

# Roundtable Review

## Executive Director's Letter

Greetings,

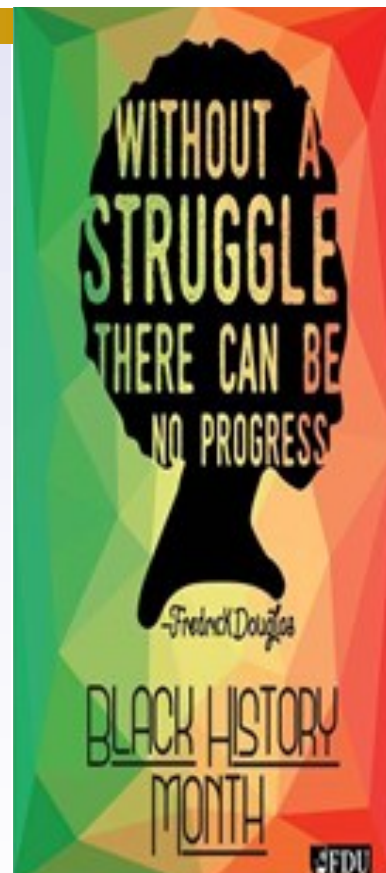


We are excited to relaunch our monthly newsletter. We are back to print in a new year with a new look for the Roundtable. Our newsletter now has a specific focus on the Roundtable's initiatives, including Kids at Hope, IGNITE Youth Alliance, and Drug Free St. Lucie, its networks, its members, and their respective organizations. We will post upcoming community events sponsored by community partners to the Roundtable's Facebook page and website going forward. We will also be unveiling our new website soon. Stay tuned.

Despite the pandemic, the Roundtable continues to be on the move. We recognize the importance of showcasing how well we work together as "leaders united for children" to address complex community issues impacting youth and families as we have done for the past 27 years. To name a few efforts, we are currently convening the Child Welfare and Criminal Justice Network comprised of key leaders from the Roundtable to address the needs of "cross over youth" and strengthen our community's response to youth involved in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. In addition, our Safe Neighborhood Network has reconvened with the participation of key agencies from the Roundtable and partnering agencies to update our gang assessment that will guide Roundtable members with decision making and planning in its continued implementation of the evidence-based Comprehensive Gang Model. Drug Free St. Lucie has established the Education, Training, and Awareness Workgroup that is partnering with the county and many community Roundtable member agencies and partners to plan a county-wide youth summit. Keep on the lookout for more information. Finally, our Kids at Hope initiative, featured in this month's newsletter, continues to expand its reach to our community members championing the message of hope for the children we serve. Are you a Treasure Hunter?

Thank you to all of the Roundtable members and partners who continue to collectively support the initiatives and networks to help make St. Lucie County a better place for all youth, families, and residents to live. It's February, please join us in this labor of love for our community. We are better together. Happy Valentines Day.

**Teresa Bishop**  
 Executive Director



### Inside this issue

Kids at Hope.....	2
Youth Leadership St. Lucie .....	3
Network/Initiative News.....	4
Board Members .....	5
About Us .....	6

### Special Dates in February

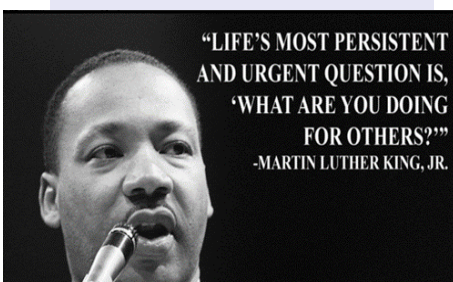
- National Freedom Day 2/1
- National Groundhog Day 2/2
- Wear Red Day 2/4
- National School Counseling Week 2/7-11
- Random Acts of Kindness Week 2/14-18
- World Thinking Day 2/22
- School Bus Driver Appreciation Day 2/22



*"We believe that all children are capable of success, No Exceptions!"*

**Follow us on Facebook**  
**@RoundtableSLC:**

*Kids at Hope will feature a weekly positive quote on the Roundtable's Facebook page in honor of Black History Month. These quotes will be based on the four destinations of travel. In recognition of the KAH Destination of -"Community and Service" - Dr. King is emphasizing the need to help others. Youth and teens are being reminded how they are important members of their community and we are all called to service.*



## Kids at Hope Training Our Leaders

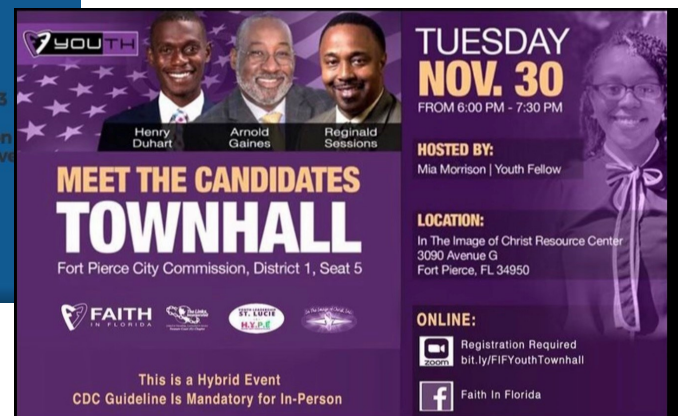
The Kids at Hope (KAH) team is off to a roaring start in 2022 by continuing to provide trainings for the Roundtable's new Board Members, as well as our community leaders. This training, entitled "Unleashing the Power of Hope", is the foundational introduction to the principles and belief systems of Kids at Hope.

The three Universal Truths are discussed: 1. We believe all children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS. 2. We connect with all children/youth in meaningful and sustainable ways as their ACES. 3. We time travel by helping children/youth mentally time travel to their future in four destinations: Home & Family, Education & Career; Hobbies & Recreation; and Community & Service.

Chief Deputy Brian Hester and several members of his leadership team at the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office completed the training and are now Treasure Hunters. Fire Chief Nate Spera of the St. Lucie County Fire District and members of his leadership team also became Treasure Hunters. Nathan Peterson, Chief Probation Officer for the Department of Juvenile Justice completed the initial KAH training with several members of his leadership staff.

As we continue to conduct the Kids at Hope trainings in St. Lucie County our community will continue to shift the paradigm from labeling children and youth as "at-risk" to acknowledging them as "kids at hope". The message of hope is powerful and broadens everyone's understanding that "all children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS".

*Please see the QR Code on page 4 for upcoming training details.*



## Youth Leadership St. Lucie

In November 2021, Youth Leadership St. Lucie, aka “H.Y.P.E” (Helping Youth Pursue Excellence), was presented with an amazing opportunity to host non-partisan conversations with political candidates in both Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie.

Without hesitation, Youth Leadership St. Lucie members answered the call and jumped into action with great honor and enthusiasm. The youth dedicated numerous hours after school and around their busy schedules preparing for each dialogue. Preparations included formulating relevant, thought-provoking questions for the candidates, establishing a seamless flow of discussion, and rehearsing a smooth, confident delivery of their prepared questions.

The first conversation hosted by Youth Leadership St. Lucie members Mia Morrison and Erica Morman in partnership with Faith in Florida took place on November 30<sup>th</sup> in a hybrid (in-person and virtual) townhall format with Fort Piece City Commission candidates.

The second conversation hosted by Youth Leadership St. Lucie’s Chair, Christian Baca in partnership with the League of Women Voters for St. Lucie County was held as a virtual forum on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with Port St. Lucie City Council’s special election candidates. To view the forum, you may visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dXNdjlvwTfA>

Both events were masterfully executed by Youth Leadership St. Lucie members under the guidance of Faith in Florida and the League of Women Voters for St. Lucie County, to whom we express our sincere gratitude for providing such empowering opportunities for our youth.



“As an adult and a Treasure Hunter, I am committed to search for all the talents, skills, and intelligence that exist in all children and youth. I believe that ALL children and youth are capable of success, No Exceptions!”

## Roundtable Networks

### NETWORK MEETING DATES:

**Child & Adolescent Health:** Chair: Tricia Goulet, Email: [tricia.goulet@flhealth.gov](mailto:tricia.goulet@flhealth.gov)

**Healthiest Weight:** TBD. Chair: Stefanie Myers, Email: [stefanie.myers@flhealth.gov](mailto:stefanie.myers@flhealth.gov)

**Infant Mortality:** Bi-monthly on fourth Friday at 1pm. Chair: Sonya Gabriel, Email: [sonya.gabriel@flhealth.gov](mailto:sonya.gabriel@flhealth.gov)

**Teen Pregnancy Prevention:** TBD Chair: TBD, Email: [despinosa@roundtableslc.org](mailto:despinosa@roundtableslc.org)

**SafeKids/Unintentional Injury:** Monthly on first Thursday at 10am. Chair: Ronda Cerulli, Email: [ronda.cerulli@flhealth.gov](mailto:ronda.cerulli@flhealth.gov)

**Drug Free St. Lucie:** Monthly on second Thursday at 11am. Chair: Casey Wood, Email: [cwood@nhtcinc@onmicrosoft.com](mailto:cwood@nhtcinc@onmicrosoft.com)

**Academic Success:** Monthly on first Wednesday at 1pm. Chair: Debbie Hawley, Email: [debbie.hawley@bbbsbig.org](mailto:debbie.hawley@bbbsbig.org)



**Bridges to Prosperity:** Monthly on third Wednesday at 10am. Chair: Canieria Gardner, Email: [cgardner@incbiz.org](mailto:cgardner@incbiz.org)

**Child Welfare:** Monthly on third Tuesday at 2:30pm, Co-chairs: Carol Deloach, Nathan Peterson, Bob McPartlan, Heather Parker Email: [Elisabeth.eugene@cck.net](mailto:Elisabeth.eugene@cck.net)

**Safe Neighborhood:** Monthly on third Wednesday at 2pm. Co-Chairs: Dr. Sunny Booker/ Commander Carmine Izzo, Email: [despinosa@roundtableslc.org](mailto:despinosa@roundtableslc.org)

**Lincoln Park Advisory Committee:** Bi-monthly on fourth Thursday at 12pm. Email: [ksingletary@roundtableslc.org](mailto:ksingletary@roundtableslc.org)

**Youth Leadership St. Lucie:** Bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Email: [kreid@roundtableslc.org](mailto:kreid@roundtableslc.org)

## Drug Free St. Lucie News Stay Tuned.....



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**DRUG FREE  
ST. LUCIE**  
A Network of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County

**“HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT”**  
An Awareness Program For Parents

Explore a teenager’s bedroom and learn the hidden signs of drugs and alcohol misuse.

**COMING SOON**

## Kids at Hope Community Trainings!

Our Kids at Hope team is offering an open training to our community members on Tuesday, March 1st, 9-11 am at the SLC Fire District headquarters.

**SCAN THE QR Code for details.**

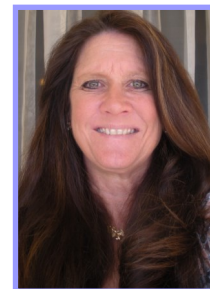
Email: [KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org) or call (772) 871-5880.



## Board Member Spotlight:

Lisa von Seelen has had a lifelong passion to serve youth in need in St. Lucie County. She began her studies at the University of Florida where she studied Sociology and Criminal Justice. She completed her Master's of Health Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling on a full scholarship from the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation with a focus on working with troubled teens. She worked part time at the local runaway shelter, serving the runaway and homeless youth. Upon graduation, Lisa spent a year fulfilling her scholarship requirement working with the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation in St. Lucie county with a spinal cord injury caseload. She went on to join the Children's Home Society to start the Safe Place program for runaway and homeless youth and eventually opening the local shelter in St. Lucie to serve the youth of Martin, Okeechobee, St. Lucie and Indian River counties. Having been so inspired by her internship at CREST Services, Lisa named the current WaveCREST shelter in honor of Dr. Bob Lee's practice, CREST services.

Lisa went on to spend just over a year with the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) to continue her commitment to serve the youth in our community, with a special place in her heart for teen girls. As the lead for various DJJ initiatives her favorite was the girls' initiative to bring gender responsive programming to troubled girls on the Treasure Coast. The girls' initiative culminated in the establishment of PACE Center for Girls, Treasure Coast. She moved on to become the Program Manager for PACE, becoming the Executive Director within a year where she worked for 12 years. In her nearly 11 years with Kids Connected by Design and the Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County, Lisa has worked diligently to provide young moms with the opportunities and resources to ensure their babies have a chance at a successful and bright future. Lisa and her husband Billy Carroll have been married and residing in St. Lucie County for over 33 years. They are both avid animal lovers and rescuers, with many fur babies and fish babies.



*Lisa von Seelen, Executive  
Director/CEO Healthy Start  
Coalition of St. Lucie County*

**Healthy Start**  
*Coalition of St. Lucie County*  
*Every baby deserves a healthy start*

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*"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the  
compassionate actions of its members." - Coretta Scott King*

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## Our Board Members

- ◆ Terissa Aronson, St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Tom Bakkedahl, 19th Judicial Circuit—State Attorney
- ◆ Rosetta Bartell, Housing Authority of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Linda Bartz, Board of County Commissioners
- ◆ Brian Bauer, CareerSource Research Coast
- ◆ Ann Berner, SE FL Behavioral Health Network
- ◆ John Bolduc, Port St. Lucie Police Department
- ◆ Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council
- ◆ Michael Davis, Department of Corrections
- ◆ Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids
- ◆ Wayne Gent, St. Lucie Public Schools
- ◆ Debbie Hawley, Steering Committee Chair
- ◆ Brian Hester, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Diane Hobley-Burney, Fort Pierce Police Department
- ◆ Curtis Johnson, City of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Diamond R. Litty, 19th Judicial Circuit—Public Defender
- ◆ Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition of St. Lucie County
- ◆ Robert McPartlan, Department of Children and Families
- ◆ Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem
- ◆ Jessica Parrish, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- ◆ Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice
- ◆ David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie
- ◆ Nate Spera, St. Lucie County Fire District
- ◆ Clint Sperber, FL Health Department - St. Lucie County
- ◆ Peter Tesch, Economic Development Council
- ◆ Dana Trabulsy, State Representative
- ◆ Andrew Treadwell, Indian River State College
- ◆ Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

# Our Board of Directors

## Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

### **Our Mission:**

To sustain a team of county and business leaders who mobilize resources to improve the education, health, safety, nutrition and care of all children in St. Lucie County.

### **Our Vision:**

We envision a community where county leaders, businesses and residents are united to provide all children of St. Lucie County the resources they need to thrive, be successful and achieve their full potential.

### CHAIR

Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

### VICE-CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

### SECRETARY

Sean Boyle, Children's Services Council

### TREASURER

Jessica Parrish, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee

### PAST CHAIR

Vacant

### STEERING COMMITTEE

Debbie Hawley, St. Lucie Public Schools

### AT LARGE

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

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

## Roundtable of St. Lucie County, Inc.

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Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
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For questions or to subscribe to our Newsletter:  
[DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org)



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

**Teresa Bishop, Executive Director**

[TBishop@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:TBishop@RoundtableSLC.org)

**Dana Espinosa, Operations Manager**

[DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org)

**David Minner, Finance Manager**

[Dminner@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:Dminner@RoundtableSLC.org)

## OUR INITIATIVES:

### **IGNITE Youth Alliance—(772) 448-5712**

- ◆ **Monica Jakobsen, Project Coordinator**  
[MJakobsen@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:MJakobsen@RoundtableSLC.org)
- ◆ **Darcy McFolley, Outreach Supervisor**  
[DMcFolley@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:DMcFolley@RoundtableSLC.org)
- ◆ **Shantel Lariosa, Project Assistant**  
[SLariosa@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:SLariosa@RoundtableSLC.org)
- ◆ **Marcus Mills, Senior Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **LaKenya Ruffin, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Markesha Brockington, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Lee Davis, Outreach Worker**

### **Kids at Hope & Youth Leadership St. Lucie**

- ◆ **Kevin Singletary, Project Coordinator**  
[KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org)
- ◆ **Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison**  
[KReid@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:KReid@RoundtableSLC.org)

### **Drug Free St. Lucie**

- ◆ **C. Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator**  
[JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org)

