report back to residents who took part in the 2015 Gang Assessment about the results of the surveys and focus groups, and find out whether residents were feeling safer and seeing less violence in their neighborhoods. LPAC members distributed a flyer summarizing the results of the Assessment, and the steps leaders and members have taken to address community concerns (see pages 6 and 7). LPAC held Listening Sessions in the following communities: Pine Creek Village (April 20), Madison Cay Apartments (April 24), Sheraton Plaza (April 25), Parkland Court (April 26) and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street (April 27). Results of these sessions are being analyzed and will be reported to the Roundtable at the Annual Retreat.

Recently, LPAC opened up for new members, and elected new officers. Congratulations to the new LPAC Officers for 2017-18:

- Chair, Betty Bradwell
- Vice Chair, Sandy Mack
- Secretary, Megan Pack
- Treasurer, Kevin Howard
- Parliamentarian, Wydee'a Wilson

Currently, LPAC members are working together on the following projects: taking 40 teens to the Preventing Crime in the Black Community Conference, assisting teens to bring what they learn from the conference back to the community for the Juneteenth Celebration, and working with Lincoln Park Council of Ministers on the Memorial Garden of Hope and Prayer. The Memorial Garden will be located in Dreamland Park in Fort Pierce. The Garden will contain a Wall commemorating all who lost their lives to violence in St. Lucie County. The Wall has been created from metal melted down from over 600 pounds of confiscated firearms from St. Lucie County. The Lincoln Park Council of Ministers worked with Parents of Murdered Children to collect names of over 60 individuals who have died from violence in and from St. Lucie County to get permission from their family members to have their names engraved on the wall. Plans are currently being made for public service announcements, and other outreach efforts to make sure that all whose family members would like them to be remembered in this way have the opportunity to participate. The garden will be a place for reflection, prayer and hope.

# Comprehensive Gang Assessment Snapshot

*We asked more than 1,100 community residents, parents, teens, service providers and leaders about violence in North Fort Pierce. Here is what the Community said:*

## Are Gangs a Problem in the Community?

**Residents  
YES 77%**

**Community  
Leaders  
YES 93%**

**Youth Serving  
Agencies  
YES 86%**

## Top 3 Concerns in the Community

**Gang  
Activity  
52%**

**Unemploy-  
ment  
51%**

**Homicide  
40%**

## Top 3 Causes of Violence in the Community

**Lack of  
Activities**

**Poverty**

**Boredom**

## Top 3 Problems Created by Gangs

**Increase in  
Violence**

**Increase in  
Weapons**

**Increase in  
Drugs**

## Top 3 Solutions for Stopping Violence

**Jobs & Job  
Training**

**Programs &  
Recreation**

**Mentoring**

## Who is Responsible for Fixing the Violence?

**Police**

**Churches**

**Family**

**April 2017**

The Roundtable of St. Lucie County, a 501(c)(3) organization, is a group of St. Lucie County leaders working together to accomplish system change to improve outcomes for youth in St. Lucie County.

In 2014, the Roundtable identified youth violence in Fort Pierce as its #1 priority. Working together and with the community, we launched the **Restoring the Village Youth Initiative**, an anti-violence program aimed at reaching St. Lucie County youth who are involved in, or at risk of becoming involved in, street violence.

The Roundtable worked with members of the **Lincoln Park Advisory Committee** (LPAC) to conduct surveys, focus groups, and interview with more than 1,100 Fort Pierce residents and stakeholders.

This is a summary of what the community said and an overview of what has been done to address concerns about community violence.

For more information or to find out how you can get involved, contact Roundtable of St. Lucie County at (772) 871-5880 or see our website: [www.roundtableslc.com](http://www.roundtableslc.com)

### What the Youth Said

- ♦ 63% know of gang activity in the community
- ♦ 35% believe gangs are present in their schools
- ♦ 16% have friends who carry a handgun
- ♦ 12% have friends who sell drugs
- ♦ 14% have friends who are gang members
- ♦ 8% have friends who have tried to steal a car
- ♦ 8% have friends who have been arrested
- ♦ 25% admitted that they have attacked someone with the idea to seriously harm them

### In Their Own Words.....

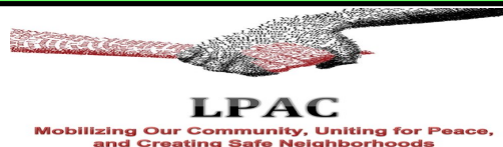
- ♦ *"Snitches get Stitches"*
- ♦ *"We never know if we will make it another day"*
- ♦ *"Our community is breaking apart"*
- ♦ *"People are starting to think the violence is ok"*
- ♦ *"We feel like we are living in a dump"*
- ♦ *"The violence makes us worry about our family and friends"*
- ♦ *"The violence makes us feel like we can't go nowhere"*
- ♦ *"The violence makes us wonder who will be next"*
- ♦ *"It makes us feel like black people are targets"*
- ♦ *"Everyone is in fear"*

### Top Needs Identified by Teens

- ⇒ Community Leaders to work with youth in gangs
- ⇒ Access to transportation so teens can get to fun safe activities and job opportunities
- ⇒ Community acknowledgement of violence victims, not blame
- ⇒ More police presence at night, more black officers, and better relationships with law enforcement

## RESPONDING TO COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- ♦ **Two "Know the Law" Forums**, aimed at improving youth/police relationships –attended by 200+ teens
- ♦ **Two GAAP Conversations**, aimed at improving youth/community/police relationships — Attended by 50+ youth and adults.
- ♦ **Two Reentry Resource Hubs** --40 community agencies serving approx. 175 people on DJJ/DOC supervision
- ♦ **Community Peace Vigil in honor of Ma'Keila Burkes** – Attended by 600 community residents (CM)
- ♦ **Memorial Garden for Victims of Gun Violence** — Spear-headed by Lincoln Park Council of Ministers and supported by the City of Fort Pierce
- ♦ **Free Summer Transportation for Youth** Developed by St. Lucie County Community Services
- ♦ **Youth Summer Employment Program** —serving 120 youth, developed by St. Lucie County School Board, St. Lucie County BOCC & CareerSource Research Coast
- ♦ **Mentoring Program** —linking youth and caring adults to build strong bonds, leadership skills and commitment to community engagement in St. Lucie County teens.
- ♦ **Restoring the Village Youth Initiative** – 30+ agencies involved in serving and mentoring over 60 gang-involved youth providing access to recreational opportunities, assistance with school and employment, and linking to services such as mental health and substance abuse.





# **NETWORK MEETINGS**

## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS**

First Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm at Children's Services Council.  
Next meeting is May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## **CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH (Healthy St. Lucie)**

Healthiest Weight: Meetings are bi-monthly; next meeting May 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
Infant Mortality: Meets quarterly; held its first meeting April 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Teen Pregnancy: Meeting date TBD

## **CHILD WELFARE**

First Tuesday of every month at 10:00am at Children's Services Council.  
Next meeting is May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## **ECONOMIC SUFFICIENCY (Bridges to Prosperity)**

Third Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm at the UP Center on Orange Avenue.  
Next meeting is May 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **LINCOLN PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Fourth Thursday of every other month at 12:00pm at the Department of Health  
714 Avenue C, Fort Pierce.  
Next Meeting is June 29<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAFE KIDS COALITION (Unintentional Injury)**

First Thursday of every month at 9:00am at Garber Buick GMC on US1.  
Next meeting is May 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS**

Third Tuesday of every month at 9:00am. Location – Fort Pierce City Hall.  
Next meeting May 16<sup>th</sup>.

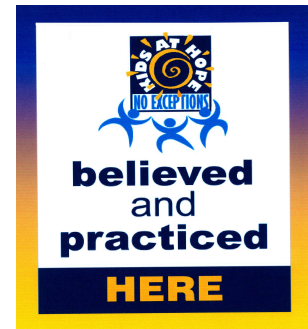
## **STEERING COMMITTEE**

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.  
Next meeting is May 9<sup>th</sup>.





## 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:** Tonya Andreacchio, Children's Services Council

### Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

546 NW University Blvd.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
Phone: (772) 871-5880  
Fax: (772) 408-111

**Shaniek Maynard, Executive Director**  
SMaynard@RoundtableSLC.org

**Kim Thomas, Project Coordinator**  
KThomas@RoundtableSLC.org

**Dana Stonelake, Administrative Assistant**  
DStonelake@RoundtableSLC.org

**Esperanza Morales, Accounting**  
EMorales35@comcast.net

Visit us at:

**[www.RoundtableSLC.com](http://www.RoundtableSLC.com)**

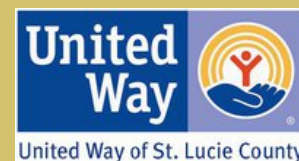


**[www.Facebook.com/RoundtableSLC](http://www.Facebook.com/RoundtableSLC)**

"Roundtable of St. Lucie County"

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

### OUR SPONSORS:





## Our Members

- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit Public Defender's Office, *Diamond R. Litty*
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit - State Attorney, *Bruce Colton*
- ❖ 19<sup>th</sup> 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, Jr.*
- ❖ Steering Committee, *Tonya Andreacchio*
- ❖ United Way of St. Lucie County, *Karen Knapp*

## Our Networks & Sub-Committees

### **Steering Committee**

Tonya Andreacchio, Chair  
TAndreacchio@cscslc.org

### **Academic Success**

Deborah Hawley, Chair  
Deborah.Hawley@StLucieSchools.org

### **Economic Sufficiency**

***"Bridges to Prosperity"***  
Renee Deschenes, Chair  
Renee.Deschenes@pd19.org

### **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 Coordinators**

Denise Sirmons  
DeniseTreasureHunter@gmail.com  
Megan Pack  
MeganTreasureHunter@gmail.com

### **Safe Neighborhoods**

Daniela Dreizehnter, Chair  
DDreizehnter@fppd.org

### **Lincoln Park Advisory Committee**

Denise Sirmons, Chair  
DeniseTreasureHunter@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  
Kim Thomas-Pate, Coordinator  
KThomas@RoundtableSLC.org