



From the Corner Office
“Rain Comes from the Clouds...”

...and sun lights up the sky...and hummingbirds do fly.” These lyrics from the iconic Soul and Blues singer, George Benson, sum up the three things in life that this songwriter thinks you can be sure of. In this “Everything Must Change” tune, the artist tells us that “nothing and no one stays the same”. And I happen to completely agree with Brother Benson. The winds of change are surely swirling around here at LCYDC.

In addition to our residential programming for children and teens, LCYDC is quite proud of our community-based efforts geared toward mentoring, stabilizing and reunifying families. Some months ago we learned that our Intensive In-Home Services (IIHS) program which serves Lee and six other contiguous counties would need to evolve. We are pleased to have pivoted and are now partnering with these same seven counties to provide Family-Based Intervention Services (FBIS). This programming center coaches, counsels and serves children and families in their homes, schools and communities. Our team of professionals have been remarkable agents of change in this move from IIHS to FBIS service provision.

This change in community-based programming allowed us to both pivot and to also take the time needed to broaden and sharpen our thinking. LCYDC has always served all sixty-seven counties in our state with regards to residential care. However we have known for some time that the need for community based preventative intervention and Therapeutic Foster Home recruitment extends beyond East Alabama. We are therefore taking steps to expand our reach and our social service expertise to the Central and Southwest regions of our state. We are persuaded that we will be able to effectively partner with others to make meaningful impact in the lives of those who need us in these other areas of our great State.

As a matter of fact, this seems to be a opportune period to begin contemplating and executing change. Would you believe that this time next year, our agency will be commemorating 50 Years of service! That’s right, more than fifty years ago our founders began the Lee County Council for Abused and Neglected Children. However, from the very start, our astute founders understood the need to evolve and change in order to remain current, relevant and effective. By 1973 the name had been changed to Lee County Youth Development Center and services began expanding and diversifying. Agencywide expansions and contractions – development and redevelopment - continue right up to this present day. Current Board members and agency leaders are considering a subtle company name change to coincide with our Golden Anniversary and better align our name with the current scope and range of our services.

Crooner George Benson also sings that “winter turns to spring...the young become the old and mysteries do unfold”. And you know, that’s both the exciting and the challenging part of change. We know where we have been; we understand where we are now; but we cannot know all the unknowns which come along with the changes to come. However – so long as rain comes from the clouds and sun lights up the sky you can be certain that LCYDC will remain current, nimble and prepared to withstand those changes which are in front of us. As always, with the support of our stakeholders, partners and supporters, we will press our way through.

Laura Cooper, Executive Director



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2/6 Bobby Tucker
- 2/6 Jimmy Jackson
- 2/6 Sarah Webber
- 2/7 Tiffany Murphy-Patrick
- 2/9 Shawna Peagler
- 2/10 Tamara Boyd
- 2/12 Tavarius McNeil
- 2/13 Valarie Ligon
- 2/14 Silvester Love
- 2/19 Jessika Pollard
- 2/23 Dakeius Kindell
- 2/24 Alycia Bryant
- 2/24 Maleshia Bryant
- 2/25 Sundiata Fleming

2/26 Oteria Fitzgerald

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 3/2 Lyndsey Beck-Caver
- 3/8 Regina Ransom
- 3/13 Christina Kindred
- 3/13 Robert Howard
- 3/15 Dale Barfield
- 3/17 Alyasa Brown
- 3/20 Justice Lias
- 3/21 Brittany Williams
- 3/22 Elaine Heard
- 3/24 Ebony Harmon
- 3/30 Leslie Higgins

NEW HIRES

- 12/19/2021 Kathryn West, Child Nutrition Aide, Residential Care Services
- 01/02/2022 Robert Howard, Residential Specialist Detention, Residential Care Services

- 01/16/2022 Michaela Wrzeszcz, Residential Specialist Voyages, Residential Care Services
- 01/16/2022 Oteria Fitzgerald, Team Leader TLP/ILP, Residential Care Services
- 01/30/2022 Kayla Phillips, Residential Specialist Passages, Residential Care Services Weekend Life Coach TLP

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



CENTER SCENES...



GROUNDBREAKING OCCASION

It was a great day in Southwest Alabama! On February 23rd, LCYDC joined forces with Prestwick Community Outreach to break ground on a new Community Center. Partners from the Clarke, Washington and Mobile county areas joined in the celebratory event which solidifies LCYDC's outreach into areas of our state that may benefit from our longstanding service in the human and social services area. In addition



to being a southern hub for LCYDC, the Community Center will feature a wellness kitchen and exercise center.

THE POWER OF YOU - 2022

The late President, John F. Kennedy left us a marvelous point to ponder when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you but what you can do for your country". Borrowing from this quote, LCYDC's theme for this calendar year is "The Power of YOU in Twenty Twenty-Two. So many times the very things we may want from our coworkers, from our subordinates or superiors, from our company or community are the very things we may have the power to impact in ways both subtle and significant. Do you Yearn or otherwise have a passion for the situation you are in? Have you looked for Opportunities to make meaningful impact? Are you Unified and continually aligning yourself with others who are positive and proactive? We all must search ourselves and our circumstances in order to answer these key questions.

And then team...Ask not what LCYDC can do for you but what YOU can do for LCYDC. The power is truly with you in 2022.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with somber hearts that we report on the recent passings of two agency employees. The sun set on the life of our faithful Cafeteria Aide, **Ms. Marilynne Patterson**. She was well known for her marvelous meals and the love that she expressed through her cooking. Ms. Patterson truly "loved on" our children as they passed through the central cafeteria. **Ms. Tracie Moore**, Outreach Services Administrative Assistant, also traded time for eternity. Ms. Moore was in our employ only a few months but in this

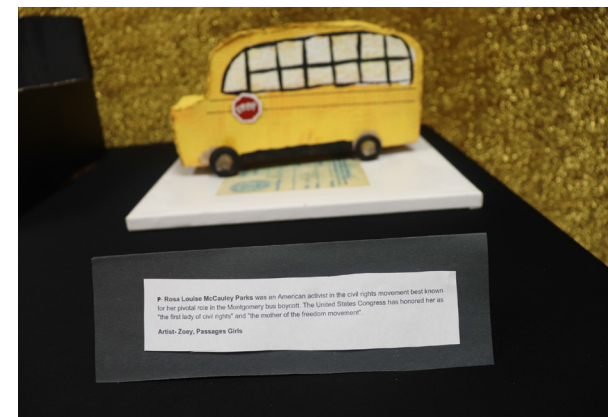
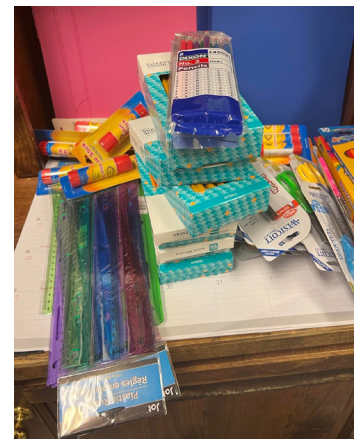


brief time many came to know her as a kind and giving individual who truly loved her position with the company. Our heartfelt condolences to the families of Ms. Patterson and Ms. Moore. Their passings leave a void at our agency and we will hold the good that they leave behind in memoriam.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATION

Our sincere thanks to the Auburn Alumnae Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. for a recent generous donation of school supplies. Our Chanticleer Learning Center are well stocked and prepared to learn!



Thank you to Ms. Monica Foster for creating the ABC's of Black History display in February. One display featured our own Director, Laura Cooper alongside many other individuals of color who have contributed to wonderful, complicated and inspiring American experience.

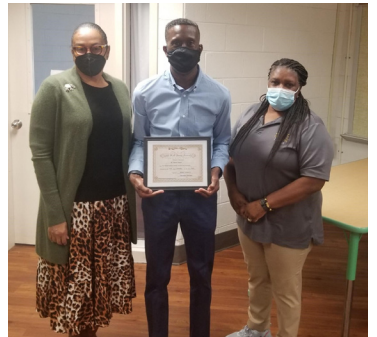
TIDY PANTHERS

Our thanks to **Ms. Tiffany Moore** and **Ms. Sherry Cook** for transporting our Passages Males for Tidy Panther Day in Prestwick. Our students and staff picked up trash alongside the roadway and inspired the community to keep the community tidy. Great job Team Passages!



DETENTION ALL-STARS

Mr. Bobby Tucker recently recognized two of his Regional Detention top performers with All-Star awards. Kudos and thank you for your hard work Mr. Stephen Gaddis and Ms. Janice Thomas.



Thank you to Mr. Bobby Tucker (aka Little AI) for adding to the Alabama vs Georgia National Championship campus drama - our kids had a ball (staff too!)