

# ADVOCATE

A PUBLICATION OF THE VIRGINIA JUVENILE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

Summer 2018

## IN THIS ISSUE

VJJA State Officers	1-2
Presidents Column	3
District Leadership	4-8
2017 Fall Institute Review	9
Membership Matters	10
Photo Booth Fun	11
Tidewater Spring Conference	12
DJJ in the news	13-14
Leadership Summit	26-27

## REGULAR FEATURES

Colleagues in the Spotlight	15-18
District News	19-25
From the Editor	24
VJJA Supporters	28-31
Puzzle Page	32
Calendar of Events	33
Residential Spotlight	34
Community Based Spotlight	35

## **EDITOR**

Wendi True

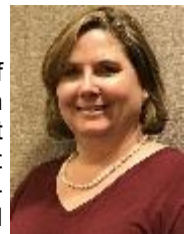
## **Layout/Design**

Wendi True

**The Advocate** is a publication of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association. Reproductions without permission are strictly prohibited. The statements and opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the members or the Board of Directors. Send contributions to: [AdvocateEditor@vija.net](mailto:AdvocateEditor@vija.net). Learn more at: [www.VJJA.net](http://www.VJJA.net)

## *VJJA Officers*

**Samantha Higgins, President.** Sam is serving her second term as president. She served as a district officer from 1999 to 2015. In addition to her district post, Sam served as VJJA's Director of Membership and the VJJA Fall Institute's Conference Registrar. Sam is employed as a Probation Supervisor with the 25th District Court Service Unit, supervising staff in Lexington, Covington, and Botetourt branches. Prior to her promotion to Supervisor, Sam was a Probation/Parole and Intake Officer in that district. Sam was awarded VJJA's 2011 Meritorious Award in the Area of Community Service.



She is a graduate of Southern Seminary Junior College, James Madison University and Radford University, earning an associate's degree in business administration, a bachelor's degree in public administration, and a master's degree in criminal justice. She has been a DJJ employee for 20 years and a member of VJJA for 20 years. Sam has served the VJJA Board in many capacities since 1999, not only supporting the membership and the conference, but has had a significant role in supporting the VJJA infrastructure. Sam values the origins of VJOA/VJJA and the significance of VJJA today. She looks to move VJJA forward in the pursuit of non-profit status. Sam resides in Rockbridge County with her family and two beagles, Buster and Lucy.

**Kevin Meeks, Vice President.** Kevin has been working with "at promise" youth for over 23 years. He is originally from Covington, VA. After his active service in The



United States Marine Corps he accepted a job with The Virginia Baptist Children's Home as a counselor in their wilderness program at Camp on Craig. It was during this time he discovered his passion for working with youth. Kevin then started his career with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice as a Juvenile Correctional Officer at Natural Bridge Juvenile Correctional Facility. A year later, he had an opportunity to go to work at Discovery House, a DJJ halfway house for paroled and committed youth, as a Correctional Institution Rehabilitation Counselor. Kevin then transitioned to the 24th District Court Service Unit in Lynchburg, VA, where he performed probation, parole and intake duties. He later served as a Supervisor in the 24th District for nine years. In 2012, he was named the Court Service Unit Director of the 21st District CSU in Martinsville, VA, where he still serves today. In addition to his membership in the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association, Kevin is also a member of the Court Service Unit Directors Association, the Virginia Gang Investigators Association and serves on the Youth Council for the Workforce Investment Board. Kevin is an alumna of Roanoke College and currently lives in Forest, Virginia with his wife Christy and their children.



**Amanda Moseley, Secretary.** Mandy is employed by Southstone Behavioral Healthcare as the CEO, where she oversees the day-to-day operations of the 52-bed residential treatment center and therapeutic day school. Previously, Mandy worked as a Director of Business Development, program manager for a boys' group home, an outpatient mental health counselor, a CSA coordinator, and a juvenile probation officer in the 24th District Court Service Unit. (con't)

## State Leadership - Continued

**AMANDA MOSELEY (continued)** She is the chair of the board of directors of Harvest Outreach Center, a not-for-profit organization providing a variety of services to at-risk students and their families in the central Virginia region. She also is the chair of membership on her community's Rotary Club, and on the board of directors of the Halifax County Mentor Role Model Program. In April 2015, the Lynchburg Area Counselor's Association named her Community Advocate of the Year. Born in Lynchburg, raised in Campbell County, and after living in several other states, Mandy returned to Virginia and currently makes her home in Halifax. Mandy earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Radford University and a master's degree in counseling from Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina. Her service to VJJA includes two years as the elected secretary in the Blue Ridge District, seven years as the elected state secretary to the VJJA Executive Board of Directors (serving under four presidents), and two years as the appointed Chair of Vendor Relations.



**KEVIN HELLER, Treasurer.** After graduating from Radford University in 1998 with degrees in Social Work and Psychology, Kevin began his career in the human services field as a foster care social worker with the Pulaski County Department of Social Services. After three years, he accepted the position of Director of the Office on Youth for the City of Radford. In 2003, Kevin began working as a Probation Officer in the 23-A District Court Service Unit. In 2005, he transferred to the 27th District Court Service Unit where he held positions as a Probation Officer, Intake Officer, and presently Probation Supervisor. Throughout his tenure with the Department of Juvenile Justice, Kevin has maintained membership with the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association. Recently, he has been seeking opportunities to increase his contributions to this organization having served as the Southwest District Election Officer for state and district level elections. This is his first term on the Board of Directors.

Awards & Recognition  
Co-Chairs

**MICHAEL MORTON**  
**BETH STINNETT**

Governance & Bylaws Chair

**LEWIS WRIGHT**

Institute Planning Chair

**TONI CRAIG**

Marketing Chair

**WENDI TRUE**

Technology & Infrastructure  
Chair

**TINA CASPER**

**Thanks to the  
following individuals  
for lending their  
time and talents as  
members of the VJJA  
Board of Directors.**

**Interested in  
becoming more  
actively involved?**

**Contact  
Samantha Higgins at  
president@vjj.net**

Historian

**KATHERINE FARMER**

Scholarships

**KATHY JONES**

Standards and Benefits

**STEPHEN STARK**

Resource Development

**VACANT**

Advocate Editor and Chief

**WENDI TRUE**

Training Coordinator

**NATALIE ELLIOTT HANDY**

## President Remarks

July 2018

Dear Members:

It is super exciting to have the ADVOCATE revived. Its publication has been greatly missed. Thanks to all involved in getting it up and running again, and a special thank you to Wendi B. True, a dedicated member for many years, for taking on the challenge to deliver a high quality newsletter to the membership.

Now deep in my second term as president, the association has experienced a lot of change and progression. On March 29, 2017, the board of directors voted unanimously to seek non-profit status. By the end of 2017, we had contracted with a law firm to assist us, revised the association's Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, and the general membership voted to approve said changes and to support the actions of the board in moving forward with the nonprofit status.



For 50 years, the Association has functioned as a non-profit without reaping the benefits. The association had also functioned without fundamental policy and procedures. This, in addition to inadequate record keeping of finances and operations, were barriers to the association's success. The board of directors has addressed each area. With the assistance of our attorney and the due diligence of the board, policy and procedures have been developed and an operations manual devised. We are currently moving forward with the applications for federal and state non-profit status. Hopefully, both will be approved later this year. I will keep you posted on the progress.

I thank you for your continued support of VJJA and your commitment to serving children and families. I hope to see each of you at a VJJA event soon.

Respectfully,

Samantha E. Higgins  
President

## District Leadership

### Capital Chapter

#### CHAIR: TAMMY JOHNSON

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice Administration, City of Richmond



A native of the Richmond area, Ms. Johnson graduated from Manchester High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia

Commonwealth University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. A long time employee of DJJ, Ms. Johnson has served in several positions allowing her to gain a full understanding of the organization. She began her career as a Counselor and then a Counselor Supervisor at Beaumont JCC. She desired exposure to the community aspects of working with juveniles, so she transferred to the 13th CSU Richmond as a Probation Officer. She was promoted to Probation Officer Senior as the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) Expeditor. Ms. Johnson worked diligently and passionately to promote the JDAI principles in the City of Richmond; she advocated for the least restrictive alternatives while maintaining best practices in keeping the public safe. While at the 13th CSU, Ms. Johnson served on several leadership teams and assisted management in various capacities involving working with collaborative partners to ensure the most appropriate services were utilized for court involved families. Currently, Ms. Johnson is working in the Human Resources Unit as a Background Investigator. Ms. Johnson resides in the City of Richmond, has three adult sons, two grandsons, and two fur babies.

#### VICE CHAIR: LEON BENJAMIN

Men Reaching Men Youth Mentorship Program

A native of Richmond, Bishop Leon Benjamin graduated from Huguenot High School and attended the University of Virginia and Virginia Union University for math and engineering. He

is married to his soul mate and partner in ministry, Pastor Maria Benjamin of twenty-five years, and have three beautiful children. Mr. Benjamin serves as senior pastor of New Life Harvest Church. He is currently Chancellor and Founder of Harvest Bible College and Chief Prelate of Receiving Power for Action Apostolic Network. He has also developed a mentoring program for entrepreneurs entitled "Kingdompreneur Now!" He was ordained as Senior Pastor under the leadership of Bishop T.D. Jakes. A former veteran in the US Armed Forces, Mr. Benjamin served in the Navy and participated in the Desert Shield/



Desert Storm Gulf War. He is very active in his community and has worked with public officials, civic leaders and community leaders to make a difference in the areas of education, business development, and economic reform. He has worked with organizations such as Virginia Department of Health, Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Richmond City Police, Richmond Behavioral Health Authority, and the Governor's Office to help facilitate mentorship programs and various community development initiatives. He currently has a youth mentorship program entitled "Men Reaching Men" which facilitates bringing fathers back into the lives of their families, schools, community and church house. He has attained his Bachelor's in Religious Studies, Master's in Christian Education, and a Doctorate in Christian Education. He currently runs a Day Care and Learning Center in the South Side of Richmond.

#### SECRETARY: MARGO HARDY

Petersburg Community Programs, City of Petersburg, VA

Margo has over 15 years of experience in the juvenile justice field. Currently, Margo is employed by the City of Petersburg as Community Pro-

grams PJCCCA Manager. Margo graduated from Dinwiddie High School and Southside Virginia Community College in 1992 with an Associate's degree. After receiving her Bachelors in Human Resources from St. Leo University she continued her education at the University of Phoenix, earning a Master's Degree in Human Resources. Margo decided to enter the field of juvenile justice in 2003, where she has worked with the City of Petersburg supervising and administering Crime Control Programs. Margo is an active member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority



#### TREASURER: GREGORY HOPKINS

Department of Justice Services, City of Richmond.

Greg has over 20 years of experience in the juvenile justice field. He recently served as Chair of VJJA's Capital District Chapter. He is also serving as Vice President of the Virginia Drug Court Association (VDCA). Previously



Greg held the position of State President for the VDCA. Greg is the Juvenile Community Program Manager for the City of Richmond Department of Justice Services. He previously held the positions of Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator and Senior Probation Officer for the 13th CSU. Greg holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology with a Concentration in Administration of Justice from Virginia State University and a Master's degree in Criminal Justice from Tiffin University. In his spare time, Greg enjoys volunteering with local non-profits. He is an active Board Member with NIA Inc. of Greater Richmond affiliated with Saint Paul's Baptist Church. Greg is married with 4 kids, the oldest a sophomore at Norfolk State University.



## District Leadership

### Blue Ridge Chapter

### Southwest Chapter

**CHAIR: VACANT**

**VICE CHAIR: VACANT**

**SECRETARY:  
VALERIE CHAMBERS**



Valerie is employed by the City of Lynchburg where she serves as the Family Assessment and Planning Team Coordinator. In that role she provides case management services for youth and their families in need of coordinated community services and resources. Prior to her current position, Valerie developed and supervised programming for Neighborhood Alternatives, a 12 week court-ordered/ community based program in partnership with Jubilee Center. Valerie held dual positions from 2000 – 2003, one with the City of Lynchburg as Youth Counselor at Opportunity House and the other with Central Virginia Community Services as a Prevention Specialist specializing in prevention services for all levels of the developmental continuum ranging from elementary school-aged children to adult clients. For the last past seven years, Valerie has shared her knowledge and expertise part-time at Sweet Briar College as a Resident Coordinator. Valerie received a Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences and two minors in the areas of Family Issues and Substance Abuse and Intervention from James Madison University.

**CHAIR: DOUG POE**



Doug has been employed by the Department of Juvenile Justice for 19 years. He is currently employed by in the 27<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit, in Pulaski, as a Probation Supervisor. Doug is the current Southwest Chair and also previously served in this capacity from 2006 to 2010 and was the 2007 recipient of the VJJA Meritorious Service Award for Court Services. Active in his church and community, Doug is a graduate of Virginia Tech where he earned a degree in Sociology. On a personal note, Doug is married with two children, Isaac and Benjamin, makes his home in Dublin and is a passionate Virginia Tech Hokies sport's fan.

**VICE CHAIR: KAREN ANDERS**



Karen graduated in 1999 from Radford University with a Master of Science Degree (Counseling and Human Development). Her work history includes: from 2000 to 2002 she worked as a Substance Abuse Specialist at the Department of Juvenile Justice; 2002 to 2008 she worked at DJJ as a probation officer in the Christiansburg Court Service Unit; 2008 to 2015 she worked as an outpatient clinician providing counseling services to youth and families, many of whom were involved in the juvenile justice system.

In July 2015, Karen accepted a position with the City of Roanoke/ Department of Juvenile Justice as a Specialized Probation Counselor in the 23-A CSU. She has been licensed (LPC) since October 2013. Karen enjoys working with youth, especially those who have experienced childhood trauma. Even though it can be challenging, it is also rewarding.

**SECRETARY:  
KAREN LAPLANTE**



Karen has worked in the court system for 25 years. Currently, she holds the position of Juvenile Crime Control / Children's Services Act Coordinator for the City of Radford. In her role as CSA Coordinator, Karen has helped organize the Regional CSA Vendor Fair for the past 16 years and has facilitated multiple professional development opportunities for human service professionals in the New River Valley. She is the Chair and founder of Fun Fridays CAMP (Community Adolescent Mentoring Program). Karen is a lifetime resident of the New River Valley, graduating from Radford University with a degree in Social Work. She enjoys riding horses and reading. She is married and has one daughter.

**TREASURER: VACANT**

## District Leadership: Tidewater Chapter

### CHAIR: KATHERINE GRIMM



Katherine just completed her fourth term as District Chair after serving two terms as Vice Chair. She is employed by the Portsmouth Court Service Unit as the Director.

Prior to beginning work in the 3rd CSU, she was employed by the 15th CSU in Spotsylvania. Since joining the 3rd CSU team in 2002, she has had a significant impact on juvenile services in the Portsmouth area and wants to bring that same energy level to VJJA. Katherine serves on the Portsmouth CPMT and is a board member on both the Tidewater Youth Services Commission Board and the Tidewater Youth Services Foundation Board. On a personal note, Katherine is an animal lover originally from Lockport, New York. She and her dog and cat family now make their home in Chesapeake. Katherine also supports the Portsmouth Humane Society where she has gotten all of her cats.

### VICE CHAIR: GINGER PLOEGER

Ginger has been an active VJJA member for the past 19 years. She has served four terms as the Vice Chair for the association's Tidewater District, participated on the local advisory board for several



years and also assisted with prior VJJA institute planning committees. Ginger is currently the Assistant Director of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission (TYSC). She has been responsible for overseeing the operations of both residential and

community-based programs with TYSC. Ginger has worked with at-risk youth in VA for 20+ years. She also serves on the Virginia Beach Community Criminal Justice Board, CPMT and was recently appointed by the VBCPS board to serve on the CAC for Gifted Education. Ginger is a Virginia Beach native & an alumna of Virginia Tech. Go Hokies! She currently resides in Virginia Beach with her husband and their two children.

### SECRETARY: PAUL GREGGS



Paul has thirty-five plus years in residential experience working with at risk youth, families, adults, homeless populations and supervising program staff.

Paul has a thorough knowledge of the juvenile justice, social service and mental health systems. He has served on three different Family Assessment and Planning Teams and chaired two of them over the past fifteen years (Chesapeake, Portsmouth and Suffolk). He is currently a Therapeutic Mentor with Hampton Newport News Community Services Board and a Youth Program Coordinator with the Unitarian Church of Norfolk. He has been a member of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association for over 25 years and active on the Local Advisory Board for the past twenty serving as secretary, chairman and assisting with trainings. Paul has an avid outdoor programmer and has certifications to instruct canoeing, kayaking, Ropes and Initiatives and Wilderness CPR/First Aid.

### TREASURER: MARC CRIPPEN

Marc has been VJJA member for almost 12 years, and the Treasurer for the Tidewater District for the past 6

years. He has been with the Portsmouth CSU for over 10 and a half years, having a probation/parole caseload for 6 and a half years, and has been a Probation/Parole Supervisor for the past 4 years. Previously he was employed as a counselor at Newport News Juvenile Detention and a police officer with the City of Chesapeake. Marc is a member of MEN-SA since 2005 and a member of the Virginia Gang Investigators Association since 2012. He has been on the Board of Director's with the Virginia Governmental Employees Association for 4 years and Vice President for the past year. He was on the Board of Directors with FRIENDS of the Portsmouth Juvenile Court for 6 years, and the Vice President for 2 ½ years. Marc graduated with a B.S. in Criminal Justice from East Carolina University (PIRATES!) & a Master's in Public Administration from Old Dominion University. A Tidewater native, he and his wonderful wife of 15 years and two daughters make their home in Chesapeake.



## District Leadership: Northern Chapter

### CHAIR: ELLEN ANASTASI PATTERSON



Actively involved in VJJA for more than 20 years, Ellen currently serves as the Northern District Chair. She has been instrumental in planning local trainings and other events. She should be a familiar face to conference-goers, as she serves as conference staff for VJJA's Fall Juvenile Justice Institute, assisting with registration and other tasks as needed. Ellen began her juvenile justice career in 1985 at the 31<sup>st</sup> District Court Service Unit in Manassas, where she continues to be employed serving as a Probation Supervisor and Volunteer Coordinator. In addition to her active involvement in VJJA, Ellen is a member of Ducks Unlimited & Trinity Episcopal Church. Ellen attended Salem College, completing a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Ellen, her husband, Jack, son, Andrew, and a beautiful black lab/collie mix dog named Hannah (rescued from the SPCA in June) make their home in Haymarket. Her son, Andrew, will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall. ROLL TIDE!

### VICE CHAIR: KARA RUSKIN POWERS

Kara is a very active five-year member of VJJA. She started with DJJ in 2012 as an Intern with the 27<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit in Pulaski, Virginia. Upon graduating from Radford Uni-



versity, she took a position with the 13<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit in Richmond as an Intake Officer. She was promoted to the Senior Intake Officer position in 2015. Kara served as the Secretary for VJJA's Capital District in 2013. She transferred to the 31<sup>st</sup> Court Service Unit as a Probation Officer in 2016 to be closer to her then fiancé. She became active with VJJA's Northern District upon moving to Manassas. She resides in Woodbridge with her husband, Jeremy, and gorgeous Golden Retriever, Piper.

### SECRETARY: MEGAN HALL

Megan has been a Northern District VJJA member for 10 years. After a decade working for Domino's Pizza, she entered the Human Services field more than 13 years ago. A native of Mechanicsville, she worked as a Crisis Counselor and a Family Life Counselor for St. Joseph's Villa for Children in Richmond before joining the staff at Family Preservation Services (FPS), the largest private provider of community based services for children and families in the Commonwealth. Currently Megan is the Regional Director of Family Preservation Services' Fredericksburg and Culpeper offices. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) and a Certified Sex Offender Treatment Provider (CSOTP). Megan obtained a Bachelor of Science degree through Bridgewater College and a Master of Education degree through Virginia Tech. She and her husband Jason, her two children Skylar and Brayden, and their dachshund Frank-dog, live in Orange.



### TREASURER: CARLA WHITE

Carla has served as the Treasurer of the Northern District since 2010. For the past 15 years, Carla has been employed by Rappahannock Juvenile Center where she has served as the Deputy Superintendent for Programs and was promoted to Superintendent in 2012. Previously, she worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice as Superintendent of Culpeper Detention and Assistant Superintendent at Culpeper JCC and Oak Ridge. She has also worked as a Probation Officer, Shelter Care Counselor, Correctional / Rehabilitation Counselor and Correctional Officer. In addition to her involvement in VJJA, Carla volunteers with her church participating in clothing and food drives. She is an alumna of Virginia State University. She and her daughter make their home in Fredericksburg.





## District Leadership:

# Valley Chapter

### CHAIR: TIM SMITH



A long time VJJA member, before entering the juvenile justice field, Tim spent 24 years as vice president of a department store chain. That background came in handy when Tim needed to apply a business mind to planning a cost-effective facility that could provide high-quality programs for juveniles in the Shenandoah Valley. As Superintendent of the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention Home for more than a decade, Tim oversaw the construction of a \$9.5 million, 58-bed state of the art facility which opened its doors in 2003. Featuring air-compressed doors over electronic locks; 50-year linoleum floors over 25-year vinyl; white, heat-deflecting roofing; and sensor-activated, low-energy lighting, Shenandoah became one of the first detention centers in the country to use a "green" approach to its operating systems. The facility has geothermal heating and cooling. For the advancements at his facility, Tim was awarded VJJA's 2008 Meritorious Award in the Area of Residential Services. Tim recently retired from his position.

### VICE CHAIR: CHRISTA GALLEO

Christa is a Probation/Parole Supervisor for the 16<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit, serving the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. She was elected Vice-Chair of VJJA's Valley District in

2018. Christa holds a B. A. in Criminal Justice and Psychology from Bluefield College and a M. S. in Criminal Justice-Forensic Psychology from Liberty University. Prior to working for the Department of Juvenile Justice, Christa spent 12 years in Roanoke, VA, where she worked as a Corrections Institute Rehabilitation Counselor for the Virginia Department of Corrections. There, she worked in a therapeutic community with men who were convicted of crimes related to substance abuse. She facilitated life skills and therapeutic process groups and led a therapeutic dog team, pairing shelter dogs with offenders. After the facility closed, Christa took a



position with the City of Roanoke Department of Social Services as a Family Services Worker, where she was named Social Worker of the Year in 2012. In July 2012, Christa began working with the 16th District CSU as a Probation Officer. She quickly moved up the ranks from Probation Officer to Senior Probation Officer to Probation / Parole Supervisor. She graduated from DJJ's Justice Transformation Institute, Cohort II, in December 2016. Christa currently serves as the FAPT Chair in Albemarle County and as Co-Chair of the DJJ Leadership Network Committee.

### SECRETARY: TERESA KENNEDY BOUTHILLIER

Teresa has been a Valley District member for ten years. She is a

graduate of Brookville High School in Lynchburg, and James Madison



University. Her work experience includes: providing direct care to residents of the Commonwealth Center for Children and Adolescents, being a Foster Care Social Worker at Staunton-Augusta Co DSS, an in-home worker, Regional Coordinator and Director of FPS. Teresa is currently employed at Intercept Youth Services as a Community Liaison. Teresa and her family make their home in Staunton.

### TREASURER: JULI DACAL- TEJERIO GIBSON

Juliet (Juli) is originally from Roanoke, Virginia and a 1982 graduate of Patrick Henry High School. She holds undergraduate degrees from Roanoke College and James Madison University, an M.Ed. From the University of Virginia, and an Ed. S. from Radford University. Besides School Psychologist, Juli wears many hats for Buena Vista City Schools including Re-enrollment Officer for students returning from juvenile detention, Homeless Liaison, Section 504 Coordinator, Nursing Coordinator, Foster Care Liaison, FAPT representative, and CPMT representative.





# 2017 Fall Institute Recap

**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS**

The 41st Fall Institute was held on November 7th and 8th, 2017 in Fredericksburg, Virginia. With over 200 participants, the event was made possible in part by:

**GOLD SPONSOR:**  
HARBOR POINT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER

**SILVER SPONSOR:**  
HALLMARK YOUTHCARE

**BRONZE SPONSORS:**  
FAMILY INSIGHT, THE HUGHES CENTER, ODYSSEY COMMUNITY SERVICES, ODYSSEYWARE, and 38 event sponsors.

Our Keynote speaker, Sam Himmelstein, provided information on Trauma-Informed Care and how a trauma-informed lens is necessary for institutional officers, teachers, and therapist to effectively serve the population in

our work. Breakout sessions addressed: The opioid crisis in Virginia; Effective trauma-informed community collaboration to address sexual exploitation; Bridging the gap between the JCC and CSU to rehabilitate the youth we work with; and Practical strategies to keep your motivation high and your attitude positive as you renew your enthusiasm and passion for your work.

After an enjoyable evening of networking with colleagues across the Commonwealth, listening to some tunes and sharing a beverage, we all got a good night's sleep to make sure we enjoyed day two's topics including a presentation on kindness and how one day can make a positive impact on another person's life forever and Memory power.

During the annual business meeting Meritorious Awards

were presented to the following members for their contributions to youth and families:

**ADMINISTRATION:**  
JOHN COBLE, DJJ CENTRAL OFFICE

**RESIDENTIAL:**  
JOYCE HOLMAN, DJJ DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**COURT SERVICES:**  
TYRONE JACKSON, 9TH DISTRICT CSU

**COMMUNITY SERVICES:**  
PROJECT TEAM SUMMER MANASSASS

Professional development scholarships were also awarded to members **PAUL GREGGS, NNCSB, AND SARAH PENDLETON, 16TH DISTRICT CSU.**

We look forward to seeing you at the 42nd Fall Institute on November 8th and 9th, 2018 in Roanoke, Virginia



## Membership Numbers are on the Rise

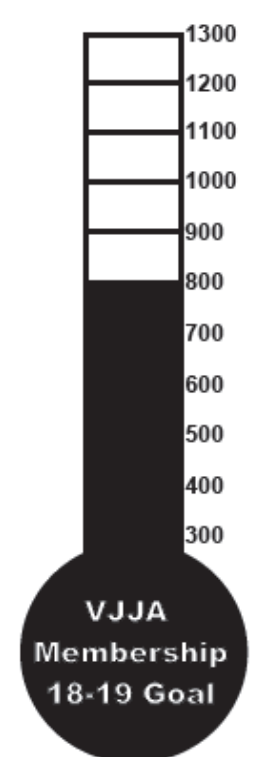
The fourth quarter of the VJJA 2017-2018 membership year closed June 30, 2018 with an increase in membership. In the past year, our annual events contributed to that increase. The 2017 Fall Institute was held in Fredericksburg, the first state conference held in the Northern District in over 20 years.

The Capital and Tidewater Districts are very active districts hosting larger annual events as well as smaller more local events throughout the year. Each September, the Capital District hosts the Crab Feast, with all the chicken and crabs you can eat. This year's event is planned for September 7. Each March, the Tidewater District hosts the Spring Fling in Virginia Beach. The last two years the event was held at the Holiday Inn North Beach; a venue that has already been booked for March 28-29, 2019. The Tidewater District also just held its first Fin and Feathers on June 1. It was very successful and is slated to become an annual event. The Crab Feast and Fin and Feather events are sparking interest in other districts for such events. Wine and Wings and Brews and Burgers are at the top of the list for after five o'clock networking events to maybe be hosted in a district near you.

VJJA offers the ultimate training and networking experience, meeting new and likeminded professionals, building camaraderie and a support system of others in the field, an opportunity to learn and share relevant juvenile justice information, and is a place to make good friends in the process.

As always, please send any changes in your employment, or updates to your email and/or mailing addresses to [membership@vija.net](mailto:membership@vija.net). The new membership year began July 1, 2018. Members can join/renew online or by downloading the application from the website.

DISTRICT	MEMBERS
BLUE RIDGE	112
CAPITAL	120
NORTHERN	105
SOUTHWEST	40
TIDEWATER	261
VALLEY	43
TOTAL	681





# Photo Booth Fun at the Fall Institute





## 2018 Tidewater Spring Conference Highlights

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Tidewater Spring Conference was held at the Holiday Inn North Beach. The theme of this year's conference was *A Safe Port in the Storm*. The keynote speaker was Dr. Jeffrey Aaron, Forensic Programs Consultant, DBHDS, who presented on Mental Health Problems in Justice System Involved Kids: What Do I Need to Know and What Can I Do? Other topics were Suicide Prevention, Conflict Resolution, Social Emotional Learning, Rehabilitation/Supervision of the Sex Offender in the Community and Computers, Sex & Juvenile Justice. The DJJ Director, Mr. Andy Block, presented on the progress of the transformation of the department. A very special presentation of the Steve

Pullen Scholarship was presented to a young man who had been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice and had turned his life around and is attending a secondary education program.

Multiple door prizes were given away with the support of the vendors who had tables at the event. The grand prizes were five sets of Bluetooth headphones. At the end of the conference five lucky participants went home with one of those headphones. The giveaway that everyone received was a Tidewater VJJA keychain. Polo shirts were available for purchase.

Lewis Wright provided the music and atmosphere at the social on Thursday. The Limbo Contest was won by

James Butts of the Tidewater Youth Services Commission.

Although some people needed to travel through snow and rain to get to Virginia Beach, it was a full house! Some people even came the night before so they could make sure they got to the Conference.

The members of the Tidewater Local Advisory Board planned and ran the conference. The members who participated were, Ginger Plougher, Marc Crippen, Paul Greggs, Toni Craig, Carlos Hooker, Michelle Burrroughs-Vanhook, and Katherine Grimm. Special assistance was provided by Wendi True in helping to get the keychains and the polo shirts.



## He Shifted His Tassel

By VANESSA REMMERS Richmond Times-Dispatch Jun 19, 2018



Joana DeLaRosa slid on her headband lined with gold roses Monday morning, the one that matched her golden-hued dress. Her eldest daughter decided on a floral-print white dress for the graduation, while her middle daughter put on a X-Men T-shirt. They lined up with the rest of the families wearing sundresses and suits, moving past the fences topped with barbed wire. Once inside the doors, guards patted down their legs, arms and waist. Then DeLaRosa took her seat among other parents in front of the archway of blue and white balloons, clutching a crumpled tissue for the tears that kept coming. Her daughters and her son's parole officer, Tracy Keaton-Johnson, flanked her.

"It took not just this facility but the whole village. I've seen such a change in my son," DeLaRosa said.

Her son, Naphtaly Ferguson, shuffled nervously in a nearby hallway packed with 70 graduates. He had woken up at 7:30 a.m. and put on the khaki pants and maroon collared shirt embroidered with the white "DJJ" letters that stand for the Department of Juvenile Justice. It was the outfit he wore each day inside the state's last remaining maximum-security youth prison, known as the Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center.

Then he draped the blue gown over the khaki pants, hoping to cover as much of the outfit as possible. A cadet corps teacher lent him a bow tie. He pushed the blue cap with the "2018" tassel over his dark curls. Soon, the 19-year-old would make a speech in front of his fellow students and dozens of families and state officials assembled to celebrate.

Ferguson was part of a growing number of graduates from the fully accredited public high school serving incarcerated youths. Although the population at the Bon Air facility has shrunk in recent years, the number of graduates from the high school grew from 60 in the 2016-17 school year to 70 in 2017-18 as Virginia's juvenile justice system attempts to shift its resources from incarceration to intervention.

If he froze during his speech, he would pretend to faint, Ferguson and a fellow graduate joked in the hallway. "I just told myself it was like any other day," he said. But, in reality, it wasn't.

For years, a high school diploma seemed like the faintest of dreams to Ferguson. He was 11 years old when his mother and family escaped to a women's shelter in Virginia Beach. The abusive man she was in a relationship with had tied her up and set the house on fire, his mother said.

"I'm a single parent, and I've made so many mistakes," DeLaRosa said. "He didn't have positive male role models growing up. And I have guilt as a mother about that." At times, he lived with one of his two sisters. It is with his middle sister that he can talk about comic books for hours. His oldest sister helped him navigate the "more adult things," he said, like job applications and homework. He was in his last years of high school when he realized that he looked forward to Monday and his schoolwork.

But his school counselor told him that he was way too far off the mark to think of college, he said. He was put behind bars for the first time in 11th grade. A month into his senior year, he was in jail again.

"I was at a party I shouldn't have been at, and I took a drug," he said. More high than he can ever remember being, he grabbed a Taser from the officer arresting him and used it on a paramedic, he said. He woke up in a hospital horrified, he said, because he was convinced he had killed someone.

He ended up at the Bon Air facility before his 17th birthday. Nearly two years ago, he called his mother to say he would die if he was at the correctional facility for longer than a week.

"I told him, 'Trust in God.' Maybe it could be OK," she said.

## He Shifted His Tassel (con't.)

He eventually found there was much more to do at Bon Air than at the other places where he had served time, he said. He opted for culinary classes with Stacey Brown as he covered ground he had lost in his general education courses. Within Brown's class, some graduates said Monday, fractions became clear through measuring cups. When they failed, she told them to try again.

She eventually moved the family to an "old, destroyed" trailer, she said. At one point, she fell from the trailer's roof and broke her back. Ferguson refused to stay in the trailer, and that's when DeLaRosa noticed a rebelliousness rise up inside her son, she said. If he showed up to school at all, he slept for three hours once he got there, he told his fellow graduates Monday. Alternative school followed in-school suspensions. By the time he was in the 10th grade, his GPA was 1.8.

"I don't know anything about my students except that they are in my class," Brown said as she manned the line of food for graduates Monday. "It's based on who you are in that moment. It's about mutual respect. Ferguson was always very polite, very respectful. I was blown away when I heard that he hadn't been a good student before."

Ferguson hopes a judicial review in February, two months after his 20th birthday, will lead to his release. He has already earned two culinary certifications and has talked about opening a bakery or going into the heating and air conditioning business. His mom said she's willing to move to South Carolina near a culinary school. "He barely cooked an egg before. Now, he's calling me about creme brulee," DeLaRosa said.

At the end of the day, that accomplishment was his choice, the director of the Department of Juvenile Justice, Andrew Block Jr., told Ferguson and other graduates Monday. Just a couple of weeks ago, Block celebrated his own daughter's graduation. "I know how hard she worked to get to where she's at. I also know that all of you had to work a little bit harder," Block said. "I bet if you went to your ninth- or 10th-grade teacher, they would've said there's no way you are going to college. And now look at what you've done. You being here today says a lot about who you are."

In that moment, Ferguson looked back at his mother and sisters, and smiled. His mother's eyes welled with tears. When it was his turn to speak, Ferguson wanted his fellow graduates to know his story, and also to remember sea turtles. In their first moments, he said, they crawl across an entire beach to reach the ocean.

"There's not one of us here whose first half of their life was easy," he said. "But if you just push to find your ocean, you can be happy."

Once the diplomas were issued and tassels shifted, Ferguson ran his hands over the piece of paper tied with a blue ribbon. Later, he balanced blue and green cupcakes that his sisters fetched for him as he hugged teachers and family.

In two hours, he would take off his gown and return to his unit. His mother and sisters would file back through the security entrances, retrieving their cellphone and car keys from a security officer behind a windowed enclosure.

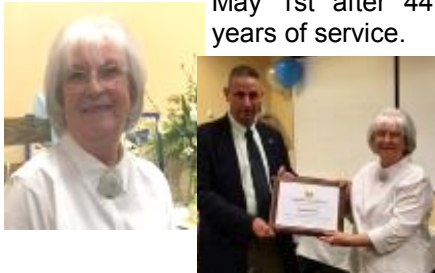
But for now, he was just a graduate. And a little bit closer to his ocean.





## Colleagues in the Spotlight

**PATRICIA DAVIS** retired from the 28<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit on May 1st after 44 years of service.



**MIKE TRAYLOR** retired from the 11<sup>th</sup> District CSU. Mike began his career in 1974 as a probation counselor with the 11th District CSU in Petersburg and became CSU After-care Specialist in 1976. He transferred to the Powhatan County office in 1977, was promoted to probation supervisor in 1986, and appointed CSU Director in June 2013.



In 1994, he was recognized by the Department as an Outstanding Contributor for advancing the courses of interracial harmony, equality and mutual appreciation for all people. He

received his B.A. in Sociology from Randolph Macon College and has done graduate study in Sociology and Criminology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Throughout his career, he has shown interest in developing opportunities to provide services in the field of juvenile justice. He is past chairman of the mental health planning committee which brought mental health services to the communities of Powhatan and Goochland Counties (1979) and is past Chairman of the Powhatan-Goochland CSB Local Human Rights Committee. He is the co-founder (1989)

and past president of the Virginia Mediation Network, Inc., and founder and past president of the Southside Area Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Inc. (1992). He is past chairman of the committee on dispute resolution for the Better Business Bureau of Central Virginia, Inc. He has chaired several CPMT's in his CSU District and led detention reform efforts through JDAI.

Mike's hobbies include hiking, backpacking, and golf. He volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America for over 20 years. His volunteer service has been recognized with the BSA District Award of Merit (1997) and BSA Silver Beaver Award (2000). He has been a volunteer with the Hospital Hospitality House/ Pathways in Richmond and Epiphany Prison Ministry at Beaumont Juvenile Correctional Center. The National Episcopal Church USA recognized him in 1999 with the St. George Award for outstanding service to the spiritual development of youth in youth serving agency programs.

Mike was born in Petersburg, Virginia and now resides in Chesterfield County. He has been married to Ellen Flemer for 41 years and they have one son, Michael Ryan, age 37, who lives in Los Angeles, California.

**JEFF BRINTLE** was promoted to Director in the 29<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit.

**LANNY LARGE** retired as Supervisor in the 29th District Court Service Unit.

**DARCY JANSON** was promoted to Director in the 28th District Court Service Unit. Ms. Janson has a career of more than 30 years with the

Department of Juvenile Justice having served previously as a Probation Counselor in the 29th District and in the 28th District, serving as a Probation Officer, Probation Officer Senior, and currently as a Probation Supervisor. Prior to joining the Department of Juvenile Justice, she served as adjunct faculty at Virginia Highlands Community College, and as a social worker in both Virginia and Kentucky. Ms. Janson obtained a Master of Social Work from the University of Kentucky, and a Bachelor's degree in Human Services from the University of Tennessee. Ms. Janson is a native of Paris, Tennessee, but has resided in Abingdon for the last 30 years. Darcy enjoys spending time with her husband and three children and is an avid traveler.

**APRIL COLLINS** and **ROBBIE DAVIS** were promoted to supervisors in the 29<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit.

**GILES AND BLAND COUNTY** are returning to the 27<sup>th</sup> District from the 29<sup>th</sup> District effective July 1, 2018.

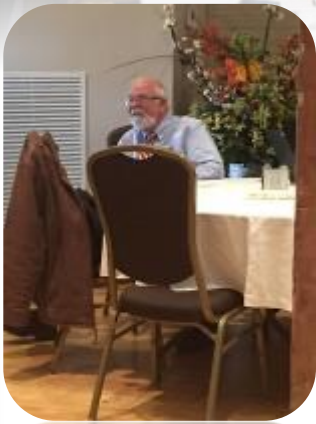
**LEW WRIGHT** was recognized for 35 years of service. Except for a brief period in 1984, Lew has been with the Commonwealth of Virginia since he graduated from UVA in 1981, the past 35 years with the Department of Juvenile Justice. DJJ has come a long way in that time, and Lew is proud to be part of an agency that tries to make a difference in the lives of young people.



**STEVE SPERO** retired from the 19th District Court Service Unit in September after finishing his career with Community Corrections Services.

# Ron Belay Retires after 50 YEARS!

29th District Court Service Unit — Pearisburg Director **Ron Belay**, who recently observed his 50th year of service with the Department of Juvenile Justice and its predecessor agencies, retired March 31. Friends and colleagues surprised Ron with a retirement celebration at the historic Pulaski Train Station, where they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and remembrances. Congratulations, Ron, on a stellar career. #RonBelayDay



Happy Retirement Ron Belay!  
 21<sup>st</sup> Court Service Unit – Martinsville, Henry, Patrick

## Colleagues in the Spotlight



### **PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay will retire as the Director of the Department of Juvenile Justice's 29<sup>th</sup> District Court Service Unit on March 31, 2018, after 50 years of service; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay has been an active member of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) since 1968 and was in 2017 awarded VJJA Lifetime Membership; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay has served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA); and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay served as a member of VJJA's leadership at the state and district level for more than 30 continuous years; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay served four two-year terms as VJJA President, served for 10 years as Immediate Past President, served for 2 years as State Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay served for 2 years as VJJA's Southwest District Chair, and served for 20 years as Southwest District Treasurer; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay has been an Ambassador for VJJA and has rarely missed a VJJA sponsored event, (often arriving on his Harley Davidson); and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay was in 1989 awarded VJJA's Meritorious Award in the Area of Administration; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay has served on numerous boards and task forces, including the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) and the New River Valley Detention Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Ron Belay has devoted 50 years of his life to service and advocacy on behalf of court-involved children;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND PROCLAIMED** that the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association will celebrate March 8, 2018, as ***Ron Belay Day***.

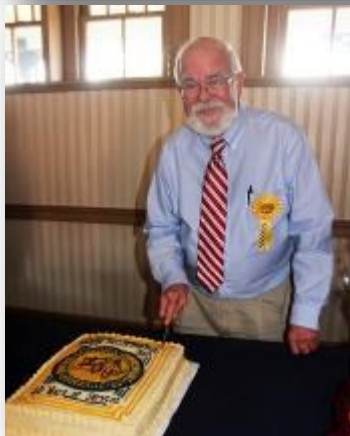
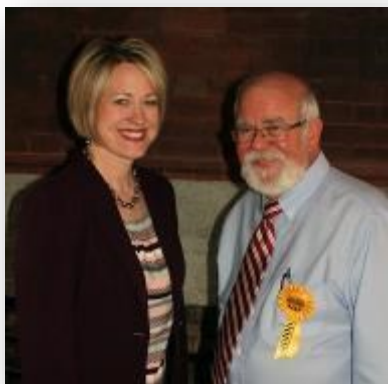
DATED: March 8, 2018

*Samantha E. Higgins*

VJJA PRESIDENT



# #RonBelayDay



### A Few Notes from Colleagues

**Glenda Roach Taylor** Congratulations Ron. Enjoy your retirement!!

**Mary Lynn Takac Pitts** Ron you were an awesome Director but more importantly an AMAZING human being who brought the best to your position day after day, year after year! May God bless You and reward You for your dedication and service! Rock on!

**Lew Wright** These pix are great! Wish I could have been there. Congratulations Ron!



**Mary Little Hankins** Congratulations, Ron!



**Margo A. Hardy** Congratulations Ron!! Enjoy your retirement!!

**Brenda Bailey** Congratulations Ron. Happy retirement!

**Christine Gray** Congratulation Ron! Thank you for taking a chance on a Yankee!! Loved working for you.



**Patricia H. Davis** Great pictures! We wish you the best retirement ever!!



## Blue Ridge District Chapter News

**BLUE RIDGE DISTRICT DID NOT SUBMIT CHAPTER NEWS BY PRESS TIME SO PLEASE ENJOY THIS WONDERFUL ARTICLE LOCATED IN THEIR DISTRICT**

Drumheller's Orchard was Everette (E.O.) and Eva property from the Horsley farm with abandoned fruit cultivated and new orchards peach and apple trees. The built in the early 40's and three times. Darrell Drumfarm with his parents in the orchard's history with the design of a 110 gallon apple butter kettle with an electric stirrer. Darrell's three sons worked on the farm after they finished school. His daughter helped out at different times. Kevin remained on the farm and began to manage the farm with his mother Doris, after Darrell's death in 2005. Kevin's daughter Morgan joined the family operation in 2008, and has contributed by developing the website and other marketing tools. She also helps with sales, festival, and school groups in the fall.



established in 1937, when Drumheller purchased the Family; once an unattended trees. The land was then were started which included original packing shed would undergo expansions heller started working the 1957, playing a major role in

The fall festival began in the 70's with apple butter making and selection of apples. Today's festivals include hayrides to the pumpkin patch and corn maze, two apple sling shots, crafter, food vendors, live music, fresh cider, apple pies, cakes, and a good family atmosphere. By continuously planting more varieties of peaches and apples each year it has allowed Drumheller's to expand their harvest and distribution seasons. A new sales area and kitchen has been added where pies, cakes, jams, jellies, ice cream, cobblers, and more will be made.

The 5th Annual Super Peach Sunday was held in July, right in prime peach season. There were varieties of peaches ready for sampling & samplings of our homemade jams, jellies, & butters. Our peaches, soft serve peach ice cream, peach shakes, & baked goods were offered for sale. Entertainment was provided by Benny Dodd & Friends & food provided by our local Ruritan Club.

Drumheller's Orchard has two apple festivals per year. They always fall on the last weekend in September and the third weekend in October. They have apples, apple butter, apple cider, honey, side meat, country hams, cookbooks, pumpkins, baskets, baked goods, etc. Their apple cider is non-pasteurized, which means it's just the juice from the apple. There are not any preservatives or additives in the cider. They have had the same recipe for generations for their apple butter. They have always made it there at Drumheller's Orchard. It has just the right amount of apples, sugar, and spices. The side meat and country hams are cured in southern Virginia.

This is where the fun comes in! Drumheller's has a wide range of activities for all ages, such as hayrides to the pumpkin patch and corn maze, an apple sling shot, and kids zone. The corn maze is weather permitting. That implies for the early months also. If it is have a dry summer the corn is likely not to grow, therefore there wouldn't be a corn maze. Last but not least there is always food and country music; only on festival weekends. The local Ruritan Club has BBQ chicken, BBQ sandwiches, hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and drinks. The also have vendors who have funnel cakes, pork skins, apple dumplings, and Brunswick stew.

### 2018 Festival Dates

**September 29—September 30, 9am–5pm**

**October 20—21, 9am–5pm**

1130 Drumheller Orchard Ln, Lovingston, VA 22949 | (434) 263-5036



## Capital District Chapter News

In the fall 2017, the City of Richmond Department of Justice Services was awarded a Byrne/Justice Assistance (Virginia Response to Violent Extremism, Domestic Terrorism, and Hate Crimes) Grant from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services to implement the proposed program: Real Actions towards Change and Empowerment-R.A.C.E. Richmond has a sordid racial history that has resulted in the continued disenfranchisement of minority groups, in particular African-American residents. To that end, R.A.C.E. project was designed to increase awareness and provide opportunities to boost cultural awareness and exposure; particularly for Richmond's underserved African-American youth who are currently involved in the juvenile justice system.

The program is a collaborative effort between the following partners: DJS, the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities (VCIC) and the Richmond Peace Education Center (RPEC). The grant targets two specific areas:

1. Programming that focuses on helping court-involved middle

school and high school aged youth understand how stereotypes, bigotry, prejudice, and racial trauma perpetuates incidents of physical and emotional violence.

2. Conducting an organizational assessment related to unconscious bias and racial equity. The assessment will be limited to the service units that work with youth (the Division of Juvenile Community Programs and the Richmond Juvenile Detention Center).

The project kicked off in April with the start of the organizational assessment with VCIC, the two-day focus groups touch on individual biases and how to build inclusive places to work. The RPEC also started Phase I of the racial trauma healing groups with the youth of the Juvenile Behav-

ioral Health Docket. Phase II will start in June with the youth of the Richmond Detention Center.

During the summer months, court involved youth will have the opportunity to participate in the cultural enrichment activities to include trips to the Moten Museum in Farmville, two day weekend community service project to include Shockoe Bottom Historic Slave Trail and Lumpkins Jail. Youth will also participate in the Virginia Center for Inclusive Communities "Connections Camp" in August along with several other fun pro-social skill activities.





# Capital District News Continued

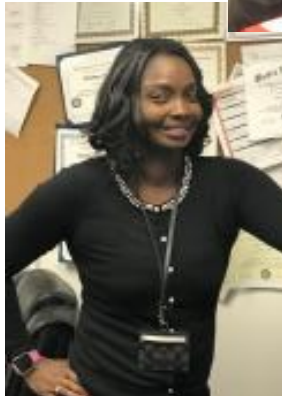
VJJA Capital District was honored by the Richmond Drug Court in February of this year for assisting in providing an incentive to two young men who were very near the completion of the program with over 200+ days of being substance free. The Capital District provided these two young men with bikes and helmets so that after the program that could have transportation back and forth to work. Collaboration at its finest.



Honorable Marilynn Goss-Thorton, 13th Judicial District Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court and Tammy Johnson, VJJA Capital District Chair.



The DJJ Reentry Community Resource Fair was in collaboration with the Chesterfield & Henrico Court Service Units. It was held at 4100 Hull Street Road in Richmond, Virginia. There were about 100-200 citizens to walk through the event. The Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (VADMV) was in attendance as well.



Senior Probation Officer Detrina Crawley organized the event



## Northern District Chapter News

**NORTHERN DISTRICT DID NOT SUBMIT CHAPTER NEWS BY PRESS TIME SO PLEASE ENJOY INFORMATION ON THIS WONDERFUL EVENT LOCATED IN THEIR DISTRICT**

# Hot Air Balloon Festival

## August 18-19, 2018



The Annual Hot Air Balloon Festival weekend features an airshow Saturday and Sunday at 2pm and Balloon launches EARLY Saturday and Sunday morning AND after both shows - WEATHER PERMITTING

Balloon Demos, tethered rides, airplane rides, balloon races - lots going on both days! Please plan to come early!! This is a busy weekend and you'll want to get your spot BEFORE the crowds descend.



**PLEASE REMEMBER -Balloons are VERY dependent on CALM CONDITIONS - SAFETY is the launch factor!**

Free floating Balloon rides are available and can be arranged with the individual balloonists - a list of balloonist's phone numbers will be posted by the front door of the gift shop both days so you can make your arrangements. If we can post a list earlier on this event, we will. Come see us!

**Flying Circus Air Show**  
**5114 Ritchie Rd,**  
**Bealeton, Virginia 22712**





## Southwest District Chapter News

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT DID NOT SUBMIT CHAPTER NEWS BY PRESS TIME SO PLEASE ENJOY INFORMATION ON THIS WONDERFUL EVENT LOCATED IN THEIR DISTRICT**

**Appalachia (Town):** The town of Appalachia is considered to be a largely intact "era" town of the late 1800's - early 1900's. At one time, the town was the center of a booming coal mining culture. The town was the "hub" of eight "coal camps" located along the outskirts of the town. Presently, many of the coal camps remain as does much of the coal mining equipment. The town sprang up after the Louisville and Nashville Railroad and Southern Railroad made a junction there in 1890. Many railroad buildings still remain in the town. It was named after the Appalachian Mountains, in the heart of which it stands.



**Several items of interest remain in the town, including:**

**Bee Rock Tunnel** - listed in the Ripley's Believe It or Not as the "Shortest Railroad Tunnel in the World". The tunnel is 47 ft., 7 in.

Visit the **Louis E. Henegar Miners Memorial Park**, which is dedicated to a local mining historian and numerous coal miners in the community. See many examples of underground mining equipment used today in the mining industry.

**Appalachia is surrounded by numerous coal camp communities**, including Andover, Arno, Derby, Roda, Imboden, Exeter, Dunbar, Pardee, Osaka, and Stonega. Many of these communities formed at the beginning of the century with the arrival of the mining and railroad industry.

Each year, usually in the first week of August, the residents of Appalachia and the surrounding area celebrate their heritage in a week-long celebration known as **Coal/Railroad Days**. The festival includes a 5K road race, music concerts at the town's amphitheater, amusement rides, street vendors, a parade, and numerous other festival type events.

The town of Appalachia holds two world records. **Bee Rock Tunnel**, the world's second-shortest railroad tunnel and **The Peake Building**, an apartment house with street-level access on all four floors.



**Peggy Castle** was born in Appalachia. She signed a contract with Universal-International and made her film debut in the 1947 film *When a Girl's Beautiful*. She appeared in such films as *Payment on Demand* (1951), *Invasion U.S.A.* (1952), *99 River Street* (1953), and *Arrivederci Roma* (1957). In the 1950s, Castle moved into television and co-starred in the television western series *Lawman*. Her final onscreen role was a guest appearance in a 1966 episode of *The Virginian*.

Peggy Castle

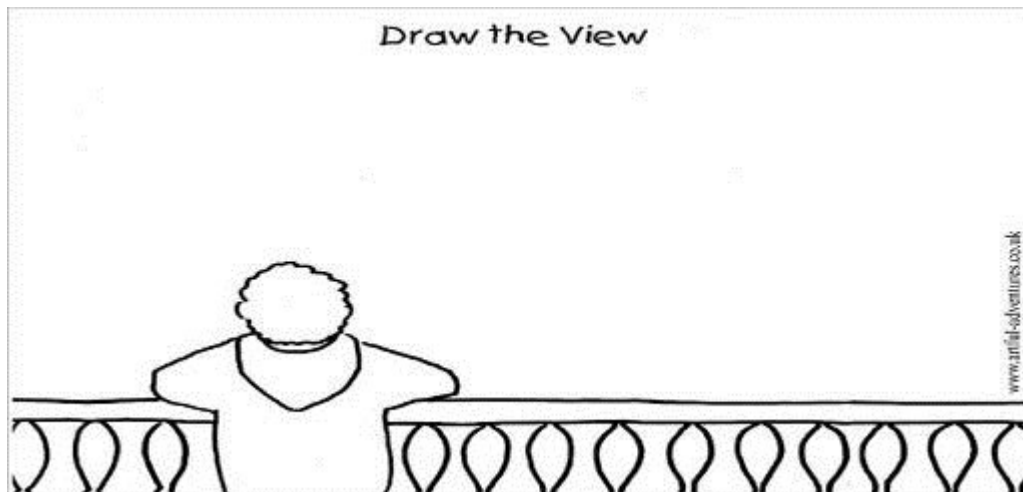
Town of Appalachia, Appalachia, VA | 276-565-3900



## Tidewater District Chapter News

On June 1, 2018, the Tidewater District offered the First Annual Fin and Feather Feast. The feast was held at the Fraternal Order of Police in Chesapeake. There were two hours of training and visits to the vendors. Training was provided by Paul Greggs and Daniel Lawson of the Department of Juvenile Justice's Training Unit. The training topics were Team Building and Working with the Different Gener-

ations. After training, folks feasted on fried fish and chicken and multiple sides. Dessert was strawberry shortcake with homemade whipped cream. A special thanks goes to Carlos Hooker and his wife Robin, who stayed outside in the heat, frying the fish and hushpuppies. This event was also a membership drive to encourage people to renew their membership or join VJJA.



## From the Editor

I'd like to introduce myself to you. I'm Wendi True, the new editor of the *Advocate*. I work full time as The Director of Creative Marketing with Southstone Behavioral Health. I am a mom to two amazing children, Allyson and Charlie. I have a cardiac alert service dog, Artemis, that accompanies me on all my travels and adventures. Since joining VJJA, I met many amazing folks and attended some spectacular trainings. I enjoy being on the Fall Institute Committee and working behind the scenes securing cool giveaways and assisting anywhere else I'm needed. I am honored to serve as your editor and hope to continue to



make you proud of your *Advocate*. Please be on the lookout for new additions to the *Advocate*, starting with the puzzle page, and Residential Treatment Spotlight this issue. In the future, look for "Where in the World?" where you will be able to guess the location of the *Advocate*, submit your guess, an IF correct your name will go be entered to win a \$25 Amazon gift card.

If you have information or ideas to share, please do not hesitate to contact me at 540-849-9829 or through e-mail at [wendi.true@acadiahealthcare.com](mailto:wendi.true@acadiahealthcare.com) We are always looking for contributors from each district, detention, and probation.

# Valley District Chapter News

**VALLEY DISTRICT DID NOT SUBMIT CHAPTER NEWS BY PRESS TIME SO PLEASE ENJOY INFORMATION ON THIS WONDERFUL EVENT LOCATED IN THEIR DISTRICT**

Food trucks from across the Commonwealth battle for fan favorites and grand championship at The Virginia Food Truck Battle. VIP ticket holders are the judges and receive samples of each truck's cuisine (six total per zone) and tasting from each of in their own competition; the panel of judges for the ultimate and most votes for favorite enter at 11:30 to receive their zone. Food tastings end at 3 pm. VIP's are the voters and General Admission Taster receive a tasting from each of in the beer competition part of Only enter at 12:30 and free to Children Activities and enter-throughout the day. VIP and to all food trucks, children ac-



the six craft breweries entered three favorites are passed to a mate prize, grand championship beer wins. VIP ticket holders tastings from the trucks in their 12:30. Beer tastings go until 3 judges! New this year is the Ticket. Enter at 12:30 and re-the six craft breweries entered the event. General Admission purchase food, beer or wine. tainment all day. Five bands general admission have access tivities, and entertainment. All

proceeds go to a local non-profit providing financial aid to local families with children battling pediatric cancer covering four Virginia counties.

## Sunday, September 2, 2018



Augusta County Expo | 277 Expo Road, Fishersville, VA 22939 | 540: 540-294-2161 | Kmetje@gmail.com





# CS UNITY

Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice

June, 2018



## Leadership Summit

'18

By **VALERIE BOYKIN**

*Deputy Director for Community Programs*

On May 23-24, DJJ leaders participated in the 3rd Annual Leadership Summit, sponsored by the DJJ Community Division, entitled “Bridging the Gap: Research To Practice.” We learned, challenged, reveled, relaxed and ate well at the Omni, the Residence Inn and on the downtown Charlottesville pedestrian Leadership Summit ‘18 mall.

These photos capture the spirit of the event. Administrators provided DJJ transformation and operational updates. Leaders also had an opportunity to learn from plenary and workshop presenters on an array of topics covering the use of adolescent development research and best practices to reform juvenile justice; implicit bias; DJJ’s use of data to drive decisions; the best of JTI tools and practices; fidelity and quality assurance; children’s health



THE ADVOCATE



issues and how to address; adverse trauma; supervisors as coaches; EPICS implementation; the new probation officer and counselor orientation training; and self care. CSU staff will hear more about these topics from supervisors and directors as we “pass it on.”

Thanks to Dee Kirk and the committee, and all who contributed to the success of the summit through planning, executing, presenting or simply attending and allowing yourself to consider new possibilities for us and the youth and families that we touch.

Thanks for supporting VJJA



Customizable K-12 digital courseware for core courses, CTE, electives, and world languages.



PREPARING STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, & Life.

Odysseyware.com | 877.795.8904

©2017 ODYSSEYWARE, Inc. Odysseyware® is a registered trademark of ODYSSEYWARE, Inc. All rights reserved. SSAD\_1006\_052017

## EVIDENCE-BASED OFFENDER EDUCATION



Alcohol  
Marijuana  
Other Drugs

Anger Management  
Conflict Resolution  
Shoplifting & Petty Theft  
Vaping - Nicotine

NO COST TO COURT · STUDENT PAID

**(888) 810-7990**

**3RDMIL.COM**



Phoenix House



## Helping teens in Virginia live unaddicted

If you know someone who is struggling with substance use, call 703 841 0703 to connect them with the help that's needed.

phoenixhouse.org



## Attachment-Oriented Integrated Care

Stetson School is a nationally accredited, fully licensed, Chapter 766-approved Residential and Education Treatment program for male youth and young men, aged 9-22, who have experienced severe trauma; physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse; and who may have had disrupted living arrangements or placements. Stetson's family-driven treatment emphasizes safety, stabilization, and assessment. Our Culture of Recovery recognizes the impact of social environment and treats the "whole" youth to enable a successful return to the community.

To learn more, call 978.355.4541 x4139 today!



An Affiliate of Seven Hills Foundation

455 South Street, P.O. Box 309, Barre, MA 01005 • 978.355.4541 x4139  
koconnor@stetsonschooll.org • www.sevenhills.org/stetsonschooll



Thanks for supporting VJJA



**301 Fort Lane, Portsmouth, Virginia 23704**

**Toll Free: 877-227-7000 Direct: 757-393-0061 FAX: 757-391-5915**

[www.harborpointbhc.com](http://www.harborpointbhc.com)

*Harbor Point Behavioral Health Center* is a 24-hour secure psychiatric residential treatment center for youth ages 6 - 17 at the time of admission. It is our belief that all youth have the potential to be successful and it is our goal to assist every child in achieving realistic outcomes in a safe and non-threatening environment. Our programs are designed to meet the needs of youth who are experiencing emotional, psychiatric and educational difficulties. We also offer several specialty programs for youth with more complex issues. Because the process of change is never a straight line, we build on the strengths of our residents while working with them to face challenges within a success-oriented therapeutic environment.

Our Assessment & Diagnostic Program is available for youth who are in need of a comprehensive, multi-systemic diagnostic evaluation to determine recommendations and options for treatment services.

Our staff consists of experienced medical, clinical and psychiatric professionals who are committed to providing the highest quality of care to our residents. Our facility has a full-time, board certified child and adolescent psychiatrist and a full-time onsite pediatrician. Each resident works with a dedicated multidisciplinary team of psychiatrists, therapists, nurses, education, recreation and milieu staff to help guide them on the road to a successful recovery. This team also includes the resident, parent/legal guardian and placing agency representatives.

From the initial referral call through coordinating your child's discharge, Harbor Point is committed to providing our youth, families and referral sources with a positive and caring treatment experience. The participation of families and our community partners is paramount in our multidisciplinary team approach. It is our goal to go above and beyond to ensure the best possible outcomes for youth and families!





## Thanks for supporting VJJA



Located in South Central Virginia, The Hughes Center is a highly structured, 64-bed Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility for adolescents and young adults who are diagnosed with a neurodevelopmental disorder and experiencing significant social and behavioral difficulties within the home, school, and community environments. The Hughes Center utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach to provide comprehensive evaluation and evidence-based treatment interventions to build upon the strengths and abilities of each resident within a safe and secure, campus setting. Our goal is to improve the overall quality of life for our residents so they may achieve their full potential and participate as independently as possible in family relationships, educational experiences, and other facets of community life.

### To Make a Referral / For More Information, Contact our Admissions Office:

Toll Free: (888) 54-HUGHES w Direct: (434) 836-8508 w Fax: (434) 836-8552

### Admission Criteria for Residential Treatment:

- Current diagnosis of an Intellectual Disability and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder with one or more (significant) co-occurring psychiatric disorders
- Males / Females (ages 10 - 22) at time of admission
- Full Scale IQ of 35 or greater
- Individual is enrolled in an academic program of special education
- Individual has failed at less intense levels of treatment within the community
- Individual is medically stable
- Impairment of the individual's social, interpersonal, and/or communication skills requires the provision of moderate intensity, multidisciplinary treatment, integrated within a highly structured, 24-hour, therapeutic residential setting

### The Hughes Center is Licensed / Accredited / Certified By:



[www.thehughescenter.com](http://www.thehughescenter.com) w 1601 Franklin Turnpike, Danville, VA 24540

The Hughes Center complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws, and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex.

Thanks for supporting VJJA



Hallmark Youthcare

Serving males and females ages 11-17 through individualized Trauma-Informed treatment using the **Sanctuary® Model.**



Specializing in Trauma Exposure, Substance Abuse, Sexually Acting-Out Behaviors, Human Trafficking, and Assessment & Diagnosis in a secure Residential Treatment Program located in Richmond, Virginia.

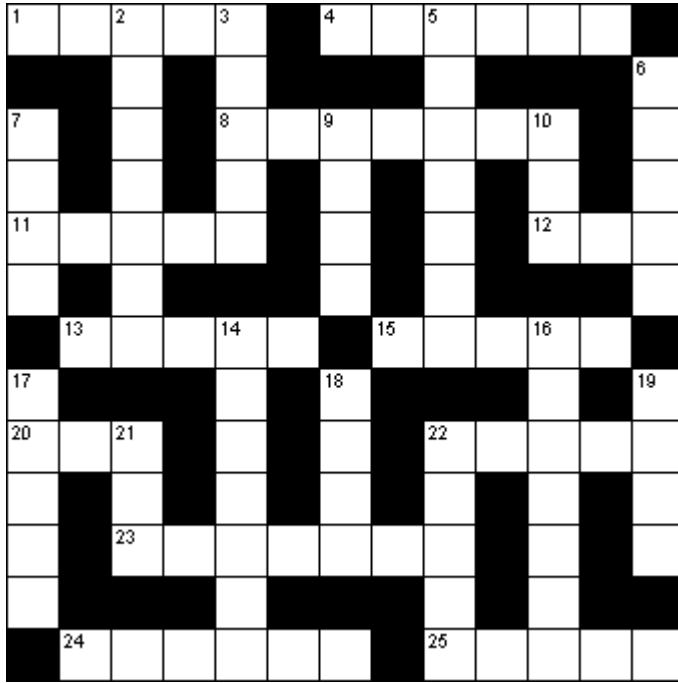
Learn more about our programs, family engagement, and Clinical Team at:

[www.hallmarkyouthcare.org](http://www.hallmarkyouthcare.org)

***“It’s not what’s wrong with the child; it’s what’s happened to them”***

12800 West Creek Parkway, Richmond, VA 23238 | (804) 784-6432 | FAX: (804) 784-5261

# Puzzle Page



**Across**

- 1. Dromedary
- 4. Burrowing rodent
- 8. Warm-blooded vertebrates
- 11. Musteline mammal
- 12. Spider trap
- 13. Striped equine
- 15. Large edible ray
- 20. Mythical bird
- 22. Gulls
- 23. Eight-armed cephalopod
- 24. Tropical bird
- 25. Horned ruminant

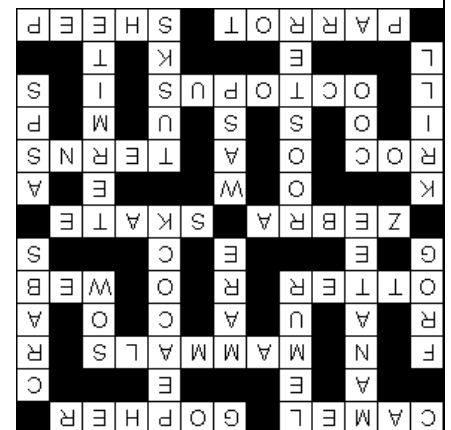
**Down**

- 2. Sirenian mammal
- 3. Foxy-faced arboreal prosimian
- 5. Showy bird
- 6. Decapods
- 7. Amphibian
- 9. Female horse
- 10. Femal hog
- 14. Male chicken
- 16. White ant
- 17. Major food source for whales
- 18. Stinging insect
- 19. Small adders
- 21. Pigeon call
- 22. Long pointed walrus teeth



**Word Search:**

A CHORUS LINE, AIDA, A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC, ANNIE GET YOUR GUN, BEAUTY AND THE BEAST, CABARET, CAMELOT, CAROUSEL, CATS, CHICAGO, COPACABANA, EVITA, GUYS AND DOLLS, GYPSY, HELLO DOLLY, JOLSON, KISS ME KATE, LES MISERABLES, MISS SAIGON, RAGTIME, RIVERDANCE, SHOWBOAT, SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, SOUTH PACIFIC, SUNSET BOULEVARD, THE KING AND I, THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA, WESTSIDE STORY





# Calendar of Events

- Probation, Parole and Community Supervision Week ..... July 15-21, 2018
- Capital District Crab Fest ..... September 7, 2018
- VJJA Board of Directors Meeting ..... September 28, 2018
- VJJA Board of Directors Meeting ..... November 7, 2018
- VJJA Fall Juvenile Justice Institute ..... November 8 & 9, 2018
- Tidewater District Santa Claus Shuffle ..... December 9, 2018



**Don't leave the Advocate behind**

**In the Next Edition:  
The Advocate Travels**



## Residential Spotlight



### *MOSELEY PUTS TOGETHER A POWERHOUSE TEAM TO OPEN A NEW RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTER IN SOUTH BOSTON*



**SOUTHSTONE**  
*Behavioral Health*



### **Treatment center opens in South Boston for teens dealing with trauma, attachment issues**

by Elizabeth Tyree & Itinease McMiller Tuesday, March 27th 2018

SOUTH BOSTON, Va. (WSET) -- Troubled teens now have a new place to turn in South Boston after a boarding school was renovated into a residential treatment center. Jackie Morris was one of the first to get a tour of the brand new Southstone Behavioral Health Center on Tuesday, March 27.

"I actually work at the school with some kids like this and I've worked at group homes and it's just awesome to have facilities like this set up for them," said Morris.

This center will be the temporary home for kids between the ages 12 to 17 who have dealt with trauma and attachment issues.

"Because of the nature of trauma, and how complex and damaging it can be, we realize how important it is to provide trauma-informed and attachment-focused care to such a sensitive and developmental group," said Camilla McCoy, the director of clinical services at the Southstone Health Center. McCoy said the facility is greatly needed in the community.

Families used to travel hours or even out of state to see their children during treatment.

"We will be able to help families and children stay connected and within their respective community so that they can heal, return, and just be successful individuals in their community," McCoy added.

And being closer to their family isn't the only benefit, they're also working with a clinic in Charlottesville.

"They're working with us to develop and use their evidence-based practices that they have done so far with attachment and research and bringing all of that into clinical practice," McCoy said.

The center's day school has been open for about a month and is serving eleven students from this area.

# Community Based Spotlight

You don't have to be a foster parent to help a foster child.

1-844-987-KIDS

WAYS YOU CAN

## "P.R.O.M.O.T.E." FOSTER CARE

**P**rovide child care to a foster family

**R**espond to the need by donating new or gently used furnishings, clothing, school supplies and toys or brand new personal care items.

**O**ffer tutoring to a foster child

**M**entor a foster child

**O**ffer a meal to a foster family when they get a new child in their home.

**T**each a skill like music lessons, art or a skilled trade to a child in need of support

**E**ducate others about the need for fostering by hosting an info session, posting flyers & yard signs or sharing via social networks

### A brown paper bag.

Sometimes, that's all children coming into foster care have to carry their clothes and belongings. With your help, we hope to turn that image into one of hope!



Bring us your paper bag with a donation to help a child in need. Most needed items:

- New/gently used clothing (all sizes)
- School supplies
- Toys
- Sports equipment
- Musical instruments
- New or gently used backpacks
- Board games or educational toys
- Art supplies
- Books

These donations will go directly to local foster and adoptive children and their families. Visit our website for the Intercept office location near you or call **1-844-987-KIDS** to coordinate a donation drop off with a Foster Family Trainer.

Let's #promotefostering together



www.interceptyouthTFC.com

## 7 Ways to Help Foster Children Without Becoming a Foster Parent

Foster care is a big commitment. We understand that not everyone who has a heart to help vulnerable children is in a position to make that commitment right now, but there are still ways you can help P.R.O.M.O.T.E. foster care and have a lasting, positive impact on a child.

### Provide childcare to a foster family.

All families need a babysitter occasionally, but foster families have even more obligations such as court dates, meetings with caseworkers, service plan review meetings, and ongoing foster parent training. They may also need someone to watch their other children while they take a child to doctor's appointments. Foster parenting can also be stressful, and giving foster parents the chance to take a night off to care for themselves is important too!

### Respond to the need by donating new or gently used furnishings, clothing, school supplies and toys or brand new personal care items.

Children bring few, if any, personal items with them when entering foster care. A toy or new outfit can be a small thing to brighten the day of a child who is in an untenable situation through no fault of his own. Most needed items:

- New/gently used clothing (all sizes), school supplies, toys, sports equipment, musical instruments, new or gently used backpacks, board games, educational toys, art supplies, & books.

### Offer tutoring to a foster child.

Foster children often enter a new school when they go to a new foster home. In addition to trying to catch up with the rest of the class like any child who moves, the children are dealing with the trauma of whatever caused them to enter foster care and being removed from their families and would benefit from additional academic support.

### Mentor a foster child.

The more positive, adult role models a child has in her life, the better. This is particularly true for foster children who sometimes have been harmed by the people they look up to the most and need to see examples of caring, responsible adults whom they can trust.

### Offer a meal to a foster family when they get a new child in their home.

Foster children need extra care and attention as they adjust to their new home. Foster parents rarely get the support that other new parents get from their communities, and they may have only an hour or two to prepare before they meet the child. Providing a simple, child-friendly meal will allow the parents to have a little more time to spend helping the child transition.

### Teach a skill like music lessons, art, or a skilled trade to a child in need of support.

Teaching a child a skill can help them express themselves and build confidence. Older children can especially benefit from learning skilled trades because those who become adults without a permanent family have little or no support when entering the adult world.

### Educate others about the need for fostering by hosting an info session, posting flyers & yard signs, or sharing via social networks

Even though over 500,000 children are in foster care in the US, foster care is often a hidden crisis. Raising awareness is a crucial way you can help raise up people to meet the needs of foster children.

Please visit our website, [www.interceptyouthtfc.com](http://www.interceptyouthtfc.com) for the Intercept office location near you or call **844-987-KIDS** to connect with a Foster Family Trainer and coordinate a donation drop off or find out more about how you can be involved. Donations will go directly to local foster and adoptive children and their families. You can also download our promote fostering flyer as a reminder for yourself or make copies to give to friends and family.



# ADVOCATE



**SUMMER 2018 ISSUE**

Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA)  
Wendi True, Editor  
411 College Circle  
Staunton, VA 24401  
540-849-9829  
advocateeditor@vija.net  
www.vija.net

Follow us or hear from us through these online forums, or visit our website at: [www.VJJA.net](http://www.VJJA.net).



Scan this code  
with your smart  
phone for instant  
access to our website!

