



From The Corner Office – Resolve

A quote – attributable to the late George Washington Carver – has never failed to resonate:

“Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in your life you will have been all of these”

All that has come with the troubles and uncertainties throughout the year 2020 has allowed many of us to pause and ponder those things which we are resolute and steadfast about within our spirits, in homes, on our jobs and throughout our communities.

For those of us at the Youth Development Center, witnessing the resolve of our children during this time has both encouraged and inspired. As challenging as the past few months have been for adults, consider all that our children, teens and young adults have to contemplate – the separation from family compounded with the retreat from the normal rhythms of life while coping with the issues which brought these young people to us was, in a word, crushing. And yes, regrettably we were unable to succeed with some in our care who made poor decisions and followed impulses in a world that they could no longer make sense of. And, by the way, the anxiety and resulting lapses in judgement has not just been confined only to persons served – the LCYDC workforce has not been immune to wayward actions and wrong decisions.

But here’s the thing. For each errant young person and for every faltering staff person, there are dozens upon dozens of others who have resolved to stay the course, face their fears, work through their pain and simply press on. Just as it is with those who have been unable to press their way through, those who are persevering have themselves been weak and wrong along the trials, twists and turns of this pandemic journey. The simple truth is – within the LCYDC community - we neither have Angel halos nor Devil horns to place on any of us who suffer with the afflictions of doubt, rage, projection, anger nor any of the maladies which come with being human and living through these times.

And thus human resolve applies to all of us – the weak and the wrong as well as the strong and the right. Those who have stumbled under their weaknesses surely have the resolve within them to chart a path back to wholeness if... those who have been stronger during this time resolve to provide the support, compassion and understanding which they may need to recover.

As Dr. Carver suggests, when the strong find themselves at some point weakened, it is for sure that we too will look for grace, help and mercy – perhaps even from those who were at one time, the very least and the most lost among us all.

Laura Cooper, Executive Director



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10-2 Argentia Harris
- 10-2 Dakota Colon
- 10-3 Teresa Jackson
- 10-4 Cayla Huffman
- 10-7 Francis Blumenfeld
- 10-8 LaShunda David
- 10-13 Latoya Lockhart
- 10-14 Debra Witherspoon
- 10-21 Sandra Blackmon
- 10-31 Broderrick Battle

NEW HIRES

- Alexander Jones - Residential Specialist Passages
- Ashton Harris - Residential Specialist Passages
- Bennie Calloway - Lead Teacher (Passages)
- Gemelia Welch - Residential Specialist Passages

Hendrix Storey - Residential

Specialist Passages

Ivan Niwanmanya - Passages Social Worker

Kate Hart - Clinical Intern

Madeline Castle - Clinical Intern

Shakiel Parker - Residential

Specialist Passages

Sherree Minger - Residential

Specialist Detention

Sherrelle Holloway - Lead Teacher

(Detention)

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log on at
www.lcydc.org

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9-5 Cora McGriff
- 9-5 Saundra Yelder
- 9-15 Jessica Askew
- 9-15 Kyle Cooper
- 9-15 Calandra Harris
- 9-22 Anashia Ross
- 9-24 Rosetta Joyner
- 9-24 Mashaun Palmore
- 9-26 Phyllis Jeter



CENTER SCENES...

Program Featurette: Intensive In-Home Services

In today's society, we see increased numbers of families in crisis and in need of intervention. Families face serious challenges, and our Intensive In-Home Services Program offers treatment to children and families who are or have experienced neglect or abuse, have been impacted by drug use and/or abuse, have suffered from mental health issues and even those who are trapped in the vicious cycle of domestic violence. Children should be able to experience a home full of love, nurture, and safety, but the reality of the modern world contradicts this image.

The Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS) Department located in the Outreach Services Center is a part of the Continuum Services Division here at Lee County Youth Development Center. This program, and its employees, have the privilege of preserving family units and reunifying children with their parents (or relatives) by providing intervention. Families are provided caring and compassionate in-home services such as education, counseling services and child advocacy. Each IIHS staff member ventures into every home with acceptance and a level of respect that is non-judgmental. IIHS provides services through the Department of Human Resources county offices in Chambers, Coosa, Elmore, Lee, Macon, Russell, and Tallapoosa Counties. The IIHS team consists of Family Support Workers, Therapists and an Administrative Assistant, all of whom, work tirelessly in and out of the homes they serve to provide care that is vital to both the agency and counties that they serve. They maintain an open line of communication with communities and families to ensure the needs of children and their well-being are met to the fullest.

The IIHS team takes great pride in the meaningful and vital works that they do to assist those who need these services the most. The types of families served are very different and require tailored serves to fit their individual circumstances. According to Amy Tatum, "the qualities our IIHS staff demonstrates is service, character, care, and do not judge a family for their circumstances. We meet our families where they are."

IIHS has been under the direct leadership of Amy Tatum since 2006. She is an Auburn University Marriage and Family Therapy graduate, as well as a graduate of the Leadership Lee County class of 2018 and a proud Mother of two. When asked, what would you say to those considering a career in your field, Amy Tatum's response was poignant. "Intensive In-Home Services gives our staff the opportunity to work with families in their home environment. This helps us to build positive rapport with families, teach them skills, provide support and resources, and help them move toward positive change. If you are some-

one considering a career working with children and their families and enjoy serving families, then In-home services may be a good option for someone in the social science field! This includes Social Work, Human Development and Family Studies, Therapists, and Counselors."

The benefits of working in services to others is not about pay or status. The rewards are much more significant and impactful. Amy Tatum stated that "the most rewarding part of our job is being able to successfully preserve or reunify families together. It is not only our job, but what we believe in...that people can change, and we are here to help facilitate that change for the safety and well-being of the children we serve." Lee County Youth Development Center owes a big thank you to the Intensive In-Home Services Department. Their continued excellence and dedication to the agency mission is one to be admired.



Passages Program Graduates

A moderate residential treatment program, serving up to twenty at-risk male and female pre-teen and teen aged children. Working in partnership with State and County Departments of Human Resources, this program strives to address core underlying factors preventing these young people from progressing. LCYDC would like to congratulate those individuals who have graduated from this program. The Passages program is just that, a passage. So, it is with great honor that we congratulate these youths for following along a set path, so that in future, they may forge their own.

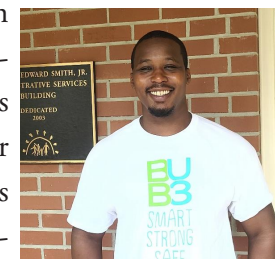
Small Acts of Kindness

2020 has been a year of immeasurable sorrow, confusion and discontentment. With the pressures of politics and an incurable virus that threatens to keep American citizens disconnected through quarantine measures, it is no wonder that the world feels as though it is heading in a downward spiral. And yet, with chaos looming, there are glimpses of hope on the horizon. On the evening of April 19th, one of our very own residents for our Transitional Living Program, was caught in the act of making the world a better place to live in. Onlookers witnessed first-hand the kindness of one of our very own. Vantrezz was taking out the trash on his shift at Moe's Southwestern Grill in Tigertown. It during this routine occurrence that Vantrezz was spotted holding the door open for an older man as he exited the restaurant. Vantrezz then escorted the man to his vehicle. He then returned to the restaurant, collected the elderly man's wife and returned her to the vehicle. This story may be a small act of kindness but let us not forget that small acts of kindness have a greater impact on society. Thank you Vantrezz. You reminded us all here at LCYDC that it's the small things that we should cherish, and it's the small things that give us greater purpose and meaning.



New Faces of Leadership

Lee County Youth Development Center would like to welcome aboard two new leaders in our Residential programs. Tavarius McNeil has been named the Passages Males Operations Manager. Mr. McNeil has been with the agency since October 2016 and we look forward to his continued leadership in the Passages program. Lee County Youth Development Center would also like to welcome, our newest Team Leader of our Regional Detention Facility, Jamel Smith. Mr. Smith came to the agency in August 2013, and we are looking forward to his leadership in his program. Welcome to your new posts gentlemen. We look forward to your presence and effective leadership as we enter into the 2020 fiscal year.



Congratulations Lisa Johnson

Lee County Youth Development Center would like to congratulate Lisa Johnson on her retirement. Thank you so much for 22 years of service. Your dedication to our mission and your commitment to this community will continue to inspire us all. Thank you, Lisa. You will be dearly missed. It will be so hard to fill your shoes while you're in flip flops!



Voyages Program Graduates

The Voyages program is a 42-day Community Residential Program for young women who have been court ordered or committed to the Department of Youth Services (DYS). The Program is licensed by DHS to serve eight (8) girls. The premise of the program is to provide a warm and inviting residential setting for teens in need of structure and redirection. The Voyages Program promotes the philosophy that a safe and predictable environment fosters a sense of belonging and opportunity for change. With that said, LCYDC would like to take this time to recognize those individuals who have successfully completed this 42-day program. The COVID-19 pandemic has been very difficult to navigate, especially for our youth. However, these graduates have shown us that perseverance is the key to success. Let us all take the time to congratulate these young ladies on a job well done.



Congratulations Latoya Lockhart

Lee County Youth Development Center would like to offer our congratulations to IIHS Therapist, LaToya Lockhart. Her hard work and dedication to excellence has led her to complete her master's degree in counseling from Troy University. Congratulations Latoya! We are so very proud of you.

