

Inside YCS

A MAGAZINE
BY AND FOR ALL YCS EMPLOYEES



VOLUME 15 | JULY 2024

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

As summer comes to an end, I hope you had an opportunity to take some time off to relax and reconnect with family and friends. The fall is always a very busy season at YCS as we respond to families seeking help for their children and support all the individuals in our residences and schools as they adjust to new schedules.

Despite the challenging work ahead, there is also an opportunity to engage with participants in restorative autumn activities like apple or pumpkin picking, walks in the park to enjoy the changing colors of the leaves, and seasonal community events.



Tara Augustine

In October, the agency will also be launching our second Employee Engagement Survey. Because of your honest responses, feedback, and suggestions in the first survey, divisional leadership across the agency implemented changes driven by your responses. To kick off this year's survey, YCS will live stream its first Town Hall Meeting on October 17. All employees will be invited to log on and celebrate the accomplishments at YCS as a result of the first survey. You can read about an example of our successes in this newsletter on page 12.

The 2024 Employee Engagement Survey empowers you once again to have your voices heard and be part of the change you wish to see to improve the quality of work life for your colleagues and care for the individuals we serve.

I know the work that we do here every day at YCS can be very challenging. It takes a special person to put their personal feelings aside to help individuals recover from trauma and hardships. You are those people. Thank you for all your seen and unseen efforts. You are genuinely appreciated by me and everyone on the leadership team.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Tara'.

Message from Communications

Sorry for the delay of Volume 15 *Inside YCS* newsletter in your mailboxes. You may notice that some of our favorite sections, the interns corner and leading with heart, are absent in this issue. They will return in the fall edition with all of the newsletter's other sections. Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to receiving all the highlights and photos of happenings at your sites.

Barbara & Janis

Welcome New Employees

New Employees who have completed 90 days, April—June 2024

Anderson, Jarheina Personal Assistant DDD-Apts Supvr Buffalo	Bustamante, Brielle R. Clinician DCF-PCH Sayre	Fentress, Dondre Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Cedarbrook	Jenifer, Donna M. Personal Assistant DDD-Willingboro	Mallory Casaine, Whitney T. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Sicklerville
Anthony, Lois P. Teacher Aide DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Cervantes, Michelle Clinician Fee for Svc CBP-HMSC Union City	Foster, Jovanna Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Cedarbrook	Johnson, Silas Personal Assistant DDD - Cavan House	Martin, Dawn C. Personal Assistant DDD-Pearl
Balassone, Ashley Consultant NonEE DOE-George Washington	Cobbs, Devian Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Fisher Hall	Francois, Gerard Personal Assistant DDD-Walnut	Johnson, Soyini Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Bright Start	McGovern-Valencia, Gianna Residential Assistant DCF-CSAP Winslow
Barnes, Clea SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - N	Cordon, Esther Nurse LPN HealthSvc- ResidentNurse-S	Frayne, Elizabeth Prevention Specialist CBP-SchoolBaseYthSvc SBYS	Joyner, Tiffany House Manager DDD-Willingboro	Mehnert, Kevin Supvr Curriculum&Instr DOE-George Washington
Barnes, Ronde Clinician DCF-PCH Fisher Hall	Council, Ijahnaa Shift Supervisor DCF-PCH BHDD Estell Manor	Garry, Jadeyah Teacher Aide DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Kent, KaNija Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Vineland	Negron, Doris Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Vineland
Beachem, Shannon N. Clinician DCF-PCH Laurie Haven	Counts, Shaylah Clinician DCF-PCH IDD Lawnridge	Givens, Caroline Case Manager DCF-PCH Haddon Heights	Khan, Farisa Teacher of Handicap TOH DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Nolley, Justine Clinician DCF-RTC Holley
Billie, Randy Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan	Daniels, Megan Speech CorrectLang SPC DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Graves, Barshay SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - S	Kimbrough, Risa SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - S	Ogunnaike, Samuel Personal Assistant DDD-Burning Bush
Branch-Rohlsen, Anna Residential Assistant DCF-IRTS Holley Muller	Dean, Shani Personal Assistant DDD-Morris	Hairston, Aaron SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - N	King, Ashia SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - S	Ohemeng, Perry Personal Assistant DDD-Emmans
Brisson I, Marven C. Personal Assistant DDD-Walnut	Diaz, Tiffany A. Personal Assistant DDD-Walnut	Hunter, Yamil Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Malcolm House	Leary, Bianca Q. Personal Assistant DDD-Apts Supvr Buffalo	Oliver, Taneja Personal Assistant DDD-Hilltop
Bryant, Rashay Nurse LPN DDD-Buena Vista	Dreher, Tristen A. Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Holley	Iton, Justin Teacher Aide DOE-George Washington	Lightsey, Jennifer Nurse LPN DCF-RTC Holley	Paredes, Jessica M. Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Holley

Welcome New Employees

Paul, Emany Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Bright Start	Sanders, Chinita SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - N	Smith, Nasya Personal Assistant DDD-Apts Supvr Buffalo	Vandervort, Adaiza Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Coopers Crossing	Williams, Myia Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan
Reyes, Yanira ParentEduHomeVisitor CBP-Parents as Teachers	Scimanico, Kari PrincipalSWDSchool DOE-George Washington	Sumo, Rachel Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Sicklerville	Villa-Rodriguez, Claudia Teacher of Handicap TOH DOE-George Washington	Wilson, Jamilah Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Fisher Hall
Roberts, Zaria Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan	Shabazz Winston, Izhane Personal Assistant DDD-Greenbrook	Swain, Tahjee Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Coopers Crossing	Watts, Raniya Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Cedarbrook	Woolery, Danielle Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Sewell
Rutherford, David Personal Assistant DDD-Forest	Smith Jr., William Personal Assistant DDD-Buena Vista	Tait, Geraldine Personal Assistant DDD-Echohill	West, Sharonda Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Sayre	Worley, Tara AP Specialist Accounting & Finance

Welcome Back

We were sorry to see you move on, and are so happy you've come back to the YCS Family.

Barnes, Al-Nissa F. Personal Assistant DDD-Greenbrook	Davis, AsiaQueen SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - N	Green, Latiesha Clinician DCF-PCH IDD Camden	Mayes, Andrea S. Program Director CBP-SchoolBaseYthSvc SBYS	Rodriguez, Regina Mental HealthSpecial- ist CBP-SchoolBaseYthSvc SBYS
Cooper, Dashana SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - N	DePeri, Danielle Administrative Assist DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Holman, Cheryl A. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Fisher Hall	Omoruyi, Osayekewen T. Personal Assistant DDD-Burning Bush	Smith, Jordan Q. Residential Assistant DCF-SPEC Kilbarchan
Corcoran, Jessica Clinician Fee for Svc DCF-SPEC Kilbarchan	Ellis, Faheem Residential Assistant DCF-IRTS Kilbarchan	Lee, Geraldine Personal Assistant DDD - Cavan House	Paden, Tahj Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Camden	Still, Troy E. SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - S

Welcome New Interns

Bruch, Madison DCF-PCH Fisher Hall	Hugle-Foster, Jessica DCF-PCH IDD Cedarbrook	Statuto, Brittany DCF-PCH Bright Start
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Shout Outs

¡TO ALL OUR AMAZING EMPLOYEES!

- ★ **Beverly Izquierdo** attended rounds and not only was she an active member in the day, but she was prompt in answering questions, listening to clinicians, and taking quick action! It was great to have Beverly at rounds as she was able to create changes suggested by the clinicians in real time! Thank you Beverly!
- ★ **Jennifer Wade, Sharon Marshall, Shameya Drain-Mantez, Shona Little, Lisa Guariglia and Ashley Gledhill** Great job to these nurses for all your hard work during PCH-IDD and CSAP inspections!
- ★ **The entire Davis House Team** is incredible. The residential staff are compassionate and caring, working directly with the youth to support their needs. The admin and clinical team are the strongest advocates for their youth and program. Liz Barry does an exceptional job as a leader in this program and all of the staff are truly amazing.
- ★ **Jordan Guglielmino** from Davis House is doing an incredible job as clinician! He continues to go above and beyond for his clients, as well as assisting in other areas throughout the agency to provide clinical support! Great job!
- ★ **Isabella Festa and Frank Franceschini** Thank you for helping out clinically at the Sicklerville Home.
- ★ **Tina Devico Price, Luis Mangual and Mark Scanish** for helping to furnish Vineland, Haddon Heights, Sicklerville, Davis House, Sayre homes and making our programs look amazing.
- ★ **Mark Scanish** and his maintenance team have been such a help with all the programs! Mark is truly the king of maintenance!
- ★ **Bradshaw Vetterly** in always making sure his region has what they need! We always know if we need something, Brad is just a phone call away and always advocates for the best interests of the kids and staff!
- ★ **Al Gregorio** is awesome with the kids at Coopers! Keep up the great work!! You are appreciated!
- ★ **Shakida Faniel** always goes above and beyond in her role as a supervisor. Great work!
- ★ **Sayre House on call RAs!** Everyone has been such a help with picking up shifts and it is very much appreciated!
- ★ **Emily Miller** has been doing awesome in her new role as Residential Assistant! Thank you for all you do.
- ★ **Saniyyah Holt** is an amazing staff member on our team! She continues to help with picking up shifts wherever she's needed and is awesome with the kids!
- ★ **Ernest Jones** is such a great team player, and an amazing worker and role model for our youth! Keep up the great work!

Shout Outs

¡TO ALL OUR AMAZING EMPLOYEES!

- ★ **Rashad Loyd** always helps in the various areas he is needed! Thank you so much for all you do!
- ★ **Careen Neba** is doing awesome as PD at Sicklerville!! Thank you for all your hard work!
- ★ **Malcolm Rease** is an amazing leader and CRS! Thank you for all you do!!
- ★ **Taina Montalvo** and **Ashley Hill** with all of their hard work and dedication to intake! We all appreciate all you do!!
- ★ **Deanna DeStefano** for providing staffing support to Sawtelle Buena Vista!

Promotions

CONGRATULATIONS! YOU INSPIRE US ALL TO MOVE FORWARD
& KEEP WORKING TOWARDS OUR GOALS.

Paul Albright, Shift Supervisor, DCF-PCH Phoenix

Ericka L. Gardner, House Manager, DDD-Apts. Supervisor Buffalo

Natasia Terry, Shift Supervisor, DCF-PCH Sayre

*With this success, comes greater opportunities and challenges.
Face it with the same zeal as you always have.*

Work Anniversaries

35 YEARS

Maria Smith, Shift Supervisor, Davis House

30 YEARS

Pauline Lewis, Residential Assistant, Fisher Hall

25 YEARS

Gloria Y. Anthony, Housekeeper, Facilities North
Elana H. Chereque, Teacher Aide, George Washington Sch.

20 YEARS

Darick E. Garrison, Shift Supervisor, Estell Manor

15 YEARS

Jamal D. Slappy, Residential Assistant, Kilbarchan
Tororris J. Hill, Residential Assistant, Kilbarchan
Anthony C. Raymond, Tx Home Recruiter

10 YEARS

Shannon L. Williams, Shift Supervisor, Blackwood
Nayata T. Sylvester, SRT Behavioral Assist. SRT North
Tamika L. Young, Residential Assistant, Haddon Heights
Roy Espada, Shift Supervisor, Kilbarchan
Octavia E. Green, Trainer Coordinator, Training Dept.
Charlotte Prunty, Shift Supervisor, Buffalo
Carlene Colston, Executive Admin Assistant, YCS

5 YEARS

Hallema Freeman, Residential Assistant, Kilbarchan
Shanai K. Hill, Shift Supervisor, Cedarbrook
Martina Vil, Residential Assistant, Lawnridge
Raysa Romero, Administration Manager, HMS Clinic Essex
Osei K. Boateng, Teacher of Handicap TOH, Sawtelle L.C.
Jamel McNeill, Teacher Aide, George Washington School
Cheri Smith, Personal Assistant, Haledon
Bashir Grimes, Residential Assistant, Holley Center
Keona L. Lane, Shift Supervisor, Bright Start
Abu Beyallah, Residential Assistant, Camden
Charlese Mathis, Residential Assistant, Fisher Hall
Laura DeTufo, Consultant NonEE, YCS
Tara Augustine, Chief Executive Officer, YCS

Congratulations!!!

The pride and joy of any organization are its workers, and we are fortunate to acknowledge all of you as our treasured co-workers on your work anniversaries.

Day in and day out, you continue to shine. Your devotion and dedication to our mission is a rare gift.

Thank you!

Milestones

PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Passion Kennedy, Vineland Home PD on passing your LSW exam!

Aimee Briscoe, Sayre House PD on passing your LCSW exam!

Amanda Garrett, Sayre House clinician on passing your LCSW exam!



Barbara May (Director of Communications) and Tomas May Pelico (Barbara's husband) have authored a children's book called **Eritta**. It is written in the Bubi language, native tongue of the Bubi people from Bioko Island, Equatorial Guinea and contains translations in English and Spanish. This book was created to help save the endangered Bubi language. It is available on Amazon.com.

BIRTHS



Congratulations to **Caitlyn Scaglione**, AVP of Wellness and Marketing, and her husband Patrick! They welcomed a baby boy, Dylan Joseph, 8lbs. 3oz, 21 inches, on April 23, 2024.



Congratulations to **Michelle Robbins**, southern region clinical director, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Emerie Mae on April 29. She weighed 7lbs. 7 ozs and was 20 inches long.

Employee Spotlight

Tamar Hampton, Coopers Crossing Home PD



What Tamar Hampton has accomplished as the new program director at Coopers Crossing PCH is inspiring. In the past six months, she has worked hard with her team to create a positive and healing environment. She conducts groups with the children, where they're learning about positive affirmations, the importance of self-love and care. She facilitates groups throughout the week on meditation. The children have been very receptive to these new activities and are really benefiting from them.

Prior to Tamar's tenure as PD, the home reported several incidents a day resulting in physical controls/restraint. By establishing a therapeutic and structured environment and implementing Nurtured Heart Approaches and strength-based perspectives in all that she does, Tamar and her team have infused a calmer, more hopeful atmosphere into the program. As a result, Coopers Crossing has almost eliminated the need for physical controls/restraints entirely, and since April has had zero physical controls/restraints.

Tamar has a vision for the program and has truly made that vision come to life! She has encouraged her team to put into place a lot of activities to enrich the home's environment and keep the children engaged. They have created diverse, youth-driven spaces throughout the house: an indoor trampoline, two play kitchens, Lego stations, a toy car mat, giant beanbag chair, chalk board walls in each room, and sensory items throughout the house.

Every new youth who is admitted to the home receives a "Welcome Backpack" that includes sensory items, toys, self-care/emotions books, and positive messages welcoming the youth into the program.

Recognizing the importance of including recreation in the children's treatment, she has worked with her team to involve the youth in community sports (football and soccer)! The youth and staff attend regular practices and enjoy being part of a team together!

But Tamar could not do this alone and the supportive, respectful, relationship she is building with her team is crucial to the success of the program. She is a team player - working each shift with her staff to offer support as needed. She has created a staff appreciation station and tells her staff daily how much she values them.

Tamar is great with communication- reaching out to families on an ongoing basis to update them on the children's achievements and current challenges. She wants the families to know about how amazing their children are!

It is clear just by walking into the Coopers Crossing Home the difference Tamar has made. We are so proud to have her on our team!

Employee Snapshot

YCS CFO Frank Bockowski
rides to work in style.

Who ever said CFOs don't
know how to have fun?

Way to go Frank!



Frank Bockowski

Looking Ahead

Clinical Rounds

September 11th (Virtual)
Family Systems/Structural Family Therapy (2 Free CEUs)

October 9th (SOMERDALE)
Polyvagal Theory (2 Free CEUs) Virtual option

November 13th (Virtual)
Domestic Violence/Supporting Survivors (2 Free CEUs)

December 12th (EAST ORANGE)
Holiday Party & Training! (2 Free CEUs)

Employee Engagement Survey

The second Employee Engagement Survey will be kicked off at a virtual Town Hall Meeting with Tara Augustine, YCS President on Thursday, October 17th. Look for more details in upcoming emails.

Innovations

Southern Region DD Inaugurates Quarterly Staff Appreciation Event

The inaugural YCS Southern Region DD Quarterly Employee Spotlight” recognized the outstanding work performance of 12 employees representing each of the YCS DD homes in the south. Under the leadership of YCS VP Dawn Jones, the program managers put their hearts into creating an inspired evening for all the honorees. The Somerdale YCS headquarters conference room was transformed into a ballroom, tables were set for royalty and true to YCS Southern Region charm, the dinner was prepared by the staff; gift baskets were personally filled to the brim with treats, and every recipient received a hand-written thank you card.

Honoree, Butler Belvins, Residential Assistant at the YCS Blackwood Home was blown away by the evening. “This award makes me feel wanted,” said Belvins when he found out he was nominated by the Blackwood Home team.

The quarterly awards initiative came into fruition as part of the SR Action Plan for 2024 to acknowledge employees. “We wanted to give public recognition to employees for their dedication, sacrifice and service to the youth and adults at YCS...Their continued service to the youth and YCS as a whole is greatly appreciated,” explained Jones.



Congratulations to all the honorees:

Derrell Wallace Camden R.A, Butler Belvins Blackwood R. A., Shawnta Blake Buena-R.A., Shavona Boateng Absecon R.A. Alaya Lott-CSAP Winslow R.A, Shamyra Ware CSAP Hammonton Spvr. R.A., Jeffrey Reynolds Estell Manor R.A, Alice Omini Sewell R.A., Annette Jones Cedarbrook Spvr. R.A., Marilyn Braggs Toledo Spvr. R.A., Sada Collins Willingboro Spvr. R.A., Jacob Shambry Echohill Spvr. R.A.



Innovations



Moving On

It's Hard to Say Good-bye!



Kamachee Mandhar worked for 23 years as an administrative assistant for the Newark Campus. Kamachee had a reputation for being a workaholic in the best sense of the word. She was always ready to help any program or department that needed an extra hand. She was a capable and talented colleague. When she filled in as front desk receptionist, she was pleasant and patient. When she was called on to create mailing lists for the parent satisfaction committee, she took on the daunting task with a smile. The children all loved her, and she loved them. When any of the programs needed someone to decorate for a party, she volunteered. Kamachee, you will be dearly missed by everyone in the YCS Family. We wish you much happiness and success in your future endeavors.

Condolences



Our sympathies to members of our Treatment Home program on the passing of Mr. Rudy Vaughn, beloved Treatment Home Parent

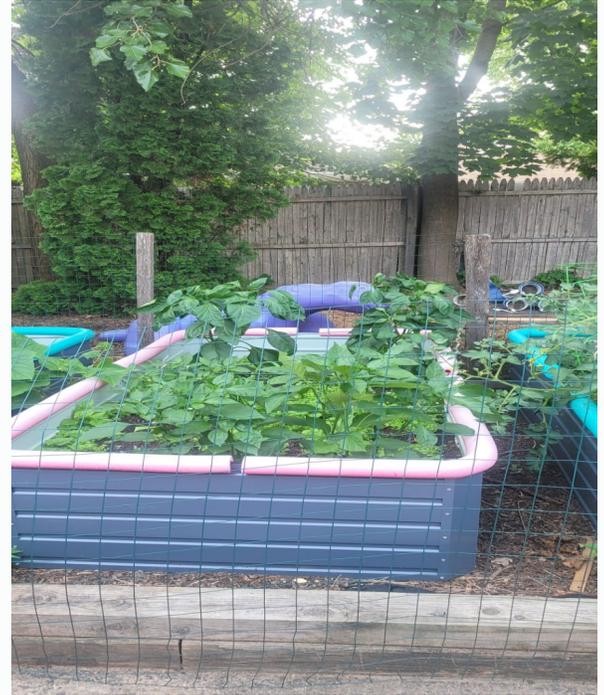
It is with deepest sorrow that Treatment Homes inform you of the passing of one of our Treatment Home Parents, Mr. Rudy Vaughn. Mr. Rudy was a Home Parent at YCS for over 15 years when he passed away on May 28. Mr. Rudy was a very supportive parent who touched the lives of so many of our children under his care. Mr. Rudy will be truly missed by our children, staff and treatment home parents." Every child deserves a champion-an adult who will never give up on them , who understands the power of connections and insists that they become the best they can possibly be," Rita F. Pierson.

Highlights

How do their Gardens Grow? With lots of love & kindness

The raised vegetable garden beds at Laurie Haven were designed for the kids. Gardening encourages patience as they watch the growth and produce development, every day and eventually enjoy the food on their plates. Cucumbers, sweet peppers, butternut squash, tomatoes, callaloo, various herbs are but a few of the various garden items. With so much effort this year to encourage green thumbs, expectations are high to make it a yearly endeavor.

Nakia McCray, Laurie Haven



The children enjoy watching the plants grow and being a part of the process of caring for them. The name Soothing Gardens was there prior to my joining YCS, however, the kids and myself gave it some new meaning! Mary Leacock at Davis house was a big part of the garden prior to me coming on board.

Edward Newmark, Davis House

Highlights

GRADUATIONS



Lawnridge Graduate



Congratulations to Vineland Home High School Graduates

Aydan Davis Jones (I) graduated from Bankbridge Regional and Dakota Johnston graduated from Tom's River High School "Both have shown tremendous improvement since admission here at Vineland. And both youths are looking forward to the next step in their future," said **Passion Kennedy**, program director.

Mark Robinson, Lawnridge PD, accompanied KJ to his graduation.

Treatment Home Graduates and BBQ Celebration



On June 27, 2024, **Anitra Frayer-Mentor** and **Yajaira Samayoa** Administrative Assistant hosted the Treatment Homes annual BBQ/ graduation celebration. The event allowed the youth to play games, complete art projects, meet new friends, and eat a delicious hearty spread of tasty foods. The end of the day was finished, and Mr. Softy stopped by to provide ice cream for each young person and parent. It was great to see everyone smiling, laughing, and genuinely having a wonderful time.

Highlights

PAT Graduation

The scorching heat did not deter families from attending the **Parents as Teachers (PAT) graduation** at Washington Park in Union City. Thirty moms, dads and their little ones gathered for one final time to celebrate their completion of the program. Every parent eagerly shared what PAT meant to them through tears of gratitude and appreciation. Many determined to stay in touch with their parent educator as they now thought of them as friends. Congratulations to all the families. We wish you the best of luck in the future as your families grow and thrive.



NFP Graduation

Senator M. Teresa Ruiz congratulated 60 young moms at the **YCS Nurse-Family Partnership graduation** at **Turtle Back Zoo** this past Friday and met with the nurses for a short roundtable discussion. Following the graduation ceremony and a luncheon. The moms, their toddlers, family members and friends enjoyed an afternoon in the zoo. We are very grateful to Senator Ruiz for encouraging the moms and nurses. It was truly a happy time for all.

PLP Graduation

New moms currently enrolled in the YCS Parent Linking Program (PLP), graduates, and family members gathered with their children for an end-of-year graduation celebration. Several moms shared their gratitude for the program and their counselors: “My counselor has helped me learn how to manage my baby’s sleep so I can get up in the morning and go to school,” said one high school senior. Another mom said her counselor is like her “second mother”



Highlights

GRADUATIONS



The sun shined brightly for the 2024 **Sawtelle Learning Center** graduation ceremony. The graduates and their families were treated to the applause and cheers of the entire school that lined the driveway as they walked up, heading to the field where their graduation would take place. **Leisa Tomchek**, the school principal, began the ceremony and spoke about each individual student. Three graduates came to the microphone to share their thoughts and each family was given a bouquet of flowers to thank them for their support. It was truly, a very happy and wonderful event for the graduates, their families, and staff. Congratulations to the 2024 Sawtelle Learning Center graduates!!



The **YCS Institute** celebrated their 2023-24 doctoral intern and post-doctoral intern graduation with a luncheon .



GW School student made a beautiful speech during their graduation ceremony.

Highlights

Southern Region DCF Homes Family Fun Day

The Southern Region DCF Homes Family Fun Day was a blast! There were two water slides, a dunk tank, a bean bag toss, great BBQ, popcorn, cotton candy machines, and Rita's Italian Ices. Oh, and let's not forget about the stockade water balloon and music by a rocking DJ. Special thanks to the Vineland Home for hosting the event and all the staff who worked hard to plan this first FUN event since the pandemic. Shout out to the Southern Region nurses who attended the event!



Highlights

Lawnridge Summer Bash Cookoff

Barbara May interviewed **Mark Robinson** and **Akee Davis** at the Lawnridge Summer Bash Cookoff.

Barbara : What's your name and what is your position?

Akee: My name is Akee. I work at Lawnridge. I am a residential assistant.

Barbara: And today you're doing a cookoff at your Summer Bash.

Akee: Yes, I am. I am participating.

Barbara: You are cooking?

Akee: I am making some ribs. Beef ribs.

Barbara: Tell me about the special way you make your ribs.

Akee: First, I clean the meat. Then I season the meat and wrap them in three layers of aluminum, so they can suffocate and broil inside the aluminum. That's how I make my ribs.

Barbara: Do you think you will be winning the cookoff today?

Akee: I don't want to say if I'm going to win or lose, but I will say everyone is going to enjoy how my ribs taste.

Barbara: Okay, thank you. We will see what happens today.

Barbara: We are here with Mark, Lawnridge PD, who is doing the cookoff today. Mark, what is your methodology for cooking?

Mark: Today, I'm cooking BBQ spare ribs and BBQ chicken. I marinated the ribs in Hawaiian marinade overnight and marinated the chicken in pineapple marinade because our cookout has a Hawaiian theme. I used apple smokewood rub on the ribs. Now they are on the grill and ready to go. Nice and tender.

Barbara: Who do you think is going to win the cookoff, you or Akee?

Mark: Of course, I am. But the parents are the judges. They will decide.

And the winner is ?

Well, it came down to Mr. and Mrs. Deputy. Mr. Deputy said it was a tie. Mrs. Deputy said both ribs were very good, but Akee's ribs took the prize for her.

Congratulations to Akee!!



Akee



Mark



The Lawnridge Team

Highlights

SPRING CREW EVENTS

SRT Creative, Recreational and Educational Wednesdays (CREW)

Karaoke Night in Hackensack for Adult DD Participants



Game Night for Pearl Street and Greenbrook Participants



Kickball for Children at the Holley Center



Highlights

First Annual Pride Event



The youth from the LGBTQ group planned their first annual Pride Event! The youth from Sayre, Sicklerville, Haddon Heights and Vineland were in attendance. It was a fun filled day with lots of food, music, water sports, and photo ops at Sayre House.



Memorial Day BBQ



Northern Region DCF and DD residences gather for a BBQ during Memorial Day weekend

Buffalo House Young Women Enjoy Community Outings



Highlights

Clinical Rounds Summer Party



We had an awesome **Clinical Rounds Summer Party** in Somerdale! The event was to show appreciation for clinicians in the agency and do some restorative self-care! The turnout was amazing! We had representation from almost all sites North and South! The activities included a paint party and connecting with one another! The clinicians voiced how important it is to have days like these where they can reset and restore together! This was an absolutely awesome event!!
Pfeni Flicker

Saturday Outing



Lawnridge young men and staff (**Bailey, Nosa, Akee**) on a Saturday walk in the neighborhood before the Pancake Breakfast.

Night Out on the Town



Ladies from Morris DD Home invited **Korey Clark** to dinner at Arirano Hibachi Steak House. They got all dolled up, had their hair done, manicures and pedicures for the special night out. "We had a great time," said Korey.

KJ's Birthday



KJ celebrated his birthday at the Lawnridge Summer Bash with his family, friends and staff.

