



VOLUNTEER

News BRIEF

Spring 2013

OHIO DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Grinnel College Young Gifted and Black Gospel Choir appear at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



Volunteer Appreciation

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expands to SJCF

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Youth Enjoy Family Worship



THIS ISSUE

Bible Bowl

Bible Bowl at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility



The action is fast, the competition stiff, the questions challenging, and the answers life changing. Bible Bowl has begun at CJCF. "Bible Bowl" is a ministry for youth, which combines Bible study with Christian competition and fellowship. The purpose is to give youth a firm foundation for their faith through systematic study, memorization, and application of Scripture. The planning for this goes back to prayer for meaningful and fun ways to engage youth in learning God's word. In December, Chaplain Littler began to explore the possibility establishing teams following the guidelines of National Bible Bowl, a large Cincinnati-based ministry that encompasses hundreds of Churches and thousands of youth (<http://www.biblebowl.net>).

Mr. Bill Thomas, a Christian Minister with over 25 years of experience with Bible Bowl, recently accepted a call to serve Northridge Church of Christ in Circleville. He was contacted for a possible referral for a volunteer. However, despite his busy schedule, he asked to volunteer to develop the teams and establish the program. The youth who asked to be on the first team have responded well to Bill's leading and are actually excited about learning the scriptures. The first practice sessions were well received. It was especially exciting to see the fellowship that was developing out of the competition and interaction. Moving forward, the plan will be to encourage the development of teams at the other DYS facilities and to hold institutional competition via video conferencing.



Bible Bowl volunteer Bill Thomas

These competitions will be tied to the intersession periods and develop into an annual DYS-wide championship meet. This will involve the recruitment of more volunteers as Bible Bowl Coaches, and further planning is needed. God has brought the resources together so far and will lead the vision to completion.



MISSION STATEMENT: To establish a path of honor, discipline, and integrity; by way of education, motivation, and inspiration in order to lead families into a future defined by hope, peace and righteousness for generations to come.

What are the Rites of Passage?

The Rites of Passage curriculum is designed to guide youth (at risk, general population and youth leaders) along the path to responsible adulthood. A young adult should never have to begin a journey without the proper tools or training to become successful. These workshops provide the skills youth need to succeed.

Youth are up to the challenge. They want their future to be bright. They want good families. They want good jobs. They want a nice house.

Those willing to accept the challenge to overcome obstacles and work to achieve these things are called Warriors. The first step to becoming a Warrior is realizing that the first and greatest battle is within. When a warrior conquers the battle within, they will develop the foundational tools needed to overcome the obstacles on the outside.

The inside battles

include: thoughts, worries, personality, emotions, fears, hurts, and addictions; one's Belief System. It's what makes the individual unique. It is from these core values that youth interact with the world around them.

Personal: Life can seem hard and unfair, but our ability to love, struggle, and overcome obstacles produces the fruit of our labor and gives us the faith to carry on.

Mental: Obtaining knowledge is a life-long and life enriching process. We must develop the thirst and the skills for the acquisition of knowledge.

Emotional: Identifying feeling, learning the difference between responses and reactions; reinforcing emotional honesty with self and others.

Physical: The health, nutrition, hygiene, and amount of physical activity determine how we will live and grow.

Historical: History gives them knowledge to continue lines of success and to avoid repeating old mistakes.

The outside battles include:

How we interact with people, places, systems, and things. The core value basis: It's only after we know who we are that we are able to interact with people and things around us in a way that is characterized by **love, integrity, and truth.**

Social: The world, the community, and your family should benefit, not suffer from your presence on the earth.

Cultural: Our culture is the framework for our values, perceptions, and interactions in this world expressed uniquely through music and the arts.

Economic: The responsibility of establishing and maintaining a sound economic foundation is basic to becoming an adult and building a family and community.

Political: Taking an active role in community, local, state, and federal government is one of the necessary keys for self-determination and responsibility.

Historical: Taking the challenge of leading ourselves and others in making a difference in our world.

THE RIDGE PROJECT PROVIDES **LEADERSHIP &** **Character Building** Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

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Action for Children

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

On Wednesday April 3rd, Mr. Glenn Harris of Action for Children provided a presentation to the youth of CJCJF on fatherhood in the current culture. Mr Harris described to the 16 youth in attendance how culture influences perceptions of fatherhood and distorts the role of males in society. His PowerPoint presentation included images of current movie, music and other leaders who may and have misled and misinformed our value systems especially as it relates to the responsibilities of a husband and father. Speaking to the young men who are fathers themselves, he introduced them to the Fatherhood Commissions which supports men who wish to be effective fathers. He described the programs benefits with regard to parenting skills, help with child support and activities designed to enhance relationships

between fathers and their children.

Mr. Harris is with Action for Children, which is a grantee through the Ohio Fatherhood Commission. The Fatherhood Commission is directed through the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services and is coordinated by Ms. Kimberly Dent.



Glenn Harris talks to youth about Fatherhood

Volunteer Appreciation

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility

As part of Volunteer Appreciation Week, another encounter session was held April 22nd with a group of volunteers and youth. This group was with youth and volunteers in the Kairos Torch mentoring program. Both youth and volunteers were receptive to gathering and focusing on volunteer programs, and the discussion was lively and productive. Responses to questions asked by youth to volunteers were thoughtful and considerate. They included question such as, "What do you get out of coming to CJCJF? Why do you volunteer? Do you feel needed? What are you looking to accomplish? Do you have fun?"

Generally speaking, the responses focused upon the volunteers' relationship with God and the joy that comes from seeing the youth and other volunteers enjoying fellowship. The responses went beyond a simple "yes" to affirm that they felt that they were needed even when circumstances seemed to oppose their efforts. For example, if a youth does not show up, the volunteer may be momentarily discouraged, but that does not diminish the need for them as a volunteer. One of the final questions asked by youth to the volunteers was, "How do you feel after you leave an activity at CJCJF?" Responses to this question can be summed up in the satisfaction of fulfilling God's call and being of service to others.

The volunteers had the opportunity to ask questions of the youth in attendance. They asked the youth, "How have volunteers changed your lives?" More than one of the youth stated that the volunteers calmed them and helped them to cope with being "in prison." They stated that this was because the volunteers listened, a theme repeated by all the youth in the encounter group. Several of the youth talked about the food and snacks that the volunteers bring in that they could not otherwise obtain. However, they went beyond this to describe fun activities and conversation. Some of the youth stated that they enjoyed the funny stories the volunteers shared

with them.

All of the youth present expressed gratitude for the volunteers. One of the youth who had been quiet through most of the discussion shared that the words in the question did not go far enough to express his gratitude for the volunteers. He offered that the volunteers caused him to "feel like a human."

One youth summed up the session by just saying "thank you." All of the youth expressed gratitude for the volunteers.

The encounter group discussion seemed to describe a kind of cross-cultural communication in which the volunteers described learning from the youth that their struggles cause them to feel gratitude for the lives they have experienced. The youth are learning that they live in a broader world in which there are people on the outside that truly care for them and give them hope.

Both the youth and volunteers left the encounter session agreeing that the session was very helpful. The volunteers had the opportunity to reflect with the youth on why they were in the facility, and the youth had the opportunity to reflect upon what the volunteers did for them. The volunteers left expressing that they felt appreciated and were grateful for the opportunity to serve. The youth left happy that they felt heard and that there were those who would listen.



PASSION OF THE CHRIST

Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility



CJCF observed Good Friday with a viewing of the film "The Passion of the Christ." There were ten volunteers and twenty youth in attendance. The film was followed by individual discussions between the youth and volunteers. The youth were very responsive to the film and asked several probing questions of the volunteers present. This was followed by communion and a time of fellowship. Both the youth present and the volunteers offered gratitude for the experience and said the program added to their observance of holy week

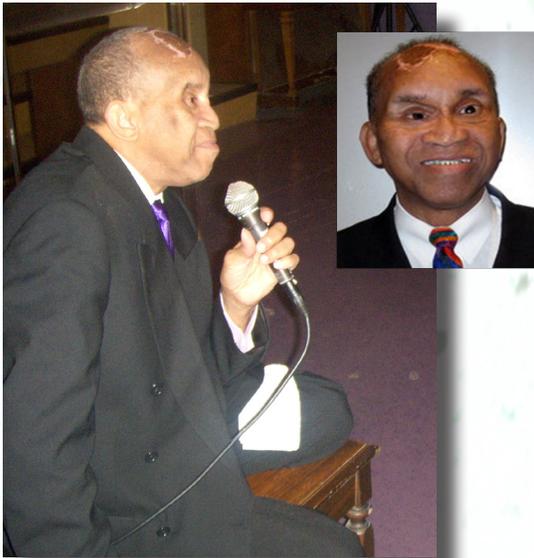


Victim Awareness

Dr. Johnnes

CHRISTIAN

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



Dr. Johnnes Christian recently shared his personal story of tragedy, overcoming and forgiveness. On a drive back home to Columbus on Interstate 70, a teenager threw a grapefruit-size rock off an overpass near Springfield. The rock smashed through Christian's windshield and right into his face. The rock broke every bone in Christian's Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

face, leaving him blind and disfigured. Each youth was moved by his tragedy and his spirit of forgiveness. Youth spontaneously responded went up and gave him a big hug. Dr. Christian was touched with their love and sincerity in relating with his story.

Cultural Awareness

Black History Month was celebrated by having a Cultural Day for the youth at CHJCF where they could share their talents. There was singing, playing instruments, skits, reading of self-written poetry, and glorifying the Lord, Jesus Christ. The Youth had the opportunity to share their culture, history, and other aspects of their culture that were appropriate for the event.



Resurrection Sunday

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Easter Sunday Morning at CHJCF was filled with excitement. Volunteers began the day with prayer and reflection on the meaning of Easter, the importance of the Resurrection, and how we share that Good News today, especially within CHJCF with youth, their parents, staff and volunteers.

The morning was complete with breakfast as well as spiritual nourishment for the soul. Morning Worship began with a presentation – The Journey to the Cross, where youth and volunteers shared 13 points which occurred during Holy Week, the time between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Passion of the Christ," narration, skits and was well-received by youth, parents, staff and volunteers in the audience.



The production lasted about 45 minutes and included music, scenes from "The

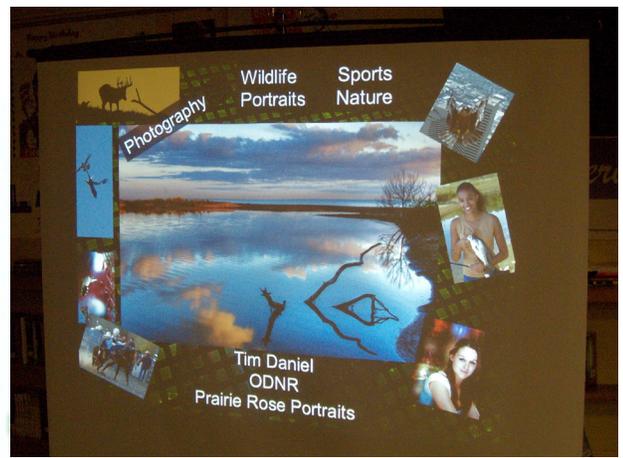
Strike a Pose

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

Tom Daniels is a life-long resident of Ohio and has spent most of his life in central Ohio. Tom is employed with the Ohio Division of Wildlife as a photographer and event planner. His photography is sometimes featured in local and national publications as well as websites.

The main uses for Tom's photos are in publications including Wild Ohio magazine, Enews, website and various brochures and publications. Tom volunteers at SJCF and provides youth with an opportunity to learn about field techniques in the digital age, which is an hour-long program.

He provides useful insight and practical knowledge in shooting video with still cameras and creative ways to shoot video. The youth also learned about lighting control and the proper use of a still camera.



Why I Volunteer

Minister Sabrina Green

I volunteer at CHJCF because I want to be a positive influence on young people who are in need of a second chance. Some adults seem to forget about the obstacles and struggles of youth and just want young people to do better. However, I still remember the insecurities, lack of direction, and lack of compassion that can lead a young person down the wrong path. I would like to do my part in assisting the juvenile system and those committed to the system in actually rehabilitating young people and giving them a new outlook on life. As a community member I would like to at the very least assist the administration and Youth Specialists in making the youths, time productive for them.

On a more personal note, I have a 22 year-old son, and although he has never been institutionalized, my heart goes out to young men who may not have the same advantages that my son has. Additionally, I want to be a part of spreading the Good News of the Gospel to these young men, whether I speak to them personally or I assist with behind the scenes preparation – I know that someone ministering through the Religious Services Department will be able to help or touch souls through his or her work. I get great joy and satisfaction when I see a young man begin to seek to know more about God and how he can live better. I volunteer because I love to see hope in the eyes of the young men at CHJCF even if I just see that hope in one pair of eyes.

Finally, I volunteer at CHJCF because I feel confident in my approach because I, along with other volunteers, have not just been thrown into situations, but we have proper preparation and guidance from the Chaplain and his staff. They nurture the volunteers and foster a family atmosphere among us as we help each other help the young people. Volunteering has been very fulfilling for me.

God Bless,

Minister Sabrina Green

Grinnell College

Young Gifted and Black Choir Concert at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



The Young, Gifted, and Black Choir (YGB) is a choir where students come to give praise, to fulfill a personal spiritual need, to bond with others in music, praise and spirit. YGB strives to create an environment where people are judged by their souls, not by the color of their skin. As the choir is made up of individuals from many walks of life, so are the experiences they encounter through the annual spring tours, planned educational and community service programs, and all God's people they meet along the way.

The Young, Gifted, and Black Gospel Choir began in 1967 when six black first-year students came together in the basement of one of the men's dorms on Grinnell's campus to share a common and powerful experience: gospel music. YGB takes its name from a book by Lorraine Hansberry, *To be Young, Gifted, and Black*.

In 1973, two of the founding members recruited their first director, an associate professor of music, to help them increase both YGB's size and level of excellence. The choir was organized around three basic principles:

1. Cultural uniformity as a result of the Black Church experience;
 2. A strong desire to continue that same cultural heritage while pursuing higher education at Grinnell; and
 3. A desire to act as an active agent in raising money for the Martin Luther King Scholarship fund at Grinnell.
- With this strong foundation, the choir grew to 48 members. Practicing about eight hours a week, the choir produced a record, "Young, Gifted, and Black: In Concert," in 1974.

Today, the choir is comprised of members from different cultures, nationalities, and races. For example, today's choir is made up from students from its own Iowa to as far away as the Czech Republic, Ghana, West Africa, Hawaii, Jamaica, and Zimbabwe. It is the passage of Matthew 25:34-36, 40, the traditions/roots of gospel music combined with the college's mission and core values that provide various opportunities, such as Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility, to its students. They work towards becoming truly socially just through their interaction with the youth at SJCF. YGB is open to students of all backgrounds on campus. The bond of "cultural uniformity" has been replaced by the bond of diversity.

YGB ministers annually in the months of April and November, delivering their message as they present their spring and fall concerts. One can also experience the ministry of the choir on the second Sunday of each month (except for the months that college classes are not in session) when they provide music for the Black Church in Grinnell Worship Services held in Herrick Chapel on the Grinnell College campus. The choir also embarks on a spring tour each March for up to a week. Although the choir is not designed to be a touring group, it does try to provide a variety of experiences and opportunities to the individuals who participate in the choir throughout the academic year.

YGB has ministered in a number of cities across the country including Des Moines, IA; Kansas City, MO; Chicago, IL; Memphis, TN; New Orleans, LA; Los Angeles, CA; New York, NY; Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, PA; Milwaukee, WI; Columbus, OH; St. Paul, MN; Oklahoma City, OK; San Antonio, TX; Houston, TX; Dallas, TX; and Little Rock, AR to name a few.

YGB performs a wide variety of sacred music including spirituals and traditional and contemporary gospel. The choir has featured works by Kirk Franklin, Fred Hammond, John P. Kee, and Richard Smallwood, Hezekiah Walker and a hosts of other great artists and choirs.

About the YGB Musical Director

Barry V. Jones is known in the Des Moines, Iowa community and surrounding cities as a versatile musician and director. Barry entered the gospel music industry at the age of ten under his mother's guidance and direction. Now after many years of practice and perseverance, Barry is one of the more recognized gospel musicians in the city. Currently, Barry is the Director of Music at Corinthian Baptist Church in Des Moines, Iowa, under the auspices of Rev. Michael Burton, Pastor.

In his role as Director of Music, Barry manages the musical organization of the church. In 2004, God granted Barry with a vision to develop a community choir called the Restoration & Prayze Gospel Choir. Today, this choir is known within the entire state and has developed a large following. Restoration & Prayze has performed for several different local and state-wide churches, community events, corporate events, women conferences, benefit galas, and special promotional programs such as "The Lion King."

Prior to his position at Corinthian, Barry was the Minister of Music at Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church in Des Moines, Iowa for six years. He also serves as the Assistant Chapter Representative (Iowa Chapter) for the Gospel Music Workshop of America. Over the course of the past seven years, Barry has been a guest director for the YGB choir in certain years. This is his 8th year as the choir's full time director.

Special Events Held at CHJCF

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Maundy Thursday – March 28, 2013

This year's Maundy Thursday service held on March 28th was a time of quiet reflection and reverence as Chaplain Clark and his staff walked the youth through that Thursday before our Savior was crucified.

Chaplain Clark demonstrated Jesus' love and willingness to humble himself as he performed the "foot washing" ritual on Associate Chaplain Watkins and explained its significance to those in attendance. Reverend Annie Clark and Minister Patrick Watkins blessed and served attendees "The Lord's Supper" as songs of worship helped set the reverent mood.



Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Celebrates Good Friday Services



Good Friday – March 29, 2013

Good Friday Service was well attended. God was honored as Associate Chaplain: Patrick Watkins and Associate Chaplains: Annette Brown, Tim Jones, Sabrina Green, Jacqueline Parker, Ed Worthy, and Bilal Akram worked together to present the "Seven Last Words of Christ."

Each presenter gave those in attendance a deeper understanding of our Savior's torment but also of His love that provoked Him to withstand the torment. Hearts and minds were touched during this awesome service where four youth accepted new life in Christ. Worship music set the backdrop as they solemnly but expectantly acknowledged and expounded upon the Savior's crucifixion.

Expressions of Praise

Cuyahoga Hills Juvenile Correctional Facility

Expressions of Praise is a one hour monologue drama that depicts women who are struggling with low self-esteem, drugs and addictions.

The spiritual aspect brings hope and motivation that no matter what valley you find yourself in, you still win! ...Includes, dance, mime, and music.

Members of Expressions of Priase



Youth enrolled in the Buckeye REACH program recognized the volunteers from Buckeye REACH. The Voice of Wise Men (CJCF youth council) developed questions for the youth to ask the volunteers about how they got involved in volunteering and what their experiences meant to them. The youth also developed questions for themselves about how the volunteers had affected them.

Setting the stage

There were eighteen youth and twenty three volunteers sitting in one large circle in the library. The final activity led by Buckeye REACH had all participants facing outside the circle. Several youth and volunteers stood inside the circle.

Katie Dean Williams read statements including “touch someone who has made you laugh, touch someone who you feel supports you, touch someone you would like to get to know better,” having the participants in the middle gently touch those people on the shoulder who fit each statement. By the end of the exercise, all participants were able to participate in the center of the circle.

The volunteer recognition from the Circleville youth began with all participants facing each other in the circle. One of the youth read the first question for the volunteers to answer. The responses from the volunteers were both uplifting and confirming to the youth, showing that the OSU students got as much out of the program as did the CJCF youth.

The CJCF youth then shared responses to their questions.
Youth 1: Is a youth serving life. He is struggling with the issue

“can his life be different once he returns home?” He stated, “this is the best program he has participated in since arriving at CJCF.” Interacting with the OSU students has him thinking.

Youth 2: Shared that this program has changed his life. When he first signed the agreement to attend, which included being respectful at all times, he was very skeptic. The first sessions were discussions about the book “Loosing My Cool.” He loves to read and has read the book three times since. His behavior took a turn for the better from the beginning of the program because he wanted to be sure he could attend.

Youth 3: This youth has some serious mental health issues. He wears his winter coat almost all the time. He had removed his coat earlier during the program and told the volunteers that they were helping him see he could begin to trust others. (When Deputy Hoff thanked him for sharing later – he told her he almost didn’t share, but just decided at the last minute that he needed to say it.)

Youth 4: Said he does not get visits – he feels like Buckeye REACH is a visit from family that he looks forward to every day they are scheduled.

Youth 5: Loves the pen pal part of the program. He has not been fond of writing letters but looks forward to every letter he receives from his pen pal. The letters help him see life outside the institution.

Youth 6: “When you guys come, I feel Free.”



Youth in discussion groups

More...

Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility



Scenes from the movie “Crash”

The girls watched the movie “Crash” followed by a discussion and activities. “Crash” illustrates Race and Ethnic Relations in America and is an analogy of how we as a human race deal with life, people and our own experiences.

Rev. Barbara Colvin

Screens Life Story with youth at SCIOTO

Youth at Scioto JCF recently watched a documentary of the life of Rev. Barbara Colvin, followed by a dialogue and discussion of her story. The documentary depicts her trials, tribulations and challenges as she goes from prostitute to preacher, criminal to Christian and addict to angel. Rev. Colvin held a workshop after the screening of the film about her life. The youth shared in discussions about being a survivor, labels, Writing your Obituary and Timeline (the events in your life).

Workshop Topics

Survivor
Why do you deserve a chance, and why should you be chosen over someone else? What talents and special skills make you stand out from everyone else? In order to prove yourself and show that you have what it takes, you must be able to answer these questions. What are your talents, education, and leadership skills? How do you get along with others, handle stress, and contribute to a group? If you don't know your value or worth, others won't either.

Labels
Thief – liar – honest – criminal – passionate... we are all forced to wear a label at one point or another. We are labeled according to the positive and negative thoughts of others and of ourselves. However, as warriors it is our duty to create our own labels about ourselves and rebuke the negative labels others place on us. What are you doing to prove that this label is no longer who you are? What can you do so that when people see you, they see the label you created? Our pasts don't define us, but this can qualify us for our futures, if we let them. Who do you say you are?

Obituary
When you die, what will be written in your obituary about your life, your attitude, your education, your accomplishments, your family, and your lifestyle? How do you want to be remembered by others? These questions provide a vision of who youth want to be and the legacy youth want to leave behind. The obituary offers a glance into the future and provides written goals that youth can strive to achieve.

Timeline

What has happened to you in your life? Write down all the events that have either had a positive or negative impact on your life. You cannot change what has happened in the past but you can choose to produce a different outcome in the future. It is important to share your story and be the author of your own story. If you do not tell your own story, someone else will tell it differently. Writing your own timeline also helps you face what has happened in your past and move forward to a brighter future.



Rev. Barbara Colvin talks with youth at SJCF during movie review.

Black History at Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility

Spirit-Filled Production's Black History Play

Here's what youth learned:

"OUR PAST, THE PRESENT, YOUR FUTURE"

The past began in the time of slavery, describing how blacks were treated, including men, women, and children. We told how many were able to escape using songs as clues such as "Swing Low," "Sweet Chariot" and "Wade in the Water."

The present spoke of freedom and asked the question "What do you know about your history? Did you know that in 1979 the Constitution defined an African American as only 3/5 of a

person?" There were many white riots that killed thousands of blacks and totally wiped out black homes and businesses that were prosperous such as "Black Wall Street" and The Tulsa Race Riots. Not only did we cover freedom from 1921 but also through 2012 covering the re-election of President Barack Obama. Finally, your future covered the fact that everybody has a story, everyone has had trials, tribulations, and struggles to face. Even though you are incarcerated, it is your mind that keeps you free.

However, no matter what anyone says or thinks about you. YOUR LIFE MATTERS. No matter what you've done, it is never too late to change your life, follow your dreams and be the best you can be. Turn your life over to Christ, He can make the difference.. John 10:10



Scioto Celebrates National Volunteer Week

Youth from Scioto Juvenile Correctional Facility celebrated National Volunteer Week with a drama performance for volunteers. During the dramatic performance, youth highlighted various current and past female role models. In preparation for the performance, they researched each person and prepared dramatic monologues. Some youth designed costumes while other youth worked as sound engineers, project managers, and event organizers.

The volunteers were very impressed with the performance which included participation from male and

female youth. After the performance, refreshments were served while volunteers had the opportunity to visit with the youth. Ms. Kerry Baker, Chaplain Sam and several Scioto staff members assisted in make the production a success.



Portrayal of Rosa Parks during National Volunteer Week celebration at Scioto



Volunteer at SJCF

Spirit Bowl at Lighthouse

The Spirit Bowl was held at Lighthouse Youth Center, Paint Creek, Ohio, on April 5, 2013. The event included music by Chaplain Joe Dunlap followed by a spirited message by Jeremy Beverly. The day continued with an uplifting spiritual talk from Brian McKinley.



Chaplain Joe Dunlap prays with youth at Paint Creek during Spirit Bowl 2013

Volunteer Rapper Jeremy Beverly



Letter from a DYS Youth

Some, the religious programs available to me has given me an insight to helping myself that I will forever cherish and remember, the religious program here is why I'm a better young man than I was a year ago, it allowed me to see that there is other people who don't even know me that still care about me and want to see me make it, and because of that I will always be grateful.

-Written by DYS Youth

