LCYDC
1109 Spring Drive
Opelika, AL 36801

HALEY'S HOME

Our Transitional Living programming has being doing amazing work over the past three decades. It was a great house until...Haley came and made it a home. She is our fur family member - watching over our children and staff and enriching lives. Thank you for blessing our home with this precious ball of fur and love 8 years ago Mrs. Tracie West. Happy Birthday Haley!





May Birthdays

Jamarian McNeil, 05/03/2024
Angie Morrison, 05/05/2024
Jessica Bolton, 05/05/2024
Meaghan Hayward, 05/12/2024
Kevin Brooks, 05/16/2024
Amy Lusane, 05/21/2024
Thomas McDonald, 05/22/2024
Miah Burton, 05/24/2024
Melna Wideman, 05/27/2024
Adrienne Clermont, 05/27/2024

June Birthdays

Iesha Calhoun, 06/02/2024
Lacy Richardson, 06/03/2024
Senetra Stovall, 06/05/2024
Selwyn Torbert, Jr., 06/06/2024
Sherry Cook, 06/06/2024
Ashton Harris, 06/13/2024
Tequila Trimble, 06/18/2024
Chanesha Morgan, 06/19/2024
Kelley Wells, Coordinator, 06/21/2024
Sebrena Tolbert, 06/22/2024
Mary Berritt, 06/25/2024
Ises Taylor, 06/26/2024
Shelia Penn, 06/30/2024

New Hires

Frances Broussard, 04/21/2024
Shift Leader Detention
Selwyn Torbert, Jr., 04/21/2024
Teacher's Aide Detention
Sarah Phillips, 04/21/2024
Child Nutrition Aide
Carolyn Lee, 05/01/2024
Media Services Specialist
Alfred Donald, 05/01/2024
Fatherghood Specialist
LC Glover, 05/05/2024
Detention Residential Specialist
Larry Cobb, 05/05/2024
Passages Weekend Residential Specialist
Kiara Lawrence, 05/05/2024
Voyages Residential Specialist

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

Center Stage

Volume 180, Issue 207 | A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for and about the people and programs of LCYDC. | Spring 2024

A Place of Service
Offering hope to children and families - Strengthening Communities

From the Corner Office

Time Passages...

Do some songs and their lyrics seem to explain your thoughts? I remember vividly listening to my portable 8-track in the mid-70s – back then, soft rock tunes from artists like Roberta Flack, James Taylor, and Christopher Cross were my mainstay. Around this time, Al Stewart released his Time Passages album with a song by the same name as the title track. Then and now, the opening chords draw me in and the following lyrics own me:

"Well I'm not the kind for living in the past. The years run too short and the days too fast. The things you lean on, are the things that don't last. Well its every now and then, my line gets cast into these…Time Passages…"

This time of year – with spring in its fullness along with graduations, weddings, and reunions – has many of us thinking about these fast days and short years passing so swiftly by. At LCYDC, we have six high school graduates to celebrate. Hat's Off to:

Christian G **Emilee B**
Cassidie S **Destiny L**
Lexi K **Bentley H**

And many thanks to our educators and caregivers who have stood with, behind, and in front of our graduates as they reached this important milestone.

And speaking of time passages – can you believe that a year has passed since LCYDC celebrated her Golden Anniversary? Throughout this half-century, we have relied primarily on print media to push out the word about our purpose, our programming, and our people. Looks like we are about to now join the 21st Century with the launch of formally sanctioned LCYDC social media platforms. For many reasons, we have bucked the trends and the times with regard to these online options. However, with the proper safeguards in place, we will soon begin asking you to "join" and "like" us.

As time now slips from spring to summer, we will focus on our key summer enrichment children and family projects which will impact both our residential and community outreach programming while continuing to juggle our RFP, contract, grants, licensing, and accreditation deadlines. And for sure, we will squeeze in some summer fun - whether on beaches, in the mountains, or even on our own back porches – relaxing and recharging is vital.

Al Stewart and I wish for you a summer passage filled with adventures and solitude and the time to soak it all in. Congratulations once more to all high school and college graduates from the Class of 2024!

Laura Cooper, Executive Director

Lee County Youth Development Center is a proud UNITED WAY AGENCY

United Way

association of CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CENTERS

ALLIANCE for Children & Families

COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION · COA ACCREDITED

CENTER SCENES...

Black History Month (February)

This February, we celebrated Black History Month with a vibrant series of engaging and educational activities, transforming the school into a lively hub of creativity and cultural awareness. For the third consecutive year, the Chanticleer Learning Center hosted a Black History Month Door Decorating Contest, spearheaded by the talented Ms. Foster, our dedicated art teacher. Classroom doors were transformed into colorful canvases, celebrating historical figures like Ruby Bridges. The doors, adorned with portraits and quotes, told powerful stories of courage and resilience.

The celebrations continued with a Black History Month program, featuring a skit that brought history to life. Students from Chanticleer Learning Center stood proudly on stage and warmly welcomed attendees, while teachers embodied various historical figures, including an impressive portrayal of the legendary Gladys Knight. Through these celebrations, we not only honored the contributions of historic individuals but also created a diverse tapestry of experiences, inspiring a deeper understanding and appreciation of culture among our youth.





Moreman Award

During our 2023 Christmas Party, Medical Technician, Jessika Pollard was honored with the Cecil D. Moreman Award for Service Excellence. This prestigious accolade is awarded to individuals who truly exemplify LCYDC's core values. Unbeknownst to Nurse Pollard, her peers had nominated her for this award back in September. The announcement of her win came as a delightful surprise during our annual Christmas Party, making the celebration even more memorable and underscoring her exceptional dedication to her work and community.





BLACK HISTORY MONTH

















Child Abuse Prevention Month (April)

LCYDC marked Child Abuse Prevention Month with a powerful series of events that united the community throughout the month of April. Participants clad in blue and white gathered at the Cecil B. Moreman House, their attire creating a striking visual of solidarity and hope. In a solemn ceremony, Auburn Mayor Ron Anders and Opelika City Council President, Eddie Smith, signed a Proclamation presented by LCYDC Executive Director Laura Cooper, their signatures representing an unwavering commitment to preventing child abuse across Lee County.

Following this impactful moment, LCYDC staff, students, and community members embarked on a symbolic march to the Respite House, leaving a visible trail of advocacy through the streets. Upon arrival, Chanticleer Learning Center students presented eye-opening statistics about child abuse's devastating prevalence and impact. Their powerful presentations were complemented by the recitation of heartfelt poems reflecting the resilience of survivors.