

VOLUNTEER News BRIEF

January 2012

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

Volume 8

TRUE NORTH



TRUE NORTH VOLUNTEERS DELIVER CHRISTMAS CHEER TO DYS YOUTH

YOGA AT CIRCLEVILLE JUVENILE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

LOCAL BANKER TEACHES PEACE UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TO YOUTH AT SCIOTO

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION CHRIS MONEY GUEST SPEAKER

30 YEARS CHAPLAIN WRIGHT RETIRES



TRUE Christmas at DYS

BRINGING HOLIDAY CHEER TO YOUTH AT DYS



Becky Retzer, Executive Director, True North Ministry shares a message of hope with youth during Christmas bag deliver

The youth at DYS received an unexpected Christmas surprise this year when volunteers from True North Ministry delivered gift bags to youth at Cuyahoga Hills, Indian River, Circleville and Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facilities. Members of True North Ministry's "Wise Guy Bag Volunteers" provided youth at DYS with some very special gifts and friendship.

Thirty volunteers arrived at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility to hand out gift bags and to provide words of support and hope. At Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility, 31 volunteers handed out gift bags to youth as they shared a message of hope and motivation.

True North Ministry delivered Christmas gifts to the youth at DYS during visits to each of the DYS facilities. Each bag was individually decorated by preschoolers and home schooled youth teams.

The youth volunteers designed over 3,000 Christmas cards that were delivered to the youth at the Summit and Cuyahoga County Youth Detention Centers.

A local dentist donated toothpaste to all DYS youth. An 8 year old girl donated \$1.00 to help support the youth. During the holiday parties 500 dozen homemade cookies were shared with the youth.

Each youth received three handmade Christmas cards to send to family and friends. The youth were encouraged to write thank you notes to the community.

An amazing testament to kindness took place as one of the volunteers shared his story with the youth. Abroan, a 20 year old youth from Akron, gave an emotional account of his life. He was living homeless in Akron. He describes his life as having a void. Through an act of kindness, he received a scholarship to attend college. He now has a place to live and is inspired to share his message with youth at DYS.

"I wanted to show my brothers at DYS love and respect, many people write DYS kids off, but they are important" Said Abroan.

True North volunteer delivers Christmas bags to youth at DYS



True North Gift Bags Included:

- 3 cards for each youth to send to family
- 3 handmade cards for youth
- 1 Testimonial Book
- 1 Bar of Soap
- 1 Candy Bar
- 1 Tube of Crest Toothpaste
- 1 Thank you pamphlet for the community



Mark Geis
Teacher and Football Coach
True North Ministry Volunteer

“I wanted to show my brothers at DYS
love and respect many people write
DYS kids off, but they are important.”

- Abroan
True North Ministry Volunteer

Dave Traugh
True North Ministry Volunteer
speaking to youth at
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



Caring for DYS

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

Host Volunteer Appreciation



Chris Money,
Executive Director, Kindway EMBARK
Former Director DYS

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility was the site of October's Volunteer Appreciation event. The event brought volunteers together to acknowledge their individual and group service to DYS. Youth performed for the crowd, there were door prizes for volunteers and pumpkins were decorated by youth at the facility.

Former DYS Director Chris Money was the guest speaker at the event. She spoke about the importance of volunteering and mentoring. Chris is presently the Executive Director for Kindway EMBARK. EMBARK is a reentry initiative that provides

reentry programming at Marion Correctional Institution and the Ohio Reformatory for Women. "I am excited to return to Scioto, its important to acknowledge volunteers for the work that they do and the service they provide" Said Ms. Money.

Guest and youth at the event had a great time in celebration of the work that volunteers do at SJCF.

"We are fortunate to have a great team of volunteers here at Scioto. their contribution to our programming efforts is important" stated Clifford Smith, Administrator Office of Community Partnerships.

Faith volunteers continue to spread the message of hope at Scioto JCF Sisters Mary and Michael



Volunteers gather at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility at appreciation event



Youth at **DYS** Experience YOGA



Tyler Reed
Volunteer Yoga instructor
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility



“YogaServe” is a coalition of volunteer yoga instructors in central Ohio currently teaching yoga to youth at **DYS**, women affected by domestic violence and workers at Nationwide Children Hospitals’ Center Against Family Violence. They are united in wanting to bring yoga to those in the community who typically don’t have access to it, to share yoga’s healing benefits - physical, mental emotional, or otherwise, as well as help clients feel empowered in mind, body and breath.” stated Jamie Davis, Executive Director, Yogaserve.

As summed up in a letter by a youth who took part in the Yogaserve session, “Before participating in Mr. Reeds yoga seminars, most of us thought of yoga as a female thing. All stretch no sweat. But we couldn’t have been more wrong. Maybe even you have underestimated yoga. Mr. Reed taught us that yoga does have stretches and breathing exercises. But yoga is a way to be free with oneself as well. Yoga is also a healthy work out, freeing ones mind and body, and its unique. There is so much our class has learned about yoga and we continue to learn during each session. Yoga stretches the mind as well. Some things have even helped the class

with anger and thinking before acting. So if you think yoga’s easy; think again. Yoga just might help your life perspective a bit. It has for this class of kids who took it serious. It’s calm, relaxing and a bundle of hard work and pain. But we have fun and learn with it. Think yoga’s still lame? I think our class could say different. We started with only me and four other youth. Now we have a lot more. Some might think they are not flexible. But everyone’s skeletons are different, trust me. If you think your up to the challenge and willing to work yourself to the extremes physically, mentally and more, than ask to join the class. You never know, it really might be for you. It is fun, painful, sweaty, calm and peaceful...yoga can take you and stretch you beyond belief.”

The group hopes to expand classes with **DYS** youth in 2012 as well as with other at-risk populations. For more questions, please contact Jamie at yogaserve.columbus@gmail.com

Youth learn about Personal Financial Management at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

A local banker instructs youth during a 13-week course on personal financial management. The program material was developed by the Financial Peace University, which was founded by Dave Ramsey, a personal money-management expert and author of “The Total Money Makeover.”

The program provides first-hand knowledge about managing debt, preparing for the cost of college, real estate and mortgage options. The program delivered to youth at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility was specifically designed for youth. The class began in July and met weekly for 13 weeks.



(CABS) The Child & Babysitting Safety Program begins at SCIOTO JCF



Recently, a course on Babysitting and Child Safety was offered to the Youth at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility. The Program used the official curriculum and course material of the American Safety and Health Institute [ASHI] which was designed for adolescents. It was very well received.

Twenty girls participated; the interactions were good, they were enthusiastic, with appropriate questions and sharing experiences from their childhood as one being cared for and as a teen caring for others. All participants successfully completed the exam which concluded the three hour course and received a Certificate.

Class teaches CPR & choking, water hazards, fun activities to entertain children of various age groups, infant and child feeding, diapering procedures, providing emergency care, basic first aid care and much more! Class includes a certification card to show that one is a certified CABS babysitter and a book to review everything learned in the class.

The Child and Babysitting Safety (CABS) program is a community education program that covers child safety and basic care techniques for infants and children. It is geared towards adolescents, not intended for daycare workers and provides fundamental information for home childcare workers or babysitters. CABS topics include child safety, play, feeding and emergencies. The ASHI CABS Program is a community education programs that covers child safety and basic care techniques for infants and children. CABS was developed with a number of other national organizations including the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The Program was provided free of charge by certified ASHI Instructors, Sister Michael and Sister Mary, who are volunteers at the facility. The Program's sponsoring staff was Kerry Baker, who is always eager to develop skills and enrich knowledge to better prepare you for reentry.

CABS Course Offers:

- Sitter Safety
- Starting Your Business
- Before you Accept a Job/Before the Parents Leave
- Playtime, TV, Telephone & Internet
- Behavior Redirection
- Handwashing
- Meal Preparation
- Water Hazards
- Pets
- Diapering Procedures
- Bedtime
- What is an Emergency?
- First Aid
- Infant/Child CPR & Choking

BEST WISHES TO
Chaplain Gail Wright after
30 Years of Devoted
Service. She will be
missed staff by youth and
volunteers.



Worship Slam at Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility

How do 35 True North Ministry (TNM) volunteers and 50 IRJCF youth have fun on a blistering August day? Answer: Worship Slam 2011, a greatly anticipated event with picnic games, a cookout and original rap music written and performed by IRJCF youth artists. A lot of organizational power goes into this outreach. TNM spends months recruiting volunteers and garnering resources to host a festival-like day in the facility yard. Also, a leadership team of IRJCF youth, called Circle of Influence (COI), advises on proposed activities while promoting it alongside Chaplain Randy Dixon.

The COI leadership team states their mission as “constructing a total liberation blueprint for our imprisoned peers.” During planning, a TNM

mentor required that they align every Worship SLAM activity to this mission. For instance, they clearly communicated lyric standards during a TNM panel audition, raising even DYS standards of youth participation. TNM reports that youth rappers not only met the standards but exceeded expectations. “Narrowing the field to four worship rappers was very difficult.” Said a panelist. One volunteer told this about IRJCF youth attending Worship SLAM 2011: “We only brought one Gatorade each person. Someone mistakenly passed out the Gatorades early. We asked that youth respect the one Gatorade per young man rule. At lunch, one youth went without a Gatorade, which reflects the extreme honesty of every young man present at the event.” TNM plans on hosting Worship SLAM 2012 events with the COI leadership team co-managing.

WORSHIP SLAM 2011



This year IRJCF added something new to its program. Any youth could tryout to sing, rap or perform for the Worship SLAM. The winner would get to perform the day of the event. There was a lot of competition. Selecting an overall winner was difficult for the judges. The top three groups were selected to perform. Along with the music, True North provided carnival-type games such as the three legged race, water balloon toss, 3-point basketball shooting contests and other fun games.

A Sno-Cone machine added an additional flavor to the event. Youth and guests thoroughly enjoyed the event. Approximately 60 youth participated in the event.

CHJCF Volunteers and Youth Produce Christmas Play "The Birth of Jesus" for Families and Guests Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

CHJCF held a Christmas play on December 25th called "The Birth of Jesus if it was 2011." Family and youth were invited for a holiday service from 9:00am-11:00am. There were 73 family members that came. About 12-16 volunteers came to help with the service. The play showed how much pressure Mary and Joseph went through during the birth of Jesus. In the play, the three wise men performed stomp. The choir

performed during parts of the play. Cookies and punch were served for everyone after the service. There was a normal service before the play where the choir performed and the Chaplain preached. When the service was over, the youth were able to spend time with their families and have their pictures taken with them by the Christmas tree.



DYS Awarded Mentoring Grant



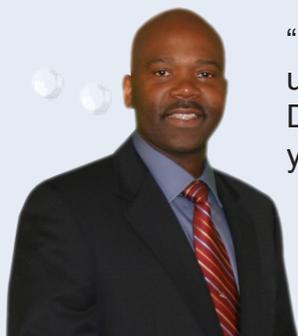
U.S. Department of Justice selects DYS to receive Second Chance Act Mentoring Grant

The Second Chance Act of 2007 provides a comprehensive response to the increasing number of incarcerated adults and juveniles who are released from prison, jail and juvenile residential facilities and are returning to their communities. Approximately 100,000 youthful offenders are confined in juvenile residential facilities on any given day. The FY 2011 Second Chance Act Juvenile Offender Reentry Program helps ensure that the transition the youth make from secure confinement facilities to the community is successful and promotes public safety. A secure confinement facility may include a juvenile detention center, juvenile correctional facility or staff-secure

facility. Eligible juveniles must have been confined under juvenile court jurisdiction. Under the provisions of the grant, DYS will be providing mentoring services to youth returning to five Ohio counties: Allen, Cuyahoga, Franklin, Montgomery and Summit. Mentors will establish relationships with youth 4-6 months prior to their release and continue their mentoring for 6-8 months after their release. A total of 245 youth are expected to receive mentoring over a two year period. "We are excited by the access that youth will have to mentors prior to the release and after the have reentered society," stated Donald Bean, Grant Administrator.



Donald Bean
Mentoring Grant Administrator



"...I'd like to thank the hundreds of volunteers throughout the state of Ohio for contributing over 40,000 hours of service in 2011, to impact the lives of incarcerated youth in DYS. Your contribution is invaluable and critical to improving the lives of hundreds of youth. Thank you for making a difference in someone's life."

Clifford Smith
Administrator
Office of Community Partnerships