

LIVING UNITED

LCYDC invites all staff and stakeholders to support the United Way of Lee County’s Annual Campaign. We will begin our Employee Campaign this week with a goal of having 100% participation by all programs. We are a proud United Way agency but we are not the only one. There are eighteen additional agencies who are supported by much-needed United Way funding. You are encouraged to give generously so that others may have unmet needs addressed and so that we may all live united. Thank you to Project Uplift Manager, Kelley Wells, who will lead LCYDC’s 2024 Employee Campaign!



NEW HIRES

- Erik Gunn, 6/2/2024
Residential Specialist II Detention
- La’Conyal Hughley, 6/2/2024
Teacher’s Aide CADS
- Makeba Vaughns, 6/2/2024
Passages Weekend Residential Specialist
- Kimbalei Flowers, 6/16/2024
Passages Weekend Residential Specialist
- Tamera Oliver, 6/30/2024
Passages Residential Specialist I
- Zanatical Johnson, 6/30/2024
Voyages Residential Specialist
- Linda Adderly, 6/30/2024
Passages Residential Specialist I
- Anthony Nelms, 7/14/2024
Passages Residential Specialist I

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

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- Michaela Wrzeszcz, July 2
- Sylvia Peagler, July 5
- Serdarryen Pulliam, July 5
- Erik Gunn, July 6
- Timothy O’Leary, July 6
- Jermaine Holloway, July 7
- Gregory Maddox, July 19
- Wendy Birmingham, July 26
- Ed’Juana Newton, July 31

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- Iesha Calhoun, June 2
- Lacy Richardson, June 3
- Senetra Stovall, June 5
- Selwyn Torbert, Jr., June 6
- Sherry Cook, June 6
- Ashton Harris, June 13
- Chanesha Morgan, June 19
- Kelley Wells, June 21
- Mary Berritt, June 25
- Ises Taylor, June 26
- Shelia Penn, June 30



Center Stage

Volume 180, Issue 208 A Bi-Monthly Newsletter for and about the people and programs of LCYDC. Summer 2024

A Place of Service

Offering hope to children and families - Strengthening Communities

From the Corner Office

Falling For it

It was oh so fleeting – those days which were decidedly longer and those summer winds which compelled us to slow down...just a bit. We blink our eyes and June suddenly becomes August – the big yellow buses, cars and vans carrying our students and educators start rolling and we know that fall will soon follow.

Our summer here at the Center has been highlighted by the long-awaited news of our national Reaccreditation. Twenty years ago, we were first accredited by the Council of Accreditation (COA). LCYDC is required to submit annual evidence of our accreditation compliance efforts and then, every four years, we must submit an exhaustive Self Study and prepare for three days of in-depth analysis conducted by three professional Peer Reviewers. It is the job of the reviewers to test the evidence that we have submitted, visit facilities, interview participants, board members, employees and stakeholders and drill deep into ten agency service standard areas

- Family Preservation and Stabilization
 - Mental Health/Substance Use
 - Juvenile Justice Residential
 - Family Foster & Kinship Care
 - Residential Treatment
- Child & Family Development
 - Group Living
 - Mentoring
 - Youth Independent Living
 - Supervised Visitation & Exchange

Maintaining our coveted accreditation status will require renewed and sustained focus in all service areas. However, we could not be more pleased to have an external entity find that our methods are current and that our efforts are making a measurable difference in the lives of those who need us. Heartfelt appreciation to our Board of Directors who provide the stewardship and resources we need to remain mission minded.

And speaking of our mission which is - A Place of Service ~ offering hope to children and families ~ strengthening communities – it is now time for us to begin work on our four-year forecast which we refer to as our Long-term Strategic Plan. We invite our newsletter readers, stakeholders, participants and others to lean in with your thoughts, insights and ideas on the unmet needs you see and how we might better position ourselves to meet those needs and better carry forth our mission. Please visit our web page at



www.lcydc.org and click on the feedback tab or copy the QR Code at end of this article and let your voice be heard as we work to align programming with current and emerging needs from 2024 to 2028.

Enjoy these waning few days of summer as we all prepare for fall. Looking forward to more moderate temperatures, the sounds of marching bands, Friday night football clashes followed by Saturday college football battles. Falling for it doesn’t sound too bad at all, right?

Laura Cooper, Executive Director

Lee County Youth
Development Center
is a proud
UNITED WAY AGENCY









CENTER SCENES...

4TH OF JULY FUN

This summer, we hosted our very first Independence Day Celebration! Our incredible staff and enthusiastic students joined forces to create an unforgettable day of patriotic fun. The star of the show? An epic 18-foot water slide that had everyone splashing with joy!

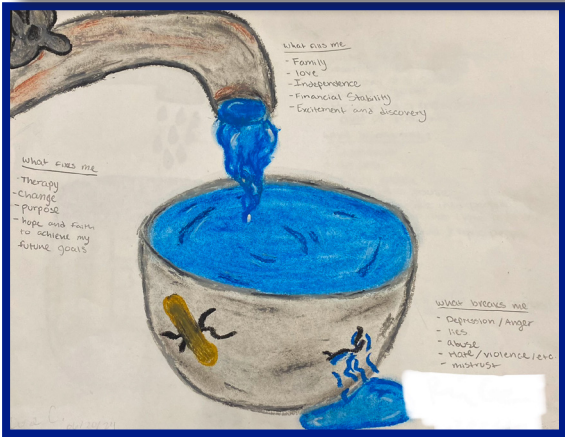
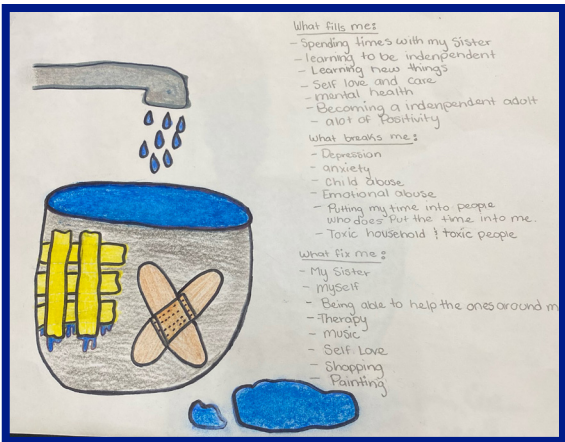
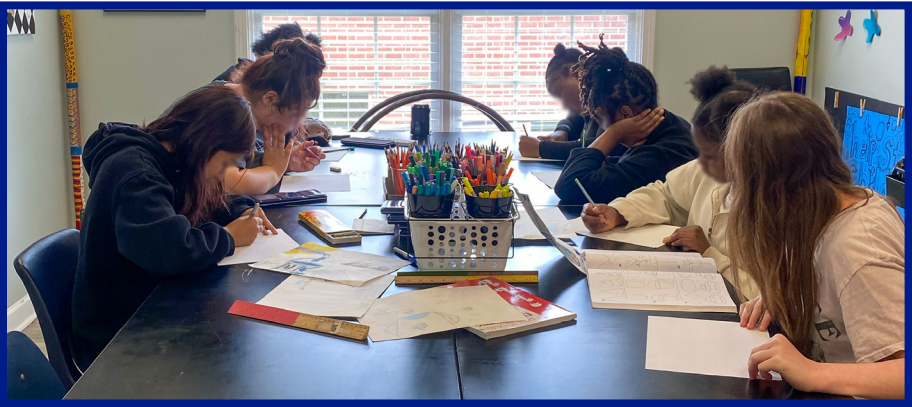
But that wasn't all - the "dance floor" was on fire all day long, thanks to our DJ Jimmy Jackson for keeping the energy high. From start to finish, the air was filled with laughter, joy, and a strong sense of community. It was truly a Fourth of July to remember, and we're incredibly grateful to everyone who helped make this celebration such a stellar success!



ART IS THERAPY

Our students recently created "self-esteem buckets," blending reflection with creativity. This visual exercise allowed them to dive deep into their emotional experiences and personal growth journeys. Each student's bucket became a unique canvas, filled with "water" representing their wellsprings of joy and positivity - from cherished family moments to favorite hobbies.

But life isn't just about the highs. Our students also depicted "holes" in their buckets, symbolizing the personal challenges they face. The true magic emerged as they added "Band-Aids" to their drawings, proudly showcasing obstacles overcome and progress made. Whether through small steps or giant leaps, our students demonstrated remarkable insight and resilience, painting a vivid picture of their ongoing journey toward stronger, more confident selves. Many thanks to our awesome Art Instructor, Ms. Monica Foster.



FOSTERING HOPE

Our Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) program has recently made impressive strides, thanks to the dynamic leadership of Amy Lusane, Program Director. Under her guidance, the TFC staff has been actively advocating for the children in their care and enhancing their support through the recruitment of dedicated foster parents.

In June, the team threw a spectacular Family Fun Day to honor these incredible foster parents. The event was a hit, featuring delicious food, exciting activities for the children, and well-deserved awards for the parents. This celebration truly showcased the hard work and passion of our TFC staff. Their unwavering commitment continues to weave positive change throughout our community, and for that, we're endlessly grateful!