

YSD SCOOP!

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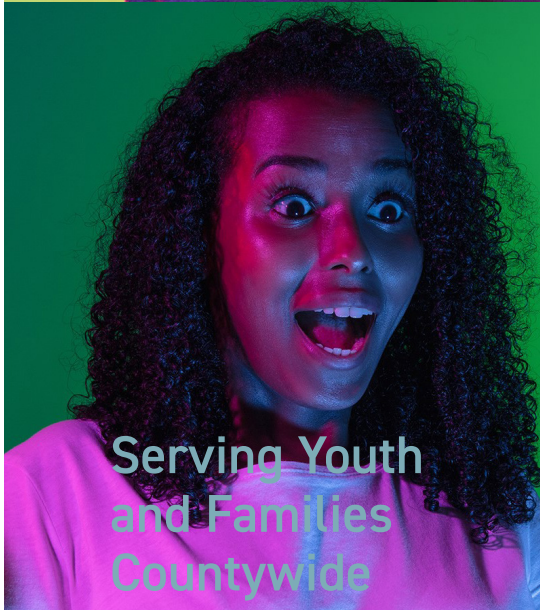
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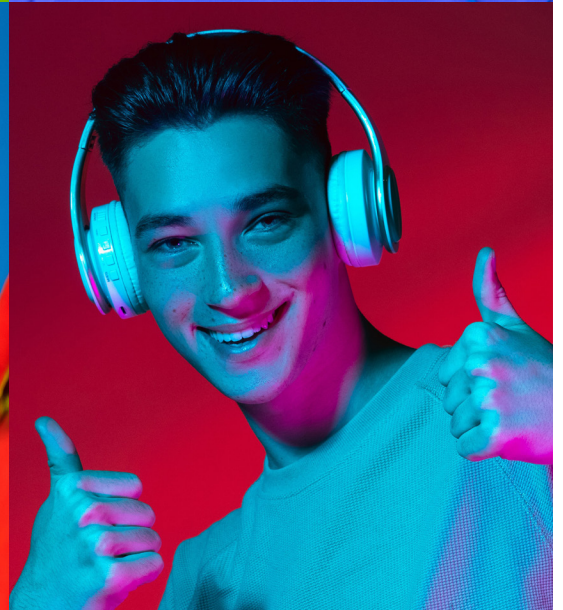
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Serving Youth
and Families
Countywide



ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON CULTURE OF HEALTH PRIZE



Palm Beach County was named a winner of the 2020-2021 Culture of Health Prize awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The RWJF Culture of Health Prize honors and elevates communities for working at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity, and equity.

Palm Beach County was nationally recognized for pursuing innovative ideas and bringing partners together to rally around a shared vision of health. Palm Beach County's award-winning efforts recognized for building a culture of health include:

- Expanding equitable access to behavioral health.
- Focusing on youth and being accountable for their success.
- Elevating of resident leadership.

Palm Health Foundation, Children's Services Council (CSC) of Palm Beach County and the Palm Beach County Youth Services

Department collaborated on the application process for the prize that shared the county's collective commitment to the social determinants of health, including Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures, an alliance of over 300 organizations supporting the healthy growth, development and education for children prenatally through young adulthood. Palm Beach County joined a network of Prize-winning communities, and have its inspiring accomplishments shared throughout the nation.

To become an RWJF Culture of Health Prize winner, Palm Beach County had to demonstrate how it excelled in the following six criteria:

- Defining health in the broadest possible terms.



- Committing to sustainable systems changes and policy-oriented long-term solutions.
- Creating conditions that give everyone a fair and just opportunity to reach their best possible health.
- Maximizing the collective power of leaders, partners, and community members.
- Securing and making the most of available resources.
- Measuring and sharing progress and results.

The Foundation honored this year's winners during a virtual celebration on November 9, 2021. Tammy Fields accepted the award on behalf of Palm Beach County during the event.



ENHANCED MENTORING PROJECT

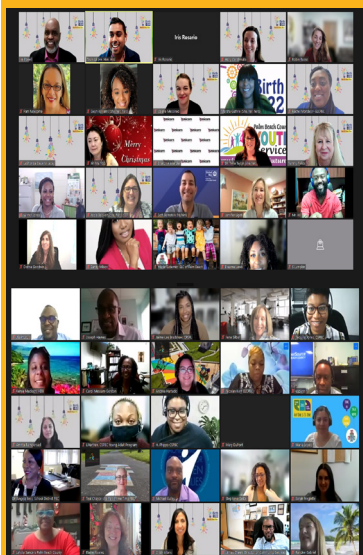
The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners and the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County recently contracted with the United Way of Palm Beach County, Inc. to pilot an Enhanced Mentoring Engagement Program. The Level Up Program will support youth directly involved with or at risk of entering the juvenile justice and/or dependency system in low-income communities in priority geographic locations. For more information on mentoring, go to <https://unitedwaypbc.org/mentor/>.



BIRTH TO 22 HOSTS SIXTH ANNUAL TASK FORCE MEETING



Reimagine & Create Pathways to Success



On December 14, Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures hosted its sixth annual stakeholder task force meeting virtually titled *Reimagine & Create Pathways to Success*. The annual meeting serves to inform, engage and plan with the key champions, coalitions, and young people about the work of Birth to 22: United for Brighter Futures. Over 170 individuals participated in the annual meeting.

Geeta Loach Jacobson, Youth Services Director of Community Outreach and Programming, kicked off the task force with welcoming remarks and reminded participants of the purpose of Birth to 22. The meeting transitioned to having participants pause with a Mindful Moment facilitated by Knellee Bisram from Prime Time Palm Beach County.

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department Director and Lisa Williams-Taylor, CEO of the Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County presented an overview of accomplishments, including Palm Beach County being named a national winner of the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation Culture of Health Prize. Birth to 22 was noted as a major highlight of why Palm Beach County was named a recipient of this honor. Breakout sessions were held for participants to learn more about the various Birth to 22 action teams and to set forth proposed 2022 action team priorities.

Topics presented and the priorities set included:

- Achieve Success In Higher Education:** Finalize transition to Palm Beach State College; Reignite workgroups.
- Access to Health and Wellness:** Compile a resource guide to identify insurance assistance and safe spaces for youth in PBC.
- Becoming a Trauma Sensitive Community:** Increase participation in Get Your Green On; Expand reach to law enforcement, first responders and non-English speaking community members.
- Economic Access:** Increasing agency participation in the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) process.
- Engagement Team:** Host Community Conversations: strengthen and expand Communication Subcommittee; develop central-

ized data platform.

- Education to Employment Pathways for Disconnected Youth:** Identify and align databases to access resources.
- Ensuring Safety & Justice:** Implementation of Enhanced Mentoring Initiative in PBC.
- Future Leaders:** Develop and implement outreach strategies to connect with youth and sustain youth engagement.
- Girls Coordinating Council (GCC):** Strengthening GCC Network and completing second network analysis survey.
- Racial Equity:** Continue supporting Advancing the Mission's Learning Cohorts to implement proven practices and replicate success, changing the norm of what is expected and possible to advance racial equity in Palm Beach County.
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL):** Build SEL capacity among youth serving organizations, youth leaders and families.
- Strengthening Quality Out of School Time (OST):** Reactivating the OST team; Redefining the team's objectives and moving toward implementation.

YSD STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE



YSD's very own Natalie Macon was recognized at the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners meeting on December 7th, 2021, for her 40+ years of service to Palm Beach County.

The Youth Services team is incredibly proud of Natalie's remarkable milestone accomplishment.

The Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners also recognized ten Youth Services Department employees for their years of service with Palm Beach County. Go team YSD!

40 Years - Natalie Macon

25 Years - Michelle Liska

25 Years - Lenworth Parkes

15 Years - Tamika Kramer

15 Years - Paul Madeus

10 Years - LaShonda Lacey-Stevens

5 Years - Stephanie Jones

5 Years - Filise Jules

5 Years - Geeta Loach-Jacobson

5 Years - Amanda Terrell



2021 TEAM PBC GOLDEN PALM AWARDS

YSD's very own Geeta Loach Jacobson, Director of Outreach & Community Programming, and Filise Jules, Licensed Therapist, for each being presented with a Golden Palm Award at the 2021 Team PBC Golden Palm Awards!

Geeta was presented with the 'Transforming Outreach & Community Programming' Golden Palm for her out-of-the-box thinking that has led to the development of several databases that increase program efficiency. Geeta is always looking for ways to move the mission of the Youth Services Department (YSD) forward. This is truly evident in her work with Birth to 22, and

with the YSD Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, cross-divisional team.

Filise was presented with the 'Above and Beyond' Golden Palm for her efforts to make sure the Youth and Family Counseling (YFC) program materials are accessible in Creole. Filise is also a driving force in providing translational services, including proofreading, revision/edits, and rushed translations, serving countless community members while being an asset to YSD's Residential Treatment and Family Counseling (RTFC) Division. These extra efforts further YSD's commitment to equity.



SANCTUARY UPDATE

The Cross-Divisional Sanctuary Core Team continues to provide information to YSD staff monthly via email to help staff become more familiar with key concepts related to Sanctuary.

November’s focus was on the Commitment to Emotional Intelligence, which is:

- Self-Awareness – awareness of one’s own feelings, and an understanding of how those feelings can impact others.
- Self-Regulation – managing one’s own emotions and predicting their effects before acting on them.
- Empathy – sensing and understanding the emotions of others.
- Self-Motivation – preserving through obstacles, with a growth mindset.
- Relationships – managing relationships, inspiring others, and eliciting favorable responses from them.

December’s focus was on the last one, the Commitment to Open Communication, which is:

- Communicating even when it is uncomfortable or uneasy.
- Being empowered to share thoughts without any fear of repercussions.
- Is not just one person communicating.
- Readily sharing information between people in a transparent, honest, consistent, and dependable way.

Sanctuary Theme: Emotional Intelligence

Emotional Intelligence means the ability to accurately notice, consider and express emotions.

Emotional Intelligence

To be emotionally intelligent requires the ability to:

- **Identify** a wide variety of emotional states and the thoughts that go along with them
- **Express** our feelings in words
- **Understand** complex feelings in ourselves and in others

Sanctuary Theme: Open Communication

Open communication means practicing healthy boundaries and using nonviolent, safe communication with peers, staff and family. Say what you mean, just don’t be mean when you say it.

Path for Good Communication

Improving Communication and Resolving Conflict Sanctuary Training

On October 25, 2021, and November 8, 2021, the Youth Services Department core team, steering committee, and training team participated virtually in the Sanctuary Institute’s Improving Communication, and Resolving Conflict facilitated training Year Two. The Department’s consultant, Aaron James, led the group through community meetings review of sanctuary complex concepts and breakout group discussions throughout the two half days.



Aligning Supervision and Coaching Sanctuary Training

On December 2, 2021, Youth Services Department supervisors participated in the Sanctuary Institute’s Aligning Supervision and Coaching: Year Two workshop. The Department’s consultant, Aaron James, led the group through various activities that illustrated the seven commitments, reenactment, and parallel process. Additionally, several scenarios and group discussions targeted common dilemmas that supervisors commonly encounter. The Department will be seeking certification from the Sanctuary model, and Highridge Family Center hopes to obtain recertification in 2022.

SPOOKY SEASON

The Youth Services Team all dressed up for Spooky Season!

Thank you Seeds of Success Cross Divisional Team for coordinating fun activities.



TRIM A TREE

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Department staff came together to spread some cheer and decorate the office tree. Director Tammy Fields gave a toast to staff, thanking them for their hard work and service throughout 2021.



YOUTH SERVICES HOLIDAY SMILES

The Palm Beach County Youth Services Divisions and programs brought their holiday game and smiles to the many offices this past holiday season. Best wishes in 2022 to all.





CBA Q&A: PACE CENTER FOR GIRLS

Q What is your mission?

A The mission of Pace Center for Girls is to provide girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy.

Q What does your organization do?

A Established in 1985, Pace Center for Girls, Inc. (Pace) has been the sole provider for gender-responsive prevention/intervention and diversion of non-residential services to girls throughout Florida. Pace has a highly effective system of care specifically designed to meet the needs of girls and young women and a statewide advocacy network focused on improving the public systems and policies that impact them. With 21 Florida centers, Pace's core program consists of four key components—academics, counseling and case management, life skills education, and career/vocational programming. Pace provides a significant alternative to the delinquency and dependency systems for girls by having helped more than 40,000 adolescent girls with high-risk behaviors find pathways to success at home, in school, and in their communities.

Q What key programs does your organization offer?

A **Academic Education and Advisement (Day Program):** Each girl participates in an individualized educational program that provides core academic subjects for middle or high school. Classes are small, content is focused on credit and grade recovery, and each girl is provided resources to advance grade levels, prepare for the transition back to her home school, or obtain a GED or High School diploma.

Individual and Group Counseling (Day Program): Pace provides individual and group counseling to each girl for crisis management, behavioral health, and coping skill development to manage victimization or abuse.

Comprehensive Case Management (Day and Reach Programs): Using ongoing assessments of each girl's strengths and challenges in each of her six developmental domains (Relational, Emotional, Physical, Intellectual, Sexual and Spiritual), the staff develops a care plan with individualized goals, which are monitored regularly and updated. Staff facilitates access to resources identified as necessary for the girl's success, such as treatment and counseling for substance abuse through partnerships with community resources, not-for-profits, and government agencies.

Parental Engagement (Day and Reach Programs): Staff maintains

regular contact with parents or guardians through monthly home visits, office sessions, and telephone contacts.

Career Planning and Exploration (Day and Reach Programs): Pace provides job skills assessment, instruction to build school-to-work readiness skills, and assistance with exploring careers.

Transition Services (Day Program): Pace provides one year of follow-up services after program completion to support girls in successfully returning to their home school, going on to higher education or vocational training, or obtaining employment.

Pace Reach Therapeutic Counseling (Reach Program): Individual and group therapeutic counseling services, family intervention, and support and case management services for girls and their families in the community and those attending the Day Program ages 8-18; Service-Learning (community service); Girls Circle and Parent-Daughter Groups; and Family Enrichment Nights.

Healthy Youth Transitions (Reach Life Coach Program): A community-based Life Coach service for girls ages 14-22. The program is designed to support services to girls preparing for graduation and transition to adulthood.

CBA Q&A CONTINUED



Q How does your agency benefit the community?

A Pace provides an effective alternative to girls' delinquency and dependency systems by having helped more than 40,000 adolescent girls statewide with high-risk behaviors find pathways to success at home, in school, and in their communities. Through the community collaboration of the Girls Coordinating Council (GCC) of Palm Beach County, Pace Palm Beach has joined over 25 organizations and providers to review data indicators for girls in the county. Pace Center for Girls Reach Program has also attended community-based networking meetings and organizational meetings to educate on the unique service needs of girls. Pace Palm Beach is continuing to develop partnerships with a community organization to generate referrals, linkages, and resources for the betterment of the girls in Palm Beach County. Community networks and organizations include but are not limited to: Palm Beach County Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Birth to 22 Alliance, the Office of Congresswoman Lois Frankel, Jewish Women's

Foundation, Vita Nova, Career Source, Caridad Center, BAYS, Palm Beach County School District, National Alliance for Mental Illness, and the Human Trafficking Coalition of the Palm Beaches. Pace Center for Girls Palm Beach also has a Master's level internship program in partnership with Florida Atlantic University, Palm Beach Atlantic University, and Keiser University to develop upcoming behavioral health professionals.

Q What is your agency's focus for 2022?

A Recently, the U.S. Surgeon General released a public health advisory that details an emerging mental health crisis amongst our country's young people. This is a rare move from our government's health leaders and a clear indicator that we cannot ignore the pandemic's impact on our youth. By the national numbers, 25% of youth are experiencing depressive symptoms, and 20% are experiencing anxiety symptoms. Disturbingly, suicide attempts for adolescent girls were 51% higher in early 2021 when compared to 2019. Pace Palm Beach see's firsthand the impact pandemic-related challenges have on girls. That's why now more

than ever, PACE is committed to supporting girls and young women with a trauma-informed approach to education, counseling, training, and advocacy. In 2021, Pace Palm Beach is committed to serving more girls and expanding the collaborative partnerships in our community in order to do so.

Q How do the funds received from Palm Beach County enhance the services your agency provides?

A The funds from Palm Beach County support the Healthy Youth Transitions (HYT) program at Pace Center for Girls. This programming allows Pace to provide a comprehensive quality of care to girls as they prepare for and develop into young adulthood by providing services to girls and young women up to age 22, in alignment with Palm Beach County's Birth to 22 Alliance. The HYT program prepares girls and young women for adulthood's daily responsibilities and independence and fosters the development of their educational and career pathways.

Q What is the Pace Center for Girls Central Website?

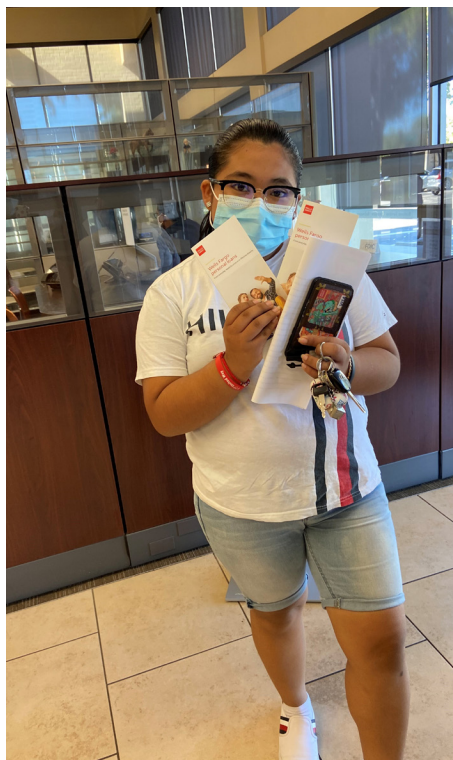
A www.pacecenter.org

CBA Q&A: YOUTH SUCCESS STORY

Anguelica was PACE's first enrollee in the Healthy Youth Transition (HYT) program. She remains in the program, currently making steady progress on her life coach goals. She was referred to HYT needing assistance in developing her daily life skills and enhancing education to employment pathways. Prior to enrolling in the HYT program, Anguelica was making impulsive decisions without full knowledge or information on the implications of those decisions. She applied to a vocational school that was not accredited and needed assistance from Pace staff to unenroll. She also applied for multiple credit cards, and her applications were denied. Anguelica was also unfortunately unaware of how this adversely impacts her credit

standing. A personal goal of hers was to enlist in the army, but she was unaware of the process. After enrolling in the HYT program, Anguelica met with a Life Coach weekly to complete initial assessments and discuss her goals. Her identified goals included increasing daily living skills such as healthy eating, money management and advancing her career employability skills. Since being in the program, she has learned healthy eating habits, meal preparation skills, and financial strategies regarding grocery shopping. Also while in the HYT program, Anguelica learned the importance of using a budget and has created her own budgeting system. She has implemented these skills

on her shopping trips with her mother. In regards to career and college exploration, Anguelica has made improvements. For example, she has met with an Army recruiter to discuss the requirements needed to enlist and the benefits of joining. She has also improved in her pursuit of improving self-advocacy and interpersonal communication, as evidenced by speaking up for herself at work, home, social settings, and with her landlord. Anguelica has exhibited the Pace Value and Guiding Principle of Embracing Growth and Change as she continues to make progress in the HYT program.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BRIDGET WILLIAMS



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we’re featuring Bridget Williams. Bridget works as a Procurement Specialist with the Finance, Contracting, and Administration Services Division of Youth Services.

In her role, Bridget procures supplies, equipment, and/or services for our different divisions of YSD. She also monitors and tracks all of YSD’s assets.

Q Where is your hometown?

A Cleveland, Ohio

Q What was your first job?

Washing dishes at the neighborhood restaurant and a camp counselor at age 14.

Q What are the three most important skills you need for your job?

A Effective communication, positive attitude and excellent shopping skills.

Q What is your favorite thing about your job at YSD?

A Being able to be a part of a team that gives so much back to the youth of our community. The youth are such an important part of the future and it is an amazing feeling to be part of something that provides services/support to help them succeed.

Q Is there a memorable moment that you would like to share in relation to your work here, at YSD?

A My most memorable moment was winning the 'Empowering Our OST Community Award' alongside Michelle Liska and Aaron Maharaj for our efforts in the procurement and distribution of school supplies for afterschool single use programs during COVID.

Q What hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

A Going to the beach as much as I possibly can! Art, photography and thrifting.

Q What is the most important lesson you’ve learned in the last year?

A Hold on and enjoy your loved ones in every way you can.

Q Where would you like to go on a dream vacation?

A Jamaica and Ireland

Q What is your favorite quote?

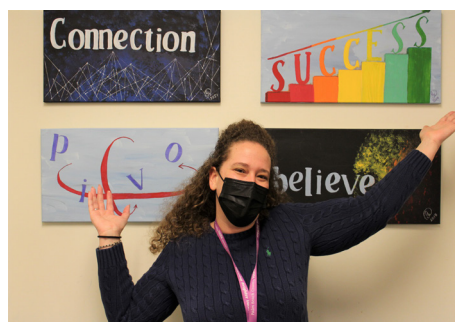
A “Everything will be ok in the end. If it’s not okay, it’s not the end.”
– John Lennon

Q Who or what inspires you?

A My parents and my children.

Q Is there something about you that your fellow coworkers would be surprised to know?

A I have two babies, one big (14) and one small (3).



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER



MANUEL SIGNO

Congratulations to Highridge Family Center Licensed Therapist, Mr. Manuel Signo, who was named YSD Employee of the Quarter for his exemplary teamwork and dedication to serving youth and families.

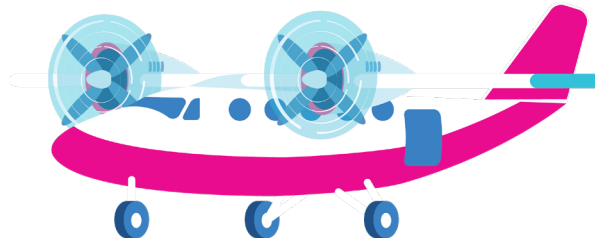
Manuel was specifically recognized for his dedication to the community during staffing shortages, as shown by taking on additional Spanish-speaking families on several occasions.

Thank you, Manny, for all you do!

WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES



Amrita Rampersad
Program Coordinator
OCP



Hector Vargas
Financial Analyst III
FCA



Humberto Sigler
Student Clerical Intern
OCP



Joseph Balesano
Student Tech Intern
Administration

RETIREMENT PRESENTATIONS



Pat Adams
30 Years of Service



Donna Elliott
22 Years of Service



Loyal

Irreplaceable

Genuine

Spiritual

Sweet

Volunteer

Approachable

Reliable

Easy-Going

Humorous

Loving

Influencer

*In Memoriam
Clara Hessing*

Jovial

Kind

Lively

Activist

Vibrant

Beloved

Gratitude

Beautiful

Selfless

Authentic

Warmhearted

Nourishing

Dedicated

Grounded

Compassionate

Steadfast

Heart for the Community



REMEMBERING CLARA



"Show respect even to people who don't deserve it; not as a reflection of their character, but as a reflection of yours."
 -Clara Hessing

In celebrating the life of Clara Hessing, she is remembered and celebrated as having a heart for service and was beloved by her family, community, and colleagues. Clara served the Youth Services Department as part of the Youth & Family Counseling team as a Therapist. She served Palm Beach County for 34 years.

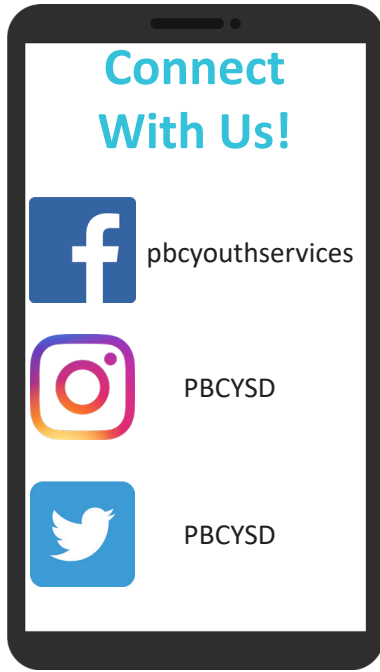


Many remember her as a bright light. Clara's hometown is Belle Glade. Her interests outside of work included joining her sorority sisters of Delta Sigma Theta in mentoring males in the youth initiative program called Empowering Males to Build Opportunity for Developing Independence (EMBODI), where she served as the chairperson. Clara credited her Grandmothers in Belle Glade, Pa-

hokee, and South Bay areas as her inspirations. She looked up to them as they raised their children on hard work and prayer - and due to age and disabilities, raised their grandchildren on prayer and more prayer. Clara was also the first girl to receive the Athlete of the Year trophy at Glades

Central High School in 1978, awarded to male athletes in previous years. Clara's light and example are followed by many, she was truly a special lady.





Youth Services Department Director
Tammy K. Fields

Director of Finance, Contracting and Administrative Services
Michelle Liska

Director of Outreach and Community Programming
Geeta Loach-Jacobson

Director of Residential Treatment and Family Counseling
Dr. Twila Taylor

Editor-in-Chief & Designer
Tevin Ali



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Maria G. Marino, Dave Kerner, Maria Sachs,
Melissa McKinlay, Mack Bernard

www.pbcgov.com/youthservices