



A PLACE FOR
CHANGE...working together,
offering rays of hope for
children and
families...strengthening our
community



*Hem your blessings with
thankfulness so they
don't unravel.*

Author Unknown



LEE COUNTY
YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT
CENTER
IS A PROUD
UNITED WAY AGENCY



CENTER STAGE

A Monthly Newsletter for and about the People and Programs of LCYDC.

Volume 11, Issue 164

October-November, 2011

From the Desk of our Executive Director...

An Attitude of Gratitude

The LCYDC family has come to a unanimous decision; we hereby adopt and endorse an **attitude of gratitude!** With the Thanksgiving season upon us, it has been determined that that's precisely what we are going to do... Give Thanks. One of the iconic symbols of Thanksgiving is the cornucopia overflowing with all manner of flowers, fruits, nuts and other edibles. If LCYDC were a cornucopia, we would be overflowing with friends, businesses and agencies that support us in continual abundance.

In our "horn of plenty" we are thankful for our Governing and Advisory Board members. Our Board President, **Dr. Anne Penney**, along with 15 other colleagues, take time from their busy lives and schedules to focus on the evolving needs of this agency. We are thankful to be located in a very special corner of the world – Lee County, Alabama. Our late agency founders, **Mrs. Cecil Moreman and Mrs. Jane Walker** understood how unique this area was when they took that leap of faith some 38 years ago and rallied citizens to vote on a property tax increase to support this agency's mission. We are grateful to both the **City of Opelika and the City of Auburn**. The City leaders have supported this agency without fail for more than thirty years. We are thankful for the support of the **United Way of Lee County** as their partnership allows us to continue several of our outreach missions. The partnerships formed with the **State Department of Human Resources** as well as the **State Department of Youth Services** allow us to make impactful differences in the lives of hundreds of vulnerable children and families. Trust me, we simply do not have room enough to acknowledge all of the County, State and local entities who are vital to our existence. If we were to start listing the individuals who support our efforts, we'd soon run out of ink – our cornucopia truly runneth over.

We must take this moment to also thank Speaker of the Alabama House of Representatives, **Mike Hubbard**, for a recent allocation of \$20,600.00. Representative Hubbard was moved by a compelling message from Mrs. Jonna Chizik with the YouTurn Foundation concerning our agency's goal of constructing an animal rescue and adoption structure on our campus. Pairing children who are at-risk with animals in need of care has shown great promise in improving both the lives of the animals as well as the children. We are so very grateful for Speaker Hubbard's seed money toward this planned project for our future – more blessings spilling from our cornucopia.

Finally this Thanksgiving season – and always – we are eternally grateful to our agency employees and volunteers who use their hearts and hands to deliver services to our most important commodity, the children and families who come to us or permit us to come to them. When we look around us and see hunger, violence, despair and worse, it would be unconscionable to focus on any challenges we might face as an agency. Regardless our struggles, regardless the falters, we as an agency, will continue to **count it all joy**. May your cornucopia overflow with blessings and **attitudes of gratitude** throughout the holiday season – Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Laura Cooper

CENTER SCENES...

The Passages residents came up with a great idea to make Halloween costumes. They were very creative in making their costumes. There was a dead nerd, Ms. LCYDC, a teacher, a princess, a dead bride, a rock star and Chucky the doll. First prize went to the dead bride and second prize went to the nerd. The residents also enjoyed the Loachapoka Syrup Sopping on October 22nd.



The Journeys boys were very busy for the month of October. On October 20th they attended the Castiny Crowns Inspirational Band concert at Auburn University. On October 22nd they attended the Loachapoka Syrup Sopping and on October 29th they visited Pope's Haunted Farm in Salem. The Journeys program will be hosting their annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, November 16th.

The TLP/ILP program will host their 10th Annual Thanksgiving celebration on November 17th from 5p.m.-7p.m. The residents are planning a trip to Universal Studios after Thanksgiving.

On September 30th, the Beams and Voyages students were privileged to visit Tuskegee, Alabama. They were familiarized with the Tuskegee Airmen, George Washington Carver and Booker T. Washington. Several students were amazed by just how much this group of Americans have impacted our lives. One student summarized the day this way... "I was reassured that no matter what you have been through or where you come from,

you still have the potential to become whatever on earth you want to become. All you have to do is work hard and strive to be your best... it is all up to you." Well said!

Approximately 40 LCYDC student artists worked in their weekly art class to create individual, hand-pulled 4x4 prints that were then pieced together to form a collaborative piece of artwork entitled "Putting Back the Pieces." The framed art piece was donated to the Chizik family YouTurn Foundation, and was auctioned off at their "Trash to Treasure" art auction. The auction benefitted the Dadeville area victim's of the April 2011 tornadoes. The art piece donated by LCYDC raised \$150 for this cause. A non-profit organization in the Birmingham area that supports the families of children with cancer purchased the art piece. Families and children will now be able to enjoy LCYDC student artwork in the organization's office space. The students of LCYDC are so proud that they created something beautiful to help others!



On October 7th the Passages boys and girls class went to the Southeastern Rapture Center in Auburn. They saw several different birds of prey including: hawks, vultures, falcons, owls and eagles. They learned about their habitats, conservation and ecology.

Welcome Aboard!

The LCYDC Board and Family warmly welcomes Ms. Dede Jackson to the Board of Directors. Ms. Jackson is known for her longstanding commitment to children and to this community. She has been appointed by the Opelika City Council to serve a four year term. Ms. Jackson replaces Ms. Birdie Peterson who rotated off the Board following two terms of service. We thank Ms. Peterson for her service and we look forward to Ms. Jackson's support— we are grateful!

Compassion

The Opelika Character Council has selected "compassion" as their focus for the month of November. Compassion springs from one's ability to put yourself in someone else's place. If we stopped to consider another person's challenges, we would be less likely to judge quickly and harshly, wouldn't you agree? A poem by an anonymous author states the case for compassion best: *"Pray, don't find fault with the man who stumbles along the road, unless you have worn the shoes that he wears or struggled beneath his load. There may be tacks in his shoes, though hidden from view. And the same load, if placed on your back, may cause you to stumble too..."*.



Warmth & Hoop Dreams

The Ogletree Elementary School Family recently donated new coats and other warm clothing for our children. Our agency is also grateful to Mr. James Harralson. Thanks to Mr. Harralson's generosity, our children will be attending all seventeen of the AU Men's Basketball home games from November through March. What an amazing opportunity for our children to watch Division I basketball, cheer on the Tigers and make their own hoop dreams come true— We have an attitude of gratitude for these gifts and... we are grateful!



November 2011



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Autism-2-3:30- Detention Bldg-AU Psych Outreach-M. Davis	8	9 *Safety Awareness & Prevention Part I & II-8:30-12:30- Detention Bldg-S. Ward & L. Johnson	10	11 Veterans Day 	12
13	14 *New Employee Orientation-8:30-12:00 -Administration Bldg- S. Ward	15 *NCI Original Course-8:30-4:30- STARS Bldg-J. Couch & R. Sewell	16 *CPR/AED/First Aid-8:30-12:30-Red Cross Bldg-S. Ward & L. Johnson	17	18 *Cultural Sensitiv- ity-10-11:30-Detention Bldg-N.Jackson	19
20	21	22	23	24 Administrative Offices Closed 	25 Administrative Offices Closed	26
27	28 *New Employee Orientation-8:30-Noon -Administration Bldg- S. Ward	29 *Medication Dis- pensation & Docu- mentation-10:00-Noon -STARS Bldg-Nurse Stacy	30 *Imminent Risk Protocol- 1-3:30- Detention Bldg-T. Woodall			

LCYDC

1109 Spring Drive

Opelika, AL 36801



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- ☺ 11/1 Lakeba Williams-Psych Svcs
- ☺ 11/1 Deborah Dobbins-TFC
- ☺ 11/2 Chris Good-Education
- ☺ 11/3 Jessica Hudson-COFC
- ☺ 11/4 Terry Woodall-Psych Svcs
- ☺ 11/6 Norma Jackson-Education
- ☺ 11/6 Sherri Tigney-Journeys
- ☺ 11/7 Wendy Wright-TFC
- ☺ 11/8 Vernee' Renfroe-CFS
- ☺ 11/11 Shirley Ward-Admin
- ☺ 11/14 Lorraine Buchannon-**STARS**
- ☺ 11/14 Michelle Dowdell-Beams
- ☺ 11/17 Nakeda Woods-Admin
- ☺ 11/17 Pursey Smith-Maintenance

- ☺ 11/20 Jasmine Allen-Journeys
- ☺ 11/23 Frank Lofland-Maintenance
- ☺ 11/23 Leigh Ann Gray-Cafeteria

WELCOME to LCYDC! NEW HIRES

- Chan-Tal Joiner-Life Coach-TLP
- Faydra Walker-Wkend Life Coach-TLP
- Monica Robinson-Counselor-Voyages
- Cayla Huffman-Residential Specialist-Journeys
- Tameka Anthony-Residential Specialist-Passages
- LaDonna Hoze-Social Worker-Passages
- Trina Crowdus-Asst. Principal-Education
- Sherri Tigney-Residential Specialist-Journeys

Welcome Aboard!

REMINDERS

- ▶ The Administrative offices of LCYDC will be closed November 24th and 25th in observance of Thanksgiving Holiday. Have a safe and happy holiday.
- ▶ Our COA Reaccreditation is in full effect. The COA Surveys were distributed 11/10/11 and must be completed by 11/28/11
- ▶ The Administrative offices of LCYDC will be closed December 26th & 27th in observance of Christmas. The offices will be closed January 2nd for the New Years holiday. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



To view our WEBSITE,
log on at
www.lcydc.org



*Join us
on Friday, December 9, 2011
Main Campus
Ribbon-Cutting: New Chanticleer
Art & Fitness Center
9:30 a.m.*

*Holiday Bruch: Employee Anniversaries
Moreman Award Winners
Good Food, Great Fellowship
10:30 a.m.-Noon*

ANGELS AMONG US

Executive Director, Laura Cooper, adopts an attitude of gratitude as she accepts a generous allocation of \$20, 600. from Representative Mike Hubbard. The Secret Angel Project funded by the YouTurn Foundation culminated in an enchanted evening at Fountainview Mansion on November 9th. Our children exhibited a wonderful attitude of gratitude as they received gifts of the heart and the spirit from angels in our midst. We are so grateful!

