

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

VOLUNTEER NEWS BRIEF

Ohio Department of Youth Services



Harvey J. Reed
Director

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BUCKEYE REACH

RELATIONSHIPS AND EDUCATION IN ACTION THROUGH COMMUNITY AND HOPE

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Dr. Patricia Cunningham
with volunteer students
from OSU

The Ohio Department of Youth Services launches new partnership with The Ohio State University

BuckeyeREACH



Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope

Students from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (OSU) engage youth at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) through the newly developed OSU REACH (Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope) program.

This program is developed and designed by with input from OSU students in collaboration with the "Wise Men" Student council at Circleville. OSU students and Circleville youth will kick off this partnership with a book club. Book club members will read several chapters and meet to discuss twice a month. Additionally, students will participate in a movie review, and this will be followed by a critical thinking discussion. Finally, some students will serve as pen pals for youth at Circleville, encouraging reading and writing skills and developing relationships with Circleville youth.

During the initial recruitment phase of the program, more than 45 OSU students volunteered for the program, although the program was designed to accommodate a maximum of 30 students. The commitment level of the OSU students is unprecedented in that many of the students do not have transportation. So on most occasions, they will need to carpool to the facility or work out other means of transportation. Ultimately, OSU students serve as peer mentors for the young men at Circleville, developing relationships, encouraging educational goals and serving as positive role models.

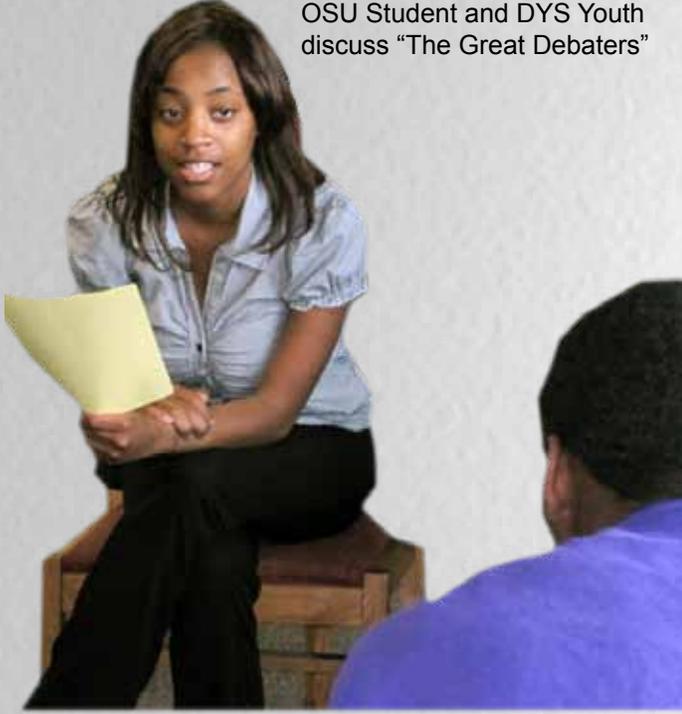
Chaplain Joe Dunlap
conducts volunteer training
with OSU students



The BuckeyeREACH (Relationships and Education in Action through Community and Hope), program began with OSU coordinators Dr. Patricia Cunningham, Katie Dean Williams and Sophie Tullier meeting with the CJCF Voice of Wise Men (CJCF student council) on September 14, 2012 to share their vision of a new volunteer program. The BuckeyeREACH coordinators met with the Voice of Wise men again October 5, 2012, offering a mini session in which they played a game related to feelings. The Voice of Wise Men then went to units and began their task of public relations for the program. Sixty-five youth signed up to participate in a program that currently can accommodate twenty-four. Members of the Voice of Wise Men drew the names from a basket of those youth who would be attending.

The first full session was held October 27, 2012. After watching segments from the movie “The Great Debaters,” OSU student and Circleville youth mixed in groups and discussed a variety of issues related to the movie. According to Nan Hoff, Deputy Superintendent of Programs, she was bombarded by youth who were not selected to participate, requesting to be considered for the program.

Ms. Hoff, received comments from participants, such as, “When is the next one – that was the best volunteer program I have ever attended?” “Now that was an intellectual conversation!” A dozen thumbs up were also given.



OSU Student and DYS Youth discuss “The Great Debaters”



OSU Student volunteers from BuckeyeREACH and DYS Youth view screening of “The Great Debaters” during session of BuckeyeREACH



OSU student volunteers attend Volunteer Training

BUCKEYE REACH



Dr. Cunningham leads discussion with DYS youth and OSU students





OSU Student Volunteers form discussion circles with
DYS Youth

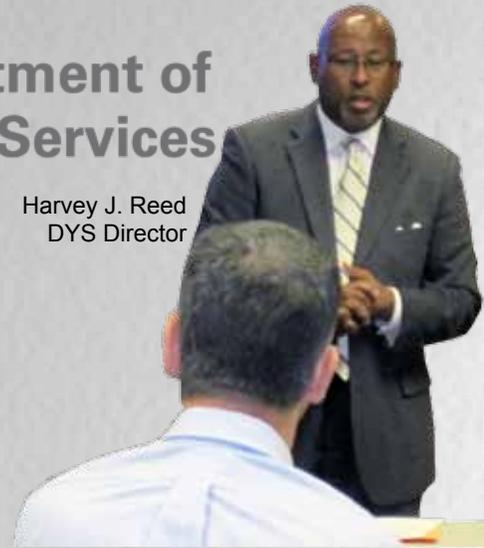




3rd Annual Faith-Based Summit Mahoning County & DYS

William Green Building, Columbus, Ohio

Harvey J. Reed
DYS Director



Director Reed addressed youth workers and volunteers at the 3rd Annual Faith-Based Summit. The summit was held at the William Green Building in downtown Columbus. Present were Faith-Based volunteers, detention workers, volunteers and DYS employees.

The summit opened with a welcoming message from Director Reed, who then introduced Cedric Collins, DYS Legislative Liaison. Mr. Collins provided informative updates regarding Senate Bill 337, the newly passed legislation that eliminates employment barriers and increases confidentiality of youth records.

Donald Bean, Program Manager and Meredith Basak, Community Program Coordinator presented updates on the DYS Mentoring Program, which is funded by a grant received under the 2nd Chance Act. Clifford Smith facilitated updates of faith-based programs by DYS chaplains. Father Barkett, Mahoning County Juvenile Justice served as moderator of the summit and provided closing remarks for the day.

Cedric Collins
Legislative Liaison DYS



Meredith Basak
Community Program Coordinator
DYS Mentoring Program



Father Barkett
Mahoning County Juvenile Justice





Faye Beckett

MENTORING GROUP

BECAUSE WE CARE

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

The Mentoring Group, *Because We Care*, comes to the facility once a month to meet with and encourage youth at CJCF. This group's primary focus is Bible Study, with an emphasis on reading. Shawn Walton, a *Because We Care* volunteer, is also a middle school reading teacher. He shares his passion for literature with youth CJCF each month.

Because We Care volunteers meet with youth each month at CJCF, share new books and sponsor bible study. Volunteers offer youth prayer and share time and the opportunity to ask questions or talk individually.

During some sessions, volunteers and youth listen to music and sing. Faye Beckett heads up the group which includes Napoleon Walker and others. After the Bible Study, the group has more causal time including discussions of books they are reading.

The group has the opportunity to get books from

Mr. Walton's library each month, which they return the following month. These books are often new publications and offer variety of interesting topics and stories that engage the youth.

The selected books encourage the youth to read because they are "high interest." The youth that attend always enjoy reading and discussing these works. Mr. Walton says, "This type of literature encourages the youth to read more often and to read challenging material."

"This type of literature encourages the youth to read more often and to read challenging material."

-Shawn Walton



Volunteer APPRECIATION

scioto juvenile correctional facility



Chaplain Joe Dunlap and Kerry Baker address attendees



Rev. Barbara Colvin, AME Prison Ministry

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF) hosted its Annual Volunteer Appreciation event. Barbara Colvin, AME Prison Ministry Coordinator, served as the Keynote speaker, delivering a message to the crowd in her unique way. Ms. Colvin encouraged the youth not to waste time and to always stay positive.

Kerry Baker and Chaplain Joe Dunlap addressed the audience during the event to provide words of appreciation and encouragement to those in attendance.

Youth participated by handcrafting door prizes to support the event. Volunteers from World Laughters.com provided entertainment, and former Scioto resident "Miracle" returned to showcase her expression through mime.



Laughter was the message presented by members of World Laughters.com



Resident youth supported the event by making handcrafted door prizes



“Miracle,” a former resident of Scioto, returns to share a positive message through interpretive mime



SCHOOL OF THE SPIRIT



VALOR
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



Students from Valor Christian College also attended the event. Tatiana Scott is a native of New York City and attends Valor. She is a sophomore at Valor studying youth ministry. Tatiana expressed that there is no real difference between youth at SJCF and herself. According to Tatiana, “We both have hopes and dreams, I believe in them.”



“We both have hopes and dreams, I believe in them.”

-Tatiana Scott

Simply Delicious

DYS youth learn how to bake brownies



Volunteer Barbara Wright teaches youth at SJCF the art of making homemade brownies from scratch! Ms. Wright has been a longtime volunteer with DYS.

She has volunteered at several DYS facilities throughout the years. Most recently, she served as a full-time volunteer with the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA).

Currently, Ms. Wright volunteers in many capacities with the agency and remains active in many key programs and activities held at Scioto. Barb Wright is well-known for her dynamic cooking skills by both DYS youth and staff.

“It’s funny; some of these guys didn’t realize that brownies came from fresh egg, coco, flour, etc.” Barbara loves working with the young men at the facility and teaching them new skills.



BAKE & EAT

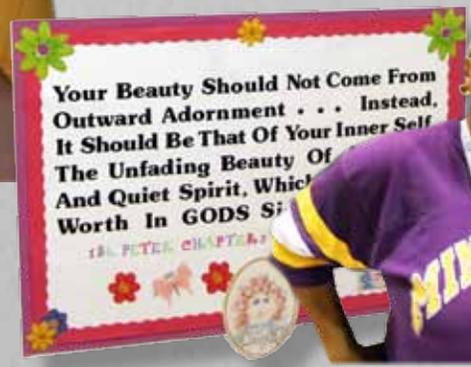
BAKE & EAT
Brownie Class

When: Thursday, July 12, 2012, @ 1:00pm

Where: OC Kitchen

Who: 12 select male youth

Description: Participants will work beside Barb Wright (Volunteer) And Chaplain Dunlap to learn the art of baking brownies
Participants will then Eat and enjoy Brownies & Ice-Cream



Volunteers from the True North Ministry (TNM), Akron, Ohio spent 2 days at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF) conducting programming with female youth. Becky Ritzer, Executive Director of TNM, and her team of volunteers facilitated games and activities.

According to Ms. Ritzer, "The goal of the program is to teach through fun, games and practical ways of being Godly women." The two-day program is titled "Ultimate Makeover Goes Carnival." Youth participated in workshops "Taming the Tongue" and "Behind the Mask." Youth created cards and created various craft projects during the event. The youth were treated to a special meal by the volunteers.

The dedicated volunteers stay in local hotels during the two-day event and plans on conducting Ultimate Makeovers quarterly at SJCF.



RIDGE | The Ridge Project
Building a Legacy of Strong Families

GOING FOR THE GOLD
Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



Samantha Wisnewski and Alex Moss, "Going for the Gold" coordinators

The Ridge Project is a Christian based non-profit organization, founded in 2001 and dedicated to serving the youth and families in Ohio. Volunteers from the Ridge Project conduct several workshops on dating and healthy relationships at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility (SJCF). Some of the workshops include: what is dat-

ing, healthy relationships, healthy dating, unhealthy relationships, bonding, marriage, cohabitation and commitment. According to Chaplain Sam, many youth participate in this program and enjoy the open dialogue. Volunteers from the Ridge Project are committed volunteers and volunteer regularly at Scioto.

MT. SINAI SPONSORS ANNUAL COOKOUT WITH YOUTH

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Mount Sinai Baptist Church, outreach lay leader Brother Doug Blankenship, sponsored a Cookout for youth, parents and staff on Saturday, September 29, 2012. They were able to serve over 220 people with plates overflowing with burgers, hot dogs, wings, and a variety of side dishes. It was a hot doggity good time that left everyone feeling grateful for the desire of the church to initiate such a pleasant event.





Dr. Grossman
Debate Program
Facilitator

Return of the Debate to Cuyahoga Hills JCF

The art of debate is a world class skill and is well thought about amongst scholars and politicians. Students attending John Carroll University, a private, coeducational, Jesuit Catholic university, provides interested youth at CHJCF the knowledge they need to learn this skill.

The mission of JCU Debate is to provide a superior education through an intensely competitive activity while placing a high value on critical thinking, advocacy, commitment and camaraderie.

Academically, John Carroll University consists of the College of Arts and Sciences and the John M. and Mary Jo Boler School of Business, which both include graduate programs.

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Restoration Family Chapel at Cuyahoga Hills JCF



CHJCF celebrated their 10th Chapel Anniversary on Sunday, October 7, 2012. The Chapel was constructed and renovated ten-years ago.

The guest speaker was none other than The Reverend Charles Hills Jr. former student of the Chaplaincy Internship Program at CHJCF, and now he is the Senior Pastor of the church of "Hang On

In There Ministry." Rev. Hill ignited the service with his heartfelt message to the youth, staff, volunteers, and family members in attendance.

Restoration Chapel, also referred to as Restoration Family Chapel, is once again experiencing growth as more and more youth participate and seek to know more about God's word on a weekly basis.

Bill Glass
Founder of Bill Glass Ministry



The Bill Glass Day of Champions yearly visit took place on October 20th at Indian River. Several youth came out to attend this event. The youth were in awe as they watched Tanya Crevier spin, flip and twist several basketballs all at once and share her faith in God during the first part of the show. The youth also were intrigued at juggler Bob Whitcomb who also testified of God's love. Over 20 volunteers were present to share the good news and encourage the youth to be Christ-focused as they dined together and played cards over lunch. In addition coming to IRJCF: On Saturday, October 20, 2012 the Bill Glass Weekend of Champion also ministered at CHJCF in the morning, shared lunch with the youth, and continued the programming in the afternoon. The guys were thrived and excited to experience this evangelistic style of outreach ministry.



“I volunteer because I believe there is hope for everyone, and I try to share that hope with the young men I mentor.”

Bob Bensonhaver
Goodwill Good Guides Mentor

GoodGuides began holding mentoring sessions at DYS on March 12, 2010 at the Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF). GoodGuides is a 10-week program that addresses academics, career planning, citizenship, living skills, Job search, money management and conflict resolution.

Each session of GoodGuides begins with a get-to-know-you icebreaker. Youth, mentors and staff participate in a quick round of questions and answers during this session. Each youth completes an assessment that is used to match them with mentors. Mentors begin building relationships with their

participants and assist them as they prepare the individual success plans.

The youth are given personal journals to track their fears, feelings when angry, and any special things that gave them a positive feeling during the week. The program meets twice a month. The youth and mentors enjoy refreshments while mingling during the closing of the program.

Goodwill industries received a federal grant which allows them to mentor 200 at-risk youth under the age of 17.



Performs at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

Manoj Chopra

ASIA'S STRONGEST MAN



Manoj Chopra demonstrated the power of faith and his ability to use his strength to change lives. He shared his faith journey and gave credit to God for the strength and fulfillment.

Manoj is a native of Asia, where he developed a passion for challenging himself to reach high goals. He competed in strongman competitions and Strongest Man events. One of his greatest achievements was becoming the first Asian India to become a member of the World Wrestling Federation (WWF). Recently he showcased his abilities in front of youth at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility by ripping apart a phone book, bending metal and blowing up a hot water bottle.

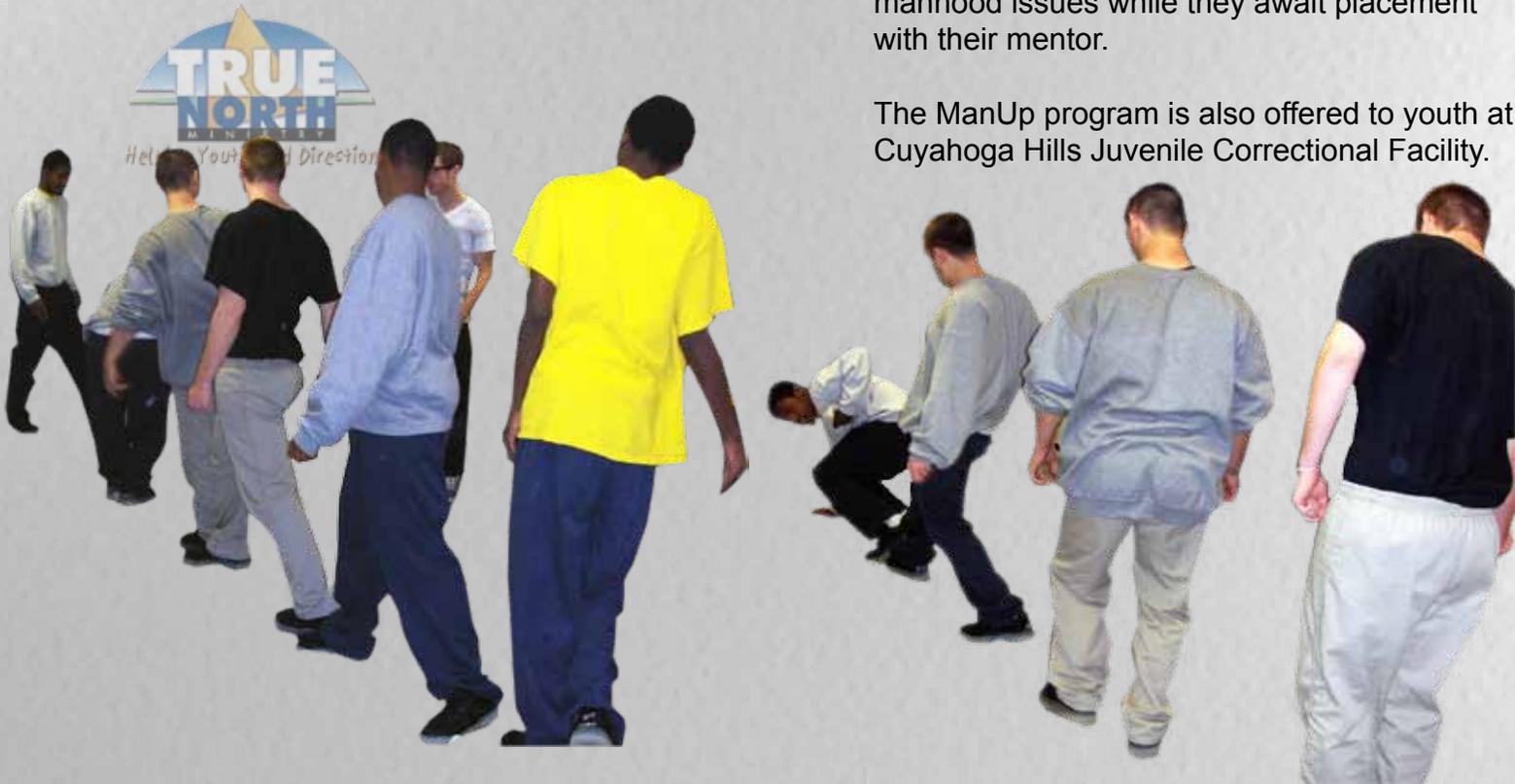




The youth at Indian River face challenges every day. True North Ministry Representative Nate Slaughter and Mark Parker work with the youth to show them the potential in being a leader and not a follower. They share their own personal testimonies through Rap, fun and games.

Indian River youth shown here are all part of the True North Second Chance Mentoring Program. These youth learn how to navigate manhood issues while they await placement with their mentor.

The ManUp program is also offered to youth at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility.



This year, the Youth Explosion at Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Facility erupted into an extravaganza of music, steppers, praise dancing and all-around Christian fun and excitement. Featured invited guests were Kairos Ministry with International Christian Rap Artist Patrick Davis, and Soulful Christian Rapper, Sestor. Youth showcased their skills and were ignited for God's word through praise and worship.

YOUTH EXPLOSION

CUYAHOGA HILLS JUVENILE FACILITY

Over 80 Youth attended this spectacular event held on Sunday, September 30, in CHJCF's Restoration Chapel.





Louise Wilson

WHY I volunteer

Why do you volunteer at Scioto?

I volunteer at Scioto because God's word told me to go and preach the gospel to the world. But at Scioto I see myself and where I was headed as a teenager. It was only by the grace of God that I did not end up at a place like Scioto.

I was mean, rowdy, hateful, intimidating, a fighter and everything else that went along with those programs. God saved me and then he showed me who I was and who I could be in him. He showed me a younger generation that is perishing and he showed me how I could help.

Because Jesus died such a gruesome death for me and I can never repay him for it. All I can do is follow in his footsteps and do like he did. He healed the sick, delivered many from demons and he set the captured free. I was captured and now I am free.

Louise Wilson

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