

Volunteer



Harvey J. Reed
Director

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NEWS BRIEF



University of Kansas Students Participate in Service Learning at DYS



MISSIONARIES OF THE SACRED HEART VISIT CJCF

JOHN DAWSON SPEAKS AT CIRCLEVILLE JCF



BOB & PEG WARREN

Why we mentor



LADIES OF LEISURE

at former SJCF

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHAPEL

Hold "Life-Skills and Jobs Interviewing Class at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Students visit DYS



Back row from left to right: Gwendolyn Randle (DYS), Daniel English (KU), Daniel Harmsen (KU), Courtney Huffman (KU), Alex Kinkead (KU) and Clifford Smith (DYS). Front row from left to right: Brock Likens (KU), Jaime Hay (KU) and Grace Jones (KU).

The Ohio State University who provide peer-to-peer mentoring, critical thinking, and educational programming to youth at Circleville JCF. Our guests were so impressed with Buckeye Reach that they expressed interest in creating a similar initiative in Kansas. DYS

Director Harvey Reed expressed his sincere thanks to all of the KU students for choosing to learn about habilitating youth.



DYS youth created a poster to welcome KU students

On January 17, 2014, seven students from the University of Kansas (KU) spent the week participating in service learning at DYS. The experience was part of the students "Alternative Break Program" and included visits to the former Scioto JCF, Indian River JCF, Circleville JCF, and the Franklin Detention Center.

The students also had the opportunity to visit a few local schools and youth community programs in Columbus. They spent their days participating in a variety of trainings sessions, interacting with youth, shadowing staff, and sitting in on group discussions.

Our youth appreciated having positive peer role models to interact with and used the opportunity to ask questions about college life. The KU students were



KU students take to the court for a volleyball game with DYS youth

struck by the many ways that DYS serves youth.

KU students spent time at the Buckeye Reach, which is a group of student volunteers from

He thanked the staff who helped facilitate the group's visit: Clifford Smith (DYS Volunteer Coordinator), Gwendolyn Randle (Behavioral Health Administrator), Kerry Baker (Former Scioto JCF Program Administrator), Charlie Ford (Indian River JCF Deputy Superintendent of Programs), and Art James (Circleville JCF Deputy Superintendent of Programs).



Kerry Baker, Program Administrator speaking with KU students at the former Scioto JCF



Jaime Hay, KU student shared her experience with Facebook followers. Jaime wrote: : "Headed home from one of the most memorable experiences of my life thanks to the Ohio Department of Youth Services and the amazing Buckeye Reach program. I had the privilege to meet and interact with some of the most motivated staff members and kids in the DYS facilities. It was so inspiring to see just how much people care about youth, from those in elementary and middle schools to those who are in the corrections system. Buckeye Reach is doing great things for youth in Ohio, thank you for letting KU see a glimpse of what you do!"

Youth Activities: Education and Recreation Highlights

2014 Olympic Games

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Youth receives Olympic medal at Cuyahoga Hills JCF

Cuyahoga Hills JCF youth create medals awarded for olympic games



Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility held its first winter Olympic competition in the following events: ice hockey shots, luge, broom beanbag, curling, badminton, table ping-pong, and basketball shoot out. Additional activities included a reading competition, writing news articles on the Olympic challenges, and creating art work to portray Olympic symbols. The youth participating in the competitions were striving for the gold, silver, and bronze medals. Their eyes were also focused on Olympic day cookies designed and baked by Mrs. Alms' Healthy Living classes. Each unit's flag represented and featured their colors and unit slogans. The flags were hung around the Olympic stadium showing each units' support.

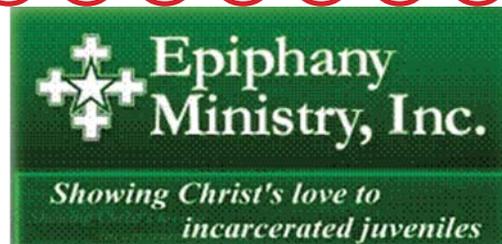
The day-long competitions were exciting and very well attended. The metals ceremony was very exciting as the drum roll occurred as the youth walked toward he medal podiums. The medals were presented to each winner by program deputy Mark Dobrzynski. The day of completion was an excellent example of Olympic pride! Thank you to the Education & Recreation Departments for all of their hard work.



Youth competing during Olympic Games at Cuyahoga Hills JCF



Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility



Epiphany Ministry holds reunion at Indian River JCF

Once a month, the Epiphany faith based volunteers go to Indian River JCF to reunite with youth who have participated in their three-day weekend event. The big three-day event occurs twice a year at the River, and the reunion occurs monthly. The purpose for the Epiphany program is to provide a safe place for youth to be able examine their lives. It's a program that offers not only unconditional love but also acceptance to help the youth to understand forgiveness to others, from others and for themselves. Epiphany is about encouraging positive change in each life they touch in hopes that a youth's life journey is forever changed and pointed in the right direction. The monthly reunion serves as a reminder and encouragement to the youth that God loves them.



Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

GREEN THUMB PROJECT



Teacher Keith Smith supervises the "Green Thumb Project"



Volunteer Todd Smith helps youth develop "Green Thumb"



Sister Mary Cabrini helps with Green Thumb Project

On April 24, 2014, Sister Mary Cabrini and Sister Michael Marie of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Clarksburg, Ohio began the Green Thumb project in CJCF. The Green Thumb Project uses donated seeds, soil and containers to produce food for needy families throughout southern Ohio.

CJCF science teacher Keith Smith supervises the Green Thumb Program. The youth sowed about 1600 seeds of cabbage, pepper, basil and onions. For the first time, the youth are getting their hands dirty, and they are excited about it. Stay tuned for further updates on the Green Thumb Project!

Cuyhaoga Hills JCF

YOUTH RECEIVE EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEWING SKILLS FROM CHRIST COMMUNITY CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS



Christ Community Chapel volunteers conduct mock job interviews at Cuyahoga Hills JCF

SUCCESS



Life Skills-Job Interviewing Classes held at Cuyahoga Hills JCF

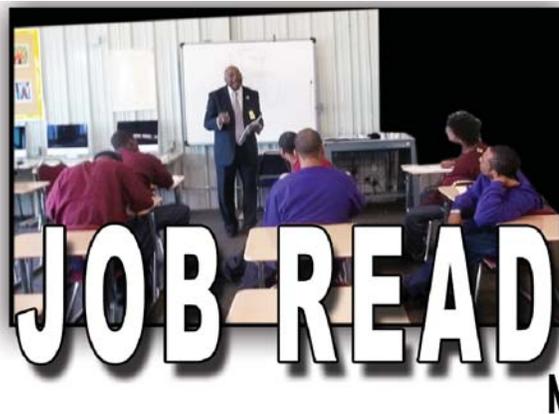
Christ Community Chapel is in the process of completing their fourth edition of the "Life Skills-Job Interviewing Class." This class was organized and taught by Frank Matasich. Mr. Matasich conducted the first edition in January 2013 with five youth over a six week period. The youth are taught interviewing skills, interviewing preparation, job readiness, and interpersonal skills. Each edition ends with one week of mock interviews, followed by a week of real interviews conducted by volunteers including business owners. The participants then receive feedback from the interviewers, followed by graduation and a diploma.

This program has now evolved into eight weeks of classes. The current edition is the largest yet with 10 participants. After the first edition of the program, Mr. Matasich identified the need for the youth to have interviewing clothes. As a result, Christ Community Church held a clothing drive and over 95 suits were donated with the intent for each graduate of the program to have the choice of a suit to leave Cuyahoga Hills JCF with upon their release. If that was not

enough, thanks to the generosity and support of Christ Community Chapel Mr. Matasich now can take each graduate on a shopping trip to Kohl's prior to his release. This provides the youth with both business casual and formal attire for job interviews. With the graduation on March 26th, a total of 23 youth will have completed this program since its inception.



Frank Matasich and youth discuss interviewing techniques prior to mock interview



Darrell Carson provides Circleville JCF youth with tools for success

JOB READINESS NETWORKING CLASS

Circleville JCF High School graduates have been attending a Job Readiness class on networking as a means of business enterprise on a weekly basis. Darrel Carson also emphasizes on the importance of setting goals and dreaming Big!

DYS Celebrates 2nd Annual Mentoring Recognition Event



AWARDS

MENTORING

Raymond Redd, VP/Mentor from Sunlight Village, Denise Becerra, Mentor Project Coordinator, John Dawson, VP Community for New Direction, Joshua Anderson, Mentor from Community for New Direction, Eric Stone, Mentor from Sunlight Villiage and Dr. Rudolfo Majia, Mentor, Sunlight Villiage, Dayton, Ohio

The Second Chance Mentoring program hosted its 2nd Annual Mentoring Recognition Event at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility on Saturday, March 29 from 10am – noon. The theme was Mentoring Works!



Kim Humphrey and Donald Bean presenting mentoring awards

Youth on parole and from facilities were present along with parents, mentors, and community organizations. Awards and certificates were presented to youth and mentors acknowledging successful mentoring relationships.

Josh Anderson, a mentor with Community For New Direction and former DYS volunteer, received a recognition award for the Mentoring Relationship of the Year for his work with youth. Their very close mentoring relationship resulted in Youth T successfully living independently in an apartment with his family and landing a job at Nationwide. Youth T shared his success story and the positive impact that the mentoring program had on his life. A former DYS youth shared his powerful success

story. He stated that even though he had made some mistakes in the past, he was able to overcome them and move forward with his life because of the impact that his mentor made in his life. His mentor, Raymond Redd from Sunlight Village, commented that he has benefited too from a mentor in his life and simply wanted to share out of his own experience. As a result of their mentoring relationship, his mentee is now enrolled in Sinclair Community College majoring in Social Work. He wants to help youth give back to the community.



John Dawson speaks to attendees during event

The former DYS youth's mother, Denise, was present to support him. She shared how grateful she was to have a positive African American male mentor in her son's life. She said, "As a single African American female, I can only do so much with my son. I can't teach him how to be a man because I'm not a man. I was extremely happy to have Mr. Redd working with him. There are things

that he can talk to Mr. Redd about confidentially, that he can't talk to me about."

A new mentor, Dr Rodolfo Mejia, talked to the youth and shared how he had been in a youth facility when he was a youth in South America. He shared how terrible he was as a student and how a mentor helped redirect his life. Through these interventions with his mentor, hard work and perseverance, he was able to graduate, attend to college, and is now a successful chiropractor. He encouraged the youth present that they can succeed if they are willing to work hard at overcoming their mistakes.

Other awards given included:

Longest Mentoring Relationship: Awarded to Derrick Russell of Community For New Direction and Youth G.

Most Creative Mentoring Relationship: Awarded to Derrick Russell of Community For New Direction and Youth T.

Largest Helping Hands: Awarded to Youth K for volunteering as a assistant coach with a little league football team.

Community Partnership Award: Awarded to Community For New Direction for their partnership with the APPS Program (Application for Purpose Pride) and leveraging it for services with DYS youth.



Project MORE began February 3 at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility. As noted on the Project MORE website: "Project MORE, Mentoring in Ohio for Reading Excellence, is a scientifically-based reading research, volunteer reading mentoring project for students with disabilities that has demonstrated statistically significant reading results since 1999. Independent research findings consistently report students with specific learning disabilities make month-for-month reading level gains when they are 1:1 reading mentored four times/week for 30 minutes."

just the first four weeks. Teachers of the some of the mentees have reported that they have heard improvement when the students read aloud in class. Teachers have also passed on the positive comments they hear from students about the



Project MORE tutoring session



Project MORE tutoring session

help they're receiving. As word of the program has spread, some youth have begun asking the guidance counselor how they can participate in the mentoring program. We hope to have more mentors in the near future so we can help even more youth with their reading skills.



Project MORE tutoring session



Mary Latore
Project MORE coordinator,
Circleville JCF

Twelve mentors currently tutor six youth for 30 minutes each day, Monday through Thursday. So far, the young men and the mentors are finding the program very rewarding. Mentors are excited to see the progress youth have made in

Ohio Christian University Basketball Team Hits the Court at Circleville JCF



Tony Stockman brings his Ohio Christian University Trailblazers team to Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

Tony Stockman, former OSU basketball player, came to Circleville JCF with his team. Our boys were up to the challenge, and it was a narrow win for the OCU (Ohio Christian University) team. OCU has been coming regularly to play basketball with Circleville youth. Head Coach Tony Stockman enjoyed a memorable inaugural season as he led the Trailblazers to the very first NCCAA National Championship in school history during his first year as coach.

The Trailblazers went 27-8 overall and 22-0 against NCCAA Division II competition on their way to the national title. Stockman is a product of Medina, Ohio and is no stranger to basketball in the Buckeye state. Stockman was named Mr. Basketball Ohio in 2000 after averaging 25.5 points per game and becoming the all-time leading scorer at Medina High School where he led his team to a 58-9 record in three seasons.

He then signed with Clemson University where he proved to be the top freshman in the ACC with a scoring average of 12 in his first season. In his second season at Clemson he was the leading sophomore scorer in ACC play with an average of 14.1 points per game in conference games.

Stockman became an Ohio State Buckeye following the 2001-02 season when he transferred from Clemson University. After sitting out a year due to NCAA transfer rules, he averaged 13.6 points per game to lead Ohio State in scoring as a junior. As a senior, he led Ohio State to a 20-12 record under new head coach Thad Matta.

“Tony is a leader in every sense of the word,” said Ohio State Coach Thad Matta. “He was a floor general for us and was the closest thing you could get to a coach on the floor.”

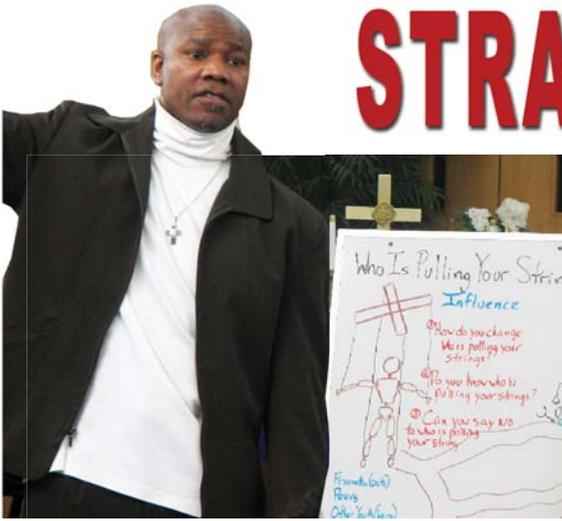


Stockman comes to OCU with strong ties to both Thad Matta at Ohio State University and John Groce at Ohio University. Both coaches have served as mentors to Coach Stockman for the past nine years and will continue in that relationship in his new role at OCU.

“I want to help young men grow on and off the court as they become future leaders in our community,” said Stockman. “Ohio Christian University is a great place to grow and develop both spiritually and as a young professional. If you are a young person looking for that kind of opportunity, then OCU is the place to be.” Stockman and his wife have three sons - Tayden, Maddox, and Braysen.

The OCU Basketball Team has had several games with the youth at Circleville and look forward to many more.

STRAIGHT TALK!



Message of Life and encouragement with youth at Cuyahoga Hills JCF

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility received a visit from Patrick Watkins, "Straight Talk" motivational speaker. Mr. Watkins shared his message with parents and youth during worship services at Restoration Chapel. He discussed difficult topics in order to provide guidance, direction and understanding. His program "Straight Talk" helps to develop better lines of communication between the youth and their parents/guardians. Youth and guest were engaged in conversation and open dialog with Mr. Watkins during the event.



LADIES OF LEISURE say good-bye to Scioto girls

St. John's AME Church Ladies of Leisure" say good-bye to Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

Ladies of Leisure began nine years ago when an effort was being made to increase women of color volunteers at the former Scioto JCF. The ministry is from St. John's AME Church in Worthington, Oh. It began with three women: Wyntra Brown, Patricia Williams and Geneva Colsto. The program grew to a ministry of 20 plus volunteers who attended the second

Monday of each month. Often these ladies would have scheduling conflicts with their dates, but they came anyway. They offered activities of encouragement, crafts and storytelling. Youth provided community service activities at the church such as feeding the needy, helping in the food pantry and assisting with volunteer training.

Kerry Baker set to retire: Gives farewell message to Scioto Volunteers



Throughout the many changes at the Scioto JCF; volunteers were the one consistency and dedicated to the youth at SJCF. Because of you, I have a lifetime of memories. The most important memories are the ones you have instilled in the lives of our youth. The portion of my job responsibilities that related to Volunteer Services has been success on paper and praise in my heart. I cannot count all the programs that have taken place on these grounds. With the closing of the facility, I find myself preparing for my retirement from the Department of Youth Services. I am going through the last 15 years of flyers, emails, crafts, letters etc., and my heart is full. Did I get everything right in serving you? No, I am sure I didn't, but please blame it on my mind and not my heart. I want to tell you one more time that you were appreciated. As I walk the grounds that now have geese instead of youth, my heart is saddened, but it has been a good ride. May God continue to bless each and every one of you. Perhaps, we will serve as volunteers at the same place sometime ☺

Sincerely, Kerry Baker, Program Administrator

THE FACE OF FORGIVENESS

A Memoir



Circleville JCF Youth Hear First-hand About Forgiveness From Rev. Johannes Christian

The Rev. Dr. Johannes Christian on a drive back home to Columbus on Interstate 70, had a teenager throw a grapefruit-sized rock off an overpass, near Springfield. The rock smashed through Christian's windshield and right into his face. His foster son -- one of more than 60 that the pastor and his family have taken in since 1972 -- grabbed the wheel and called 9-1-1. The rock broke every bone in Christian's face, leaving him blind and disfigured. The teen, Jacob McNary, pleaded guilty to attempted murder and received a 12-year sentence. Christian, the founding pastor of the Adoration and Peace Baptist Church in Columbus, then did something amazing: he met with McNary and forgave him.

Dr. Christian shared his testimony of the tragic day that changed his life forever. The youth asked



several questions and wanted the speaker to come back for group sessions on anger and anti-bullying. The superintendent, Mr. Goodman, was present and has ordered "Face of Forgiveness" and "The Power that is in You-Anti-Bullying Affirmations" books by Dr. Christian.

PASTOR MCBRIDE

Special Guest Shawn McBride visits Cuyahoga Hills JCF



January brought with it a special guest from Washington DC: Pastor Shawn McBride. He is an ordained minister of the Gospel who travels across the United States speaking to students, training adult youth leaders, and encouraging parents.

Pastor McBride shared with youth a message on LIFE, encouraging the youth at Cuyahoga Hills JCF to listen to what's right, to have integrity, to select your friends carefully, and to endure the difficulties and challenges that come your way without losing heart. The youth took to his passionate and heartfelt message and were further encouraged to write down their goals.

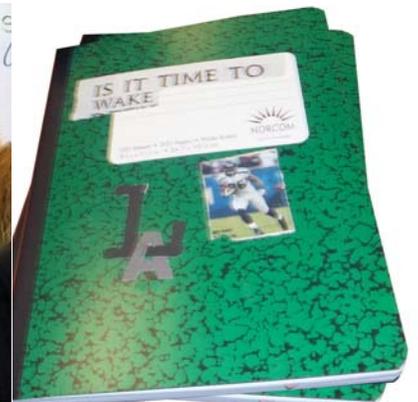
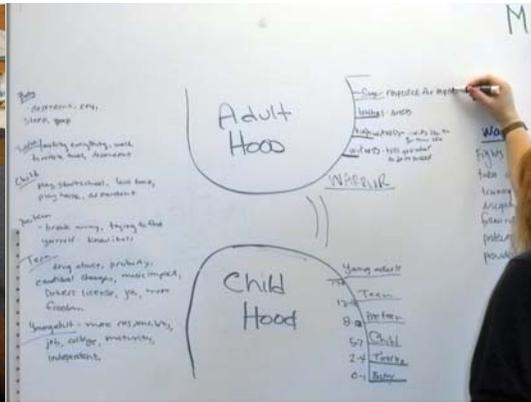


RIDGE | The Ridge Project

Circleville JCF

Building a Legacy of Strong Families

The Ridge Project is a Christian non-profit organization, founded in 2000 and dedicated to serving the youth and families of Ohio. The Ridge project's youth program provides positive character development, traditional values and life skills education through our Rites of Passage programs in Ohio's schools and detention centers.

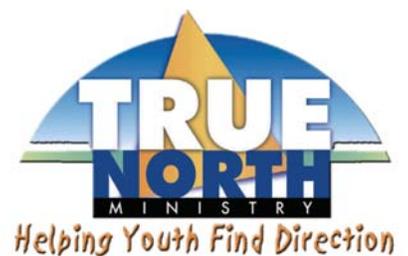


The purpose of the Ridge Project is to help participants develop a vision. What type of car do they want? What type of house do they want? Do they want a family? What kind of job will they have? But most importantly, what kind of lifestyle will they live? These are all critical questions that participants should explore as often as possible. The Ridge Project assisted the youth at Circleville JCF to develop a vision for themselves through activities. The program lasted about five hours.

True North Ministry help help youth prepare for life after incarceration at Indian River JCF

True North Ministries provides faith based and non-faith based programs. The career readiness program is one of its non-faith based programs that meet weekly at Indian River JCF. The program consists of a 15-week curriculum including job skills, interviewing, role playing, how to dress, and preparation.

True North also brings in special guests from all walks of life to motivate and encourage the youth. True North has even connected with youth who have been released and helped them find employment. The overall goal is to build up and encourage youth in hopes of reducing recidivism. Thank you, True North Ministrys!



True North Volunteers conduct workshops with youth

Why We Volunteer

We started doing behind-the-scenes work when former social worker Mike Dennis got our small group, C.A.T.S., (from Crossroads Church in Circleville) involved in sending cards & holiday gifts. For many years, we were "adopt-a-unit" sponsors. We sent birthday, Christmas, & other cards and often sent notes of encouragement. We had pizza parties, a pumpkin toss, played water softball, had card or game parties and other activities, held weekly bible studies, and did one-on-one biblical problem solving. Chaplain Benton & I were featured at a chapel service at Ohio Christian University to promote volunteerism along with a better understanding of Circleville JCF. We both serve on the youth engagement team.

We have attended TEAM meetings, unit meetings, and graduations as requested, and worked with the Epiphany state committee to get Epiphany started here. Peg served as a lay director for the last Epiphany weekend and has been on team for all the other weekends. Bob is also involved in Epiphany.

We have tutored in the school, tutor on units, and participated in Project More. Bob plays chess & donates chess pieces, does GED & OGT tutoring & career counseling. We have a room in our basement where we keep gently used or new clothes, shoes, & backpacks for youth. We've even sponsored prayer vigils for the facility.

We used a connection at OCU when Chaplain Littler wanted to expand the religious section in the library. We have encouraged friends to volunteer.

Bob & Peg Warren
Circleville JCF Volunteers



To read more "Why I Volunteer" letters, see the special DYS Volunteer Appreciation supplement following this news brief.

Bob & Peg Warren
Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility