

From The Corner Office – Tough Times Don't Last...

... but tough people do. Yes, of course it's a well-worn cliché. And yet those who have made a career of working in any human services industry know these words to be the gospel truth. The tough times of the past few months - the pandemic, the human suffering, the civil unrest - all of it has served to place us on notice that "no man is an island unto himself". There are certain essential needs throughout all of humanity and those needs include regard, empathy, support and compassion. Tough people typically have a tender side where one can find kindness mixed with tenacity and an understanding spirit combined with true grit.

These societal tough times have invaded the confines of our agency's campuses, entered our offices and occupied our programs. So many opportunities have presented themselves in the midst of chaos. We've talked and walked through anger and hurt from our children and teens who don't understand why they can't indulge in their typical off-campus, community excursions that filled their evenings and weekends with so much fun. We've worked out family visitation routines (thank you Med Services!) which have barriers that neither our families nor our children are pleased with. Despite these disappointments, we could not be prouder of our children and their families as they have worked alongside us to chart out this temporary "new normal" – tough folks just tend to make do during tough times.

Our team members working in our on and off-campus programming areas have had to make like pretzels – contorting twisting and turning in order to cover staff vacancies and meet client care and service needs in new and creative ways. We've had supervisors preparing meals; security handling maintenance; directors handling crisis management; coordinators handling transport. Tough times know no job titles and neither do tough people – they just band together and do what it takes to handle and manage the tasks at hand.

And what is there to say about our central office team? We all know that our persons served are priority one. But who takes care of those who are busy taking care of others? That would be Team Central Admin folks. Working with a skeleton crew, this team has managed to handle employee pay and benefits without missing a beat all the while handling employee off and on-boarding, purchases, disbursements, accounts payable, receivables and all manner of requirements necessary to hold down agency business. Mental toughness has been on continual display as this team has epitomized grace under pressure.

Mahatma Gandhi is quoted as having said "Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will". Here in our East Alabama corner of the world we have witnessed and participated in that indomitable will. A will to serve others...to ease suffering...to lift up humanity. There has been a dogged determination to play the bad hand that has been dealt us and to be a small part of the solution. These troubled times are bound to pass in due season. Those with the toughness to bear down, hang on and press through shall surely triumph over and past these troubles.

Laura Cooper, Executive Director



- 7-8 Brittany Bedell
- 7-8 Mia Brooks
- 7-16 Raymond Succar
- 7-16 Mary Grace Sykes
- 7-20 Takeila Davis
- 7-21 Adarius Yancey
- 7-23 Partrinia Bolden
- 7-26 Wendy Birmingham
- 7-26 Tamika Morris
- 7-29 Jasmien Edison

NEW HIRES

- Ajike Player - Operations Manager
Clinical Services
- Alyasa Brown - Social Worker TFC
- Annie Long - Residential Specialist
- Justin Pitts - Lead Teacher IRTF
- Kambria White - Lead Teacher
Passages
- Keyana Washington - Residential
Specialist

- LaShunda David - Residential
Specialist
- Latwanika Rhodes - Residential
Specialist
- Mary Grace Sykes - Nutrition Aide
- Meaghan Hayward - Family Life
Specialist
- Miah Burton - Teacher's Aide
- Monique Summers - Lead Teacher
IRTF
- Penny Rajsimumang - Social Worker
TFC
- Raven Floyd - Social Worker IRTF
- Skye Guice - Family Support
Manager (Project Uplift)
- Tarayla Ray - Residential Specialist

To view our WEBSITE,
log on at
www.lcydc.org

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 6-5 Senetra Stovall
- 6-6 Sherry Cook
- 6-18 Skye Guice
- 6-21 Kelley Wells
- 6-24 Ciarra Kincey
- 6-29 Catera Christie
- 6-30 Rafyel Lewis
- 6-30 Sheila Penn

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 7-5 Sylvia Peagler
- 7-7 Jermaine Holloway



CENTER SCENES...

THANKFULNESS

Our agency continues to garner goodwill from our community partners, and we are ever so very thankful. Sincere appreciation to **Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. – Auburn Alumni Chapter** – for a recent generous cash donation. Our thanks also to **Mrs. Laurel Jackson-Hung** for a very generous cash donation – the Jackson family has been benevolent benefactors of our agency and our vision for the past four decades! Many, many thanks to **Teleasa Russell and the Home Depot family** for their donation of lawn equipment (including a riding mower!) which will all be used to keep out TLP yard in tip-top shape. We are grateful to **Mr. and Mrs. Randy Wilson** for the donation of bedding and to **Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Berger** for the donation of a mattress. Our young people starting out on their own in Independent Living as well as our IIHS families will benefit from this kindness. Thankfulness also to **Ms. Cathy Gafford** with Jean Dean Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) for the donation of hundreds of books that have been used to stock our education and program libraries and to share with our families in the community. We are grateful for all who continue to remember our agency and those we serve.

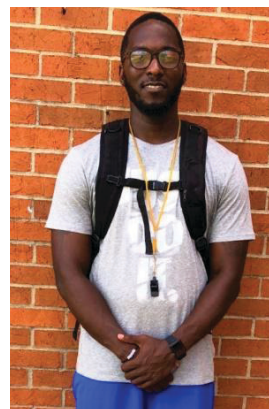
CONGRATULATIONS LADIES!

LCYDC would like to take this time to congratulate BreeAnna Tinsley and Takeila Davis. Ms. Tinsley has successfully completed the necessary requirements to become a licensed Social Worker while Ms. Davis has completed her master's in Criminal Justice. Wonderful job ladies and we look forward to your continued service to LCYDC.



SPRING MADNESS WALK CHALLENGE

The Chanticleer Learning Center staff was challenged to increase their daily activity. To help motivate all education staff, Mrs. Krista Collins, CLC Operations Manager, graciously donated \$50.00, which would be awarded to the staff member that walked the most miles. CLC would like to congratulate Rafyel Lewis on winning the Spring Madness Walk Challenge. Rafyel Lewis walked over 100 miles and serves the CLC program as a Teacher's Aide and mentor. Congratulations Mr. Lewis!



AN ADVOCATE FOR ALL

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate dictionary defines the word advocate as "One that supports, promotes and pleads the cause of another..." In her new role as Internal Case Advocate, Mrs. Hannah Deep, MSW, is doing just that. Mrs. Deep earned her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Troy University and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of Alabama. Mrs. Deep began her journey with Lee County Youth Development Center as a Social Worker for our Therapeutic Foster Care Program. Her dedication and prowess earned her a promotion on October 27, 2019 to Operations Manager of the same program. She was redly named Lee County Youth Development Center's first Internal Case Advocate. The Internal Case Advocate is responsible for following up on reports related to incidents involving children and staff. This position is also responsible for advising on serious occurrences and reports and sending to LCYDC's Human Rights Committee. When necessary, Mrs. Deep will advocate for the children in our care, communicate with staff on major changes and training opportunities, coordinate family visitations and complete and respond to all client grievances. We are very excited to see how Mrs. Deep will excel in her position. Congratulations Mrs. Deep and we look forward to your continued service!



SPECIAL MESSAGE TO LCYDC EMPLOYEES, CONTRACTORS AND BOARD MEMBERS

As a valued member of our LCYDC team, LCYDC would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your hard work and dedication. Throughout your tenure at Lee County Youth Development Center, you have stood out as a team player who has never wavered in your commitment to excellence. LCYDC admires your strong work ethic and personal integrity. In particular, LCYDC would like to thank you for your work and time put in. Team members like you make LCYDC's aim for excellence all the more rewarding and enjoyable. On May 29, 2020, the Administration of LCYDC held an appreciation cook out for all staff members. LCYDC hopes all of you were able to enjoy a good sausage dog, great singing and warm fellowship during that time. However, if you were not present, please know that you are truly appreciated and valued.

SPECIALIZING IN FAMILY

We are so pleased to welcome to the LCYDC Family, Ms. Meaghan Hayward. Ms. Hayward recently began her position as our Intensive Residential Treatment Family Life Specialist. However, she will not be waiting for the IRTF to conclude its sabbatical in order to begin her intense work with our children in care and their families, caregivers or legal guardians. From the time that an intake is confirmed, the Family Life Specialist begins by connecting with families and previous caregivers. This position will continually advocate for families by being a continual voice in the care planning process, discharge development, post-care reunification and family involvement. Through her new role, Ms. Hayward will be empowering the clients served here at LCYDC with decision-making roles throughout their stay in our residential care facility. Ms. Hayward, hailing from Virginia, received her associate's degree in Social Science from Northern Virginia Community College, her bachelor's in Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University and her master's in Forensic Psychology from Grand Canyon University. We look forward to working with her and can rest easy knowing that that this difficult position has been taken up by capable hands. Welcome to the LCYDC Family Ms. Hayward!



POWER IN PARTNERSHIP

LCYDC believes in the power of partnership. Our long-standing partnership with Auburn City Schools has made positive differences in the lives of students. A newly developed local workforce readiness internship program for students funded through the Central Alabama Works Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funds resulted in Diverse Resources securing a Central Alabama Works Request for Proposal Grant in the amount of \$263,000. Plans are underway for this grant to support Auburn High School and Lee County Youth Development Center students who desire to receive career ready training and work-based learning opportunities. We are thrilled for the students and industries that will be impacted.



PROJECT UPLIFT:

NEW COORDINATOR... NEW SPACE

Congratulations Kelley Wells on being named Project Uplift's new Coordinator! Mrs. Wells has been with Lee County Youth Development Center since 8/12/2013, and we are very excited to see her in her new role as coordinator. Project Uplift is currently housed on the Auburn University Campus, and due to the COVID19 pandemic, the program has been closed for several months. The University is set to reopen on or around the beginning of August 2020, and with the campus reopening, we are looking forward to Project Uplift performing business as usual. Project Uplift was previously located at Cary Hall, but it now has a new home in the Haley Center. Hopefully, this new space will prove beneficial in promoting Project Uplift and LCYDC's mission. Congratulations Kelley!



THANK YOU TFC FOSTER PARENTS!

The month of May was Foster Parent Appreciation Month. Being a foster parent is a calling, and LCYDC greatly appreciates our foster parents. To show our appreciation, the Therapeutic Foster Care Program, under the direction of Coordinator,



Patrinia Bolden, held a Drive Thru parade for our foster parents. The TFC team drove by our TFC homes, presented balloons and honked to show our gratitude. Thanks TFC families! We wouldn't be the same without you and your support.