



Department of
Youth Services

**Message from DYS Director Harvey Reed
Programming Summit Dedicated to Changing Youths' Lives**

August 26, 2016



Nearly 50 recreation, religious services, maintenance, parole, security, behavioral health, and other staff turned out for the DYS Programming Summit, held at [Malabar Farm State Park](#) on August 24. The theme of the Summit was “Changing Lives One Activity at a Time,” and the day was geared to foster interdisciplinary collaboration and encourage meaningful activities for youth.

Assistant Director Linda Janes helped kick off the event by encouraging staff to provide *intentional* activities for youth. “Consider the skills and lessons youth need,” she encouraged. “Use recreation intentionally to meet those needs.”

“You spend a lot of time with these kids,” said Deputy Director Ginine Trim. “With intention, we can’t help but get the results that we want.”

At age 13, keynote speaker Chris Downing was adopted after experiencing hard times and loss. He changed his life through faith, positivity, and envisioning success. As owner of [D24 Sports](#), Chris trains elite athletes with passion to empower them to realize

and achieve their full potential. His message to staff was to heal their own struggles. “If my stuff and a youth’s stuff collides, we’re going to have a problem,” he said. “Keep your mind, body, and soul focused.”

Teams from each facility presented on the innovative programming they are using to engage youth. Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) shared on how the Core Attack program is helping youth behave better at school. In the following [video](#), Daniel Grimsley, Kenneth McCall, Chavez Williams, and Rory Jackson demonstrate, while Chaplain Torrey Kershaw explains, how activities help youth learn about building trust, getting along, and valuing relationships.



The event also included breakout sessions on team building, realizing goals, and youth employment. Three youth from Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility assisted with lunch and activity demonstrations.

General Activities Therapist Dominic Wilson will retire soon from Indian River Juvenile Correctional Facility. Honored at the Summit, he encouraged colleagues to “give youth hope that tomorrow can be better than today.”



From left to right: Deputy Director Trim, Dominic Wilson, Donald Bean, Assistant Director Janes, and Shannon Komisarek

Special thanks to the planning team: Jesse Augenstein, Donald Bean, Erin Bell, Joe Dunlap, Melvin Gonzalez, Daniel Grimsley, Scharron Kane, Torrey Kershaw, Christine Kohler, Cornelius Lawrence, Keith Neal, Scott Sooy, Mark Stevenhagen, Sean Tuggle, and Dominic Wilson.