

Office of Community Partnerships

# Volunteer



Harvey J. Reed  
Director

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## News Brief



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*Exc caliber Dance Team*



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*Speaks out about Sexual Assault*

**Ohio**

Department of  
Youth Services

## Holiday Message from Director Harvey Reed

Thank you to all the volunteers for your dedication and commitment to impacting the lives of youth. Youth being separated from their families can be very difficult during this time of year. Please remember them during this season. As we enter into the holiday season, I wish you and your family a very safe and joyous time.

## Mike Pistorino speaks out about Sexual Assault

July 13, 2014 – Mike Pistorino, of Using My Voice To Change The World; shared his life's story. He talked very candidly to the youth about being a survivor of child molestation. He has spent time locked up in both youth and adult correctional facilities. He lived with a corrupt and abusive father and a mother who drank. He had been told as a youth that he would never amount to anything and people actually predicted (from an early age) that he would die in prison.

After some positive interactions from people that believed in him, who showed care and compassion, Mike began thinking differently. One such person said to him, "I wish you loved yourself the way I love you. Why don't you love yourself?"

Mike turned his life around by making good decisions, one after the next. He said it wasn't a giant step, but millions of tiny steps that got him where he is today. He now owns his own business and a dream house. He is married and has three children whom he loves and adores.

Mike said, "Talking about a traumatic event can bring about deliverance. It is only when you get the hurt, guilt, or shame out that healing can occur."

He volunteers at the Rape Crisis Center. He said that for every 220 females who report a rape, there is only 1 man or boy who reports it. "Boys and men are less likely to report because of image, shame, and fear of being called gay".

It was difficult finding and keeping a job. People did not want to hire him because of past incarceration and the types of crimes committed. "When I finally got hired, I worked harder than anyone else on the job. One time a co-worker asked me, who was I trying to impress, I replied, 'When I impress them, they will let me know.' One day someone did notice me and hired me to work at his company, doubling my current pay," Mike said.

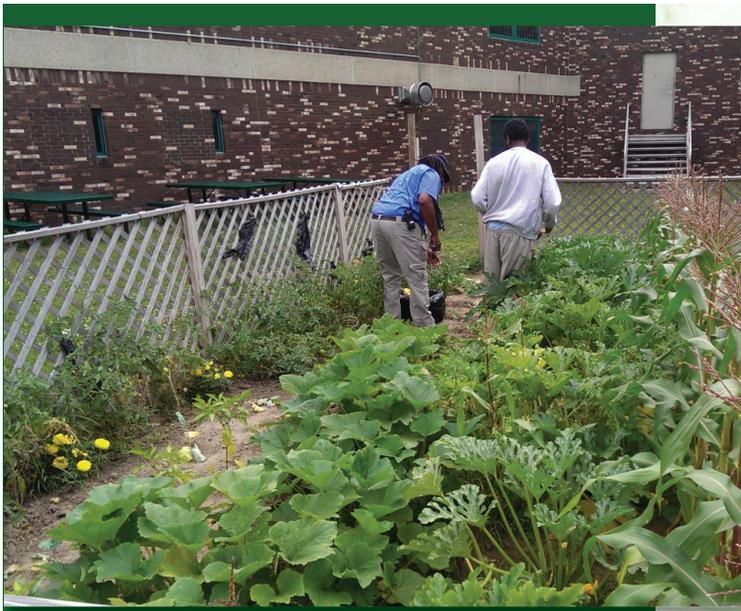
Mike is currently a motivational and inspirational speaker. His presentation is entitled an "Amazing Story of Overcoming Adversity". He is available to speak at other facilities or events and can be reached 216.299.2691. The youth of Cuyahoga Hills listened attentively as Mike shared his story in a humorous, yet affective way.



Donald Bean

## New Volunteer Administrator

DYS is pleased to welcome Mr. Donald Bean as the new Volunteer Administrator for the agency. Cliff Smith, who served as the DYS Volunteer Administrator, will be retiring December 1, 2014. Mr. Bean, brings a wealth of knowledge to the agency regarding faith-based and community programming. Mr. Bean, has a Masters in Divinity from United Theological Seminary. He previously managed the DYS Second Change Mentoring Program and worked in the non-profit arena for many years. For any questions regarding volunteer opportunities or programs, please contact Mr. Bean at [Donald.Bean@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Donald.Bean@dys.ohio.gov) or 614-387-2554.



Indian River Staff donates food to Stark County Hunger Task force



## Eddie James Ministry with the Excaliber Dance Team

Eddie James Ministry performed at Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facility (CJCF) on July 14, 2014. Mr. James brought nine members of the dance team, Excaliber, uses dance, drama, worship, and rap to minister to youth and young adults.

These youth are part of an approximate 40 member team that travels with Mr. James to present a message of rehabilitation and restoration to youth who are dealing with drug addiction, violence, suicide and other life-altering issues. Members of the dance team gave personal testimonies about coming out of drug addiction, street violence, and gang involvement, and the changes they had made in their lives. Mr. James sang

## IRJCF Community Garden Gives Back

Mr. Richard Neiman, from the Stark County Hunger Task Force, was very pleased to receive food donations from Indian River JCF (IRJCF) – Unit C Community garden program. The items included, fresh onions, zucchini, tomatoes and peppers. He said the fresh produce will be used in the “Choice Pantry”, an emergency food pantry where individuals can choose fresh produce and other food items. He will continue to pick up fresh produce from the IRJCF community garden, as long as items are available.

Many youth were involved in the community garden program. One youth said he grew peppers, collard greens and tomatoes before with his grandmother. He was excited to grow zucchini because he never grew it before and hopes to one day taste zucchini. He said it feels good to help out people who are hungry and in need... “it feels good to make a difference”.

a moving acappella rendition of “Amazing Grace.” He spoke on knowing a true identity in Christ and that youth are each created for greatness and purpose. Youth were very attentive and receptive and showed connection with the message and presentation. CJCF psychologist Dr. Donna Miller was instrumental in bringing in the group.



## DYS participates in TEDx Youth Day

On Saturday November 15th, youth from Cuyahoga Hills, Indian River and Circleville Juvenile Correctional Facilities all gathered together at their respective facilities to share in a global youth even: TEDx Youth Day!

TEDYouth 2014 took place live at the Brooklyn Museum in New York City on Saturday, November 15 from 11am to 6pm ET. TEDxYouthDay 2014 events were happening the same day around the globe — young people gathered

to explore the theme: “Worlds Imagined.” They heard mind-shifting stories and big ideas in a broad array of topics that impact the world today. They envisioned new scenarios for our future, and thought through how they can contribute to its creation. (<http://www.ted.com/about/our-organization>)

Youth at each DYS facility started the day by gathering to discuss their expectations for the day over the DYS video conferencing system. Then, at 9:30 am youth at Cuyahoga Hills shared their prepared talks and ideas. At 10:00 am, Indian River youth took the stage. Youth not only shared ideas, but one youth played the guitar and another youth encompassed his ideas in a very creative breakdancing performance. Youth at Circleville closed out the performance with their talks. After lunch, youth gathered around computers to watch the live stream of the global TEDx Youth Day talks.



“It was absolutely amazing to watch how very intensely youth watched and listened to the other ideas that was shared by other youth,” said Clifford Smith, Administrator with DYS . With the Theme “Worlds Imagined,” one youth shared about the high frequency of family visits he receives and how very impactful that is on his life. The youth then challenged others to “imagine a world” where every youth in DYS received regular family visits.

### Message from TEDx Youth

TEDx was a very enlightening program. I enjoyed it because I could share my story with people and let them experience it through my eyes. The group we had was full of youth who' wanted to better themselves for their families sakes. I personally learned from it that our stories matter, it's just the matter of whether or not we are brave enough to get out in front of people and share them.

This TEDx Youth program is a platform for young people to share ideas worth spreading, to encourage other youth, and to build confidence in their individual speaking skills. This is another avenue for youth to become positive leaders and role models for others.

This TEDx event at DYS was the kickoff of many TEDx events to come. Anyone interested in supporting any future TEDx events in DYS, feel free to contact the DYS TEDx Coordinator, Colleen Roberts, at [Colleen.Roberts@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:Colleen.Roberts@dys.ohio.gov) or 740-571-8373