

YSD SCOOP!

IN

THIS
ISSUE

*United Way Campaign
Pumpkin Decorating*

Youth Services held its 2022 Pumpkin Decorating Contest, benefiting United Way of Palm Beach County. p.2-3

*Special Needs Shelter
Activation*

Youth Services Department coordinated efforts at the Special Needs Shelter (SPNS) in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Nicole. p.4

*CBA Spotlight:
Vita Nova*

As the voice of homeless young adults, Vita Nova works to eliminate homelessness for youth ages 18 to 25 in Palm Beach County. p.11-12



YOUTH SERVICES HOSTS 2022 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN ‘PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST’



United Way of Palm Beach County

Youth Services held its 2022 Pumpkin Decorating Contest, benefiting United Way of Palm Beach County, on October 31, 2022. The Public Relations team, Tevin Ali, Public Relations Specialist, and Frederick DuBois, Student Tech, led the efforts in organizing the event.

- o **3rd Place** – Facilities Department “Criminal Justice Complex” Pumpkin
- o **4th Place** – Youth Services Highridge Family Center “Scary Teeth” Pumpkin
- o **5th Place** – Youth Services Finance, Contracting, and Administrative Services (FCA) Division “Popcorn Pumpkin”
- o **Honorable Mention** – Youth Services Education and Training Center “Hocus Pocus” Pumpkin
- o **Honorable Mention** – Youth Services, Tania Shindo, Program Evaluator, “Cheshire Cat” Pumpkin

The judges for the contest were:

- o **Richard Sena**, Palm Beach County Assistant County Attorney
- o **Seth Bernstein**, Executive Vice President of Community Investments of United Way of Palm Beach County,
- o **Deborah Drum**, Director of PBC Environmental Resources Management

The winning pumpkins were as follows:

- o **1st Place (tie)** – Office of Financial Management & Budget (OFMB) “Ice Cream Sundae” Pumpkin
- o **1st Place (tie)** – Environmental Resources Department ‘Sea Turtle’ Pumpkin



Pumpkin Decoration Winners 2022

YOUTH SERVICES HOSTS 2022 UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN 'PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST'



HURRICANE NICOLE - YOUTH SERVICES AT SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER

Tammy K. Fields, Youth Services Department Director and Special Needs Shelter (SPNS) Manager, coordinated efforts at the South Florida Fairgrounds in preparation for the arrival of Hurricane Nicole in November. Youth Services, Facilities, Information System Services, Palm Tran, and Community Services Department staff assisted with set-up, registrations, checking in clients, serving food, making arrangements for clients to get to the shelter and go home, and executing breakdown. Palm Beach County Fire Rescue and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office made sure everyone stayed safe.

Youth Services Department mental health team provided crisis intervention and counseling services. Staff collaborated with Palm Beach County Health Department doctors and nurses, with the goal of providing a safe shelter environment for geriatric, adult, and youth occupants.

"Thank you to everyone who activated last week. SPNS was a smooth operation, and I appreciate the work everyone did to serve those with special needs. You helped provide a safe space, and you are valued," said Tammy K. Fields in an email to staff after the hurricane.



COMMUNITY-BASED AGENCIES (CBA'S) KICKOFF MEETING

Youth Service's Community Based Agencies hosted their FY2023 Kickoff meeting on October 20, 2022, at 9:00am at the Clayton E. Hutcheson Agricultural Services Center.

The team welcomed the agencies with a community check-in, and guest speaker Caleb Wesco from "The Let's Get Motivated Experience" led a motivational talk to the group. New agencies were welcomed, all agencies introduced themselves, and youth services staff gave presentations to share about the various programs and functions within youth services. Ike Powell,

Tamika Kramer, and Kathleen Alexis of YSD's Outreach and Community Programming Division presented on agency programmatic requirements.

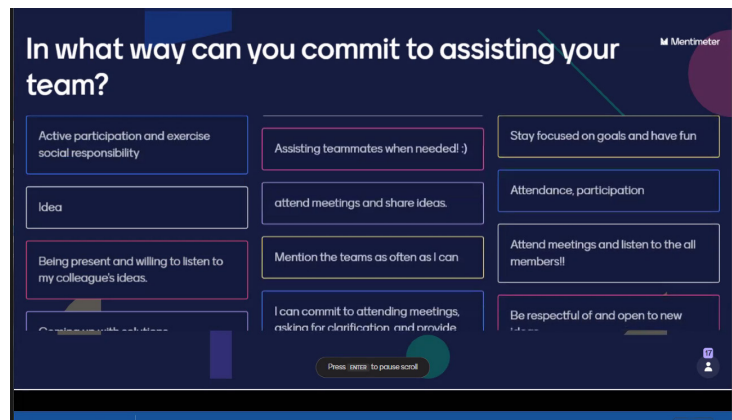
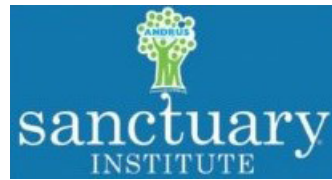
Valerie Messineo, Amrita Rampersad, and Javona Bush of YSD's Outreach and Community Programming Division presented on Summer Camp Scholarship and Summer CBA's. Hector Vargas and Ty Hall of YSD's Finance, Contacting, and Administrative Services Division conducted a training on the Services and Activities Management Information System (SAMIS).



CROSS-DIVISIONAL ACTION TEAM (CDAT) KICKOFF MEETING 2022

Palm Beach County Youth Services Department's cross-divisional action teams delivered virtual presentations to the Leadership Team on October 31, 2022.

The presentations provided a chance for the teams to gain feedback and guidance to move the strategic plans forward. The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, Sanctuary, and Seeds of Success teams each successfully presented a recap of the wonderful work conducted over the year in addition to their goals, metrics, and strategies.



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE 4TH ANNUAL RESTORING HOPE SUMMIT

The Florida Department of Juvenile Justice held its 4th Annual Restoring Hope Training Summit in Orlando, Florida, on October 25-26, 2022. The theme was "Breaking the Stigma Surrounding Mental Health."

More than 600 professionals gathered to hear about best practices for improving mental and behavioral health for Florida's youth. This year, the summit will provide an opportunity for juvenile justice professionals, community stakeholders, faith partners, members of law enforcement, criminal justice education, social service groups, and other partners to explore best practices to help create safer

outcomes for Florida's youth.

The summit featured plenary sessions, workshops, and exhibits centered on juvenile justice services and resources, as well as effective prevention and early intervention strategies. Geeta Loach-Jacobson, Director of Outreach and Community Planning, presented at the summit with a presentation titled "Moving From Gathering Information To Implementing Change" alongside Gary Graham, Associate Vice President of Mentoring at United Way of Palm Beach County, and Will Romelus, Executive Director of Digital Vibe, Inc.



GIRLS COORDINATING COUNCIL HOSTS 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM AND 5K RUN

The Girls Coordinating Council (GCC) of Palm Beach County celebrated its 2-Year Anniversary in October with a 5k Run/ Walk at Okeehetee Park and a Community Symposium hosted by Palm Beach State College, highlighting the experience of "Being a Girl Today." The events coincided with International Day of the Girl, which occurs on October 11th every year.

Over 100 community members, providers, and girls attended the 5k symposium. The GCC would like to give special thanks to their sponsors, including 4Girls Foundation, Palm Beach County Youth Services Department, Palm Beach County Victim Services, Pace Center for Girls, Digital Vibez, Mint Eco Car Wash, and Choice to Change

of Palm Beach County. Vendors from local organizations that serve girls provided information and giveaways to the girls in attendance, and Digital Vibez kept the party going with music and entertainment. At the Community Symposium, girls spoke about "Being a Girl Today." They challenged the leaders and providers in attendance to tackle issues like programming for first-generation immigrant students in schools, increased research on girls and women, and building self-confidence in girls.

Thank you to everyone who supported the GCC two-year anniversary events and helped invest in the future of girls. For more information on GCC, please visit <http://pbcbirthto22.com/girls/>.



THE ARC OF PALM BEACH COUNTY 'BREAKING BARRIERS' BREAKFAST

On October 19, 2022, YSD Outreach and Community Planning (OCP) representatives attended The Arc of Palm Beach County's inaugural 'Breaking Barriers' breakfast held at the Kravis Center Cohen Pavilion. Community leaders and organizations well attended the breakfast from across the county.

An inspiring keynote message was given by Dr. Alonzo Kelly, Strategic Leadership Partner, and Executive Coach. Dr. Kelly encouraged all to "reach as high as possible with our collective

efforts to ensure a sense of belonging for everyone while being "inclusive" in all that we do. He empathized that a sense of belonging leads to strong, productive, and innovative business environments.

"The Arc is breaking barriers every day, creating innovative opportunities to uplift people with disabilities while strengthening our community and embracing every person's unique talent and qualities" said Kimberly McCarten, President & CEO of The Arc of PBC.



EDUCATION & TRAINING CENTER PRESENTATIONS

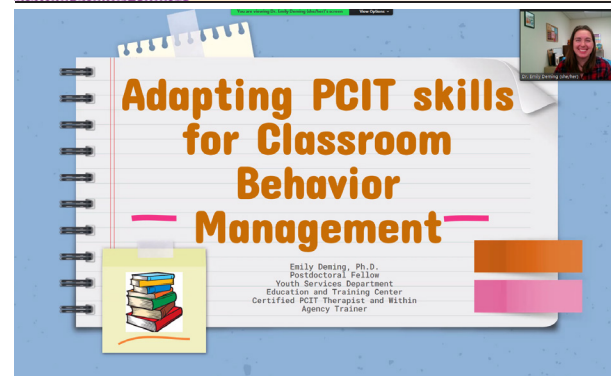
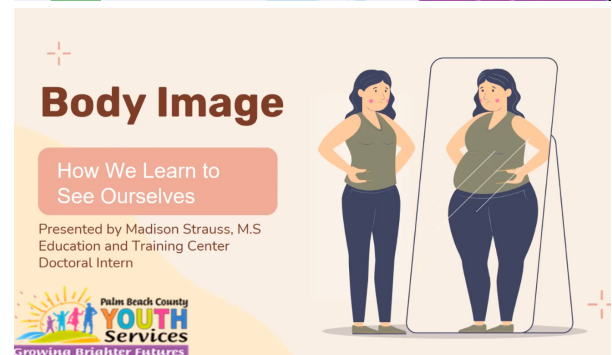
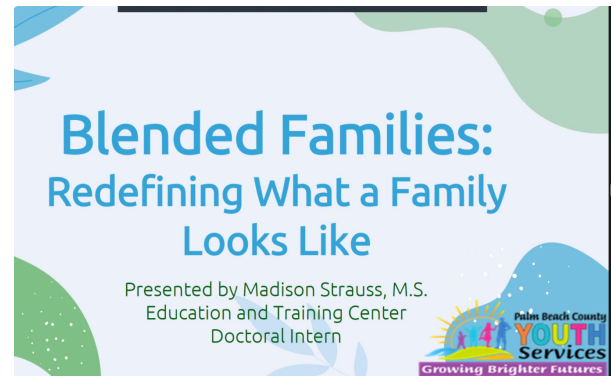
Dr. Emily Deming, postdoctoral fellow at the Education & Training Center, presented 'Adapting PCIT Skills for Classroom Behavior Management' at the 2022 Annual Conference on Advancing School Mental Health run by the National Center for School Mental Health, which took place on October 13th and 14th, 2022. The conference brings together leaders, practitioners, researchers, family members, advocates, and other stakeholders in the school mental health field to share the latest research, best practices, and emphasizes a shared school-family-community agenda to bring high-quality, culturally responsive, and equitable evidence-based mental health promotion, prevention, and intervention to students and families as part of a multi-tiered system of supports.

On October 14th, 2022, Dr. Rachele Sosu and Dr. Emily Deming presented to over 100 school teachers and staff at the School District of Palm Beach County's 9th Annual Student Mental Health and Wellness Conference. Dr. Sosu presented on "Supporting Students' Emotion Regulation in the Classroom," during which she provided information on the development of emotion regulation skills in children and adolescents along with the effects of stress on emotions. Dr. Deming presented on "Adapting PCIT Skills for Classroom Behavior

Management," during which she described the use of PRIDE skills (praise, reflection, imitation, description, enthusiasm) and explained how these skills promote stronger relationships and increased compliance.

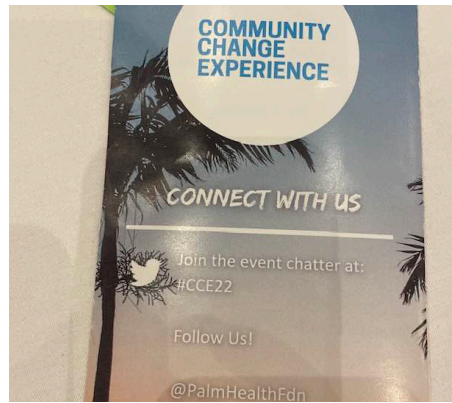
During the first quarter of FY23, Ed Center presented a series of Lunch & Learns to the community on a variety of topics, including "Bullying," "Suicide Prevention: What You Can Do To Help?," "Blended Families: Redefining What a Family Looks Like," "High Performance Parenting Skills: Strategies for Tapping into Your Next Level Parenting Skills," and "Body Image: How We Learn to See Ourselves." These trainings are provided free to the community which offer information on important topics and to spread the word about the great services provided by YSD.

For flyers on upcoming trainings and recordings of previous trainings, please visit our website at: www.pbcgov.com/youthservices/EducationCenter. To request a training for your organization, please contact Dr. Shayna Ginsburg at sginsbur@pbcgov.org.



COMMUNITY CHANGE EXPERIENCE

Tammy Fields attended the Community Change Experience at the Opal Grand in Delray Beach on October 24-27, 2022, along with community change leaders throughout the United States and Canada to share the experience of the community partners in Palm Beach County who won the 2021 Culture of Health Prize from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and learn strategies for fostering shared ownership, accountability and stewardship.



SUMMER CAMP SCHOLARSHIP THANK YOU

Each year the Summer Camp Scholarship Program (SCSP) opens the application process to interested camp providers throughout the county.

A grandmother whose grandkids went to a camp sent the staff a heartfelt thank you note.

Dear Friends and Supporters of CROS Camp,

I am a grandmother of three grandchildren ranging from 5 to 13 years old. Due to unforeseen circumstances, they are now living with me full-time. I had no idea what I was going to do with them this summer. I called CROS' Camp Director, Ms. Emily, and we had a long talk. She told me CROS Camp would be their home for the summer.

I had no idea the amazing experience they would have at CROS Camp! They were able to continue with their academics, made fun science experiments, created beautiful art work, played games, and made some great new friends.

I was so thankful to receive the bag of food on Thursdays each week too. I went from a home of one to suddenly four so having that extra food was really appreciated.



LEADERSHIP PALM BEACH COUNTY PRESENTATION

Tammy Fields, Director of Palm Beach County Youth Services, presented to the Leadership Palm Beach County 2023 class during Health and Human Services Day at the Cox Science Center.

Tammy presented on the efforts of YSD and Birth to 22 in creating a trauma-sensitive community.



YOUTH SERVICES IS BUILDING CHAMPIONS

Achieve Palm Beach County selected Humberto Sigler, Student Clerical Intern at Youth Services Department, to participate in the 2022-2023 Florida College Access Network (FCAN) Fellowship program. There is an increased need to build champions who can effectively advocate for postsecondary policies that support student access and success. As an FCAN Fellow, Humberto will develop and grow his advocacy skills and participate in FCAN Advocacy Days in Tallahassee. The fellowship will run from October 2022 to June 2023. Congratulations!





EJI RACIAL JUSTICE ESSAY CONTEST WORKSHOPS

The Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project partnered with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to offer a voluntary scholarship essay contest open to 9th-12th grade students attending public high school in Palm Beach County.

Students were asked to select a historical event involving racial injustice in America and its connections to injustice in our society. Workshops were hosted via Zoom and at Spady Museum, Belle Glade Library, PBC Community Services Department, and Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church to inform students about the criteria of the essay contest and to provide tips—winners will be announced by EJI.







EJI Racial Justice Essay Contest

Palm Beach County, FL

The Palm Beach County Community Remembrance Project is partnering with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) to offer a voluntary scholarship essay contest open to 9th - 12th grade students attending public high school in Palm Beach County.

About The Essay Contest

Students are asked to select a historical event involving racial injustice in America and its connections to injustice in our society. Students must include a list of all sources used. Possible themes or topics can be found at: <https://calendar.eji.org/racial-injustice/jul/25>.

Essay

For details to write your essay please visit: <https://tinyurl.com/EJI-PalmBeach-EssayContest>

Deadline

December 9, 2022 by 11:59 p.m. EST

Prize

At Least \$5,000 in scholarship awards

Scholarship winners will be announced and recognized at a ceremony in Spring 2023. Please contact Gabrielle Daniels, Contest Coordinator at gdaniels@eji.org or local organizer PBC-Remembrance@pbcgov.org for further information.

Essay Contest Workshops

VIA ZOOM
Please complete our interest form to receive zoom link.

- September 20, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- October 18, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

IN PERSON

- October 8 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Spady Museum 170 NW 5th Ave Delray Beach, 33444)
- October 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Belle Glade Library, 725 NW 4th Street Belle Glade, 33430)
- October 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Mayme Frederick Building, PBC Community Services 1440 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Riviera Beach, Florida 33404)
- November 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, 801 8th St. West Palm Beach, 33401)

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) DAY

This year GIS Day was Wednesday, November 16, 2022. GIS Day is a worldwide event that celebrates the technology of Geographic Information Systems (GIS). Ralph Nader inspired GIS Day as a day for geography awareness. GIS software is utilized throughout Palm Beach County for numerous applications. Jin Ma, Planner I, had her poster on display at the Governmental Center for GIS Day. Check out the Palm Beach County Open Data site for free GIS data and GIS applications at <https://opendata2-pbcgov.opendata.arcgis.com/>.

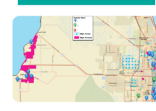
A SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY BASED AGENCIES (CBA) NOV. 16 2022

Geographic Information System(GIS) at Palm Beach County Youth Services Department (YSD) plays an important role in the department's mission of growing brighter futures by providing quality service, education, and access to resources and opportunities. GIS has been used to perform gap analysis, mapping data layers to show areas of need, poverty, demographic breakdown, access to resource and education analysis. GIS enables the department to objectively and visually enhance priority-setting and resource allocation for all youth under the age 22 in Palm Beach County.


BACKGROUND & AIMS

Growing up in Palm Beach County can be challenging. Studies show some of the highest graduation rate gaps between White and Black students and between White and Hispanic students; Unaffordable housing, high crime rates, lack of parenting supports and health care significantly affect student achievement. There is much we need to do to ensure that our children and families have the best possible futures.

CBAS



ENSURE EQUITY



METHODS

GAP Analysis: To identify specific improvement areas in PBC through intensive research & data analysis to support managerial decision making.

CONCLUSION

The Youth Services Department, through its contracted community based agencies is strategically moving forward to ensure that gaps are identified and resources are appropriately provided to meet the community's need. It is through this systemic

FAMILIES FIRST CHILDREN'S DAY LUNCHEON

The 16th Annual Children's Day Luncheon hosted by Families First of Palm Beach County was held on November 4th, 2022, at the Cohen Pavilion of the Kravis Center in West Palm Beach. The program comprised of fantastic speakers, art displays, and musical performances by 5th graders. Tammy Fields, Youth Services Director, attended the luncheon.



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 2023 to all.





CBA Q&A: VITA NOVA

Q What is your mission?

A Vita Nova is a safe bridge to independence for former foster care, LGBTQ, and other homeless youth through supportive housing, education, employment, and life skills training. As the voice of homeless young adults, Vita Nova is working to eliminate homelessness for youth ages 18 to 25 years old in Palm Beach County.

Q What does your organization do?

A Vita Nova is based in West Palm Beach, FL, and is a safe bridge to independence for former foster care and other homeless youth ages 18-25 through supportive housing, employment, education, and life skills training.

They assist with bridging the gaps for homelessness by providing the following services to our youth:

Mental Health Services, Life Skills Training and Workshops, Housing Support, Case Management, Healthcare Services, and Employment Services.

Q What key programs does your organization offer?

A The key programs that their organization offers is a focus on their formula of Housing + Job + Education = Self Sufficient.

Programs Include:

Vita Nova Village

Vita Nova Village is the housing program for young adults ages 18-25 who have turned 18 in the foster care system or homeless adults in the community. The program is designed to assist young adults in learning to live independently while completing goals related to school and work. This is done by providing life skills classes for our participants, setting individual goals, and holding youth accountable for their successes and challenges. Vita Nova offers support services that are on-and-off site. These include Employment Coordination, Healthcare Coordination, Education Coordination (high school, college, and vocational), Mental Health Services, Drug and Alcohol management referrals, and Housing Coordination as young adults prepare to exit our program. Additional Housing Programs: Permanent Supportive Housing, Transitional Housing, and Rapid Re-Housing through Coordinated Entry.

Youth Ages 18-23

In the state of Florida, youth can receive help in the foster care system until the age of 23. A range of services are available to these youth, ages 18-23

years old, and they all are called Independent Living Services. Vita Nova Independent Living Services aids young adults who were once minors in foster care in Palm Beach County, and turned 18 years old while in care. The program's objective is to assist with obtaining the life skills and education necessary to become self-sufficient, live independently, and maintain employment. Life Coaches provide a cadre of services to support these young adults. These services include educational support, housing assistance, financial planning, life skills training, and career exploration. Life Coaches assist young adults with determining which independent living program is most suited for them and the various application processes.

Center For Homeless Youth

'The Spot' is a safe and non-judgmental drop-in center for homeless youth ages 18-25. For homeless youth who are unaware of where to go or unsure how to get started, The Spot is here to help. Vita Nova welcomes youth off the streets to link them to resources and programming to eliminate or reduce the risk of homelessness. At The Spot, youth will receive an assessment of needs, connection to life skills training, linkages to housing, health care, employment, education, and overall wellness needs.

CBA Q&A CONTINUED



Q How does your agency benefit the community?

A Vita Nova Inc. benefits the community by providing a safe and inclusive place for homeless youth to access resources within Palm Beach County. We are the doorsteps that many youths turn to when they have been turned away at 18 in foster care or when they come out to their families. Without the help of Vita Nova in our community, our youth could potentially end up in harm's way, using substances or being a part of the criminal justice system.

Q What is your agency's focus for 2023?

A Our agency's focus at Vita Nova Inc. is to work towards ending homelessness in Palm Beach County every day. This is just a starting point for our work, but this organization's overall mission and goal is to save one starfish at a time.

Let us tell you a story about a starfish.

One day, an old man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean.

Approaching the boy, he asked, "What are you doing?". The youth replied, "Throwing starfish back

into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them back, they'll die."

"Son," the man said, "Don't you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can't possibly make a difference!"

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it back into the surf. Then smiling at the man, he said...

"I made a difference for that one."

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

A The funds that we receive at Vita Nova from Palm Beach County allow us to enhance the services that we provide by increasing the following programs:

Financial Literacy Sessions, Job Placement Opportunities, Job Training and Skills Enhancement, Job Supplies, Transportation, Continuing Education (GED, College, Trades), Case Management, and Obtaining Official Records (SS Card, Birth Certificate, State ID).

Q What is the Vita Nova Website?

A www.vitanovainc.org

Q Do you have a youth story you would like to share?

A Do you remember that feeling of starting your first day of school, maybe a new job, or even the beginning of the rest of your life? For Israel, all of that happened on another normal Monday this past month. After recently receiving his GED, and struggling to find a full-time job that could afford him financial security, Vita Nova helped guide Israel, a former foster youth, into the next chapter of his life. He was proudly accepted into the CNA Training Program at MorseLife. This opportunity will allow him to share his talents and gifts with seniors in our community and start him on a career path that will ensure his independence and self-sufficiency.

"It's such a pleasure to have these courageous Vita Nova participants joining the MorseLife family, where they can provide our frail seniors with authentic love, compassion, stories worth sharing, and a feeling worth returning to."
-Michael Branch- Vita Nova Board Member and Executive Director, Tradition & The Levin Palace at MorseLife.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

BARBARA WHEELER



At YSD, we view our employees as one of our greatest strengths. This quarter, we’re featuring Barbara Wheeler. Barbara works as the Contract Manager with the Finance, Contracting, and Administrative Services Division.

In her role, Barbara oversees the coordination of various departmental contracts, BCC agenda items and electronic files. She also oversees the department’s policy and procedures for updating and coordination of required updates and works with the YSD team for the annual RFP/NOFO process.

Q Where is your hometown?

A Born in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Raised in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Q What was your first job?

A McDonalds – under rule by a fantastic customer service manager.

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

A Written and oral communication, ability to multi-task, (but also to switch tasks quickly), organization.

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

A Working with strong leadership to provide opportunities to ‘our’ youth. That and living soo close!

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

A The annual YSD gatherings, where I get to see staff mingle with those outside our immediate locations.

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

A Video calls with my grandkids, crafting, hiking and SUV car camping, and helping at my church.

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

A Keep in touch with family and good friends.

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

A Switzerland

Q What is your favorite quote?

A *I don’t have a favorite quote, but live the days with caring and love.*

Q Who or what inspires you?

A Reflecting on my Mother’s strength, and still hearing stories of her.

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

A My kids and I all went to the same schools, and that I am in my 6th role/5th department since I began County employment in 1986.



EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

BARBARA WHEELER



Barbara Wheeler was awarded as this quarter's YSD Employee of the Quarter for her hard work, dedication, and service to the Finance, Contracting, and Administration Services (FCA) Division's Contract Manager role.

Thank you, Barbara, for all you do for the Youth Services Department. We are proud of you and appreciate all you do!



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES

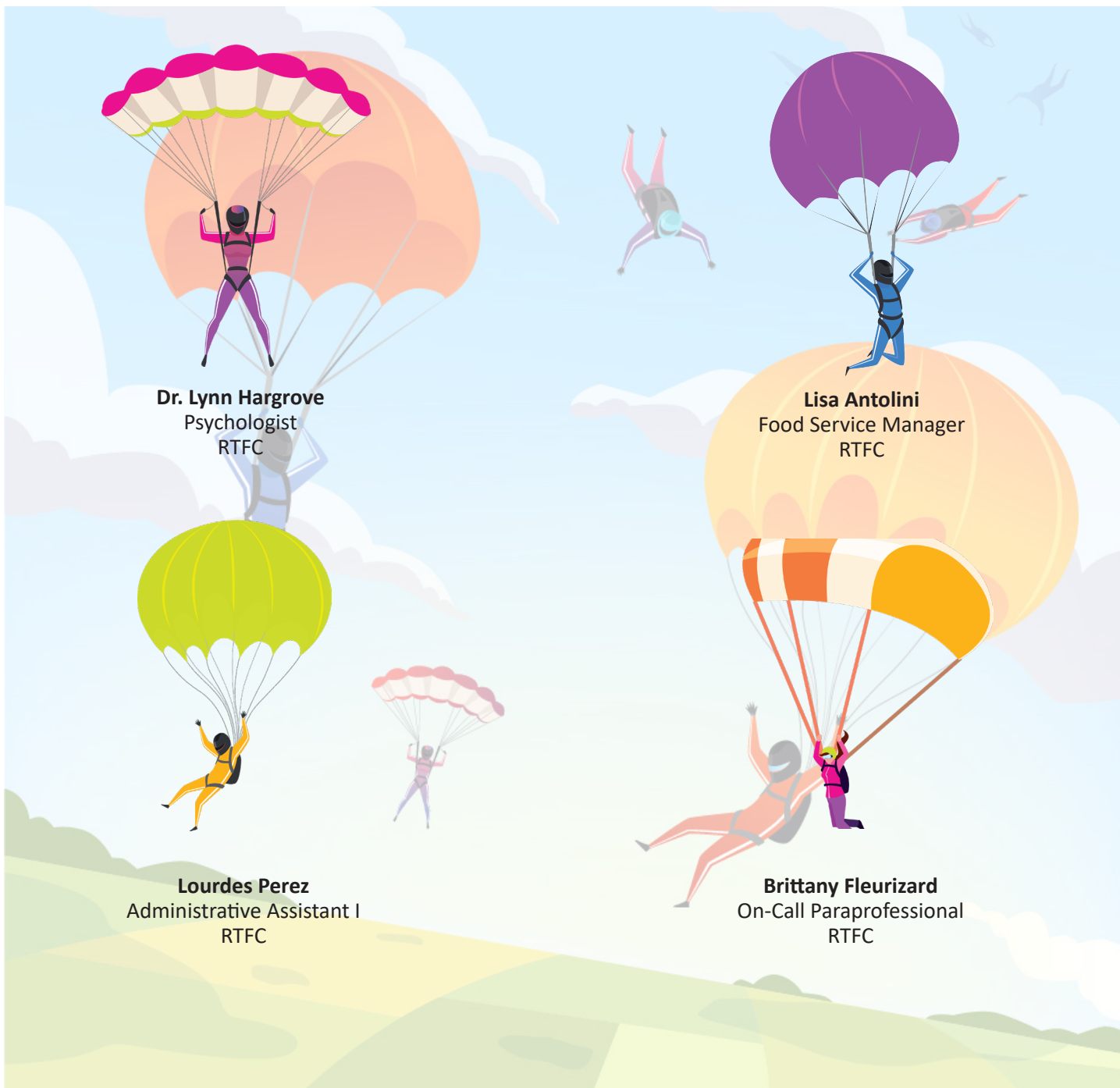


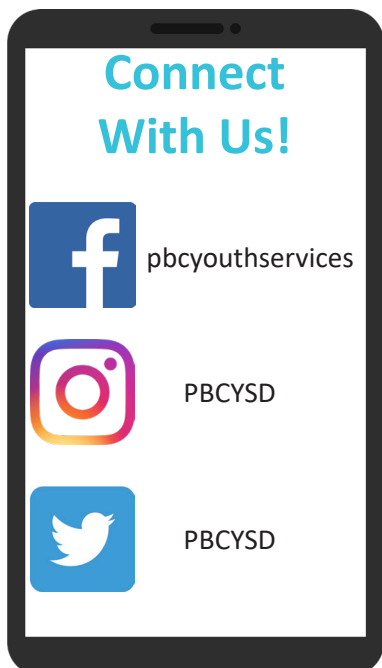
Dr. Lynn Hargrove
Psychologist
RTFC

Lisa Antolini
Food Service Manager
RTFC

Lourdes Perez
Administrative Assistant I
RTFC

Brittany Fleurizard
On-Call Paraprofessional
RTFC





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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