

# YSD Scoop!



Volume 3 | Issue 2

Newsletter of the Palm Beach County  
Youth Services Department



Faith's Place Steel Drummers perform at the MBK Race to Equity Summit

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## YSD Staff Celebrate "Holiday in Paradise"



Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) staff came together to celebrate the holidays on Jan. 4, at the Highridge Family Center. YSD also celebrated its second anniversary.

Staff brought delicious food, took part in a white elephant gift exchange and played a scrambled letters word game. The theme for this year's holiday party was "Holiday in Paradise."

## January 2017 Declared “Mentoring Month”



(L to R): Community Services Director James Green, YSD Sr. Program Specialist Ike Powell, Mayor Paulette Burdick, YSD Director of Outreach & Community Programming Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Community Partners Department Director Tina McNutt, United Way Mentor Center Sr. Director Gary Graham, FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities Mentoring Program Coordinator Darius Murray

At the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Jan. 10, Mayor Paulette Burdick presented a proclamation declaring January 2017 “Mentoring Month” in Palm Beach County.

## YSD Booth a Success at South Florida Fair



YSD Program Coordinator Jacqueline Burke hands out prizes



Volunteers at the YSD Booth

YSD’s booth at the South Florida Fair was a success!

Large groups of families and children eager to play Plinko visited the table in the Expo West building. The Plinko board was built by former YSD Licensed Therapist Brian Vann and Residential Youth Counselor John Harre. Visitors had the chance to win Frisbees, mood pencils, stress balls, backpacks and more!

The theme for this year’s fair was “New Orleans’ Mardi Gras World.”

## Point-in-Time Count

YSD participated in the Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, a survey of homeless individuals conducted during a 24-hour period on Jan. 26-27, in Palm Beach County. Future Leaders United for Change, a diverse team of Palm Beach County youth, also volunteered for the PIT Count. The participation of the Future Leaders team was especially significant because they were able to assist with counting the number of homeless youth in the county.

“The Point-in-Time Count really opened my eyes to those who we typically see panhandling. As a society, we have this idea that they are addicts. Why can’t they just get a job and not beg for money? During the Point-in-Time Count I talked to them and heard their stories first hand on why they are out there. Sure, some do have addiction issues but there are some who hit a rough patch in life during the recession and lost everything they owned. Then there are those who are there because they have a mental illness and their family doesn’t want to support them, so they are doing what they can. This experience has made me grow as a person, and realize that they are people too. They deserve to be shown compassion, love and respect no matter what. So without a doubt, volunteering for the

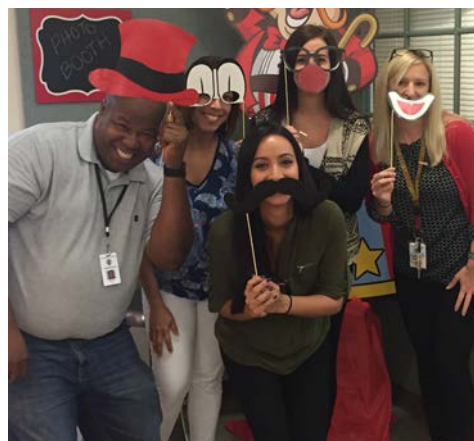


*YSD staff, along with the Human Services Division, participated in the count at El Sol, Jupiter's Neighborhood Resource Center.*

Point-in-Time Count was one of the best things I’ve ever done,” Future Leaders United for Change participant Maria Batista said.

The count identified 1,607 individuals and families as homeless. The federal government defines homelessness as an individual staying in places not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter or residing in a transitional housing program.

## Sanctuary Core Team Retreat



The Sanctuary Model Core Team Retreat was held Feb. 13 at the [Highridge Family Center](#). The meeting was a celebration and recognition of core team members and their dedication to the implementation process. Staff enjoyed a continental breakfast, games and prizes.

The Sanctuary Model was created by Dr. Sandra Bloom and Colleagues, and research has shown that the model is an effective trauma informed approach for working with youth in residential treatment settings. The Highridge

Family Center offers trauma informed care based on the Sanctuary Model.

According to the Sanctuary Model Handbook, “the first time you pull the whole group together is an important beginning. Everyone on the steering committee should work together to plan an inspiring day that will bring the core team together and orient them to the work they are committing to do.”

# Leaders of Today, Not Tomorrow



During the January Future Leaders Council Meeting, the team participated in "Cup Stacking," a group activity that opens the door for communication.



Despite choosing the name "Future Leaders United for Change (Future Leaders)," the youth-led group is a voice creating change today for youth in Palm Beach County.

Future Leaders is a team of Palm Beach County youth, ages 11 to 22. Its mission is to be the voice of youth in Palm Beach County and create leaders through self-motivation, determination and education. The group's purpose is to raise awareness of youth concerns and help develop solutions to address identified issues.

During the January Future Leaders Council Meeting, the team participated in "Cup Stacking," a group activity that opens the door for communication, especially when people are meeting for the first time. By working together, the team was strengthened as future leaders. The Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center attended the council meeting for the first time. The meeting ended with the team discussing roles, responsibilities and ways to improve engagement during 2017.

The council met again in February with the purpose of identifying service learning project ideas in order to start planning outreach activities in Palm Beach County. This was a youth-driven activity, without any adult input. In attendance, were youth from the Belle Glade Youth Empowerment Center, Palm Beach State College, Vita

Nova, Lake Worth Youth Empowerment Center, Children's Home Society of Florida, John I. Leonard Community High School and Palm Beach County – ASPIRA of Florida.

- Goodie Bags for Homeless
- Donating clothes for foster kids
- Refurbishing Technology
- Make-up Bash for ill children
- Quantum House
- Field Day • Entrepreneurship
- Fine Arts • Empowerment Day
- Swimming Lessons • Camping Day
- Family Day / Pot Luck

During the February council meeting, the group identified service learning project ideas

The group is one of the outcomes that arose from the county's Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, a coalition of community partners and also serves as a youth advisory board. Two representatives of Future Leaders also sit on the Birth to 22 Steering Committee.

*"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."*

*- Eleanor Roosevelt*

## YSD Takes a Stand Against Bullying



Education & Training Center



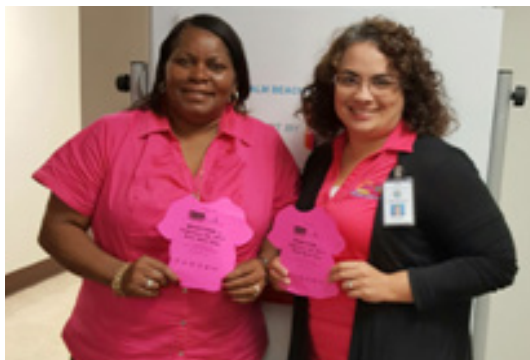
Youth & Family Counseling, Four Points



Four Points



Youth & Family Counseling, South



Youth & Family Counseling, West

YSD staff wore pink to encourage youth across Palm Beach County to keep learning bullying-prevention skills and strategies on Feb. 22.

Pink Shirt Day originated in 2007 when two students in Canada, bought and distributed 50 pink shirts after a male

ninth grade student was bullied for wearing a pink shirt during the first day of school.

Youth & Family Counseling, South, participated in the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach County's Pink Shirt Training and Network event on Feb. 8 and 9.

## Glades Teen Summit

The Glades Teen Summit was held on Feb. 25. The summit was planned by Je'Cynthia Nonar, a Glades Central High School Senior and longtime member of the Boys and Girls Club. Je'Cynthia submitted a proposal to the Palm Beach Philanthropy Tank with her vision to unite teens and officials in a public dialogue, and her idea resulted in a generous funding grant to support the summit.

Topics included violence, employment and education.

YSD Director Tammy K. Fields was one of the panelists

advising youth on career opportunities. Her advice was to "get involved in many different activities to find your true passion."

Je'Cynthia was selected as the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year by a panel of judges, including YSD Director of Outreach & Community Programming Geeta Loach Jacobson. During the ceremony, all finalists completed the last part of the process by publicly speaking about their involvement and the impact the Boys and Girls Club had on their life.

# MBK Network Hosts Successful Race to Equity Summit



County Administrator Verdenia Baker welcomes an enthusiastic audience. Seated (l-r) are Tim Wise, Marsha Guthrie and James Green.



More than 400 attended the two-day summit at the County Convention Center.

The My Brother’s Keeper Network of Palm Beach County held its Race to Equity Summit Feb. 8-9, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center. “Bridging the Opportunity Gap for Boys and Young Men of Color” was the theme.

The event delivered everything it promised and more with over 400 guests, including 120 students representing 12 middle and high schools across Palm Beach County in attendance. Among the 40 guest speakers and panelists at the summit were Palm Beach County Mayor Paulette Burdick, County Administrator Verdenia Baker, former County Mayor Priscilla Taylor, Director of Palm Beach County Community Services James Green, West Palm Beach Mayor Jeri Muoio, author and activist Tim Wise, Children’s Services Council of Palm Beach County Community Planning and Partnership Officer Marsha Guthrie, PolicyLink Chief Operating Officer Josh Kirschenbaum, and Schott Foundation President and CEO Dr. John Jackson.

A highly satisfied guest shared his experience of the event:

*“Please accept my most sincere appreciation for the valuable time, energy and enthusiasm you and the MBK Conference Committee devoted to planning and organizing the 2017 Race to Equity Summit. The quality of the keynote*

*speakers, panelists, and presentations, the relevance of the materials distributed, and the organization of the activities were reflective of the outstanding team effort that contributed to the success of this event. I was in awe of the many personal touches provided, such as the bridges (centerpieces) made by our young people and their outstanding performances. It is important to note that you made their participation an integral part of this event, not just an afterthought.*

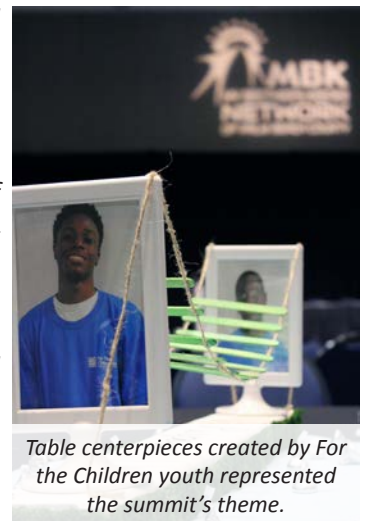


Table centerpieces created by For the Children youth represented the summit’s theme.

*Although I am a senior citizen, I left with a new hope and new determination to continue to do what I can for the betterment of our community on behalf of our children.”*

For more information and video recordings of the summit, please visit [mbkpsc.net](http://mbkpsc.net).

**Overall, how would you rate the summit?**

87% rated the summit as excellent or very good.

**How organized was the summit?**

96.1% rated the summit as extremely organized or very organized.

## Bench Bar Conference



YSD's [Education and Training Center](#) helped coordinate a panel discussion on the topic of working with youth in court who have been exposed to trauma at the Bench Bar Conference on Friday, March 10, at the Palm Beach County Convention Center.

Retired Judge Ronald V. Alvarez served as moderator, while panelists included 15th Judicial Circuit Magistrate Judette N. Fanelli, Private Practitioner Randee Kogan, MS, LMHC, Children's Legal Services Senior Attorney Gina Leiser and 15th Judicial Circuit Judge Daliah Weiss.

## Dual Status Youth Training Summit



Local officials working with dual status youth participated in an innovative training sponsored by the Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice on March 21-22, at The Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Services Center. "Dual status youth" are juveniles who come into contact with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

Participants included representatives of the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Florida Department of Children and Families, ChildNet, School District of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Court Administration, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Legal Aid



Society of Palm Beach County, Children's Services Council and Juvenile Judges.

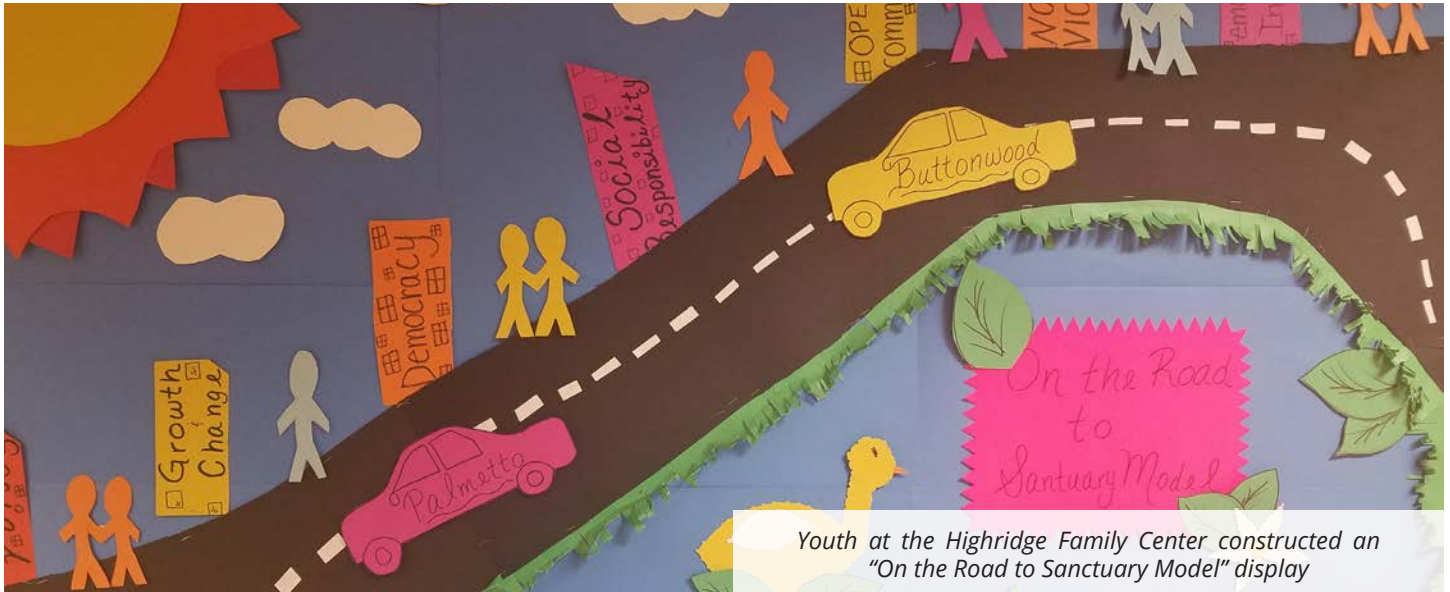
"The goal is to give dual status youth a more positive life opportunity and interrupt the trajectory into the delinquency system," Robert F. Kennedy National Resource Center for Juvenile Justice Executive Director John Tuell said.

Palm Beach County was selected as one of six jurisdictions in the United States (and the only jurisdiction in Florida) to be awarded this training based on an application submitted by the Palm Beach County Youth Services Department. The County was selected through a competitive application written by Aline Jesus-Rafi and Geeta Loach-Jacobson.

*"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."*

*- Helen Keller*

## Ongoing Implementation of the Sanctuary Model of Trauma Informed Care



Youth at the Highridge Family Center constructed an "On the Road to Sanctuary Model" display

By Dr. Twila Taylor

The [Highridge Family Center](#) hosted a two-day training on March 20-21, as a continuation of YSD’s commitment to creating an organizational and clinical shift to become trauma informed in all areas, from administration to direct service staff.

The Sanctuary Model is an evidence-supported model for clinical and organizational change. At its core, the model promotes safety and recovery from adversity through the active creation of a trauma informed community and a focus on resiliency, in spite of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs).

The two-day training focused on an evaluation of the implementation of the model three quarters into year one of the three-year certification process. Thus far, the center’s staff has accomplished 18 of the 24 tasks slated for the first year of implementation. A few of the accomplishments include:

- Hosting the kickoff Carnival event and a Core Team Retreat
- Implementing Community Meetings with staff and youth, within the clinical program, at school and in staff meetings
- Evaluating the organization for Safety, Emotion Regulation, Loss and Future (SELF Model)
- Applying Safety Plans for staff and youth

An additional focus of the training was to further immerse the Core Team in the Four Pillars that sustain the Sanctuary Model. The Core Team’s understanding of Trauma Theory, Seven

Commitments, SELF and the Sanctuary Toolkit were greatly enhanced. The core team members are the “Champions of Change” and have been leading the way in educating the center’s youth and staff about how to view those we work with through a trauma informed lens – being mindful of past traumatic events that could easily be triggered by interactions at school, home or in the community. The center’s staff has demonstrated a heightened awareness of how to avoid getting pulled into a reenactment of past dysfunctional interactions and instead assist the youth in developing healthier communication and interaction patterns.

The Core Team has also engaged the center’s youth in learning about how to create a trauma informed environment by constructing displays, such as “On the Road to Sanctuary Model”, which incorporates the Seven Commitments of Non-violence, Emotional Intelligence, Social Learning, Open Communication, Social Responsibility, Democracy, and Growth and Change.

Another display highlights the Four Pillars of the Sanctuary Model to include Trauma Theory, the 7 Commitments, SELF, and the Sanctuary Toolkit.





## Youth Today Features Youth Master Plan

*The newspaper Youth Today featured an article on the Youth Master Plan (YMP), a countywide framework for moving forward as a community to ensure that all of Palm Beach County children and youth realize their full potential.*

*Reprinted from Youth Today*

“Palm Beach County, the third-most-populous county in Florida, is a relatively affluent area and a magnet for tourists.

‘Nobody thinks we are a county in which kids go hungry, but we are,’ said Tammy Fields, Palm Beach County youth services director.

Five years ago, after the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting jolted the nation, county leaders turned their attention to the safety and well-being of young people.

The Board of County Commissioners and a group of community organizations convened a summit on youth and drew together a task force. The county created a department of youth services and worked intensively with the task force and community organizations to develop a master plan defining the needs of its young people.

Called ‘Strengthening the Steps to Success: Birth to 22,’ the plan was released last fall and details six areas for action:

- Make basic services affordable and build pathways for disconnected youth.
- Increase support for parents.
- Strengthen out-of-school time opportunities and promote social and emotional learning.
- Support access to and success in higher education.
- Address health risks.
- Become a trauma-sensitive community and ensure safety and justice.

One problem in the county is an academic achievement gap.

‘We’ve just got this big gap between what occurs for white students and what occurs for African-American students,’ Fields said.

Weak wages, high crime rates and unaffordable housing are also problems, according to Opportunity Nation, a nonprofit that measures community well-being through its Opportunity Index. Palm Beach County got a C+ grade on the index in 2015 and 2016.

And programs for youth were scattered, Fields said.

With the help of the Forum for Youth Investment, a national nonprofit that works with state and local leaders to improve conditions for youth, the task force took a ‘collective impact’ approach to develop the master plan. Such an approach mobilizes the community and draws together many parties to define and address the problems.

‘We went around to various areas of the county,’ Fields said.

‘We did 11 community conversations’ in areas with diverse populations, she said.

‘What came to the top in every conversation was economic stability’ and the need of families for support and access to jobs, Fields said.

Another top concern was equity in education.

Young people ‘facilitated much of the conversation,’ Fields said.

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department held 11 community conversations to inform their planning.

*Future Leaders United for Change, ages 16 to 22, were involved in the decision making for Palm Beach County's Youth Services Department master plan for youth, from birth to age 22.*



A youth council drew young people ages 16 to 22 from the local Youth Empowerment Program and local after-school programs. Homeless youth were also represented, Fields said.

Today the county has a number of initiatives. It’s working with The Wallace Foundation, the school district and the Prime Time after-school program to promote social and emotional learning in school and out of school. It’s working to mitigate the effects of poverty on youth, promote educational equity and provide trauma-informed services, Fields said.

The goal is to provide the following outcomes for each child:

- born healthy
- attached to caregivers
- developmentally on track
- ready for school
- healthy and active
- meeting educational standards and behaving prosocially
- connected and contributing
- career ready
- graduating and in the workforce.

‘It’s to make sure we’re planning better for kids in our community,’ Fields said.”

# My Journey: A Story of Loss, Trauma and Human Resilience

Whether pleasant or traumatic, our experiences define and mold us into who we are. By nature, human beings are resilient and have an extraordinary ability to heal their trauma wounds, especially with the support of others.

When Jazz was nine, she and her siblings were placed in foster care. Her family had been living in a hotel because her parents couldn't afford a permanent living arrangement.

Jazz was overjoyed when she was able to return home a year later with her siblings. But that happiness was short-lived.

She was sexually, emotionally, physically and mentally abused by people she was close to. These were individuals she should have been able to rely on and trust. Instead, her sense of security was shattered.

The abuse went on for about two years. Too afraid to speak out, Jazz never went to anyone for help.

As a result of this trauma, Jazz began running away from home, disrespecting her parents and disobeying the law. She became mixed up in the wrong crowd and ended up committing a crime for which she was incarcerated.

"A small rectangle room and a metal door were all I knew for a while," she said. "I still remember the door slamming shut every time I entered the room."

When her release day came, Jazz was told she couldn't go home yet. She was placed in foster care once more.

Through the foster care system, Jazz met her life coach and began turning her life around. She became involved in volunteer work and started learning life management skills.



"I became a better person overall," she said. "I stopped feeling sorry for myself and decided to make a difference."

On her 18th birthday, Jazz finally returned home.

She now has two jobs and is a part-time art student at Palm Beach State College. Jazz is the President of the Palm Beach County chapter of Florida Youth SHINE, as well as a Sergeant at Arms for Future Leaders United for Change.

Recently, she received an award for completing the Back to A Future Program for youth returning home from a residential commitment program. Jazz also received a Youth Advocate of the Year Award for being an outstanding person and helping others.

"I've had many experiences in my life and in the end, I wouldn't change any of them," Jazz said. "Everything that has happened has shaped and changed me into who I am today, and I love who I am."

## Summer Camp Scholarship Program Providers' Meeting



Providers' Meeting



Director of OCP  
Geeta Loach-Jacobson, MSW/CPM



Program Coordinator  
Jacqueline Burke, MSW

YSD's Outreach and Community Programming (OCP) Division held a Providers' Meeting for the [Summer Camp](#)

[Scholarship Program](#) on Friday, March 31, at the Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Center.

## Pahokee Youth Empowerment Summit



(L to R) Miz. Millionaire, City of Pahokee Commissioner Clara Murvin and Director of OCP Geeta Loach-Jacobson



Chief of the Juvenile Division of Palm Beach County State Attorney's Office Lynn Powell speaks to teens at the summit.



Mayor of Pahokee Keith Babb



Motivational Speaker Benny Everett

The Pahokee Youth Empowerment Summit was held on March 25, at Pahokee High School.

The theme for this year's summit was "Empowering Youth through Knowledge." Attendees enjoyed food, entertainment and prize.

Topics discussed included gang awareness and prevention, sexting, drug and alcohol abuse, bullying and cyberbullying, how to handle police approach, drunk driving and distracted driving, and healthy relationships.

## Ready by 21 National Meeting



Tammy K. Fields presents on "Forging an Equity Agenda on Day 1 of the Ready by 21 National Meeting."



Tammy K. Fields



Marsha Guthrie

The Ready by 21 National Meeting unites leaders from across the nation, who are working on helping youth to be ready by 21 for college, work and life. This year's meeting was held in Austin, Texas, March 29-31.

YSD Director Tammy K. Fields was joined by Marsha Guthrie,

Children's Services Council (CSC) Community Planning & Partnerships Officer. Tammy presented on "Forging an Equity Agenda" and "Master Plans: Is the Juice Worth the Squeeze?" Tammy and Marsha shared the benefits of developing a youth master plan to guide local planning.

## Q&A with Debra Peterson



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our biggest strengths. This quarter, we're featuring Debra Peterson, Residential Counselor at the Highridge Family Center. Debra works directly with residents in a dorm setting. Some of her responsibilities include: modeling professional behavior, teaching life skills, counseling clients,

facilitating milieu groups and above all, providing and ensuring a safe environment.

**1. Where is your hometown?**

I am a native Chicagoan, but have been a Florida resident for the past 16 years. After visiting Florida on vacation back in 2000 for 2 weeks, I fell in love with the weather. Within a few months, the Sunshine state became home!

**2. What was your first job?**

My first job as a teenager was working at Burger King as a cashier. Since then I knew I would be working to serve and help others.

**3. What are the three most important skills you need for your job?**

In order to do my job effectively, these three skills are required: having a non-judgmental and caring attitude, showing compassion, and being a team player. Working with adolescents is unique in that they have the ability to sense when genuine caring occurs from those working with or around them.

**4. What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?**

What I like most about working at Highridge is the opportunity to learn from our youth while educating them. There's nothing better than to have a child teach you something which results in building their confidence and self-esteem. Working with adolescents that have been traumatized due to adverse experiences in their young lives. Allowing them to re-build trust and healthy relationships are part of their healing process. To be a part of that healing process is rewarding for me. YSD has recently adopted the Sanctuary Institute Model which increases staff awareness and ability to work with youth using a trauma informed approach.

**5. Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?**

Two of my most memorable moments over this past year are getting approval to purchase instruments (drums and percussions) for the residents was overwhelmingly exciting. Having the residents play instruments, hearing the great

harmony and using that as a metaphor in the dorm to get the residents to work together was amazing. Music is a universal language and brings people closer together!! My second most memorable moment was being selected and approved to attend the Leadership NeXt training this past winter. The training was enlightening and I had the opportunity to learn and share skills required to make an effective leader (in many capacities). Whether it be a team leader, group leader, administrative leader etc. the skills learned fit all categories.

**6. What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?**

Some of my hobbies are playing drums (jembe', bongos, and conga), listening to music, and cooking (usually while listening to music). When guests visit me at home, they are expected to play an instrument of their choice before leaving. It's my bonding ceremony.

**7. What is the most important lesson you've learned in the last year?**

The most important lesson I've learned is self-awareness and self-care. We must be healthy emotionally, mentally, and physically in order to help others. The ability to work with others that may not have as much compassion and empathy can be challenging, but knowing your work is appreciated by our clients makes it all worthwhile. Supporting our clients and watching their growth and progress that leads to the success of completing this program is rewarding. Clients often express gratitude towards staff and their parents during the graduation ceremony. Powerful!

**8. Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?**

My dream vacation would be Hawaii. I have had this on my bucket list since high school. I've had the opportunity to visit a few Islands, but one of the most beautiful ones is a part of our very own United States.

**9. What is your favorite quote?**

One of my favorite quotes to use is "you are no longer a victim you're victorious." As I began using this quote with some of our clients that have experienced abuse when they are strong enough to share their experiences with others (social learning).

**10. Who or what inspires you?**

What inspires me is to observe growth and progress in our youth. To assist, teach, support, and then watch a resident grow and change from the time of entry until graduation. This inspires me to continue doing a job that can be challenging and difficult at times. Continuing to believe in our youth and have hope for the future.

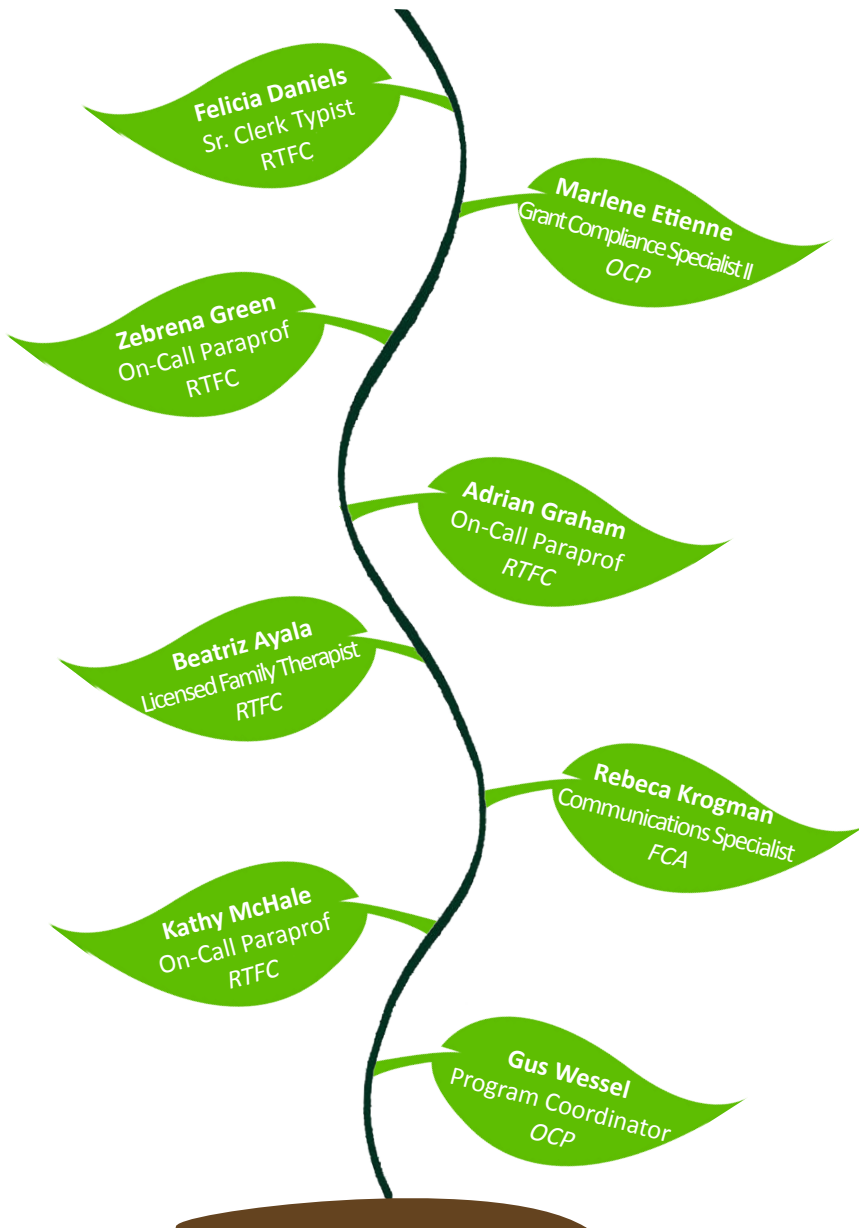
**11. Bonus Question: Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?**

I like to cook meals from 3 ethnic groups (Italian, Mexican, and Chinese food) all from scratch.

# YSD is Growing!

Join us in welcoming our newest team members!

The following YSD employees were hired between Dec. 1 and Mar. 31.



## Well Done!



Family Therapist Nohemi Medrano

Congratulations to our Family Therapist Nohemi Medrano on passing the National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE)!

The NCMHCE is a requirement for counselor licensure in the state of Florida, as well as many other states. Military health systems also use the exam.

The exam is made up of 10 simulated clinical mental health counseling cases. The simulations assess clinical problem-solving ability, including identifying, diagnosing and treating clinical issues.

## Promotions



**Geeta Loach Jacobson**  
OCP  
Director of Outreach & Community Programming



**Ike Powell**  
OCP  
Senior Program Specialist

*“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”*

- John Quincy Adams

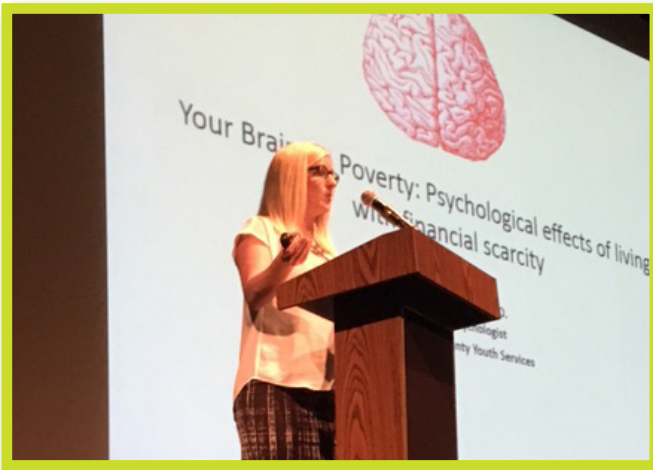
## Out & About



YSD participated in the My Brothers and Me Symposium on Jan. 22, at the City of Riviera Beach Municipal Complex. Sr. Program Specialist Ike Powell spoke about the My Brother's Keeper Network of Palm Beach County and the Race to Equity Summit.



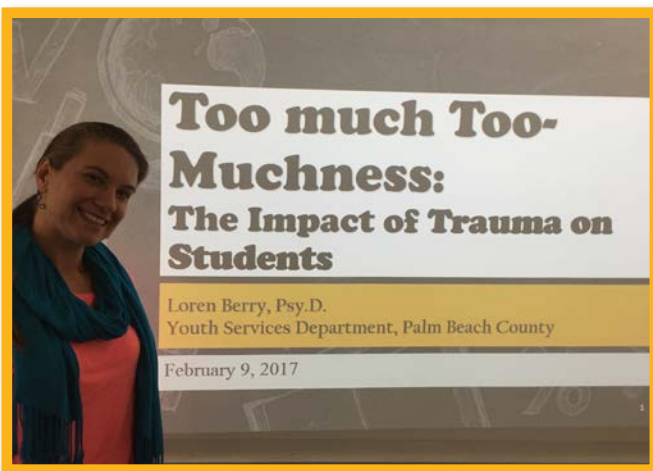
Sr. Program Specialist Ike Powell attended the National Mentoring Summit from Feb. 1-3, in Washington, D.C.



Psychologist Dr. Amanda Terrell, PsyD, presented to more than 120 Atlantic High School staff members on the impact of students living in poverty on Feb. 2.



Family Therapist Clara Hessing at the 2nd Annual Glades Family Fun Fest on Feb. 7.



Psychologist Dr. Loren Berry, PsyD, presented on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) to more than 75 elementary school counselors at the Fulton Hall Educational Services Center on Feb. 9.



Family Therapist Clara Hessing and Director of Outreach and Community Programming Geeta Loach-Jacobson at the Pahokee Youth Empowerment Summit on March 25.

## Future Leaders United for Change Youth Leadership Council Meetings

**Date(s):** Last Tuesday of each month

**Time(s):** 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Location(s):** Youth Services Department at Four Points | 50 S Military Trl, West Palm Beach

**Description:** The purpose of this council is to inform the work of the County's Youth Master Plan (YMP), raise awareness about issues youth are experiencing and help develop solutions to address the identified issues.

**Requirements:** must be between the ages of 11-22 years old and reside within Palm Beach County. To submit an application, please visit [https://youthservicescsp.formstack.com/forms/youth\\_leadership\\_signup\\_form](https://youthservicescsp.formstack.com/forms/youth_leadership_signup_form).

**Contact Information:** For more information, please contact Gregory Gabriel at (561) 242-5737 or email [ggabriel@pbcgov.org](mailto:ggabriel@pbcgov.org).



**FUTURE LEADERS UNITED FOR CHANGE**  
Invites you to serve on the Youth Leadership Council

**REQUIREMENTS**  
 • Must be between the ages of 11 - 22 years old  
 • 23 - 24 years old  
 • Reside within Palm Beach County

**Youth Council that will:**  
 • Inform the work of the County's Youth Master Plan  
 • Raise awareness about issues youth are experiencing  
 • Help to develop solutions to address the identified issues

**Upcoming meeting**  
 Last Tuesday of each month  
 Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

**Location**  
 Youth Services Department  
 50 S. Military Trail  
 2nd floor - Room# 2N-123  
 West Palm Beach, FL 33415

**For more information contact:**  
 Gregory Gabriel  
 Phone: (561) 242-5737  
 Email: [ggabriel@pbcgov.org](mailto:ggabriel@pbcgov.org)

To submit an application

**NEW! Existing requirements will be provided**

Text @DMU to 81010 | FutureLeaders | [youthservicescsp](https://youthservicescsp.formstack.com/forms/youth_leadership_signup_form) | @FutureLeadersUnited

**Council Mission Statement:** To be the voice for the youth of Palm Beach County creating and create leaders through self-motivation, determination, and education.

## Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month

May is Mental Health Awareness and Trauma Informed Care Month! To celebrate, Birth to 22 and Healthier Delray are inviting everyone in Palm Beach County to "Get Your Green On," and wear green on Thursday, May 25.

If you get your green on, don't forget to tag us in your pictures on social media! We'd love to see them! Use the hashtags #GYGO2017 and #GetYourGreenOn.



**PALM BEACH COUNTY**

**GET YOUR GREEN ON**  
 For mental health awareness & trauma informed care

**ON MAY 25TH**

**WEAR GREEN**  
 FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS & TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

Birth to 22 | #GETYOURGREENON | #GYGO2017 | Healthier Delray Beach  
[www.GetYourGreenOn.org](http://www.GetYourGreenOn.org)

## 3rd Annual Countywide Spelling Bee

**Date(s):** Thursday, July 20

**Time(s):** 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Location(s):** Wellington High School | 2101 Greenview Shores Blvd, Wellington

**Description:** With the purpose of providing academic activities to encourage the spirit of learning while preventing summer slide!

**Requirements:** Limited to Summer Camp Scholarship Program and Summer Food Service Program participants.

**Contact Information:** For more information, please contact Gregory Gabriel at (561) 242-5737 or email [ggabriel@pbcgov.org](mailto:ggabriel@pbcgov.org).



**SUPER SUMMER SPELLING BEE**

3rd Annual Countywide Spelling Bee  
**THURSDAY JULY 20, 2017**  
 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
 Wellington High School  
 2101 Greenview Shores Blvd  
 Wellington, FL 33414

With the purpose of providing academic activities to encourage the spirit of learning while preventing summer slide!  
Limited to Summer Camp Scholarship Program and Summer Food Service Program participants only.

**Awards • Prizes • Food • and Much More!**

**Categories:** K - 2nd Grade | 3rd - 5th Grade | 6th - 8th Grade | 9th - 12th Grade

**Registration & Information:** Gregory Gabriel | Tel: (561) 242-5737 • E-mail: [GGabriel@pbcgov.org](mailto:GGabriel@pbcgov.org) | Website: [www.pbcgov.com/youthservices](http://www.pbcgov.com/youthservices)

Logos for Palm Beach County, Youth Services, Children's Council, and FPL.

## Share Feedback and Stories!

Do you have feedback on our newsletter or have an awesome story to share? We'd love to hear from you!

Contact YSD Communications Specialist Rebeca Krogman at [rkrogman@pbcgov.org](mailto:rkrogman@pbcgov.org).

## Connect with Us!

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter for more exciting updates!



pbcyouthservices



@PBCYSD

### Youth Services Department Director

Tammy K. Fields

### Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services

Michelle Liska

### Director of Outreach and Community Programming

Geeta Loach-Jacobson

### Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling

Dr. Tony Spaniol

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*Editor/Graphics*  
Rebeca Krogman



Palm Beach County  
Board of County Commissioners