



the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

It's been a very busy year so far, and I'm more than happy that we weathered the legislative session fairly well. Preparing for and living through that annual rite is something that we love to hate but it's a necessary part of state agency life. Our staff is now very adept at gathering the needed information and presenting it when called upon, so it's generally a good experience for us. Just glad it's over.

The big news for OJJ is the long-awaited opening of Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia. The facility is gorgeous, with peaceful, well-kept grounds and renovated, cheerful buildings perfect for a therapeutic facility. See the story and photos from the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony on pages 6-7. The Northern Service Area staff under the direction of **Regional Director Carolyn Lewis, Swanson Director Vickie Shoecraft and Monroe Regional Manager Patty Newman** outdid themselves to prepare Columbia to receive and house youth, and to put on a memorable grand opening ceremony to welcome visitors, area citizens and dignitaries. My heartfelt thanks to every member of the OJJ team who went above and beyond to ready SCY-C. I hope that each of you will have the opportunity to visit Columbia.

Now, we can concentrate on the next big thing: groundbreaking for Acadiana Center for Youth in Bunkie planned for this fall!

As the All-OJJ Choir sings: ***OJJ is on fire!***

"Doc" Dr. Mary L. Livers



OJJ Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary L. Livers beams at the grand opening and ribbon-cutting of the newly opened ***Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia.*** The bronze plaque on the administration building commemorates the project.



Historic downtown Columbia, not far from the new facility, sits alongside the scenic Ouachita River. We are delighted to be a part of community.



Listen to Life

Listen to life, and to those who are living life, without judgment, without fear and without any preconceived agenda.

Just listen and experience.

Truly listen to what others tell you without being distracted by thoughts of how you will reply. Listen, for there is so much you can hear.

Seek not to argue, explain, impress or convince. Listen so that you can more fully understand.

Listen to learn and to know. Listen to make a deep and valuable connection.

Listen, not just with your mind but with your heart as well.

Listen not just to the words and sounds but also to the meanings they convey.

Each new day, all of life joins together in a new and beautiful song.

Listen, and live the richness.

— Ralph Marston

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...



**PPO3 LaTonya Marshall,
Shreveport OJJ**

If you have ever heard the phrase “a life of service to others” and you want to know what that looks like, look no further than Shreveport OJJ’s **PPO3 LaTonya Marshall**. Whether it’s at work, at home or on her personal time, LaTonya serves. It comes as naturally as breathing for someone whose life is dedicated to doing the Lord’s work. For Shreveport OJJ youth who are fortunate enough to be on LaTonya’s caseload, they have a mentor and role model who strives daily to help them succeed.

“LaTonya is a dedicated employee and an extremely hard worker,” said **RM Kristi Martin**. “She always has a positive attitude and she has an excellent work ethic. LaTonya is always first to volunteer for unexpected transports, after hour emergencies, or assisting in any way that is needed. She is an employee that I can always count on.”

LaTonya has been with Shreveport OJJ for five years, coming to OJJ from the Caddo Parish Juvenile Court where she served as a probation assistant. “I wanted to work at OJJ because I wanted to be a probation and parole officer working with youth,” LaTonya said. “I truly want to give back to others and try to help our kids stay out of jail. I was already working with youth at the court, assisting the probation officers, but I wanted more contact with the kids. I wanted to be an actual PPO myself.”

LaTonya and her husband, Jerius, have three children, a daughter, 18, and sons 15 and 21. A Shreveport native, LaTonya has a

bachelor's degree in business management from Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, and she is working on her masters in criminal justice at Grambling State University. She sat out this semester to help her daughter get settled at Grambling, where she is a freshman studying to become a registered nurse. Her 21-year old son works in the oil field in the Shreveport area, but continues to take college classes. "He knows education is important," LaTonya said.

Jerius is an ordained minister and he pastors Gethsemane Baptist Church in Mansfield. LaTonya works with him there in the women's department and as a minister. She is a licensed minister, but not yet ordained. "We take the youth to clinics, and teach them how to do the right thing, remain abstinent, and remember that God is important in our lives," LaTonya said. "We want to be role models and mentors to the youth." She also has her own women's ministry in Shreveport, where she works with women who have been abused, battered, or just going through a difficult time. "We teach them that education is the key to a good life, that going back to school is important. Many people just need that push; we listen to them, and work with them in group sessions."

"...education is the key to a good life, going to school is important."

"This is what I was called to do - help people," LaTonya continued. "We love life, we love God and we love people. My husband and I have had our struggles - we've been married 21 years and had struggles coming up. We had a child at a young age. Rough things happened to my husband and me, but God tells you that you can make it. I was not a traditional student when I was working at Caddo Parish - I had children and I was going to school. God allows me to share our story with people, so they can see that others have been where they are, and they can make it. It's just God."

"In my work, I see the different children coming up, see their problems," La Tonya said. "I tell them that I was not raised in a traditional home. My grandmother reared me, and I could see the circles of friends and family that she had. I can show our kids that they can make it. I tell them - you can live the legal way, you don't have to break the law, you don't have to be locked up. Don't talk back to your mother and grandmother! Go to school. Get your education - that's so important."

"With our kids, you have to give your all to what you are doing."

"With our kids, we have to be patient and hear them out," LaTonya continued. "A lot of times their behavior is a cry for help. I try to work with them. God is good, He has blessed me to be a blessing to them. It gives me chills sometimes, and I have to say 'okay God, what will you have me do today? Who can I help?' If I can reach just person, it makes me feel good. When one of our kids says they are going to the Youth Challenge Program, then into the military, or they have enrolled in college, or even finishing high school, I know they are listening and turning their lives around, not running in the streets. I do my best to listen, talk to them, and make sure they get the services they need. You have to give your all to what you are doing."

"I tell the kids - you don't have to live like this. I come from the same background as they do. The Lord ordered my steps, and I came to OJJ to become a probation officer to help make a difference in our kids' lives," LaTonya said. "I impress on them that they can do it. I tell them, you are a shining star. We have to listen to the kids, just hear them out. It's all worthwhile if in the end the kids are successful."

"This is just what I do, even outside of work," LaTonya said. "You never a meet a stranger, and sometimes people just need to be encouraged, even co-workers. It's awesome - sometimes you are able to be that blessing to

other people that they need at that moment. It's just what you do and what you want to do. Sometimes you just have to say something that you feel someone needs to hear. Later on they may tell you, I needed to hear that. It's just encouraging when you realize that when someone is feeling down and negative, they need someone to give them a little light; being positive really helps.

“It's...encouraging when you realize that when someone is feeling down...being positive really helps.”

In her personal time, LaTonya speaks at women's conferences at churches throughout the community, sharing the message of love and hope. LaTonya is ministering even when she is out for dinner with friends. “My fun is fellowshiping with other women and with couples over dinner, and now learning to ride horses,” LaTonya said.

“My husband wanted a horse, and we now have two Tennessee Walkers,” she added. “We board them in Mansfield. This is all new for me. My husband had a medical crisis last year, and he almost died. I'm so grateful to have him that I wanted to give him something he really wanted for his birthday in March of this year. He wanted a horse. And now we have two, so I'm learning to ride with him.”

Outside of work, LaTonya is still serving others in the spirit of loving God and loving people. Last year she organized a day-long clinic called Pretty Girl Rock, for girls aged 2-19 to come together and learn to do the right thing. “We empower them, design pretty, fun flip-flop shoes decorated with scrap fabric, show them what they should and should not wear,” LaTonya said. “We made posters, someone came in to do makeup, we fed them healthy foods, taught them about abstinence, not smoking, and great big things in life. Anyone who wanted to come, came for free. We even fed some of the parents, they did not want to leave. At the first event last year we

had 90 girls. The Spirit had given the idea to me, and every one of my friends that I talked to was in. We put our heads together, and held it at Morning Star Baptist Church Life Center in Shreveport. PRETTY stands for Pure, Righteous, Empowered, Talented, Tenacious Youth. We are doing it again this October. People just want to help, to bring their success stories, and show how small beginnings grow. The Spirit is so high in it, so pure. We can see it growing. All the tools we need will be provided. When He gives you something, everything you need will come to you. We help people to see there is a God, that someone is really trying to help. When you show people the face of God, you give Him all the glory.”

“We help people to see that someone is really trying to help.”

“This is a good thing, to make a difference, just to give,” LaTonya continued. “We don't have fundraisers, we funded the clinic ourselves. There is no income for it, we just do it. I just told my husband how much money we needed and it was there. Last year one of the other PPOs helped by teaching about healthy lifestyles with food and exercise. Others could not come but they wanted to be a part, so they sent gifts for the girls. **RM Kristi Martin** helped out with gift bags. This year, it will be so good if some of the other PPOs can come out, and let others see that our agency is really about working with kids, and that we want to be involved. It's not just a job, just making money. We really want to be part of the community.”

“My grandmother raised me,” LaTonya related. “She worked in a private home and she served anyone who needed help. She took in a lot of people who were abused, and she helped them get to work. When my husband and I came together, we just started helping others, too. We are well on our way, and the anointing draws the people. Everything rises up and works for Him. Our children's friends are always at our house, not out in the street. We feed them, rent movies,

spend time with them. That's how I grew up, with people who helped me. We both felt that that is something people should do. We would rather see people have what they need. It's just from my heart."

"Working with kids is just who I am," LaTonya continued. "Some days, those big challenges come your way, and they may look huge. But you sit down with the youth and let them know the truth - you can change now and do the right thing. You can be a success if you stop the wrong behavior now, before you're 17 and you end up with an adult record."

"The biggest part of me is ministering and helping others."

"The biggest part of me is ministering and helping others," LaTonya concluded. "I laugh a lot, and I love people. That's really all there is to me. I love to spend time with my family, our three kids. Almost everybody I know is my extended family. There is an older couple that we are very close to and we do a lot of things with them. They are my spiritual parents, Bishop Clarence and Apostle Sandra Calvin, and they are a big part of my life. They are very much older, and I do things with them you would do with your own mother and father. We share a lot with them."

"God is good, when he's speaking I do my best to listen," LaTonya said. "I move when He says to move, and I know it's all going to be good. I want to live life to the fullest. That's what I intend to do, to impact people, be family oriented, not be selfish, and just share with others."

LaTonya Marshall - what a natural for an OJJ probation and parole officer. What an inspiration. What a way to meet the mission with every breath. She is truly living a life of service to others.

CQIS Policy Updates

The following policies were approved:

- A.2.2 Pay Administration & Mgt. 1/11/13
- A.2.59 Salaries-Secure Fac. Ed. Admin./Inst. 1/23/13
- A.3.8 Budget/Fiscal Mgt. Activities 1/04/13
- A.5.5 Data Warehouse 1/18/13
- A.5.8 Blackberry Usage 1/23/13
- B.8.3 Volunteer Services Program 1/09/13
- B.8.15 Family Liaison/Families of Youth & Youth Services 1/09/13
- C.1.7 Crime Victims Registration/Notification 1/23/13
- C.4.6 Securing Phys. Evidence/Crime Scene 1/11/13
- A.2.50 Flexible Work Schedules 2/7/13
- A.2.65 Shift Differential Pay 2/7/13
- A.3.10 LaCarte Purchasing Card 2/4/13
- A.6.3 Facility Meals 2/27/13
- B.6.8 Notifications-Youth are Seriously Injured /25/13
- B.8.4 Religious/Faith-Based Programs/Services 2/4/13
- B.8.17 Polygraph Testing of Youth 2/27/13
- C.2.24 Electronic Monitoring Program 2/18/13
- C.4.3 Mandatory Report.-Abuse/Neglect-Youth 2/4/13
- C.5.2 Reg. Office Duty Officers & Facility Duty Officers Reporting of Serious Incidents 2/18/13
- C.6.1 Food Services 2/18/13
- A.2.41 Verification of Credentials 3/1/13
- A.1.4 Investigative Services 3/7/13
- A.2.19 Special Agents (Commissioned PPO/J) 3/8/13
- A.7.2 Freon Recovery-Tech. Cert./Rec. Equip.3/11/13
- C.1.9 EPA Worker Protection Standard 3/11/13
- A.1.1 Policy and Correspondence Distribution 4/12/13
- A.1.7 Risk Management 4/1/13
- A.2.7 Drug-Free Workplace 4/22/13
- A.2.15 Dress Code-Secure Care/CB Services 4/10/13
- A.2.31 Employees' Appearance Before the LA Board of Pardon/Parole Committee 4/18/13
- A.2.38 Ethics for Public Employees: Nepotism, Prohibited Contracts, Gifts, Ethics Opinions 4/25/13
- A.2.62 Staff /Youth Relationships 4/29/13
- A.4.2 SOPs for Non-Secure Care 4/1/13
- B.2.8 Behavior Management Unit 4/2/13
- B.8.6 Marriage Requests 4/18/13
- C.2.13 Key Control 4/24/13
- C.2.15 Control/Use of FTC Substances 4/15/13
- C.2.16 Entrance Posts/Secure Care Facilities 4/24/13
- D.10.15 Detention/Location of Youth Pending Secure Assignment 4/17/13
- D.10.22 Interstate Compact for Juveniles (ICJ) 4/25/13
- D.10.33 State Council for ICJ 4/25/13
- A.2.66 Teacher/Para. Tuition Reimburse. 5/03/13
- B.6.1 Health Care 5/03/13
- A.2.30 Mail Precautions 5/13/13
- B.2.19 Programs & Evidence-Based Practice 5/17/13
- B.8.11 Pre-Release Process 5/17/13

Policies Rescinded:

- B.2.10 Youth Structured Program 2/25/13
- D.10.19 Electronic Monitoring Program 2/18/13
- B.8.13 Youth Street Gangs Notification Req. 4/1/13

Hail, Columbia!



Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia opened in May to rave reviews from youth, staff and visitors after several years of renovations to transform the former residence for the developmentally disabled into a secure care facility for OJJ youth. **SCY Director Vickie Shoecraft** oversees the satellite facility while **Deputy Director Kim Rushing** is responsible for day-to-day operations. Youth and staff from Swanson/Monroe were chosen to move to the new facility, which will house 48 youth at full capacity.

Staff from all over OJJ worked together on the renovation project and final preparation for occupancy. Central office **Engineer Curtis Badon** was the lead person who quarterbacked the project. Northern Service Area **Regional Director Carolyn Lewis** and her staff at Swanson/Monroe and the Monroe Regional Office pulled out the stops to present SCY at Columbia as the showpiece it is. The grand opening/ribbon cutting ceremony was well-attended by local dignitaries and citizens, as they stepped inside the “interesting” arched-barrier no-climb fence for a look at the beautiful grounds and buildings within. **Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers** spoke from the heart when she said that the new facility will become an important part of the Columbia community as youth from the area receive treatment services for rehabilitation and community re-entry. Dr. Livers thanked **Governor Jindal** and state **Senator Neil Riser**, among others, for their support in making the new facility a reality. Below are scenes from the grand opening ceremony.



The Administration Building



Swanson's Color Guard presents the colors.



The Color Guard posts the colors.



The All-OJJ Choir performs “OJJ is on Fire.”



Dr. Livers addresses the audience.



The ribbon is cut! Photo by Curtis Badon.



Dignitaries are all smiles.

A gorgeous cake welcomes guests.



The "interesting" fence is OJJ's first arched barrier no-climb ("candy cane") fence, state-of-the art perimeter security for therapeutic facilities. Photo, left, by Engineer Curtis Badon.



Carolyn Lewis Honored at Governor’s Conference on Juvenile Justice

Northern Service Area Regional Director Carolyn Lewis was surprised as the recipient of the coveted **Don Wydra Award** at the Governor’s Conference on Juvenile Justice. The award was created by the Governor’s Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Advisory Board in memory of Wydra, a long-time OJJ luminary and public servant whose name was virtually synonymous with juvenile justice in Louisiana.



Asst. Sec. Don Wydra served as chief of DPS&C’s Juvenile Services section under three governors. Ahead of his time, in 1991 he published a report that was a call for OJJ staff to be "agents of change." Mr. Wydra recognized the challenges in balancing public safety, punishment, rehabilitation services and education, focusing on the needs of the youth. He died of a heart attack at age 56, in 1998.



Conference organizer Ronnie Rossitto, Calcasieu Parish ADA, presents the Don Wydra Award to RD Carolyn Lewis, accompanied by Shreveport RM Kristi Martin and Monroe RM Patty Newman, who together nominated Carolyn for the award.



The Bridge City Culinary Arts students wowed the conference participants with their scrumptious goodies. Above, the students with Dr. Livers, far left, and instructor Chef Ron Sonnier, front. Below, students serve guests and display their culinary skills.



Another staple at the conference is a performance by the OJJ Choir. This year an All-OJJ Choir comprising youth and staff from all the secure facilities, accompanied by central office engineer Curtis Badon on drum, and under the direction of Bridge City JJS Seletar Gosa, stole the show with their rendition of “OJJ is on Fire.” The number included recitations of some of the agency’s accomplishments over the past year.



The All OJJ Choir keeps the audience rapt.



Another major production at the conference is the annual silent auction of artwork by OJJ secure care youth, pictured above. The auction is managed by central office administrative assistants, headed up by **Wanda Murray**, who was assisted by **Gwen Brinkley-Jones** and **Brandy Frank**. Wanda reports that the auction was a huge success. "The auction showcased 75 pieces and consisted of a variety of artwork from paintings to poems to wood carvings to ceramic novelties," she said. "The closing bids for the artwork ranged from \$5 - \$50, and raised a total of \$772.00. Congratulations to our youth on a job well done!"

Several OJJ staff dined at Café Reconcile during the conference, and were taken on a tour of the new facilities, including the roof. SCY JJS Donnie Adams



on the roof of Café Reconcile, with the New Orleans skyline in the distance.

Notes from the OJJ Family Liaison

Swanson **Chaplain Pastor Ricky James**, who also serves as SCY Volunteer Coordinator, and I participated in the Disciple Bible Outreach Ministry (DBOM) Training. The training is dedicated to individuals interested in prison ministry. The day-long training was held at St. Andrews United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge and was facilitated by **Rev. Dr. Mark Hicks**, Executive Director, DBOM of North Carolina and President, DBOM National.



Rev. Mark Hicks, Executive Director, DBOM of NC and President, DBOM National; OJJ Family Liaison Donna Bowie; Swanson Chaplain/Volunteer Coordinator Pastor Ricky James; Gard Wayt, Pastor Mark Lubbock and Mike Grace, attend the DBOM Outreach Ministry Training.

Pastor James trained volunteers on PREA at SCY. Both Pastor James and I serve as board members of the newly created DBOM of Louisiana. The goal is to secure and train volunteers to work with our youth across the state.



A group of young men from ULM attend Volunteer Training at SCY.



Volunteer Training at Swanson.



We were very fortunate to have a visit from William Kellibrew, of the William Kellibrew Foundation and a consultant to the SAMHSA National Center for Trauma Informed Care. Mr. Kellibrew is a trauma survivor who shares his story

with young people, and he was able to visit Bridge City and Jetson, along with his grandmother, who raised him after the violent death of his mother. Pictured at Bridge City are Director Namon Reid, Administrative Assistant Sharonda Smith, Ms. Delores Short (Ma'Dear), grandmother of Mr. Kellibrew, and OJJ Family Liaison Donna Bowie.



Mr. Kellibrew also paid a visit to central office. Pictured are William Kellibrew; Attorney Revettea Woods; Ms. Delores Short (Ma'Dear), grandmother of Mr. Kellibrew; Family Liaison Donna Bowie and Nita Franklin-Shanklin, Dr. Livers' assistant.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to members of the OJJ family who have recently lost family members. Please keep these staff members in your thoughts and prayers.

Alexandria OJJ

Long time Alexandria RM **Mr. Jadwin "Jaddy" Mayeaux** passed away in May, aged 82. Mr. Mayeaux retired in 1986 and was very well liked. He always had a big smile and kept in contact with many employees over the years. He was a great asset to OJJ.

Bridge City

JJS5 (Faith Dormitory Group Leader) Latitia Watts' father, Curtis Michael Watts, recently passed away.

Central Office

Attorney Cheryl Carter recently lost her father, Matt Carter, Jr.

Director of Investigative Services Col. Louis Hyatt recently lost his aunt.

Monroe

PPO2 Jeremy Fox's grandfather recently passed away.



Really? Really? Really.

OJJ American Heart Association CPR/First Aid Instructors Certified

Director of Staff Development Fran Martin reports that OJJ continues the transition to the American Heart Association for our staff CPR/First Aid training. A second American Heart Association CPR/First Aid Instructor Course was held at the Alexandria City Police Headquarters. AHA Training Center Faculty Instructors Carrie Austin from Hammond OJJ, Tyra Pollard from Jetson and Susan Taylor from Bridge City trained 13 OJJ staff as AHA CPR/First Aid Instructors.

All trainers successfully completed the required Core Instructor Course, classroom instruction and teaching demonstration. With the addition of these instructors, OJJ now has a total of 25 AHA certified CPR/First Aid instructors, who provide training for all new staff as well as annual in-service for all facility and regional office staff in CPR and First Aid skills.

OJJ is coordinating with the Department of Corrections for AHA Training Center support. This collaboration has provided us with the support and enough trained staff to have a smooth transition.

The following were awarded certificates as certified American Heart Association CPR/First Aid Instructors: Bridge City Center for Youth: Javand Duhon; Jetson Center for Youth: Cherise Gougisha; Swanson Center for Youth: Vernon Foy and Eric Washington; Baton Rouge Regional Office: Keondra Riley; Lake Charles Regional Office: Rebecca Harmon; Monroe Regional Office: Mark Miller; Natchitoches Regional Office: Heather Christophe; New Orleans Regional Office: Derryl Dunn; Shreveport Regional Office: Jennifer Hill and Kristen McKee; Tallulah Regional Office: Kim Green; Thibodaux Regional Office: Jaime Hebert.

Alexandria Regional Office

Thanks to PPS Donna Desoto and PPO2 Frank Parrino, Alexandria OJJ completed training in Blood Borne Pathogens, Fire and Emergency, Safety Plan, Safety Rules, Sexual Harassment, Cultural Diversity, Mandatory Reporting, and Understanding the Distracted Brain.

We also completed

- BI Total Access Training
- Firearms Classroom training
- Officer Safety
- training on the SAVRY
- LAMOD
- Policy Overview/Structure.

PPOs Meet with Youth

Probation officers met with youth at the Renaissance group home to discuss the Sandy Hook school shooting and how they would feel if this happened in their communities. The youth were encouraged to make posters (below) that detailed their feelings about the tragedy. PPOs rewarded the youth with products from Bath & Body Works and special treats.



Baton Rouge Regional Office

Employees of the Month

Congratulations

PPO2 Naomi Rodney was selected by her peers as February Employee of Month. PPO Rodney is a very dedicated and hardworking member of the Baton Rouge OJJ team. PPO Rodney we are so thankful for you and what you do!

PPO3 Elois Nelson was selected April Employee of the Month. PPO Nelson was selected because she produces a quality of work that is impeccable, and her hard work and dedication never go unnoticed. Congratulations to PPO Nelson, we appreciate everything you do.

Shout Out

It was brought to our attention that two gentleman were not recognized in a previous issue of *The Inside Scoop*. Last Christmas Eve **Transport Officer Paul Kopan** and **Transport Officer Jason Jones** went on an emergency transport to Christian Acres. Thanks for always being willing to assist whenever we call!

We send an extra special shout-out to the members of Baton Rouge OJJ who donated \$ to assist a youth in the community who participated in a special project at the Paul Mitchell Beauty School. This youth was tasked to raise \$3000.00 for an organization of her choice and in return she would be given an all-expense paid trip to Beverly Hills, CA to study with a top hair stylist.

The youth was successful in raising the funds for The "No Limits Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children Organization" and was able to go to Beverly Hills! The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Organization was so thankful for the donation. Our youth said she received a very emotional phone call from the director

expressing her appreciation for the donation. Thanks to all the officers who supported this youth - she sent her sincere gratitude!

We would like to give an extra special shout-out to our transportation officer who assisted in bringing six youth from Lafayette to the Carville Youth Challenge Program. This was a combined transport effort between Monroe, Lafayette and the Baton Rouge offices. Thank you all for all that you do every day to meet the mission.

PPS Marina Jenkins attended the East Feliciana Drug court meeting where summer job opportunities were discussed, along with a new substance abuse grant, and efforts to engage the faith-based community with the drug counsel to assist in mentoring the youth in drug court. A shout-out to PPS Jenkins for going out and keeping us informed.

To wrap up the month of March we had an office crawfish boil. Thanks to the men of Baton Rouge OJJ for getting out there and boiling all the delicious food! You all did an awesome job!

We See You and You're Looking Good

Several staff members from Baton Rouge OJJ assisted Jetson in transporting youth to take their ACT. Thanks to all the officers that were able to give up their Saturday for the greater good of the youth we serve!

PPO Keelen Robinson and **Transport Officer Gerard Landry** assisted some Jetson youth who worked at the Baton Rouge Food Bank as a part of OJJ's "26 Acts of Kindness."

Transport Officers Jason Jones and **Gerard Landry** assisted Jetson staff and brought two youth on a tour of the campus of Baton Rouge Community College.

We see you all, and you're looking good!

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Administrative Coordinator 3 Shalanda Wells**, who received her Masters of Arts in Adult Education and Training from the University of Phoenix. Shalanda graduated with a 3.5 GPA.



Pictured congratulating the new graduate are PPO2 Naomi Rodney, PPS Cobie Chauvin, PPO1 Shantia Roy-Jones, RM Jacqueline Page and PPO1 Keelen Robinson.

PPO1 Shantia Roy-Jones graduated from the CARTA Academy. We are ever so glad to have her back in the office. Congratulations PPO Roy-Jones on a job well done in the academy!

Baton Rouge OJJ Celebrates Easter

We always love it when we get a chance to go out in the community and serve others. This Easter was especially fun because we held an Easter egg hunt at The Little Schoolhouse Daycare Center. The kids really had a blast scouring the yard for the gorgeous eggs. A special shout-out to central office staff members for the monetary donations that helped to make the Easter egg hunt a success. Thank you to **Family Liaison Donna Bowie** and **Director of Communications Jerel Giarrusso** for coming out and taking pictures

and helping the kids collect eggs. Mrs. Bowie even found a new best friend out there!



Baton Rouge OJJ staff at the Easter egg hunt, bottom from left, SSC Jennifer Anderson, Adm. Asst. Shalanda Wells, PPO Keondra Riley, Intern Jaime Patrick, Adm. Asst. Irma Gonzales. Back row, RM Jacqueline Page, Family Liaison Donna Bowie, PPO Courtney Dickerson and PPO Keelen Robinson.

Family Liaison Donna Bowie with her new young friend at the Easter egg hunt.



Social Workers Month Celebrated



We just had to celebrate our very own **SSC Jennifer Anderson** during Social Workers Month. Jennifer is such a blessing in this office. Her job is never done and she does it all with style, grace and elegance. We surprised

her with a bouquet of flowers and a gift card for a massage - a special treat that is so deserved for all the weight we sometimes place on her shoulders. Thanks, SSC Anderson for everything that you do for us at Baton Rouge OJJ, every day, of every week, of every month!

Thanks for Representing BR OJJ



We would like to thank **PPO3 Keondra Riley** and **PPO2 Keelen Robinson** for representing Baton Rouge OJJ in the Annual Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run to help benefit the Special Olympics. They ran alongside other law enforcement agencies including the Baton

Rouge Police Department, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office and State Police. The 7 mile run began at the State Capital and ended at State Police Headquarters on Independence Blvd.



PPOs Courtney Dickerson, Naomi Rodney and Taleisha Johnson holding our OJJ banner to support PPOs Keondra Riley and Keelen Robinson as they ran in the Law Enforcement Torch run.



Numerous law enforcement agencies running the Law Enforcement Torch run for the Special Olympics.

Goodwill Program Beyond Jobs Hosted

Baton Rouge OJJ partnered with Goodwill Industries in May by hosting a workshop at the Baton Rouge office called *Beyond Jobs*. The program connects women to a better paying job. It is designed to assist women in identifying their current job skills, career goals and determine the best path to a better job. Once they earn a new job, they receive the support necessary to be successful in their new career. Services offered through this program include (but are not limited to) career assessment, career planning and connections to employment opportunities. Goodwill Industries of Southeastern Louisiana, Inc. in conjunction with Baton Rouge OJJ offered this free workshop to the parents and guardians of our youth.

Recognizing and Serving Other Staff

Baton Rouge OJJ staff participated in Corrections Employee appreciation week at Jetson, helping to serve lunch to the staff and guests at the program.

From left, serving lunch at Jetson are Social Service Counselor Jennifer Anderson, PPO2 Keelan Robinson, RM Jacqueline Page, PPO3 Roy McBride, PPS Rickey Cannon and PPS Cobie Chauvin.



Helping Out Oklahoma Tornado Victims

Several staff from Baton Rouge OJJ volunteered at the Salvation Army to assist in packing supplies to send to Oklahoma for the tornado victims. Staff who participated included **RM Jacqueline Page**; **Supervisors Rickey Cannon, Cobie Chauvin** and **Wendy Sarner**; **PPOs Roy McBride, Keelen**

Robinson and Keondra Riley; Transportation Officer Gerard Landry and Social Service Counselor Jennifer Anderson. The staff was featured in all the newscasts on WAFB News that evening, volunteering at the Salvation Army helping out for tornado relief.



Volunteering at Salvation Army are above, PPO3 Keondra Riley and Transportation Officer Gerard Landry.



Above, volunteering at Salvation Army are PPO2 Keelen Robinson and PPS Cobie Chauvin. Right, PPS Rickey Cannon.



Teambuilding Event Builds Morale

Baton Rouge OJJ recently enjoyed a wonderful day at the BREC Park in Baker for a teambuilding outing. This event was a huge success. The entire office was able to get out and enjoy a great day of planned activities that included dodgeball and volleyball, among many other activities. We enjoyed **PPO1 Tina Roach's** hula hooping skills and FYI, if **PPO2 Naomi Rodney** ever asks you to play UNO, run for the hills - she cheats!

SSC Jennifer Anderson once again outdid herself with the décor and choosing a great location. **PPS Rickey Cannon**, our official chef, prepared a wonderful selection of grilled chicken, hotdogs and hamburgers. All in all this was a fantastic event that we all look forward to doing again. **RM Jacqueline Page**, thanks for the great opportunity to get out and have a blast. Below are photos from the day's event.



Good Luck, We Will Miss You

We bid a bittersweet farewell to **PPO2 Darla Hood**, who left OJJ to broaden her horizons. We will miss PPO Hood, for all of the wonderful contributions she made throughout her stay here, assisting on arrests, her special contacts with the Sheriff's Office and BRPD, and PPCT training, to name a few. PPO Hood, we wish you the best of luck in your new venture!

25 Acts of Kindness

In an effort to continue to give back to the community, Baton Rouge OJJ participated in a community reading event. **RM Jacqueline Page, SSC Jennifer Anderson** and several PPOs chose elementary schools in the areas that we serve, read to a class and provided a special treat to the kids and teachers. This was a wonderful opportunity to get out into the community and interact with the youth in a different way. We would like to thank the principals at Brusly Elementary, Lower Bains Elementary, Rosenwald Elementary, Clinton Elementary, Brownsfield Elementary, the Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts, North Iberville Elementary and Baker Heights for allowing us to come into the schools and read to the children. The kids had a wonderful time and the teachers welcomed the break from the usual routine. We were all invited back to do this again. A special thanks to the staff at central office who made donations so that this event could be an even bigger success. Below are photos from our day of reading at the schools.



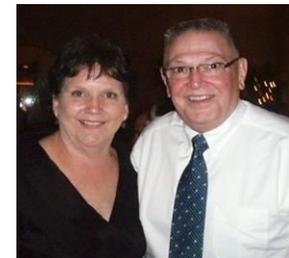
Happy Birthday to PPO3 Keondra Riley!



Bridge City Center for Youth

Congratulations

A huge congratulations goes out to Culinary Arts Instructor **Chef Ron Sonnier**, and wife **Mitzi Sonnier**, central office administrative assistant. They recently celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary – they were married May 25, 1974. Below is a wedding photo, accompanied by a more recent shot!



Restorative Justice in Action

Bridge City youth participated in a program at the Southeast Louisiana War Veterans Home in Reserve. The program opened with the Posting of the Colors by the BCCY Color Guard, who were honored to present to a room full of retired veterans who had dedicated years of their lives to our country. After the Posting of the Colors, a warm welcome address was shared with our youth by **Sonya Saucoin**, SLWVH Activity Coordinator. The program continued with a Martin Luther King, Jr. monologue by **Youths Devon D. and Devon G.** Following the monologue, **Youths Jamarr R. and Dwayne M.** shared a timeline with details of significant events that occurred during Dr. King’s lifetime. The program concluded with **Youths Dominique L. and Donald G.** sharing an excerpt of the “I Have a Dream Speech.”

Following the program, the youth assisted in serving refreshments to the veterans. To see the delight in their eyes as they served the veterans was *priceless*. The young men

exhibited exemplary respect and patience in their interactions with the veterans. Once the refreshments were served, the moment the veterans had patiently anticipated finally arrived...B I N G O! At that moment it was game time and the veterans were ready to win. With the help of our youth, the game resulted in seven blackout winners, something Mrs. Saucoin said she had never seen happen before. It became evident that the veterans truly appreciated the presence of our youth, as they gazed at them and smiled. Thanks to everyone in the Southeast region who made this restorative justice project a success.



The BCCY Color Guard are, from front, Brandon O., Shiloh F., Coleman Z. and Ta'Quarius H.



Interacting with residents of the War Veterans home are from left, Devon D., JJS5 Denise Gasquet and Ta'Quarius H.



With a veteran are from left, Coleman Z., Jamaar R., Shiloh F., Dominick L., Devon D., Donald G., Devon G. and Dwayne M.

“Acts of Kindness” in Motion

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. ~Aesop

The gift that is always appreciated, costs nothing, but rewards the giver with great fulfillment is an **Act of Kindness**. In an effort to educate our youth about acts of kindness and giving back to the community, Bridge City Center for Youth re-established a partnership with the **Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans**. Second Harvest serves approximately 263,000 individuals annually, including nearly 82,000 children and 40,000 seniors in need. In order to provide these services, Second Harvest depends on the commitment of donors and volunteers.

Ten youth from Bridge City recently had an opportunity to volunteer at Second Harvest. Upon arrival, the youth were oriented on the procedures and assigned a work area. The assigned area was the repack room, where each youth assisted with packaging non-perishable items that would later be distributed to local food banks. The youth were eager to get their day started and worked diligently to pack **4,740 lbs.** of completed product. Upon the completion of the task, the youth appeared to be happy and stated how much they enjoyed the experience.

Upon returning to Bridge City, the youth were given the assignment to write an essay about their experiences at Second Harvest. Following are excerpts from their essays:

“I learned at Second Harvest how important it is to work as a team, having a heart to care and be supported by others. Also, it was a blessing to know that there are people that really want to help families in need.” Lamont R.

“My experience at the food bank really opened my eyes and made me recognize that life isn't what I think it is. I really enjoyed helping those in need and I feel like I accomplished something.” Terrance P.

“This experience opened my eyes to see that if I don’t have, I don’t have to take because people in the world care and there is more than one way to get what you want. Just because we were filling the boxes does not mean we won’t need those same boxes one day.” Durrell G.

Special thanks to the BCCY staff and Southeast Region Probation and Parole Officers who accompanied this trip. Below are photos of the youth at work at Second Harvest.



Giving Back to the Community

Four youth from Bridge City recently had an opportunity to volunteer at the **Bridge City Community Center** near the facility. The youth assisted with packaging and distribution of commodities to needy families. Upon arrival at the Community Center, the youth assisted with unloading a food truck. Once the truck was unloaded, it was time to begin the assembly line. The youth were assigned to designated areas where they placed food items in the boxes to be given to needy families. The youth were eager to move the boxes quickly. They ensured that each family’s box was full to the top. The youth served over 70 families and were overjoyed to see the smiles upon the faces of those served.

Special thanks to the BCCY staff and Probation and Parole Officers in the Southeast Region who accompanied this trip.



Above, Courtney W., Lamarkus A. and Jeffery C. Below, Lamarkus A. and Bryan J.





Youth Bryan J. lending a helping hand.



Jeffery C. determined to make a difference.

Mother's Day Celebrated in the Chapel



Above and below, the Mother's Day Service for youth and their mothers.



A Warm Thanks to Colleagues



After a birthday celebration for **Adm. Program Mgr. Veronica George** and **Adm. Asst. Donyale Andrews, Ms.**

Andrews sent warm sentiments of thanks. "I want to take the time to express my deepest gratitude for the celebration held today in my and Mrs. George's honor for our birthdays. It was a beautiful celebration and I personally am very thankful. It is so nice to be appreciated by friends and peers. You didn't have to do it, yet you did, and your thoughtfulness was not overlooked. It is my hope to return the honor to each of you. Again, my many thanks!"



Our neighbors at Banting's Nursery display one of the three plants they donated for Mothers Day. Pictured are Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Bantings' General Manager Henry Hunter, Bantings' Ashley Hefker, Food Service Director Zelma Jones and Treatment Director Angela Wiggins.

Central Office

Welcome Aboard

Central office recently welcomed a new Deputy Assistant Secretary and a new paralegal.

OJJ's newest member of the Leadership team is **Deputy Assistant Secretary Beth Touchet-Morgan**. She heads the Intergovernmental Relations, Communications and Training unit, and serves as OJJ's legislative liaison.



Beth is no stranger to OJJ and the field of juvenile justice, having spent almost five years as the project manager for the MacArthur Foundation's Louisiana Models for Change program. She worked with professionals including public defenders, district attorneys, judges, clinicians, local detention staff, secure care employees and law enforcement officials. She produced reports that highlighted the progress and policy changes that took place throughout Louisiana as a result of systemic reform efforts.

A native of Lafayette, Beth holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in painting and a Masters degree in Communications and Public Relations, both from University of Louisiana-Lafayette. She and her husband, Todd Morgan, are the parents of a year-old son, Rory. Her interests include organic abstract painting and organic gardening – she raises both vegetables and ornamentals in her Baton Rouge garden.

Her community service includes serving as president and board member of the Lafayette chapter of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, and as a Parents Night Out volunteer at St. Jean Vianney Catholic Church in Baton Rouge.

The Legal Services unit welcomed **Paralegal Orshelle Roberts**. She came to OJJ from the Division of Administrative Law, where she served as Deputy Clerk of Court. Both OJJ and Orshelle had excellent references - her mother is recently retired purchasing and fleet management expert Nona Holmes.



Orshelle brings a wealth of unique experience to her position. She has served as a paralegal with the U.S. Attorney's Office/Healthcare Taskforce, with a prosecutor in a small town, and in the private practice of law. Prior to entering the legal field, Orshelle spent a number of years as a respiratory therapist, and served as director over several rehab facilities. She has also been a policewoman in a small Mississippi town.

Orshelle holds a Bachelors degree in criminal justice/crime scene investigation from South University in Savannah, Georgia. She took all of her coursework online, graduating summa cum laude. She is a law student at Southern University's evening division.

Orshelle and her husband, Steven, are the parents of four active sons aged 22 to 13.

Congratulations

A huge congratulations goes out to **Administrative Assistant Mitzi Sonnier** and her husband, Bridge City **Culinary Arts Instructor Chef Ron Sonnier**. They recently celebrated their 39th wedding anniversary – they were married May 25, 1974. Below is a wedding photo, accompanied by a more recent shot!



Employee Appreciation Luncheon

The central office executive team, under the leadership of **Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton**, honored the staff with a wonderful employee appreciation luncheon that featured a delicious array of food, great entertainment and some brain-teaser games to keep us all on our toes. The executive team did all the setting up, served the food and made each of us feel very much appreciated and special.

A special guest was **William Kellibrew**, a consultant to the SAMHSA National Center for Trauma Informed Care, who stopped by the visit and joined us for the luncheon and program. One of the games was a baby picture contest that everyone really enjoyed – baby pictures of staff were flashed on a screen and we all had to guess who that child had grown into today. We had some obvious choices and some real surprises!

Comments from staff included “Thanks for such an awesome appreciation luncheon. I truly enjoyed everything. Job well done to all who helped with such a rewarding treat.”



Above: the executive team serves lunch. Below, Dr. Livers thanks the central office staff.



Top: the Administrative Assistants team, Shaeki Shanklin, Brandy Frank, Mitzi Sonnier and Gwen Brinkley-Jones, ponder the answer to a question in the brain-teaser “jeopardy-style” game. Center...conferring....bottom...winning!

Donation for Cancer Research

Morale Committee chair **Nita Franklin-Shanklin**, Dr. Livers’ assistant, says we received gracious thank-you note from Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center recognizing OJJ’s donation of \$907.66 in 2012. Thank you for your support.

Health Services Administrator

Kelly Smith and her husband, **Clinton**, attended the NFL Experience 2013 in New Orleans. Kelly said that many professional football players were available for signing autographs, photographs, questions and fun during the Superbowl.



Congratulations



Congratulations to **Program Specialist Yezette White**, who recently completed the Master of Arts program in Criminal Justice with a concentration in juvenile justice at Southern University at New Orleans. She graduated in May. Yezette has several people to thank for contributing to her success: "I am excited to have accomplished this goal. The encouragement and support received from **Chief of Operations Ellyn Toney** and **Regional Director Carolyn Lewis** gave me confidence to continue to do my very best. My **daughter, Xzania**, and **husband, Percy**, were also huge influences on my returning to college. Xzania told me that I have always encouraged her to do her very best and never give up on the desire to learn, and Percy supported my decision to return to college to complete a goal I had placed on hold for several years. I believe the expansion of my knowledge in the field of criminal justice was a perfect means to enhancing my professional expertise. The M.A. in Criminal Justice was a valuable course of study for increasing my knowledge in the areas of causes of crime, policy development, offender treatment and quality assurance measures, because this degree has greater applicability beyond just law enforcement."

Nita Franklin-Shanklin's granddaughter, Taylor, recently won District and State honors in the State Poetry Literary Rally.

Col. Louis Hyatt is delighted to share the news that his **daughter, Lauren**, graduated from LSU. She majored in Inter-Disciplinary Studies/Communications, History, and Psychology. She is moving to Austin for the time being, but Lauren told her dad she would like to work with troubled kids and would move back home if something in that field becomes available. A lady in Alexandria made the cake pictured for Lauren's graduation party, and Lauren sent a picture of the cake to Abita Beer, which posted it on their Facebook page, where it's gotten a lot of hits.



On another congratulatory note, **Col. Hyatt's wife, Vickie**, just retired after 33 years of teaching.

Hammond Regional Office

Employees of the Month



PPO2 Jamie Oertel was selected as Hammond OJJ's first **Employee of the Month**. Jamie's supervisor, **PPS Carrie Austin**, had a lot of great reasons for nominating Jamie as the Employee of the Month. "When Jamie began working with OJJ in February 2010...she was very enthusiastic about learning the job," Carrie

said. “She caught on very quickly and has exceeded the expectations of a “rookie” employee. She is very reliable. Jamie has a pretty tough caseload... including a high number of non-secure cases. Jamie works her cases with little complaint and it is apparent that her daily decisions are well thought out, taking the interest of each youth on her caseload into consideration.”

“Jamie’s interactions with the youth show that she has developed a strong bond with many of the youth on her caseload,” Carrie added. “On one occasion, Jamie drove a parent, who had no transportation, to north Louisiana on a weekend, so that the youth could have visitation with his mother. She reported that this visit with his mother had a drastic, positive impact on his behavior at the facility. Not only is Jamie an asset to my unit, she is an asset to the OJJ agency. Jamie is very dependable, and a hard worker. Jamie works daily to meet the mission of this agency. I am constantly thanking her for the little “extras” that she does, while she still has all of the other requirements of caseload supervision.”



PPO3 Dana May was named **April Employee of the Month**. She was recognized for accepting an increase in duties without complaint, being very supportive of a youth getting his GED, having JETS documentation completed timely and accurately, and for being dedicated and reliable.

SUPERSTAR!

The Superstar for March was **PPO2 Jonathan Varnado**. He was recognized by **PPO2 Jamie Oertel** for transporting one of her youth to take a test.

PPO3 Mark Davis was the Superstar for April. He was recognized by **PPO2 Jamie Oertel** for cleaning guns.

To Say Thanks...

Administrative Coordinator 3 Terri Spencer and **Administrative Coordinator 4 Courtney Pegues** were surprised with a gathering on Administrative Professionals Day. The staff pitched in and gave them gift cards and a delicious cookie cake. They also each received a beautiful basket from **RM Sue Larisey** in appreciation for all they do.

Congratulations on POST Graduation

PPOs Adam Nyquist and **Sarah Gilberti** graduated from the Slidell Regional POST Academy. The Hammond OJJ staff is happy to have them back. Congratulations on your accomplishments!

PPO Dawnita Hodge and Sarah Gilberti.



PPO Johnny Prentice and Adam Nyquist.



What's Going On

100%!

Hammond OJJ passed the ORM safety audit with 100% compliance!



Hammond OJJ staff participated in PPCT Refresher training.

26 Acts of Kindness

PPOs Wendy Clark, Robert Penn, Truett Glass and Christy Ford assisted Bridge City staff and youth by volunteering at a local food bank as part of the 26 Acts of Kindness campaign.

PPOs Robert Penn and Tyrone McClendon attended a Bridge City event at the Southeast Veterans Home in Reserve. BCCY staff and other PPOs from the Southeast Region assisted as youth recited literature in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and served refreshments to the veterans.

SSCIV Lori Wagner attended the public forum on addictive disorders in our region. The meeting was held at the Florida Parishes Human Services Authority in Hammond. Information was presented by **Ken Saucier** and **Donita LeBlanc** from DHH. The directors of Adult Addictive Services in the area also presented information on the collaboration of behavioral health and addictive disorders, which includes combining the offices in several areas, including Washington and St. Tammany Parishes.

PPOs Tyrone McClendon, Jennifer Sirchia and Robert Penn attended the National Crime Symposium in New Orleans. Tyrone reports that he had the privilege to hear **Judge Arthur L. Burnett, Sr.** speak, which was very inspirational. Judge Burnett worked with U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and he was a Special Assistant to U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

PPO2 Jonathan Varnado moderated a forum on probation/compliance officer practices at the Louisiana Association of Drug Court Professionals' 2013 annual conference in New Orleans. Topics included supervising



client and social media, building clients' trust, parental accountability, and new drug trends. Following the forum, Jonathan presented the findings to the other juvenile drug courts present at the conference.

From PPO1 Robert Penn's caseload: Youth L.H. obtained his GED!

From PPO3 Dana May's caseload:

Youth D.L. obtained his GED prior to his case closing. D.L.'s father is disabled and the family has experienced financial hardship. D.L. was 16 and in the 9th grade when PPO May began working with him. He had a history of school failures and was not interested in attending high school because he was embarrassed to attend classes with youth who were two to three years younger than him; however, he did want to get an education. He felt his father wouldn't allow him to attend GED classes because he would see it as dropping out of school and giving up. D.L. felt that if he could get his GED, he could then get a job and help financially support the family. PPO May sat down with D.L.'s father and discussed the benefits of allowing him to enroll in the Adult

Education/GED center. The following week, D.L. was enrolled and attending school at the local GED center. When PPO May went to see D.L. he said that he would not let her down. He attended class every day, riding his bike or walking to school no matter the weather. He didn't pass the GED test on his first or second attempt, but he didn't give up. He took the test a third time and obtained his GED. D.L.'s family didn't have the means to pay for "graduation" and it appeared that he would not be able to celebrate this accomplishment with his peers at the Adult Education Center. PPO May spoke with the ADA and the supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance, and they decided to donate the money needed to pay for D.L.'s cap and gown, pictures and graduation fees. D.L. and his family were so grateful. D.L. thanked PPO May for all she'd done, and PPO May thanked D.L. for doing what he set out to do. When D.L.'s case closed, he was looking for a job in order to purchase a car to attend a vocational school.

From PPO3 Wendy Clark's caseload:

Youth T.B. is at Bridge City, where he obtained his GED maintains a minimum custody level with no reported write ups, even after his stepfather who raised him passed away. He is now studying culinary arts and cable electronics through the vocational program at the facility.

From PPO3 Tiffany James' caseload:

When **Youth M.M.** first began supervision, she had a lot of issues. Her home life was chaotic, she would not attend school, she engaged in physical fights with her parents, and had several psychiatric hospitalizations. Her probation was revoked and she was placed in OJJ custody for one year. She spent five months at Renaissance and did very well. When she was released from custody, she remained under OJJ's supervision for assistance in reintegrating into the community and into her parents' home. M.M. did extremely well after her release from custody. She attended school and has done outstanding work. She also is getting along well with her

family, who feel she has made a complete turn-around.

From PPO2 Jonathan Varnado's caseload:

Jonathan reports that a youth on his caseload graduated from the Slidell City Drug Court Program. This youth plans to finish high school and go on to college.

From PPO2 Jamie Oertel's caseload:

A former youth from Jamie's caseload recently graduated from Pearl River High School.

From PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia's caseload:



Pictured at Drug Court graduation, from left, Youths M.C., J.P. and B.W.

These three young men graduated from the 21st JDC Drug Court Program. Judge Blair Edwards terminated their probation due to their successful completion of the program and they earned an early release from supervision. Although all three young men were successful in the program, **Youth J.P.** receives special recognition. In order to really appreciate the magnitude of J.P.'s accomplishments, you should know that just eight months ago, he was a freshman in high school with a history of truancy, ungovernable and runaway behavior. In addition to successfully completing the 21st JDC Drug Court Program, J.P. also attended and successfully completed the Youth Challenge Program. While at YCP, J.P. did an outstanding job. On his practice test for the GED, he had an overall score of 598, with a reading score of 800. J.P. received his GED, took the ACT and scored a 17. Additionally, he received an athletic award and the award for most improved during counseling. J.P. is actively seeking part time

employment and plans to enroll in college in the fall, where he would like to major in computer science.

From PPO3 Amy Johnson's caseload:
Youth K.K., Youth M.P. and Youth T.A. all successfully graduated from the Carville Youth Challenge Program and obtained their GEDs.

A probation youth, **K.H.**, was 13 years old when OJJ started working with her on probation and in drug court. She was getting drugs from her mother, and her drug of choice was Oxycontin. K.H. initially struggled, went to inpatient substance abuse treatment, and after her second try, came out a much different person. Unfortunately, last April, K.H.'s mother was killed in an automobile accident. Pathways Family Counseling was put in place to work with K.H. and her father. K.H. has done extremely well. She has been sober since November 2011, made great strides in rebuilding her relationship with her father and relatives, is doing very well in school and has goals for her future. K.H. graduated from the 21st JDC Drug Court Program and due to this accomplishment, earned an early release from probation.

Another probation youth, **R.N.**, graduated the 21st JDC Drug Court Program and earned an early release from probation. R.N. was hanging out with the wrong people and had no real goals in life prior to being put on probation and in drug court. He was failing 9th grade for the second time when OJJ received his case, and had little motivation to do anything except smoke marijuana and hang out with his friends. R.N. was ultimately referred to the Pathways program to work on his GED and receive instruction in welding. R.N. was able to take his GED test within two months of enrolling and obtained it last May. He then went on to enroll in Northshore Technical College to study welding. He is now in his third semester there and doing great!

From PPO3 Truett Glass' caseload:

A youth made the A/B Honor Roll for the first time. He has achieved a 3.5 GPA.

Truett relates, "Recently, I was meeting with a youth at her high school when the school announced the winners of the science fair over the intercom. The youth I was meeting with looked at me and told me she participated in the fair by entering a project that detailed chemicals used to remove oil-based paints. Just as she finished telling me about her project, the announcement came that she won first place in her grade. She was so excited; she jumped out of her chair and gave me a big "high five"! The youth was very excited, telling me she never won anything before. **Judge Blair Edwards** was updated with the youth's accomplishments and she extended a congratulatory "awesome job" to the youth. She then competed in the District level science fair in Hammond and possibly the state competition. It was exciting to see one of our youth accomplish a personal goal right then and there!

From PPO3 Penny Buniff's caseload:

Penny tells us that a youth that has reached his full term date with OJJ continues to attend school at Northshore Technical College. This youth recently obtained his GED and still attends the Electric Line Technician Program at Northshore.

Another youth on Penny's caseload recently graduated from the Youth Challenge Program and received his GED.

C.T. was placed under OJJ supervision in November 2011. He was referred to the 21st JDC Drug Court program due to his severe drug use. During supervision, he was also involved with MST, EMP, and referred for inpatient substance abuse treatment. It seemed like nothing was going to work to change C.T. It then came down to his attending the Youth Challenge Program or having his probation revoked. C.T. chose to cooperate with YCP and seemed to thrive there, showing a different side that we had not

seen. However, while at YCP, C.T. was injured through no fault of his own, and had to come home while his injury heals. Even though he didn't complete YCP, he came home with a great attitude and a desire to enroll in Adult Education. C.T. is now described as a "trustworthy young man" and has successfully completed drug court and earned an early release from supervision.

News From Social Services

By SSCIV Lori Wagner

Many times in *The Inside Scoop*, we talk about the successes of the youth; however, this time I want to talk about the success of a parent. We all know that parents play the biggest role in helping their children become successful, productive citizens.

A youth I have been working with, **H.S.**, has experienced some trauma in her life in the past few years. Two years ago H.S. began living with her father, Mr. B., due to traumatic events she suffered while living with her mother. She and her father were living in a nearby community that experienced extreme flooding from Hurricane Isaac, which ruined their home. She and her father moved in with her father's friend in another community.

Over the past few months, H.S. has had struggles in school and at home. Her father tried to address those issues, but was working from a guilt perspective, so his decisions were clouded. He came to the office to meet with me. He has been struggling with his decisions concerning his daughter and his role as a father. He began to suffer physical ailments such as chest and stomach pains, from the stress of the situation. During our sessions, he was able to gain some insight into the content we were discussing over the past several weeks, and he came to a place where he was ready to take action on those new insights. He formulated a plan for his daughter's therapeutic needs, a plan for a more cohesive family dynamic, and some new rules and plans to enforce them, including

consequences. Although it had only been a short time, Mr. B. reported things were going very well. He seemed surprised at how well things were going, but understood why, as he used a more rational, unbiased approach in attaining his goals. I am so proud of Mr. B. He took the initiative to change things within his household, knowing he would have to give up his own freedom to improve the family; however, he was willing to do so. This family is now on the path to a healthier future, which will inevitably change H.S.'s future for the best.

I have also been working with **Youth B.S.**, who struggled with educational plans and commitment. He tried web-based schooling, but was unsuccessful with that. Through collaboration with the Northshore Technical Community College, he was able to take his TABE (Tests of Adult Basic Education) and was immediately placed in the advanced GED classes, which will allow him the possibility of obtaining his GED before his supervision ends.

Crawfish Day!



Hammond OJJ staff held a morale boosting crawfish boil in April. Many thanks go to **PPO2 Jamie Oertel** for organizing the event.

The morale committee contributed ideas and assisted with the event as well. **PPO Tyrone McClendon**, **PPO1 Robert Penn** and **PPS Johnny Prentice** served as our chefs and did an awesome job boiling crawfish, potatoes, corn, sausage, mushrooms, asparagus, and green beans.



Pictured from left Parker Boyd, Carrie Austin, Dawnita Hodge, Jonathan Varnado, Anthony Percell, Kasey Wall, Jamie Oertel and RM Sue Larisey.

Congratulations



SSCIV Lori Wagner's son, Brice Wagner, married his high school sweetheart, **Lacie Rodriguez,** in January. The ceremony was held at Istrouma Baptist Church and the reception was held at Forrest Grove Plantation. The

couple honeymooned in Breckinridge, Colorado. "This is my only child and I could not be more proud of his accomplishments, and I am so happy to gain such an awesome daughter," said Lori. Brice owns a construction business, Wagner's Construction, and Lacie recently graduated from Our Lady of the Lake Nursing School and is employed as a nurse at OLOL. Congratulations!

PPO1 Robert Penn and his wife **Lakisha** welcomed **Caleb Jamel Penn** into the world in January. Congratulations on the addition to the family!

Hammond OJJ threw a baby shower for **PPO2 Jonathan Varnado.** Jonathan and his fiancée had a baby boy in May.



Jetson Center for Youth

Jetson Welcomes New Deputy Director



Ashley Taflinger is the new Deputy Director at Jetson Center for Youth. Ashley comes to OJJ from Indiana, where she served as Program Director at the Madison Juvenile Corrections Facility.

She brings experience working with delinquent boys and girls to her position. A native of Kokomo, Indiana, Ashley holds both a Bachelors and Masters degrees in Criminology from Indiana State University.

"I love kids and I love working with at-risk youth," Ashley said. "Juveniles are so much fun to work with. Teenagers have such an energy about them. I always try to use humor with the kids, and I've always had good rapport with the kids I've worked with."

She chose to move to Louisiana for the outstanding opportunity to work with youth at Jetson, Louisiana's moderate weather (it's a lot colder in Indiana). Ashley says that her main interests are kids and animals, and she also enjoys running, working out and reading.

Staff of the Year

"I want to personally thank all of you for your commitment," said **Director Angela Sutton,** in noting the facility's Staff of the Year.

JJS Staff of the Year - Frances Bailey

Administrative/Management Staff of the Year - JJS Larry Sharp

Treatment Staff of the Year - Rosena Abdul-Aziz

Support Staff of the Year - Tyra Pollard

Youth Tour Baton Rouge Community College

Two Jetson youth toured Baton Rouge Community College. **Youth Kyle L.** and **Youth Romero R.** have their GEDs and look forward to furthering their education. **Transition Coordinator Adrain Skipper** arranged the tour with **BRCC Recruiter Domingo Carrasquel.**



Prior to the tour, Mr. Carrasquel gave an overview of BRCC and told the youth about the advantages of attending Baton Rouge Community College. He escorted the group, which included **Director Angela Sutton, Adm. Asst. Felicia Gibson, Principal Ronnie Knox, Transition Coordinator Adrain Skipper, JJS Jumar Ficklin, JJS Reginald Robinson, Transport Officers Gerard Landry and Jason Jones, Youth Kyle L. and Youth Romero R.,** pictured above, around the campus. The youth are looking forward to experiencing 'college life' and taking the needed steps towards a higher education.

Happenings

Recreational Therapist Coach Alonzo Jones and **Ms. Carolyn Thomas** started a Youth Council.

Our youth represented Jetson at the National Crime Symposium hosted by the Institute for Social Justice in New Orleans. **Youth Devin C., Raynell B., Monteco F., Meshach C., Darrell T., Tyree D. and Elijah J.** did a great

job under the direction of **Ms. Sinnidra Taylor** performing their rendition of "Young Man Rising." The youth made Jetson very proud once again. Thanks to Group Leaders **Shera Knighten, Micon Gaines, Walter Chisholm** and **Reginald Robinson** and **Felicia Gibson** for accompanying the youth.

Youth Work at the BR Food Bank

Several Jetson youth were granted the opportunity to give back to the many communities that the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank serves. Our youth were introduced to the GBRFB staff and properly trained by **Mr. George Leblanc.** One youth commented, "I think I have found a summertime community service project." (Implying that he will continue to help the Food Bank once he is released).

Everyone who went along with the youth, **Director Angela Sutton, Adm. Asst. Felicia Gibson, JJS Jumar Ficklin, JJS Johnson, Probation Officer Keelen Robinson** and **Transport Officer Gerard Landry,** all assisted the youth in sorting, boxing, and distributing non-perishable items.



Above, from left, Devin C., Jamal V., Donnell B. and Dartanion B. Below, just a few of the many boxes our youth sorted.



While assisting and observing the youth as they worked diligently, Director Sutton commented that this was definitely an opportunity to give back to the community that she would like to continue. The youth really worked hard at sorting and distributing the food items to its proper place.



The youth pay close attention as they receive training at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

This event afforded the youth to give back to the community, but also allowed them to form a bond with each other. It was definitely apparent that no one person could complete as many boxes in 2.5 hours as the group.

We want to thank the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank for allowing Jetson Center for Youth to volunteer in our efforts towards giving back to the community, and we look forward to building a partnership with them.

Trauma-Informed Care Speaker Presents to Jetson Youth

At an assembly held for all youth and staff, **Mr. William Kellibrew IV** presented remarks and information regarding post traumatic stress disorder. **Family Liaison Donna Bowie** was instrumental in bringing this special speaker to us.

Mr. Kellibrew spoke from his heart and experience, as he is a victim of a traumatic event in his life. As a young boy, growing up in Washington, D.C., he lived with a single mother and four siblings. At age 6, he was violently raped by his mother's neighbor and

at age 10, he watched helplessly as his mother and 12-year-old brother were shot in their living room by his mother's ex-boyfriend. The killer committed suicide, but not before he had young William beg for his life at gunpoint. The next day, he witnessed his grandfather shoot the next door neighbor. Witnessing two shootings in two days traumatized him for years; at age 13, he attempted suicide and was hospitalized several times for clinical depression. He spent most of his teenage years running away, homeless, and wandering the streets.

Mr. Kellibrew is an international motivational speaker on civil, human, women's, children's, and victims' rights. He is the Vice President for Strategic Partnerships at Mauldin Brand Agency based in Atlanta. After spending 20 years rebuilding his life, Mr. Kellibrew currently consults for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the National Center for Trauma-Informed Care, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors, and the Office for Victims of Crime.

His areas of expertise include victim/survivor of crime, juvenile/youth victims, children exposed to violence, ploy-victimization and domestic violence.



Youth listen intently as Mr. William Kellibrew describes his life experiences.



Assistant Director Fouad Harb, Family Liaison Donna Bowie, Ms. Delores Short (Ma'Dear), grandmother of Mr. Kellibrew and William Kellibrew.

The students were very interested in Mr. Kellibrew's presentation. Many of our youth have this disorder (PTSD) and could relate to the information he shared. Many of them also could relate to his young life and how he overcame adversity.

We thank Donna Bowie for her persistence in getting Mr. Kellibrew to OJJ. He was in Lafayette speaking to counselors and social workers on Trauma & Trauma-Informed Care., and was able to also visit Jetson and Bridge City. This training and his travels to JCY and BCCY were provided by the SAMHSA National Center for Trauma-Informed Care Promoting Alternatives to Seclusion and Restraint through Trauma-Informed Practices grantee, the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD), and through a grant from the Southwest Network of Youth Services. We take this opportunity to thank the SAMHSA organization, Mr. Kellibrew and his grandmother, Ms. Delores (Ma'Dear) for sharing their time with us. His schedule did not permit him to speak to the youth at Swanson this time but he has promised to come back.

Thanks to **Regional Director Johnny Qualls, Director Angela Sutton** and **Principal Ronnie Knox** for scheduling this exciting, worthwhile event.

Awards Day Recognition for Students



Scenic Alternative High school hosted its awards day ceremony for students who had done outstanding academic work in the classroom. Teachers were asked to submit the names of students who had shown academic growth and success over the course of a given time period. Certificates were made and presented to students during a school-wide assembly. Each teacher was asked to present the awards to their chosen students. The program was very successful and the recipients' appreciation for recognition was noted throughout the ceremony. It was a great success. *Pictured is English Instructor Kimberly Ringgold presenting student Michael C. with his certificate.*

Black History Month Program Held at Scenic Alternative High School

The annual Black History Program was held in the gymnasium, which was decorated in red, green, and black with posters of the person who made tremendous contributions to the world. The program was completely performed by the youth at Scenic Alternative High School, except for the opening prayer, given by **Rev. Samuel Butler**, C-Tech Instructor. **Youth Devin C.** welcomed everyone and invited them to sit back and enjoy the program.

The first activity was entitled "Who Am I". There were nine famous people represented by the youth, who gave interesting facts about the people and their accomplishments, as follows: **Avion F.** - Jackie Robinson; **John M.** - Dr. Charles Drew; **Kyle R.** - Joe Louis; **Jonathan S.** - Bill Cosby; **Austin R.** - Coach Eddie Robinson; **Kyron L.** - Carter G. Woodson; **Kenon R.** - Sidney Poitier; **Isiah T.** - Colin Powell; **Michael C.** - President Barack Obama. **Mr. Thomas** and **Principal**

Ronnie Knox practiced with the youth so their presentations would be flawless. These young men really spoke from their hearts and the people they spoke about seemed to become real to the audience.

This was followed by a recitation of a poem entitled "A Young Man Rising" presented by seven youth: **Elijah J., Ranell B., Devin Clark, Tyree D., Monteco F., Darrell T., and Me'shach C.** **Ms. Sinnedra Taylor**, teacher with SSP, coached the youth with their expressions and inflections of voice to make this a very enjoyable experience both for the youth and the audience.

Facts about Black history were presented by Youth **Elijah J.** He gave information about the importance of preserving Black history. **Michael C.** wrote and presented "Words of Encouragement" to the youth. His message was never give up on yourself because the world needs every good man. **Monteco F.** told about Black women in history and **Tommy L.** spoke about Black people in Louisiana history.

Closing the program was a performance by three youth, **Joseph V., Melvin C. and Donell B.,** doing the "Stomp." It was remarkable to see how these three youth performed this well-synchronized march or stomp. It is unbelievable to watch and one realizes how long it takes to practice. The youth in Sunset dorm are always practicing so they will be ready to perform for any request.

Closing remarks were made by **Director Angela Sutton, Monte Burke, Chief Operation Officer for SSP, and Principal Ronnie Knox.**

The program can be summed up by this quote from **Poet Maya Angelou**, "History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again."

C-Tech Expands at Scenic Alternative High School

After undergoing a systemic review, **Title I Coordinator Ed Green** approved a grant to the C-Tech program at Scenic Alternative High School. **Mr. Samuel Butler**, C-Tech Instructor, works diligently each day with a select group of students helping them to obtain C-Tech certification. All who have undergone his instruction have been phenomenally successful. Kudos to Mr. Butler for being instrumental in making this program a success for the youth. Jetson is proud to have the vocational program and we look forward to gaining additional funding to make the program a continued success.

GED Announcement

Principal Ronnie Knox had the distinct pleasure of presenting several youth with the good news that they had passed their GED test. Congratulations to **Youths Joel F., Thomas L., John M., Kyle R., Jonathan S. and Derrick H.** for achieving their educational goal. Congratulations to these young men! This was a team effort - a big shout out to the teachers of Scenic Alternative High School for their hard work and daily endeavors in the important task of redirecting youths' lives toward responsible citizenship. Special thanks to Principal Ronnie Knox for setting high standards, being a leader and a true stakeholder in our mission.

Welcome Home, Sgt. Major Singleton!

Sgt. Major Singleton, brother of Adm. Asst. Ramona Garror, is back on U.S. soil after a lengthy tour in Afghanistan, and his family is so glad to have him home.



Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

A poem by **PPO2 Jamie Baronet's client, Armorian H.**, while at AMIkids-Acadiana:

"Who Am I?"

I am a student trying to work this program
I wonder where I will be in 5 years
I hear no one but the thoughts in my head
I see my reflections in the mirror
I want to go home

I pretend that I'm something I'm not
I feel sick because I'm not home
I touch the grass because it feels free
I worry that I won't finish this program
I ask when would I go home
I am a student trying to work the program

I understand that I need to finish this program
I believe there are people that care about me
I dream to be a lawyer
I trust no one but the Lord
I hope that one day I go to heaven
I am a student trying to work this program

Training Conducted

Officers were recertified in PPCT, thanks to the region's PPCT instructors, **PPSs Lynnette Broussard** and **Chris Potier**. All officers passed with flying colors. Our PPOs also participated in firearms refresher training in time for annual qualification. Firearms instructors **PPSs Joey Denais** and **Courtney Holderman** and **PPO3 Justin Beasley** conducted the training at the Iberia Parish Sheriff's Office range. Congratulations to **PPO Jimmy Guidry**, who shot a 120!

What's Going On

PPO2 Jason McCraney reports that **Kaleon B.** graduated from the National Guard Youth Challenge Program, and earned his GED. Kaleon is working at a local supermarket, and

plans to attend South Louisiana Community College.

PPO Cassandra Brown's client **Dustin P.** graduated from the Youth Challenge Program and obtained his GED. Dustin completed his ACT and ASVAB while in the program, scoring 18 on his ACT and a 33 Military Entrance Score on his ASVAB. **PPO Brown** also reports that **Diontra C.** graduated from the Youth Challenge Program, and completed his GED classes. **Brandon O.** obtained his GED, and plans to attend culinary school. Great job, everyone.

PPO3 Kevin Broussard reports that his client, **Eligah T.**, graduated from the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. Eligah was a high-risk youth who had been adjudicated for some very serious offenses, but requested that he be allowed to enroll in the program to turn his life around. The **Honorable Cameron Simmons** allowed Eligah to apply for and enroll in the program, as an alternative to OJJ custody, and Eligah excelled. PPO Broussard hopes Eligah continues to excel and becomes a productive citizen.



The Acadia/St. Landry Retirement home hosted a bingo function, and residents of AMIkids-Acadiana with probation officers from the Lafayette region attended and visited with the residents of the nursing home as one of the "26 Acts of Kindness." The AMIkids helped the seniors play bingo and **PPO Ken Stewart, pictured**, Lafayette OJJ's resident musical genius, entertained by playing traditional Cajun music on the accordion. **PPO George Hebert** spearheaded our involvement with the program, and **Jamikal P.** presented his essay, titled "Why It Is Important To Do Acts Of Kindness" to the group. **PPS Ernest Bejeaux** and his wife donated prizes for bingo. Three other residents also talked about the importance of doing acts of kindness.

Lake Charles Regional Office

What's Going On

PPO Alexis Prudhomme, Mr. Reggie Prudhomme of Boys Village and Mr. Paul Bray of Boys Village chaperoned four Boys Village residents during a presentation at Trinity Baptist Church. The kids received positive attention and praise. The OJJ kids selected to participate included: **Shane C., Brennon D., Steven A. and Aaron R.**



PPO Alexis Prudhomme, Reggie Prudhomme, youths Aaron, Brennan, Shane, Steven.



Top left, Brennon D., top right, Steven A., above left, Aaron R., above right, Shane C.

Provider Gulf Coast Social Services sent a thank-you note to our staff for a positive working relationship.

Several PPOs participated in the challenge to honor the Sandy Brook victims - 26 Acts of Kindness initiative. One officer got two residents from the Transitional Living Program to complete the Acts of Kindness challenge (written assignment) and **PPO Rebecca Harmon** also turned in a completed Acts of Kindness project.

PPO2 Jeff Haley, PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist and PPO3 Fred Fontenot recently played basketball at Methodist Children's Home, back "by popular demand" of the OJJ kids there, who had so much fun the first time the PPOs visited. Through the game, staff demonstrated different basketball skills and engaged the kids in good sportsman-like conduct. The PPOs also modeled ways to interact appropriately with their peers and authority figures. The kids were reported to be pleasant and kind with one another.

PPO Alexis Prudhomme, PPO Fred Fontenot, and another LC OJJ representative attended a basketball game at Boys Village to referee for the Capital One bank executives vs. Boys Village residents. The bank executives had donated their time on previous occasions to assist with independent living skills training at the Village, dealing with, of course, banking, money, budgeting, etc. **PPO Fred Fontenot** offered to supply Gatorade and water. Fred encouraged office staff to come out by saying, "This is a good opportunity to encourage community leaders to come out and participate in interactions with our OJJ youth. It is a good opportunity for OJJ staff to show leadership through demonstration of character and citizenship. Get involved in community affairs! "

PPO3 Fred Fontenot sought people interested in participating in a Louisiana State Police fundraiser, with proceeds going to helping the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

One of our PPOs volunteered to attend the Beauregard Parish Sheriff's Office's "Lock-up Prevention" Program at the Beauregard Jail in DeRidder. This is a pro-active effort to reduce the number of youth that enter the juvenile justice system in Beauregard Parish. It allows youth to see first-hand the struggles of incarceration, in the hope of preventing them from entering the system. Children ages 10-18 and their families attended the program to see the inside of a jail and inmates without any freedoms or privacy. It included a discussion session with the warden and other members of the staff, on the consequences of going to jail, and a tour of the jail, showing the reality of life as a prisoner.

PPO2 Angie Stevens was recognized for a success story with Youth **Michael K.** At one time, his judge had to use extreme restraint to not lock him up on the spot. However, by the time of case closure, the youth had a complete turnaround and ended his supervision as a fully successful, productive, law-abiding citizen. This type of youth provides a PPO with fulfillment to keep going and keep trying!

PPO3 Rebecca Harmon assisted a mother and her daughter, who is no longer on probation. This fulfills an ACA standard and expectation that we continue to aid our families after they responsibilities to OJJ have concluded if they request our assistance.

PPO3 Alexis Prudhomme and three other Lake Charles OJJ representatives attended the Boys Village annual party at Treasures of Marilyn's. Families were invited and everyone socialized and enjoyed lots of good food.

Thank you to **NRA Firearms Instructors Joey Denais** and **Justin Beasley** of Lafayette OJJ for visiting the Lake Charles OJJ office to conduct our annual, required classroom firearms training. The instruction was professional and valuable.

During the month we had a SAVRY Booster Training, PPCT refresher courses, ORM

Defensive Driving Training, and BI Total Access Training.

PPS Melissa Cross attended the KidsCAN Legislative Breakfast, hosted by our Mayor.

PPS Melissa Cross and **PPO3 Monet Newman** presented OJJ's mission at McNeese State University's Spring 2013 Career Fair.

PPO3 Monet Newman and **PPO2 Hollie Comeaux** attended the two-day Connections Count Conference in Lake Charles.

Our Valentine's Day was wonderful! **PPS Melissa Cross** delivered office-wide Valentines. Even greater, **PPO Alexis Heflin**, **Program Specialist Karli Pullard**, and two others surprised everyone by providing a full, warm breakfast for the office, pictured below. This was an incredible morale booster!



Breakfast for the staff boosted morale for everyone.

Boys Village Building Newly Opened



The new Boys Village Administration building is finally in use after the fire they suffered a while back, left and below. PPS Ken Vidrine represented Lake Charles OJJ at the ribbon cutting.



Administrative Professional Recognized

The entire office collected items for **Administrative Coordinator Erline Pierce's** gift basket for Administrative Professionals Day! PPS Melissa Cross made a lovely presentation to Erline, pictured below. Erline also recently celebrated an employment anniversary – she has worked for the state for 24 years.



PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist celebrated his 10th anniversary of state service - a decade!

Our probation officers continue to take well-deserving youth to lunch. One PPO accompanied Harbour House staff to reward **Youth Randall S.** with a Buffalo Wild Wings dinner for good behavior and level attainment.

Thank you to trainers and presenters: **Program Specialist Karli Pullard, PPO3 Monet Newman, PPS Melissa Cross, Social Worker Claude Devillier,** and three others made presentations during the Lake Charles OJJ's annual training topics week. Thank you to our Training Coordinator for all the effort in organizing the training dates.

PPO3 Fred Fontenot and his fellow PPCT instructor attended the Bullet-Proof Minds presentation at the Civic Center to expand their knowledge of officer safety. The Bullet Proof Mind was presented by **Lt. Col. Dave Grossman,** who is incredibly knowledgeable in our field.

Beauregard Parish began having meetings to plan its Resource Center. They envision a

one-stop shop, similar to Calcasieu Parish's M.A.R.C. (Multi-Assessment Resource Center). They have involved a stakeholder from Lake Charles OJJ to help in the planning and discussion.

PPS Melissa Cross and **PPO3 Monet Newman** continue to attend the monthly Working Together for Families (WTF) meetings, an effective collaboration of Child Protective Services, Parish Juvenile Probation, and State Juvenile Probation. It is a proactive effort to utilize resources to keep kids in the community.

Lake Charles OJJ recently had several visitors from Baton Rouge, LA and Central Office:

RD Johnny Qualls, Jetson Director Angela Sutton, Jetson's new **Assistant Director Ashley Taflinger, Program Manager Melba Oubre,** and **Program Coordinator Laquelia "Keeya" Smith.** We are always proud to give a tour of our beautiful office building! We enjoyed getting to meet Ashley as she comes aboard. Collaboration and knowing faces always helps when we need to work together.

PPO2 Jeff Haley participated in an ORM Safety Audit and passed all required areas of mandated compliance.

PPO3 Monet Newman, PPO3 Rebecca Harmon, PPS Melissa Cross, and two others attended a Sex Trafficking presentation hosted by Oasis Rape Crisis Agency at McNeese State University.

PPS Melissa Cross and **PPS Ken Vidrine** participated in a webinar on the **Impact of Isolation on Youth in Confinement Facilities,** presented by the OJJDP National Technical Assistance and Training Center and the National Center for Youth in Custody. **OJJ Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary Livers** was one of the presenters, who discussed the impact of solitary confinement on youth and its counterproductive effects in controlling behavior. Hearing the perspective of a now successful advocate who was once in juvenile reform had the greatest impact in this office.

PPO3 Monet Newman travelled to Baton Rouge to be introduced to the responsibility of serving as a Unit Training Officer.

All Lake Charles OJJ staff participated in a viewing and discussion on "Not the Disability, but the Ability," a video shared by **RM Ann Vick** to motivate us to look past our limitations and strive to achieve more. A man who was injured when jumping out of an airplane during an air show travels to inspire others. Many of our families have disabilities and limitations, but the message is - limitations should not hinder the potential for greatness. With the right motivation and ability, we can all achieve.

Thanks for Going Above and Beyond

Thank you to several of our staff members who stepped up and assisted with clerical responsibilities when our office had no clerical representation. Several PPOs made lists of closing cases, mailed closure surveys, completed case closures, received incoming mail and date-stamped all incoming mail, and watched for incoming office traffic.

Thank you to **PPO3 Monet Newman** for adjusting our postage machine to account for the federal increase in postage. **Monet** was also called upon others many times in one day to problem solve computer programming and replacement issues, and postage issues. **PPO Hollie Comeaux** commented that Monet was in extremely high demand on that particular day, and took time to express gratitude. Thank you, Monet, for being willing to help.

PPS Ken Vidrine went above and beyond when he volunteered to pick up medications and deliver them to a youth in detention, on a Saturday when he did not have duty officer responsibility.

PPO Rebecca Harmon agreed to lead Bowl for Kids Sake participants and attempted to gather teams. We appreciate her efforts and volunteerism. Kudos to **Program Specialist**

Karli Pullard, PPO2 Hollie Comeaux and PPO3 Rebecca Harmon who raised money.

PPS Ken Vidrine worked diligently to resolve a PREA allegation made by a placement youth.

PPO2 Jeff Haley (aka, clown alias Ahh-chooo") continues his acts of community service through the Masons organization. He participated in the I-Hop Pancake Breakfast Day with the clown unit. Once again, he was in the newspaper for his civic involvement. He is now president of his local chapter of Masons and very involved.

Program Specialist Karli Pullard and several other Lake Charles probation officers choreographed a Black History Month presentation with Boys Village residents. The youth were given cupcakes after the presentation. **RM Ann Vick** presented certificates to the boys as a token of appreciation and something to be proud of. **PPO Fred Fontenot** provided Gatorade for the kids at Boys Village after the program. Most of the Lake Charles OJJ staff attended to be the audience for the kids' public speaking opportunity, see photos below.



Above, the Boys Village program, and below, the bulletin board.



Thank you to **IT Specialist Chris Allen** for visiting our office twice to correct laptop difficulties and to improve our server. Thanks for prompt friendly, knowledgeable service, and always being willing to help.

We are so proud of our high school graduates! **OJJ youth Alexia H.** and **Nathan M.** graduated from high school. These youth are supervised by **PPO3 Rebecca Harmon** and **PPO3 Ronald Gilchrist** respectively.

Our Families Celebrate



PPO3 Rebecca Harmon and her husband are proud to announce a new “family member” they have adopted into their hearts and whom they sponsor monthly to provide for his needs. The Harmonns have a blended

family, with six children, mostly daughters. They decided the Harmon household could use more male representation, so they chose to sponsor **Baby Dominic**, *pictured right*, through Child Fund International. Dominic will be 4 years old in September 2013. His family resides in a small village on the Caribbean island of Dominica. The Harmon family is anxious to send him love and support through the mail!



AC3 Erline Pierce was honored as Mother of the Bride in April when her daughter, **Kristal Pierce**, married **David Bachelor** in Kinder, where the new couple now resides.

OJJ (Staff) Kids Celebrate Graduations

PPO2 Hollie Comeaux proudly announced **Landon Comeaux’s** kindergarten graduation, and **PPO2 Jeff Haley** is proud to announce **Zach Haley’s** kindergarten graduation, both held at Maplewood Middle School.



Landon Comeaux, left, and Zach Haley.



PPO3 Monet Newman is proud to announce **Elaina Newman’s** pre-kindergarten graduation from Kid’s Places Preschool and Daycare. Elaina also had her first dance recital this year.



PPS Melissa Cross is proud to announce **Jackson**

Cross’s pre-kindergarten graduation, from St. Luke-Simpson Childcare Center and Preschool.



Hibiscis, Copan de Ruinas, Honduras

Monroe Regional Office



A New Face at Monroe OJJ!

AA5 Shakita Hayes has moved into her new digs in the Monroe OJJ office as RD Carolyn Lewis's administrative assistant. Welcome, Shakita!

Staff Assist at SCY-Columbia

Staff from Monroe OJJ participated in two walk-throughs at the new Swanson Center for Youth at Columbia, which opened in May. Staff attending the walk-throughs included **RM Patty Newman, PPS Orlando Davis, PPS Karl Wallace, PPS Jennifer Bible, PS Walteree Barnes, PPO3 Jeremy Keyes, PPO3 Gary Hunter, PPO3 Willie Hunter, PPO3 Patrick Cooper, PPO3 Steve Pelfrey, PPO3 Cheryl Keyes, PPO3 Jackie Kindrix, PPO3 Joel McNair, PPO2 Jeremy Fox and PPO2 Garner Brass.** RM Newman commented of SCY-C, "The campus is just beautiful. This facility will be an ideal setting to meet the needs of our youth."

Youth Success Stories

PPO3 Jeremy Keyes reported that one of his youth at Johnny Robinson's Boys Home is making excellent progress in the accelerated reader program at his school. In just a few months at the school he has earned approximately 400 points and has read approximately 3,456,000 words. His reward was going to lunch at The Warehouse restaurant with the principal in a limousine.

PPO2 Reginald Chaptman would like to recognize the achievements of **Youth Donovan W.** PPO2 Chaptman has been working with Donovan for several years and is very pleased to report that Donovan signed a letter of intent to play basketball at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas, where he received a scholarship.

PPS Karl Wallace would like to recognize the efforts of **PPO2 Gregory Colvin** and **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth**, who both supervise youths who recently graduated from the Youth Challenge Program. Additionally, **PPO Colvin's youth, Robert M.**, scored a 27 on the ACT and has been admitted to Louisiana Delta Community College. Congratulations!

Random Acts of Kindness

Monroe OJJ continues to encourage kindness within the office and community with Random Acts of Kindness. We all appreciate of the hard-working custodial staff in our office. As a token of our gratitude, staff members contributed money for dinner and a movie for our janitor and his family. We hope they enjoyed their fun night together!

This spring, each staff member selected the name of another coworker to be the recipient of random (and secret!) acts of kindness. So far, we've been treated to homemade cookies, flowers, gift cards for lunch, and candy. A hungry **PPO3 Jackie Kindrix** was excited to find unexpected snacks on her desk, while **PPO2 Mark Miller**, a history buff, was gifted a desktop Civil War cannon. We will all reveal our beneficiaries later in the year.

Congratulations

Monroe Probation & Parole was audited by the Loss Prevention Unit of the Office of Risk Management and found to be 100% compliant! While we all strive to maintain a safe workplace, **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth** is our designated Safety Officer, and without her diligence and hard work, this rating could not have been achieved. Thank you for all you do, Erica!

Congratulations to **PPO3 Steve Pelfrey**, who is engaged with plans to marry in June.

Recognizing Staff for Jobs Well Done

PPS Karl Wallace would like to recognize the hard work of **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth**, who prepared for our ORM Compliance Review.

PPO2 Gregory Colvin assisted **Youth Malik W.** in interviewing for the Carville Youth Challenge Program, which he entered in April.

PPS Jennifer Bible would like to recognize the efforts of **PPO2 Reginald Chaptman**. PPS Bible commented, "Reggie is very hard working and dedicated to his job. He worked diligently, along with the Monroe Police Department, to locate two custody youths this month. He worked long hours and was able to apprehend them with no problems."

We would like to commend **PPO2 Gregory Colvin**, who assisted in one of the above apprehensions. Greg went above and beyond the call of duty to assist in transports of youths recently, working from 7 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. one day.

PPS Karl Wallace would like to recognize the achievement of his "Cowboys" in placing four youth at the National Guard Youth Challenge Program. The "Cowboys" include **PPO2 Gregory Colvin**, **AC Diann Dixon**, **AC Kashka Flintroy**, **PPO2 Jeremy Fox**, **PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth** and **PPO3 Jackie Kindrix**. The Cowboys boast a 90% graduation rate for Lincoln Parish youth placed at YCP. Good job!

Staff Appreciation Attended

RM Patty Newman, **PS Walteree Barnes**, **PPO3 Gary Hunter** and **PPO3 Steve Pelfrey** participated in Swanson Center for Youth's Staff Appreciation Day. SCY staff members were served a delicious meal and enjoyed the recognition from their colleagues. **PS Barnes** commented, "It was a pleasure to

serve them. I am very appreciative of them for the work they do for our youth."

Staff Attended Governor's Conference

RM Patty Newman, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO2 Reginald Chaptman** and **PPO2 Gregory Colvin** attended the Governor's Conference in New Orleans. As always, everyone enjoyed the conference.

Monroe OJJ would like to offer special congratulations to "one of our own," **RD Carolyn Lewis**, who was presented with the Don Wydra Memorial Award for Extraordinary Contributions to Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention at the Governor's Conference. The Don Wydra Memorial Award is considered the "ultimate" award in the juvenile justice field in Louisiana.

PS Walteree Barnes commented, "Ms. Lewis has worked her entire career to benefit not only the youth in her community, but also children all across the state of Louisiana."

AC4 Gay Nivens remarked, "I have worked with Ms. Lewis since day one when she was a probation officer. She has always been a hard worker. She has gone above and beyond for the kids, and she has always put them first."

RM Patty Newman commented, "Ms. Lewis has devoted her entire career to juvenile justice and making a difference in the lives of children and families. She has been a role model for employees, and it is such a pleasure to see her contributions recognized with the Don Wydra Memorial Award."

Training and Staff Development at Monroe OJJ

We have had several fast-paced months at Monroe OJJ for staff training and development.

Our SAVRY Master Trainers, **PPO3 Hannah Dozier** and **PPO3 Cheryl Pringle**, reviewed

SAVRY policies and discussed our results on our test cases. PPO3 Dozier also conducted SAVRY training with staff at Swanson Center for Youth.

PS Walteree Barnes provided mandatory annual training to Monroe OJJ on a variety of topics, and our resident “germ guy,” **PPS Karl Wallace**, rounded out the training with his always-lively discussion of bloodborne pathogens.

PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth attended an ORM/FARA Conference in Pineville.

PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom and **PPO2 Jeremy Fox** continue to participate in the Pursuit of Paperlessness in Secure Facilities project, which is making excellent progress. The project participants planned to have recommendations prepared by May. We're excited to get this new program underway!

PPS Jennifer Bible, **PPS Karl Wallace** and **PPO3 Joel McNair** conducted annual POST training. Officers qualifying from Monroe OJJ were **PPO3 Hannah Dozier**, **PPO3 Steve Pelfrey**, **PPO2 Gregory Colvin** and **PPO2 Jeremy Fox**. We were also privileged to have **ACA Accreditation Manager Angela Arabie** join our training and qualify on the POST course. Congratulations!

We were pleased to have **Program Specialist Walteree Barnes** back in the office after a three-day trip to Baton Rouge to participate in the Louisiana AFCARS Assessment Review. Also participating were **PPO3 Shawn Herbert** from New Orleans, **PPS Melissa Cross** from Lake Charles and **Program Manager Melba Oubre** from Central Office. We were excited to hear PS Barnes's findings.

PPCT instructors PPO3 Patrick Cooper and **PPO3 Gary Hunter** completed PPCT Instructor Re-certification with the Baton Rouge Police Department.

PPS Karl Wallace, **PPS Jennifer Bible** and **PPO3 Joel McNair** conducted annual

firearms training for Monroe OJJ. We always appreciate PPS Wallace's zeal for role-playing in shoot/don't shoot scenarios. Kudos are especially extended to **PPO3 Patrick Cooper** and **PPO3 Jackie Kindrix** for their enthusiastic performance!

RM Patty Newman, **PPO3 Steve Pelfrey**, **PPO2 Mark Miller**, **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom** and **PPO2 Reggie Chaptman** attended training on the Criminal Elements of the Sovereign Citizen movement. The training was presented by the Bureau of Justice Assistance's State and Local Anti-Terrorism Training (SLATT) Program. The program was presented at the West Monroe Convention Center to a packed house of law enforcement agents.

PPO3 Hannah Dozier and **PPO3 Cheryl Pringle** conducted a SAVRY refresher training at a recent monthly staff meeting. **PPO2 Gregory Colvin** and **PPO3 Valerie Nordstrom** presented training on the Family Integrated Transitions model.

Monroe OJJ hosted Latonya Grubbs, an intern from the criminal justice program at Career Technical College. Ms. Grubbs attended court hearings with our PPOs, visited with youths and family members, and reviewed policies during her tenure at OJJ. Hard-working and enthusiastic, Ms. Grubbs will make an excellent addition to any criminal justice agency. We wish her the best in her education and career!



Intern Latonya Grubbs and PPS Orlando Davis.

Community Outreach Events

Monroe OJJ participated in community activities at several local schools recently.

PPS Orlando Davis would like to recognize the effort of **PPO2 Garner Brass**, who represented OJJ at Career Day at Jack Hayes Elementary School in February. Garner's son, **Tre**, is a student at Jack Hayes.



PPO2 Garner Brass and his son, Tre.



PPO3 Steve Pelfrey, pictured left, and **PPO3 Cheryl Pringle** attended the health fair at Neville High School.



PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth and **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**, pictured left, attended the career fair at Carroll High School.

Several PPOs participated at a fair at Wossman High School.

Thank you to all of our PPOs who demonstrated their commitment to our local youths and communities.

Parent Empowerment

Monroe OJJ hosted a meeting of the Parent Empowerment Network in our office. Topics addressed included navigating the juvenile justice system, the importance of family involvement and accessing community resources. We are deeply appreciative of the parents who attended and contributed to the discussion of how OJJ can best serve the needs of our local youths. We are hopeful that this meeting, and other events in the future, will help create a meaningful, productive dialogue between OJJ and our community, on providing safe and effective services to our youths and their families.

RM Patty Newman would also like to extend a thank you to the staff who participated in the evening meeting: **PPS Jennifer Bible**, **PPS Karl Wallace**, **PPS Orlando Davis**, **PPO3 Gary Hunter**, **PPO3 Willie Hunter**, **PPO3 Patrick Cooper**, **PPO2 Reginald Chaptman**, **PPO2 Jeremy Fox**, **PPO2 Gregory Colvin** and **PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom**. All of the staff would like to thank **Family Liaison Donna Bowie** for making the long drive from Baton Rouge to facilitate the meeting.

Who Doesn't Like Cute Babies??

Abigail Keyes, daughter of PPO3 Cheryl Keyes and PPO3 Jeremy Keyes, left.



Daphne Nordstrom, daughter of PPO2 Valerie Nordstrom.

We Celebrated PPS Gail Wilson's Retirement



PPS Gail Wilson and RM Patty Newman at Gail's retirement celebration.

The Monroe OJJ family said farewell to one of our longest-serving and most beloved members in January. **PPS Gail Wilson** retired from OJJ after 17 years of service to the agency, working in the Monroe, Tallulah, and Natchitoches offices. A retirement party was held in her honor at the Monroe OJJ office, with friends from Tallulah OJJ in attendance. Another gathering at O'Charley's Restaurant was held that evening.

When asked to describe Gail, who supervised **PPO2 Reggie Chaptman** throughout his career at OJJ, he replied: "Awesome. Irreplaceable. The best ever."

PS Walteree Barnes commented, "Gail is a very kind, loving, person. She was willing to give whatever was needed, whenever it was asked... and she knew how to throw a party!"

PPS Jennifer Bible remarked, "Gail was an outstanding supervisor to her "A Team." We never thought of her as a boss, but a leader. She was fair and honest. She always offered to help, even when she was overloaded with her own work. She was our cheerleader and always stood behind us, no matter what. She has taught me so much about leadership and dedication. She will be greatly missed, but I reassured her that if she doesn't visit often, we may be knocking on her door!"

Gail will always be remembered by the staff for her positive attitude, her commitment to the agency, and...let's be honest...her delicious rum cakes!



PPS Gail Wilson cutting her beautiful cake.



Enjoying the gathering, from left, PPO3 Cheryl Pringle, PPO3 Hannah Dozier, PPS Karl Wallace and PPO3 Patrick Cooper.



The original A-Team: PPO3 Willie Hunter, PPS Jennifer Bible, PPS Gail Wilson, PPO2 Reggie Chaptman, and former PPO3 David McMillan, who joined the festivities following his own retirement last fall. PPS Bible has taken the reins of the A-Team, with the addition of PPO2 Mark Miller and PPO3 Patrick Cooper.



Friends and colleagues from Tallulah OJJ from left, PPO3 Terri Berry, PPO3 LaJuana Harrell, PPO3 Fred Laing, PPS Gail Wilson, RM Ruth Stephens, PPS Margo Corulla, PPO3 Kim Green and PPO3 Robert Johnson.



Above, the gorgeous spread of goodies at Gail's retirement party. Below, the cake says it all. Bottom, it was not Mardi Gras, but the decorations say otherwise.

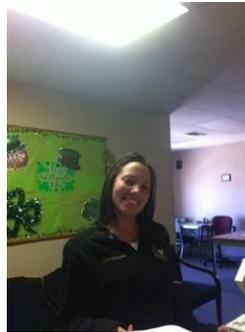


Natchitoches Regional Office

Employees of the Month Congratulations



WAE Transport Officer Magen Smith, February Employee of the Month



PPO3 Heather Christophe, March Employee of the Month.

Community Service

Natchitoches OJJ participated in a "Teen Summit" sponsored by the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office. A total of 300 students from areas schools participated. OJJ PPOs assisted deputies in numerous discussions during breakout sessions. Some topics discussed were bullying, recent school shootings, peer pressure and the cycle of committing delinquent acts, getting arrested, going to court and services offered by OJJ.



Staff from Natchitoches OJJ and the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office.

26 Acts of Kindness

On Valentine's Day the Natchitoches OJJ staff gave out cards to clients at the Natchitoches Association for Retarded Citizens. The staff who attended this event were **PPO3s Brenda Sarpy, Heather Christophe, PPO1 Christopher Johnson, PPO2 Kelvin Jones and SW5 Nelda Graham.** The cards were made by Ware Youth Center Intensive Residential and Group Home youth and the PPO3s of Natchitoches OJJ.



Above and below, clients who received cards made by the Ware youth and our PPOs.



Staff who gave out Valentines were included PPO3s Brenda Sarpy, Heather Christophe, PPO1 Christopher Johnson, PPO2 Kelvin Jones and SW5 Nelda Graham.

Several Natchitoches OJJ staff attended a parade at Weaver Elementary School. Our PPOs enjoyed the parade as they interacted with the young children in these festivities.



Left, PPO3 Deanna Williams. Right, PPO3s Deanna Williams, Heather Christophe and Brenda Sarpy.

Social Worker Month 2013

PPOs **Ashley Meacham** and **Brenda Sarpy**, spoke at the social worker's luncheon held at the Natchitoches Art Center. The event was hosted by **Doris Small, MSW/LCSW/DCC, Nelda Graham, LMSW, Mrs. Jose Hamilton**, Substance Abuse Counselor with the Office of Behavioral Health and **Vernon Mills**, who works with FINS and the Alexandria Drug Court. The meeting touched on implications for therapeutic interventions with behavior disordered children and collaboration of behavioral health providers and other agencies.



Left, PPOs Ashley Meacham and Brenda Sarpy, at the social worker's luncheon. Right, hosting the program were Vernon Mills, FINS and Alexandria Drug Court, OJJ's Nelda Graham and Mrs. Jose Hamilton, OBH Substance Abuse Counselor.

Natchitoches OJJ Staff surprised AC4 Wendy Crow, left, and AC3 Monica Breedlove with a delicious chocolate cake and gift cards for Administrative Professionals Day.



Several of our PPOs attended the Northwestern State University Kid Fair, along with the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office and many other community service members around the area.



Second from left, PPO3 Heather Christophe, PPO1 Christopher Johnson, Deputy Collin Crow, NPSO Rescue/Dive Team along with 2 NSU students.



PPO3 Ashley Meacham



PPO1 Christopher Johnson

New Orleans Metro Office

Employees of the Month

Congratulations



January Employee of the Month was **PPO Kimberly Dickerson**, who joined the OJJ family in March 2009. Four years later, she is still very passionate about the youth who are under supervision.

PPO Dickerson received a call from a youth who was previously on her caseload, thanking her for her guidance. He further stated that she played a major role in his life. The youth now successfully works offshore, and is doing well.

She takes pride in supervising who are placed on her caseload, because they are our future. She states, "If I can help one youth; mission accomplished!"

PPO3 LeMoyné Reine was selected February PPO of the Month. PPO Reine works diligently with the youth in OJJ's New Orleans Region, as he strives to meet our mission each day.



It is obvious that he has a heartfelt passion in working to better the community, as he is eager to provide individualized services to the youth and their families. He is always willing to lend a helping hand to his co-workers, and he exemplifies the true meaning of a "team player."

LeMoyné Reine is most deserving of this honor, and is an asset to OJJ.



PPO3 Daniel Mingea was the March PPO of the Month. Danny has proven himself to be a team player, managing extra duties when his team was short-staffed this past month. He maintains

a positive attitude while managing the extra responsibilities of an additional caseload and has been a welcome new addition in the St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parish courts. He was also given the opportunity to assist the office by managing the armory and working with St. Bernard Detention.



PPO3 Evalina Lestrick was chosen April Probation Officer of the Month for her hard work and dedication to her clients, making sure they are receiving the best

services possible. She is a valuable asset to her team and the department.

The Best is Yet to Come! Excelling in Academics and Life

PPO3 3 Dorothy Crump is elated that youth **L. Howard** is pushing the envelope and is one of a handful of outstanding New Orleans students who recently earned a chance to fly to Washington, DC and meet **First Lady Michelle Obama**. Not only that, **S. Ellington**, a teacher at Renew Accelerated Charter High School in New Orleans and one of L. Howard's teachers, said that L. is one of 40 Renew High School students who demonstrated professionalism and academic achievement throughout the year, earning the privilege to attend the Renew North Carolina /Atlanta/Alabama College tour, and visit Georgia Tech, the University of North Carolina and Tuskegee University. The college tour was an eye-opening and exciting trip that changed Lionel's outlook on his future.

Congratulations to **PPO3 Milton Crosby**, whose client **C. Hunter** earned his GED.

Congratulations to **Youth K. Richards**, who graduated from the Youth Challenge Program and earned his GED.

Black History Month



OJJ staff and youth were afforded the opportunity to reflect on Black history as a display was exhibited in the foyer area of our office, pictured above. A copy of Dr. Martin L. King's famous speech "I Have a Dream" was available for all.

Remembering Rosa

One of the staff was gracious enough to share an e-mail sent to her from Sen. Mary Landrieu: "Dear Friend, Something special happened in the Capitol for Black History Month. Congress and President Obama came together to dedicate a statue to Rosa Parks and her lasting legacy. Out of the 108 statues in the Capitol, Rosa's is the first full-length statue of an African American woman. It is also the first statue to be commissioned by Congress since the 1870s."



A Message of Gratitude

A message of gratitude goes to our community partners for donating door prizes for the social service meeting hosted by **Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit** during the first quarter of the year. Winners were Social Services staff from Natchitoches, Lafayette,

Thibodaux and central office. Thanks to the following partners:



The New Orleans Steamboat Company, which donated complimentary passes for three people on a Jazz Cruise on the



Riverboat Natchez, top left, and three complimentary passes on the Creole Queen Battleship Cruise, left.



The Audubon Institute donated four passes to the Audubon Zoo, the Aquarium of the Americas or the Butterfly Garden and Insectarium.

Americas or the Butterfly Garden and Insectarium.

Café Reconcile Grand Opening

Café Reconcile re-opened after a major renovation. This is a resource in the New Orleans area that provides culinary education and other educational services to our youth in the community. When you are in town, please stop by and support our kids at Café Reconcile, 1631 Oretha Castle Haley Blvd. in New Orleans.



The new dining room at Café Reconcile.

Editor's Note: a group who dined there during the Governor's Conference had a great experience. The food was outstanding, the young servers were very attentive and the place was packed with locals waiting for tables, which says it all.



Plates being prepped at Café Reconcile. Note the gumbo in the center—identical in flavor to the dish at a famous, very expensive venue.

Celebrating National Professional Social Work Month



Thanks to everyone who paused in their busy schedules to recognize the Social Workers at OJJ for always working diligently with clients and other disciplines to ensure that we provide the best services

possible to our clients.



Social Worker Roxann Tuircuit, who works unceasingly to provide outstanding service to our clients.

Youth Empowerment Celebration

The Youth Empowerment Project celebrated their youth with their fifth annual crawfish boil. Thanks to **PPO3 Evalina Lestrick** for supporting this event by attending on a holiday. Your dedication will never go unnoticed by Office of Juvenile Justice. Our youths and partners in the community were blessed by your support.



Pots and pots of steaming, spicy crawfish awaited guests at the YEP annual crawfish boil.



Guests enjoying the feast.



Youth enjoying the beautiful day at the YEP crawfish boil.

Compassion at its Best

Covenant House New Orleans is a private children's home established in 1984 to provide shelter and services for kids in crisis. It is part of a network that forms the largest privately funded agency in the Americas that provides shelter, food, crisis care and other services to homeless and runaway youth. Covenant House provides care to homeless youth designed to transition them into an independent life, and offers services including healthcare, educational support, job readiness and skills training programs, substance abuse treatment and prevention programs, legal services, mental health services, mother/child programs, transitional living programs, street outreach and aftercare.



Thank you to **PPS Lydia Johnson** and the entire staff of **New Orleans-Metro OJJ** for taking time out of their busy schedules to lend a hand to the youth at Covenant House. They donated and delivered perishable goods to

help the organization. The donations were received humbly by the youth, who marveled over all the goodies.



Top, PPO2 Carl Miller, PPS Lydia Johnson, PPO3 Vera Seals and PPO3 Lemoyne Reine, at Covenant House. Above left, Carl Miller, and right, Lemoyne Reine, delivering boxes.

Shreveport Regional Office

Employees of the Month

Congratulations

January - PPO3 Dwain Wilemon

February - PPO3 Fabrecia Roberson

March - PPO3 John Whitlock

News and Notes

Administrative Coordinator 3 Karen Smith retired in March.

Program Specialist Jan Crain, Program Manager Melba Oubre, Program Specialist Walteree Barnes and Program Specialist Joseph Powe conducted IVE Audit of the Shreveport office.

PPS Steve Martino attended the state and local Anti-Terrorism Training Program in West Monroe. Thanks to the **Honorable Denise E. O'Donnell**, Director, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Active Shooter Training was conducted by **PPS Steve Martino** for our office.

Shreveport OJJ staff participated in a staffing at Swanson.

SOP training was held at Rutherford House in Shreveport for the Shreveport and Natchitoches offices, conducted by **Program Specialists Jan Crain and Walteree Barnes.**

PPO3 Todd Carlisle conducted recertification of PPCT for Shreveport OJJ.

Goodwill held a Black History month program for our local youth.

RM Kristi Martin, PPS Rick Ladner, PPO3 Jennifer Dingler, Program Specialist Jan Crain, PPS Terri Harber and PPS Kim Carlisle attended the grand opening of Swanson-Columbia.

Staff Rallies Behind Injured Student

PPO3 Brandy Stratton-Graham says Shreveport OJJ staff collected money to assist the family of a young lady named **Stuti J.**, who was a senior at Byrd High School when she was in a terrible traffic accident. Stuti is miraculously recovering from the near-death accident in January that left her in a coma resulting from a serious brain injury. Stuti's father is a neurosurgeon, and understood that her chances of survival were very slim. However, today she is walking and talking, and she graduated with honors and a 4.0 GPA, even walking across the stage to receive her diploma. Stuti also received a scholarship to Centenary College in Shreveport.

"We raised money to purchase restaurant gift cards for Stuti and her family," Brandy said. "**PPS Guy May, PPO3 Charles Herrmann, PPS Steve Martino and I** went to the rehab center and presented the gifts cards to Stuti and her father. She is home, in therapy and learning to walk and talk. She was able to walk with her class and even gave a speech."

"Her story is very sad but a very good testimony of how prayer really does work," Brandy said. "We don't know her personally or have any connection with her. **PPS Guy May** has a daughter at Byrd High School so he knows about her from his daughter, because they are friends. We have come to know her family during this time. Their faith is very strong and I personally believe Stuti is getting better daily because of her family's trust, love and faith in God. Having a child myself and knowing something tragic could happen to any of us or our children, I felt her story was very touching. We thought this would be a good opportunity for our office to help Stuti and her family."

Birthdays Celebrated

We celebrated two May birthdays: **PPO1 Britt Burke and PPO3 Jennifer Dingler.**

Swanson Center for Youth

SCY Mourned the Loss of One of Their Own

Director Vickie Shoecraft sadly announced earlier this year the loss of a member of the SCY family. “It is with a heavy, heavy heart that I share news of the death of one of our beloved Swanson family members, **Lawanda Guice**, counselor/case manager for the Mental Health Unit,” Director Shoecraft said. “Ms Guice passed away due to complications with her digestive system. She was among many family and friends when she passed.”

Congratulations

Congratulations go out to **Food Manager Mary J. Brown**, who received her School Food Service Phase 1 Manager Certification from the Louisiana Department of Education. Mrs. Brown expressed that the test was by no means easy. She was thrilled that she passed and the Swanson family is thrilled for her.



Director Vickie Shoecraft and Food Manager Mary Brown display Mary’s certificate.

Second Chance Kennels Opened

The ribbon-cutting for the Second Chance Kennels was held in February. The kennel and feed building, pictured below, were constructed by **Carpentry Instructor Bobby Moffett** and his students. Thanks to all who played a role in making this project come to life. The youth are really enjoying working with the dogs.



Swanson opened the kennel in partnership with the Humane Society Adoption Center of Monroe (HSAC). Both HSAC and OJJ believe that everyone and everything deserves a second chance. HSAC cares for dogs and puppies that have been surrendered. They don’t euthanize them unless all other options have been exhausted. The dogs for our program are chosen from HSAC’s no kill shelter. Second Chance Kennels provides an opportunity for our youth to provide a community service by training and caring for unwanted dogs, to make them more adoptable into permanent homes. While socializing and training the dogs, youth are learning therapeutic strategies that will help them to succeed when they transition back into their communities. As dogs complete the program, they return to the center more likely to find permanent homes.



Youth Dakota W. with Becca.



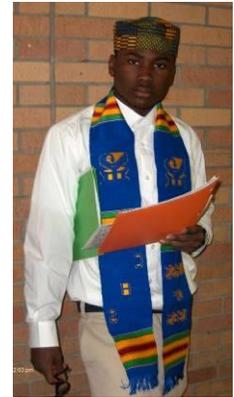
Director Shoecraft, center, about to cut the ribbon to open Second Chance Kennels, surrounded by staff, youth, volunteers and dogs.

Social Studies Symposium Held

Southside Alternative High School held its annual Social Studies Symposium, sponsored by Ms. Deon Jiles', right, and Mr. Larry Prater's social studies classes. Following are pictures depicting the event and all the work that went into creating it.



Making sure it's right.



A true scholar



The orator



Prepping for the show



The debate



The pose



The stage



The speaker



Putting on Abe's beard.



Performing



The cake



An attentive audience

Principal William Lee said the Social Studies Symposium provided students the opportunity to actively participate in simulated historical events. They portrayed prominent figures in American history, and recreated significant events in which the individuals were involved. By providing this type of interactive venue, the instructors sought to broaden their students' understanding of how people and events helped shape American history. The objective was to go beyond the factual based knowledge of events, and gain an understanding and reasoning of the end result of an event or a person's actions. In keeping with the Common Core States Standards, the students were given an opportunity to teach themselves, with the teachers serving as facilitators of learning. Overall, the experience was positive and a great learning opportunity, Principal Lee said.

Congratulations



Adm. Coordinator Megan Hughes, husband Mckenzie and big brother R.J. welcomed a new addition to their family. **Mckenzie Corell Hughes**

was born last fall, weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz. Although R.J. was a little, make that a LOT, apprehensive before lil Mckenzie came, he has turned out to be very helpful and a wonderful big brother.

Tallulah Regional Office

PPO3 Fred Laing and **PPO3 LaJuana Harrell** are participating in the newly created Fifth District juvenile drug court. Juveniles enter the program through referrals of delinquent and FINS cases. The program will assist juveniles who are abusing drugs and alcohol and includes an intensive outpatient drug treatment program for youth ages 10 – 16. **Judge Terry Doughty** presides over the program.



Fifth District Drug Court group: center, Judge Terry Doughty; back row center, PPO Fred Laing; back right, PPO LaJuana Harrell.

PPO3 Robert Johnson and **PPO2 Jessica Southern** completed PPCT Instructor training at the Baton Rouge Police Department.

PPO3 Kimberly Green and **PPO3 Robert Johnson** attended the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice in Baton Rouge.

PPS Margo Corulla and **PPO3 Robert Johnson** participated in a Career Day program in Tensas Parish.

Tallulah OJJ conducted the monthly staff meeting and policy review. PPOs completed firearm practice and qualifying, as well as completed PPCT refresher training.

PPO2 Janet Pierce's son Clay Pierce was recently featured in the local newspaper, *The Madison Journal*. The article focused on Clay and his expertise in cattle ranching. Only 10 years old, Clay handles the duties of getting up early to feed and check on the cattle and make sure everything is okay. He can tell you all about the daily market prices, selecting cattle for sale and even about the calving cycles. He has stepped up and taken on the responsibilities of an adult, helping his mother with the farm since the loss of his father, **Calvin Pierce**, to cancer in September 2012. From the time he was just a baby, he has been around the cattle business, accompanying his father on many of his cattle business ventures. He has certainly proven he will continue in his father's footsteps managing the herd.

PPO3 LaJuana Harrell participated in Richland Parish's Relay for Life.

AC3 Martha Hattaway, PPS Margo Corulla and **PPO3 Robert Johnson** participated in the Madison Parish Relay for Life. This year's Relay honored the memory of **PPS Johnnie Bowman's mother, Mrs. Claudine Porter**. A ceremony was conducted in her memory at the Relay, with family and friends present.



Pictured at the Madison Parish Relay For Life are Attorney General Buddy Caldwell, who is from Tallulah; Relay Survivor Honoree Mrs. SeSe Holstead; PPS Johnnie Bowman; Patricia Buchanan, who sang the National Anthem, and Tallulah Mayor Eddie Beckwith.

Thibodaux Regional Office

Employees of the Month Congratulations

February - PPO3 Joshua Becnel

March - PPO3 Eddie Fannin

April - Adm. Supervisor 2 Cindy Oubre

May - PPO1 Travelle Scott

They are all valuable assets to our team here in Thibodaux.

Continuing to live out the Vision & Mission....

PPO3 Summer Ferriera reports that Tyler B. graduated from the Youth Challenge Program as a 5 Star Cadet and earned his GED. Melvin S. and Shyleem L. also graduated from YCP.

PPO3 Allison Lirette reports that Travontae W. graduated from TOP/North GED Program with his GED.

Huge thanks go out to the Lafourche Parish Library, Lockport Branch, for donating books for our youth in secure care.

Another huge thanks goes out to RM Angela T. Koenig, PPS Robert Duet, PPOs Sandra Rodrigue, Josef Nguyen, James Percle, Jeff Barrilleaux, Travelle Scott, Josh Becnel, and Eddie Fannin for volunteering their time to assist at the Corrections Employees Week barbecue at Bridge City in May.

SSC Reshonn Saul and PPOs James Percle, Allison Lirette, Josh Becnel and Lori Babin, attended the National Crime Symposium in New Orleans.

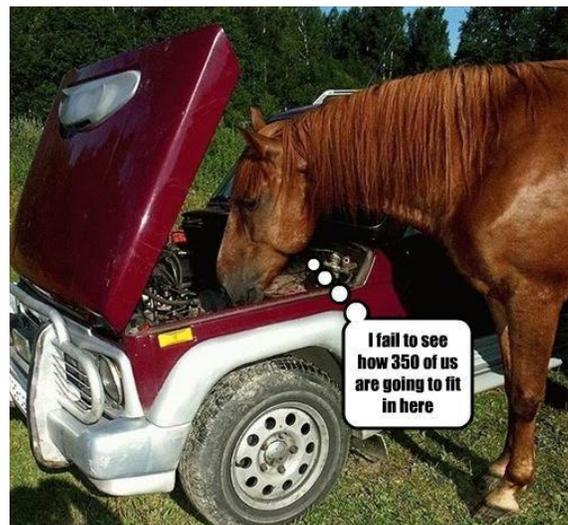
PPOs James Percle, Peter Pobocik, Summer Ferriera, Rachel Loupe and Tressa Gros, Social Service Counselor Reshonn Saul and RM Angela T. Koenig attended the Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice.

Stop and Read Day

Several school programs in our region were selected in May to have stories read aloud to young pre-school and kindergarten children. SSC Reshonn Saul and PPO Herman Matherne read at West St. John Elementary School; PPS Lorraine Thibodaux and PPO Heidi McElroy read at Vacherie Elementary School; PPO Jamie Hebert and RM Angela T. Koenig read to ABC Nursery (Houma Day Care); PPOs James Percle, Summer Ferriera, Keith Kotoski and Peter Pobocik read to three different classes at Labadiville Primary School, and Administrative Coordinator Kim Foret and Administrative Supervisor Cindy Oubre read to two classes at South Thibodaux Elementary School.

An Unwelcome Visit

A very unpleasant South Louisiana visitor come by the Thibodaux OJJ office after a day of rainfall....what a horrible sight to experience when you least expect it! It was identified later as a harmless, common mud snake. Still not welcome in our parking lot.



Celebrating Mardi Gras 2013....

Several Thibodaux OJJ staff were very active in Mardi Gras krewes and activities this year.

PPO3 James Percle proudly reported that his daughter, **Taylor Percle**, was a Maid for the Krewe of Ambrosia. Below, Taylor is presented at the Krewe of Ambrosia Tableau at the Warren J. Harang Municipal Auditorium in Thibodaux.



PPO3 Tressa Gros was a 2013 Lady in Waiting for the Krewe of Cleopatra. She pictured being escorted by her **husband, Danny Gros**, at the Krewe of Cleopatra's Extravaganza at the Evergreen Cajun Center in Gray.



ORGANIC Gardening

Our friends at Organic Gardening Magazine tell us that about 40 percent of the food produced every day in this country is thrown away by farmers, grocery stores, restaurants, and in homes. We toss out perfectly edible parts of food that we don't know what to do with. You might not know that you can eat broccoli stems or beet greens, but that "trash" is just as nutritious, and sometimes more so, than the main part of the vegetable. So save money and nutrients by keeping these "food scraps" out of the trash. Here are just a few ideas.

Citrus peels are the most under-appreciated part of your favorite fruits. Before you cut a lemon, lime, or orange in half, grate the zest off the skin and save it to use as a seasoning or garnish for your favorite cocktails. Citrus rind can be boiled on the stove as a natural air freshener. You can use lemon peels sprinkled with salt to clean your countertops. Or fill a glass container with citrus peels, which contain the natural solvent d-limonene, and cover them with white vinegar, another natural solvent. Let the mixture steep for about 2 weeks, strain out the peels, and you have a potent homemade all-purpose citrus-scented cleaner.

Don't toss the stems of your next bunch of herbs! They contain the same flavors as the leaves, and can be blended into salsas (cilantro) or pestos (parsley) or steeped in teas (mint). Celery leaves taste just like celery stalks but have a more concentrated flavor, and they pack more calcium and magnesium. They can be used any way you'd use celery: added to a salad, tossed into a stir-fry, or even substituted for parsley.

After you shuck the kernels off of a corncob, throw the cob itself into your next batch of chowder. Cobs have just as much flavor as the kernels, and after you boil them for about 10 minutes in some water, that flavor will be released, enhancing your soups and chowders with body and taste.



BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations



Can't believe that half the year is almost gone by. We have been very busy in BCCY Culinary Arts cooking for special events and going special places to get a look at what's happening in the hospitality industry today.

The Governor's Conference on Juvenile Justice was a great event for the students to get to network with the folks that work within the system and can really appreciate the work and accomplishments of the students in Culinary Arts. This is the third year that we were invited by conference organizer **Ronnie Rossitto**, Assistant District Attorney for Calcasieu Parish. The students presented assorted dessert items during a break, and our revamped cookbooks were also there for the participants to take home with them. The students were very professional in their presentation and everyone commented on what a wonderful job they did. **Executive Chef Robert Mitchell** of the Convention Center Marriot really enjoyed meeting the students of Culinary Arts at the Governor's Conference. **Deputy Secretary Mary Livers**, **Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton** and I were very proud of the work ethic and product the students demonstrated at the conference. ADA Ronnie Rossitto of Calcasieu Parish sponsors the students of Culinary Arts by purchasing products and new uniforms for them.



At the Governor's Conference are, left, Chef Ron Sonnier, Deputy Secretary Sean Hamilton and Secretary Mary Livers. The assembled Culinary Arts students. Calcasieu Parish ADA Ronnie Rossitto with Chef Sonnier. Marriot Executive Chef Robert Mitchell visits with the youth.

Several experiences have excited the interest of our Culinary Arts students, and shown them many possibilities for work in the hospitality industry. The students have had field trips to the Inland Seafood Processing Plant, both Marriott Hotels in downtown New Orleans, the Governor's Conference, Chef Paul Prudhomme's Magic Seasoning International Distribution Center and Delgado Community College Culinary Arts Department. They have also worked on preparation of a special full service luncheon for special guests and they helped to host the annual Correctional Officers Appreciation Luncheon. The students were very impressed to see the volume of seafood product produced in just one plant in the New Orleans area after the visit to the Inland Seafood Processing plant.



The students visit the Inland Seafood Processing Plant.

From there we went to have lunch and tour of the catering and restaurant facilities the Marriott Convention Center, with **Executive Chef Robert Mitchell** as our tour guide. Chef Mitchell met the students at the Governor's Conference and was so impressed with their performance and presentation that he invited the team to have lunch and a tour. He treated the students and staff to a wonderful lunch and then introduced the students to his staff, who interacted with the students describing their different jobs in the kitchen.



Students at the Marriott Convention Center Hotel, with Chef Robert Mitchell.

We then visited **Executive Chef Thorster Keighty** at the Canal Street Marriott, where he greeted the students, explaining that the hotel is the second largest hotel in New Orleans, with over 550 employees, and 110 of them working the three kitchens. He took everyone on a tour of the hotel, and the students were treated to fresh baked cookies in the bakery. He told us that the hotel bakery bakes all the pastries and breads for many other venues in the New Orleans area, including Starbucks. The head pastry chef, who is from France, showed the students a few of his techniques. Chef Thorster then took us up to the 41st floor of the hotel to get a panoramic view of the city. This area was a dining room before Hurricane Katrina, and the hotel is in the process of renovating it into a conference area that will have its own kitchen and staff. It was impressive to see how they can feed up to 4,000 people at a time. The kitchen staff were very helpful in answering questions from the students. The Marriott chefs were very impressed with our students and are interested in working in partnership with us to mentor the students.



At the Canal Street Marriott Hotel in downtown New Orleans, with Chef Thorster Keighty.

It is always fun to be asked to prepare a full-service lunch for special guests, as we were asked to do for May 8. Then we hosted the annual Correctional Officers Appreciation Luncheon Ceremony on May 9. A lot to do to get it all ready, but lots of fun and hard work to get everything in place, for the big shows. I like to think of it as a production and getting everything ready for the big show, then turning out good product and great service. Then sitting back enjoying the compliments from the guests, that is what it very rewarding.



The special full-service luncheon prepared and served by the Culinary Arts students.





Everyone, including the students and the Probation &Parole Officers, worked very hard to make the Correctional Officers Appreciation Celebration Ceremony a great success.

Our field trip to **Chef Paul Prudhomme's** Magic Seasonings's International Distribution Center was one of the most rewarding experiences of all. I personally have known Chef Paul for many years and had the opportunity to travel to the Culinary World Olympics in Frankfort, Germany in 1993 with him and his wife. What a life-changing, great experience that was! Chef Paul and his team of about 200 employees blend all types of spices and seasonings for restaurants around the world, which makes them a major buyer for a lot of herbs and spices from those countries. To see and experience the magic of all the products they produce coming together is simply amazing. Getting to meet the world famous Chef Paul, and him taking the time for the students to hear his story about his struggles in life to get to where he is today, and personally autographing a cookbook for everyone including the staff, was a real treat. Thanks to Chef Paul and his staff for their wonderful hospitality.



The field trip to Chef Paul Prudhomme's Magic Seasonings International Distribution center turned out to be a great adventure in spices and flavor. Everyone, including staff, received a personally autographed copy of his newest cookbook "Kitchen Expeditions." I even got a mouth full of some of the concentrated sourest lemon I ever tasted (see left). Pictured are our experiences at the plant, including demonstrations by R&D Chef Choleta Pasia and Director of R&D Chef Sean O'Meara.





On our field trip to the Delgado Community College Culinary Arts Department, Chef Vance Roux CCC, CCE, gave the students an overview of the Culinary Arts Program at Delgado. He is the Interim Director / Professor of Culinary Arts and Occupations at Delgado Community College.

Have a great month, and remember, if you have any requests for recipes or food questions, please let me know at ronald.sonnier@la.gov .

C'EST SI BON!

Growing up, we always loved hamburger steaks. There was nothing like coming home and smelling the onions bubbling in there with the generous hamburger steak patties and knowing we were in for a hearty and delicious supper. I liked mine with extra onions, my sister liked hers without any at all, and Dad liked whatever Mama put on his plate. There are very few TV peeps using ground beef. This is all good and well, of course, but sometimes I think the food channels have greatly overestimated our grocery budgets. Ground beef is easy on the budget and is one of the most versatile ingredients around. Try these tasty, wallet-friendly recipes. Ground beef casseroles freeze beautifully, so you can stock up in freezer for easy weeknight dinners.



Sonnier's Smothered Hamburger Steak

1 lb. lean ground beef
 Creole seasoning
 1 whole egg
 ½ cup bread crumbs
 ½ cup chopped onion

1 cup beef broth
 All purpose flour
 Sliced Vidalia or other sweet onion, as much as you like (I like the onions better than the meat)

In a mixing bowl, combine ground beef, Creole seasoning, egg, bread crumbs and chopped onion until well mixed together. Press the beef mixture into doughnut-shaped patties. The hole in the center will allow them to cook more evenly and will fill in as they shrink during cooking. Dip each patty into flour on both sides and place in hot skillet over medium heat. Cook for a few minutes on each side, until browned. Scoot patties to one side and add sliced onions to skillet. Stir and cook for a few minutes until lightly browned. Pour in beef broth and cover. Allow to cook until meat is no longer pink in the center, about 10 minutes.



Sonnier's Shepherd's Pie

- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 can (10 oz.) cream of mushroom soup with roasted garlic
- 1 tsp. dried marjoram leaves
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 cups refrigerated mashed potatoes

Preheat oven to 375°. In a heavy skillet cook the ground beef and onion until beef is brown and onion is tender, stirring to break up meat, about 10 minutes. Drain well. Stir in vegetables and soup and cook until hot, about 4 minutes, then add marjoram and salt and pepper to taste. Place in 9" pie plate. Spoon mashed potatoes over the hot meat mixture. Bake in preheated oven for 35 to 45 minutes until potatoes are golden brown and the pie is bubbling.



Chicken Tamale Pie

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 (28-oz.) can Italian-style plum tomatoes with their juices | 1 cup pitted ripe olives |
| 1 (16-oz.) can cream-style corn | ½ cup pimento-stuffed olives, optional |
| 1 tsp. salt, or to taste | 2 cups coarsely chopped cooked chicken, or more if you like |
| 1 medium onion, chopped | 1 cup shredded Monterey Jack cheese mixed with 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese |
| ½ cup olive oil | olive oil for drizzling |
| 1 ½ tbsp. chili powder, or to taste | sour cream |
| 1 cup milk | chopped green onions tops |
| ½ cup yellow cornmeal | |
| 3 eggs, lightly beaten | |

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine tomatoes, corn, salt, onion, olive oil and chili powder in a large saucepan and cook over medium heat for 15 minutes. In a mixing bowl, stir together milk, cornmeal and eggs; add to the tomato mixture and cook, stirring constantly to prevent scorching, until thickened, about 15 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in the olives and chicken. Pour the mixture into a lightly greased, shallow ovenproof dish. Top with the cheese, drizzle with oil and bake until the pie is firm and cheese is crusty, 35 - 45 minutes. Serve piping hot topped with sour cream and green onion tops. Serves 8 - 10. Like all tamale pie recipes, the base has a mushy texture.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

OJJ Administrative Team

Mary L. Livers, Ph.D, MSW, *Deputy Secretary*
Sean C. Hamilton, *Assistant Secretary*
Connie Percell, *Undersecretary*
Ellyn Toney, *Chief of Operations*
Beth Touchet-Morgan, *Deputy Asst. Secretary, Intergovernmental Relations, Communications & Training*
Carolyn B. Lewis, *Northern Regional Director*
Susan Miller, *Southeast Regional Director*
Johnny Qualls, *Central/Southwestern Regional Director*
Donna Bowie, *Family Liaison*
Annette Arthur, LCSW, BACS, *Director of Treatment*
Jerel M. Giarrusso, APR, *Director of Communications*
Kim B. Mims, *Director of Education*
Kelly D. Smith, MN, APRN, PHCNS-BS, *Health Services Administrator*
Martha Morgan, JD, *General Counsel*
Garry Williams, *Program Manager*

Contacts

For more information contact Jerel.Giarrusso@la.gov
225.287.7898

Reporters

Alexandria: Cassaundra Conston
Baton Rouge: Keondra Riley
Bridge City: Cassandra Washington & Tanya Ellis
Central Office: Jerel Giarrusso
Hammond: Courtney Pegues
Jetson: Director Angela Sutton
Lafayette/Opelousas: Kevin Broussard
Lake Charles: Melissa Cross
Monroe: Valerie Nordstrom
Natchitoches: Wendy Crow
New Orleans: Roxann Tuircuit
Shreveport: Brandy Stratton/Graham
Swanson: Kristi Walker
Tallulah: Martha Hattaway
Thibodaux: Allison Lirette

Intergovernmental Relations, Communications & Training

Beth Touchet-Morgan, *Deputy Assistant Secretary*
Donna Bowie, *Family Liaison*
Jerel Giarrusso, *Director of Communications*
Fran Martin, *Director of Staff Development*
Shaeki Shanklin, *Administrative Assistant*