



Building a Community that Supports the Success of Children

## THE ROUNDTABLE REVIEW

November 2017 Issue

### A Message From The Director:

Happy Fall! The summer flew by and we are quickly approaching the holiday season. This month is Thanksgiving and I must say, I am thankful for so many things that are happening at the Roundtable. First, I would like to express many thanks for the Roundtable's vote of confidence by hiring me as the new Executive Director. I truly have large shoes to fill, following the leadership of Shaniek Maynard. She has left us with such momentum, I had to jump right in and hit the ground running. First, exciting news is we are 1 of 99 communities in the country to receive the Drug Free Communities Grant this year from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. This is a 5-year grant that will allow us to focus on reducing substance misuse by youth in our county. We are in the process of hiring a Project Coordinator to lead Drug Free St. Lucie and this initiative.

We are also excited to welcome Kevin Singletary, our Project Coordinator and Kim Reid, our new School and Community Liaison for our Kids at Hope initiative. They too have hit the ground running, participating in a Student Led Conference at Weatherbee Elementary, Ft. Pierce Westwood Homecoming and Friday Night Done Right at Performance Based Preparatory School. Stay tuned for more from this dynamic team.

In addition, we welcome Kevin Huggins, our new Outreach Worker for the Restoring the Village Initiative. His energy and commitment to youth will be a great addition to the team.

We would like to give a great big thanks to all of our networks who are working very hard and establishing the priorities for this next year. In this Newsletter, we will feature a preview of the great work they are doing as we continue to improve outcomes for the youth in our county.

Finally, we are thankful to Denise Sirmons, for her decade of hard work and integral role with establishing Kids at Hope in our community. Ms. Sirmons has transitioned full time as Director of the Lincoln Park Community Center, where she will continue to be a true Treasure Hunter and impact many lives. During her tenure with the Roundtable, we met our goal of providing Kids at Hope training to all schools in St. Lucie County and provided many schools and organizations with technical assistance and support. When you see those Kids at Hope signs in the community, remember her contribution to helping many to believe "All children are capable of success, no exceptions". Wishing all of you a wonderful fall season!

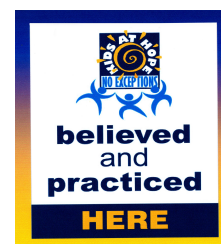
*Teresa Bishop*



### Introducing...



**OUR NEW KIDS AT HOPE TEAM!**  
Kevin Singletary, KAH Coordinator  
Kim Reid, KAH School & Community Liaison



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.



## **Roundtable of St. Lucie County Awarded 5 Year, \$625,000 Grant to Support Youth Substance Abuse Prevention**

The Roundtable of St. Lucie County's Substance Abuse Network has been awarded a five year Drug Free Communities (DFC) grant of \$125,000 per year from the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy and the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

This funding is recognition by the federal government of both the leadership of the Roundtable and the community's commitment to create a healthy and safe environment for all of St. Lucie County youth. The grant provides local community coalitions funding to prevent youth substance use, including prescription drugs, marijuana, and underage drinking.

"Substance misuse and abuse among youth is a challenge we face in our community that leads to other social problems. The Roundtable's Drug Free St. Lucie will use this resource and implement strategies that will make a difference," said Chief John Bolduc, the Chair of the Roundtable.

Recognizing that local problems need local solutions, DFC-funded coalitions engage multiple sectors of the community and employ a variety of environmental strategies to address local drug problems. The Roundtable's Drug Free St. Lucie Coalition is comprised of community leaders, parents, youth, the school district, religious organizations, health care and business professionals, and law enforcement. By involving the community, DFC also helps those youth at risk for substance use recognize that the majority of our nation's youth choose not to use drugs.



**Every day**  
**4,000** 12-17  
year olds  
use drugs  
for the  
first time

**21%** of high school students reported  
binge drinking in the past 30 days

The prevalence of youth  
substance use  
increases  
as their  
perception  
of harm  
from use  
decreases



## Drug-Free Communities



Since Its  
Inception  
DFC has Funded  
More Than...

**2,000**  
Community coalitions

DFC supports  
**4.4 million**  
middle school students  
(age 12-14) and  
**6.3 million**  
high school students  
(age 15-18)

Representing  
**36%**  
of all  
United States youth

### Coalition Strategies



Providing  
Information



Enhancing  
Skills



Changing  
Physical Design



Providing  
Support



Enhancing Access/  
Reducing Barriers



Changing  
Consequences



Modifying/  
Changing Policies

### DFC Works!

Youth substance use has decreased among  
all grantees since program inception



Alcohol



Tobacco



Marijuana

Sources:  
SAMHSA  
NSORH 2013  
Monitoring the  
Future 2012  
2012 DFC  
National  
Evaluation  
Report  
YRBS 2013

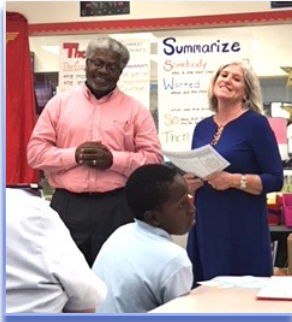




## Kids at Hope Student Led Conferences

### *"Believing, Connecting, and Time Travelling"*

On October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Weatherbee Elementary held Kids at Hope Student-Led Conferences, during which students were paired with a caring adult with whom they were encouraged to share their work from the first nine weeks of school. This process allowed the students to showcase their strengths, interests, and successes as well as address areas that they felt challenged with.

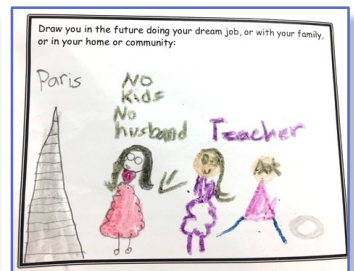


Kids at Hope Coordinator Kevin Singletary and Kids at Hope Community & School Liaison Kim Reid participated in the Student-Led Conferences by volunteering as the caring adult for several children in the first and fourth grades who were in attendance without a family member. As the children excitedly shared excerpts of their personal and academic lives, Kevin and Kim observed and participated in the **Kids at Hope Three Universal Truths: Believing, Connecting, and Time Travelling**. Kevin and Kim agreed that this was a wonderful and valuable event for everyone involved, and look forward to participating in the next Student-Led Conference at Weatherbee Elementary. Kids at Hope is also pleased to be taking part in Weatherbee Elementary's upcoming Fall Festival.

## Kids at Hope Summer Camp

### Destinations Days!

This summer KAH Treasure Hunters, Dana Stonelake and Megan Pack, visited eight summer camps in the Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie area to facilitate a fun time travelling activity with over 270 children! They engaged the 8-11 year olds in fun discussions about their futures in the four Destinations: Community & Service, Hobbies & Recreation, Home & Family, and Education & Career. Each child was given a KAH activity booklet and our KAH Coordinators worked with the kids as they went through each page and answered various questions for every destination, as well as a page on identifying their ACEs. There was a special emphasis this summer on the destination of "Education & Career" with the hopes of showing children what they can and should be doing now to start preparing for their future goals in that destination. The children did an excellent job of articulating the various things they could do today that would help them reach their various goals: "eating healthier", "watch my parent do it", "take a class about that subject", "stay out of trouble", "get good grades", "join a running club", "ask my grandpa to tell me how he did it", "read a book about it", and "practice more so I can get really good at it". In addition to the activity booklet, a parent worksheet was distributed for the children to take home and talk with their ACE about what their career goals were when they were a child, as well as have their ACE (caring adult) answer how they will support this child today to work towards his/her future goals. Those kids who returned the parent worksheet to camp were rewarded with an ice cream celebration. The participation by all the camp personnel and children was outstanding, and we were very pleased with the parent worksheet participation the children did at home.



**CAREER & EDUCATION**

What type of job do you want when you grow up?  
A Pop star a dancer and a writer

What are three things you need to learn to do that job?  
 1. Eat healthy  
 2. Save You Dacie  
 3. Learn how to ride

What can I do today to make sure I get my dream job?  
Work hard Study earn some money

**CAREER & EDUCATION**

What type of job do you want when you grow up?  
Professional player Basketball

What are three things you need to learn to do that job?  
 1. how to throw a ball  
 2. how to catch a ball  
 3. how to juggle people out

What can I do today to make sure I get my dream job?  
Practice, Exercise just be good at it

**Mental "Time Travel"**

The future is made up of four destination points - Hobbies & Recreation, Community & Service, Home & Family, and Education & Career. Today we visited your future in Education & Career, now let's ask your mom/dad about their Education & Career!

When I (youth) grow up I want to be a Mechanic.

**Youth Interviewing Parent:**

What are some jobs my mom or dad wanted to do when they were growing up?  
my mom wanted to be a veterinarian or pharmacist.

My parent's job now is:  
Cust. Service Rep (Engineering)

They like doing this job because:  
It teaches me about building houses.

Name two things your parent needed to learn to be able to do their job well:  
computer skills, reading surveys of houses.

**Parent Interviewing Youth:**

I believe my child will be successful in his/her dream job because:  
He is a very smart boy and great with fixing things.

I can help my child to begin preparing today to reach his/her goals by:  
Showing him how to have patience when dealing with hard task.

Remember you own your future! Choosing to succeed in your education & career is your decision.



# Thank you

*Denise Sirmons*

FOR 10 GREAT YEARS



Roundtable  
of St. Lucie County  
LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN

KIDS AT HOPE SPRING BREAK 2016: TEEN RETREAT



Roundtable  
of St. Lucie County  
LEADERS UNITED FOR CHILDREN

KIDS AT HOPE: 2016 PEACE WALK





# RESTORING THE VILLAGE YOUTH INITIATIVE

Restoring the Village Youth Initiative was busy over the summer. Some of our youth participated in the Summer of Success youth employment program, others completed our Aggression Replacement Training series, while all of us enjoyed some true Fort Pierce sightseeing and went deep sea fishing.



## **Introducing New Outreach Worker Kevin Huggins, Jr.**

On October 16<sup>th</sup> Kevin Huggins, Jr. joined our street outreach worker team. Kevin is 28 years old, a Fort Pierce native and graduate of St Lucie West Centennial High School (where he was on the basketball team). Growing up in Fort Pierce, Kevin was not involved in gangs, but lost both friends and family members to gun violence in the streets. He attributes his ability to stay out of the streets to having adult mentors in his life, participating in after school activities (Frontline for Kids), as well as having caring and strong parents that engaged him in sports. Welcome to Restoring the Village Youth Initiative Kevin!



From left, Darcy McFolley, Mike Robinson, Monica Jakobsen, Lue Edwards, and Kevin Huggins, Jr.



# RESTORING THE VILLAGE YOUTH INITIATIVE

## Post-Trauma Staff Retreat

Working with gang involved youth and their families can be tough. We see unhealthy living situations, dysfunctional family dynamics, poverty, violence and trauma on a daily basis. So upon learning that the Allegany Franciscan Retreat Center in Tampa provides post-trauma retreats for first responders and folks working with violence, we decided to bring our staff to this retreat. We wanted to give them an opportunity to de-brief our own experiences in the work we do, to learn skills and techniques we can use in our work with gang-involved youth, and enjoy some peace and quiet in the beautiful surroundings of the retreat center. Facilitators, Sister Anne Dougherty and Reverend Rick Malivuk guided us through the 3-day retreat, which included a grief counseling workshop, steps for de-briefing critical incidents, techniques for relaxation, prayer, and meditation.



## VIOLENCE AND DELINQUENCY NETWORK

The Violence and Delinquency Network met on October 17<sup>th</sup> to start implementing their action plan. In addition, the Safe Neighborhood's workgroup will continue to focus on gang violence in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. The Network added a new workgroup that will explore innovative approaches for preventing truancy and delinquency in St. Lucie County Schools. Bill Tomlinson Executive Director Student Services & Exceptional Student Education, and William Armstead, CEO from the Boys and Girls Club of St. Lucie County will be taking the lead on this new effort.

## In-Prison Gang Prevention Summit, Everglades Correctional Institution Miami, FL

Last week RTVYI made history by participating in the nation's first "In-Prison Gang Prevention Summit" at Everglades Correctional Institution in Miami. The summit was organized by the Miami-Dade Anti-Gang Strategy and its Lead Consultant Wayne Rawlins, and is a series of five sessions:

- "Social and Economic Issues Leading to Gang Involvement"
- "War on the Streets: How to Curtail It"
- "Countering Gangs through Spirituality"
- "Reaching At-Risk Youth: Community Help and Involvement"
- "Trauma and Gang Violence"

The program is part of the prisons' Positive Peer Leadership Program where the goal is to engage former gang members in dialogue about effective strategies to curtail and prevent gang violence in the streets of Miami. Mr. Rawlins learned about Restoring the Village Youth Initiative from the National Gang Center and invited Project Coordinator Monica Jakobsen to be the keynote speaker and talk about RTVYI to over 30 inmates that were former gang members, as well as individuals from law enforcement, clergy, and social workers. The feedback from the former gang members was very positive, especially the street outreach component. Many of them said they never thought they could be useful like that. A couple of the inmates were from Fort Pierce and were very excited to hear that such a program existed in the city. Following the presentation one of them referred his son to the program, who he said was currently involved in a gang in Fort Pierce.





## You're Invited!

It would mean so much to our graduating Getting Ahead investigators if you could celebrate their graduation with them on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. This will be a brief event hosted at United Against Poverty (25<sup>th</sup> Street & Orange Avenue) in Fort Pierce. You have been genuinely dedicated to our citizens working to improve their lives through the *Getting Ahead in a Just Gettin' by World* class and your continued support is very much appreciated. Our group of graduates range in age, diversity, and life experiences. We have been moved by their journey that has often involved significant hardships. Yet, they have each made the decision to move forward and do what it takes to have a better life. We will celebrate this important milestone in their life at the graduation event on November 8<sup>th</sup>. The day class graduation will be held November 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:15a.m. at First United Methodist Church. Your participation is a visible reminder to those who are struggling that our community cares.

*Getting Ahead* is an agenda-free facilitated learning experience covering 16 sessions of two and a half hours each. The groups generally meet twice a week. A diverse group of 6-12 people use life experiences as the context for learning about the causes of poverty, the environments of economic class, the hidden rules of class, and the theory of change that will help them build a stable and resource-rich future. *Getting Ahead* is a critical component of the *Bridges Out of Poverty* comprehensive model for reducing poverty through effective change at the community and individual level. The *Bridges/Getting Ahead* model calls for long-term support for people who make the journey from poverty to economic stability. This support comes from community collaboratives that apply the concepts found in *Bridges* and *Getting Ahead*. Studies show that organizations from various sectors including business, corrections, education, health, legal, social services, and faith have improved outcomes for people in poverty who attend their programs.



June 2017 Graduation





We are pleased to announce that we are kicking off the 2017-2018 year of Youth Leadership St. Lucie with some exciting changes! In the spirit of our mission statement, “To empower and equip our community’s youth to become tomorrow’s leaders”, we will be hosting our first Youth Leadership St. Lucie meetings on November 21<sup>st</sup> (for Port St. Lucie) and November 28<sup>th</sup> (for Fort Pierce), with a diverse group of youth from both cities.

The youth will operate under the motto “Enter to learn, leave to lead”, with the expectation to be “R.A.R.E.: To be **Responsible**, to maintain a good **Attitude**, to be **Respectful**, and to exemplify **Excellence!**” We look forward to hearing the youth’s ideas and ambitions for the upcoming year so as to be able to guide future meetings in support of their goals.



## TEENS! DO YOU WANT TO...

- **DECIDE** what issues are important to your generation?
- **EXPRESS** those issues in your local community?
- **DESIGN** teen campaigns against substance abuse, violence, and unhealthy lifestyles?
- **ADVOCATE** for youth interests before local, state, and federal legislatures?

Youth Leadership St. Lucie empowers teens to become community problem solvers, communicators and advocates. Participants (called Youth Leadership Activists) will address community challenges through Youth in Action projects.



**WHO:** Students in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade  
**WHEN:** Meetings held twice a month (TBA)  
**WHERE:** TBD  
**HOW:** Applications Available at [www.RoundtableSLC.com](http://www.RoundtableSLC.com)

**Deadline to Submit Applications: November 3rd, 2017, 5:00pm**

Questions? [KSingletary@Roundtableslc.org](mailto:KSingletary@Roundtableslc.org) or [KReid@Roundtableslc.org](mailto:KReid@Roundtableslc.org)  
 (772) 979-1575 or (772) 240-2606



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# Mustard Seed Ministries

Come Join Us for the

## 28th Annual Thanksgiving Community Feast Thursday, November 23, 2017

At:

- Fort Pierce at Orange Avenue and 9<sup>th</sup>
- First Congregational Church, 2401 SE Sidonia Ave, PSL
- St. Paul AME Church, 1405 N. 27<sup>th</sup> St. Ft. Pierce

Dinner will be served beginning at  
11:00 a.m.

If you're unable to attend and would like a meal delivered\*\*  
Please call 772-460-5414  
BEFORE November 17, 2017

\*\*meals will be delivered in St. Lucie County only

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Please call:  
772-465-6021  
For further information



## Thanksgiving Dinner Deliveries



St. Lucie County Firefighters, Employees, Families, and Friends will once again be preparing Thanksgiving meals for shut-ins and those in need.



### St. Lucie County Residents

To request a meal delivery to your home on Thanksgiving morning, please call 621-3328.

Note: This phone line will only be monitored between:  
Monday, October 30 and Friday, November 17.



2017

### "Our Family Serving Yours"



If you would like to adopt a family this Thanksgiving or make a donation to the Big Heart Brigade of the Treasure Coast, please visit our website at [www.bigheartbrigadetc.org](http://www.bigheartbrigadetc.org) and follow the secure [PayPal](#) link. Just \$25 will serve an entire family!





## **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.

Next meeting is January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.

### **SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK**

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

### **SCHOOL DELINQUENCY NETWORK**

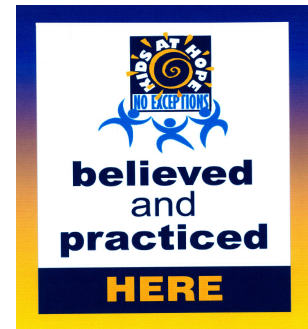
Meets monthly. Date, time, and location TBD.

### **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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**Dana Stonelake, Administrative Assistant**  
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**Esperanza Morales, Accounting**  
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**[www.RoundtableSLC.com](http://www.RoundtableSLC.com)**

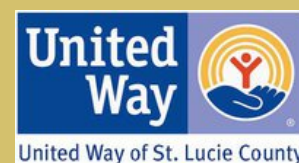


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"Roundtable of St. Lucie County"

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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, *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  
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### **Safe Kids Coalition**

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### **Child Welfare**

Paul Nigro, Chair  
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### **Kids At Hope**

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KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org

Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison  
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### **Safe Neighborhoods**

Monica Jakobsen, Chair  
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### **Lincoln Park Advisory Committee**

Betty Bradwell, Chair  
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### **Restoring the Village Youth Initiative**

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### **Substance Abuse Prevention (Drug Free St. Lucie)**

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