



May 2022

# Roundtable Review

## Message from our CEO

Greetings,

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is a famous quote by the inventor, Benjamin Franklin. What a profound statement and relevant today, especially during the month of May, as we recognize the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Prevention Week, May 8-14. SAMSHA is hosting virtual activities all week on topics including, substance misuse and support for positive mental health. This is a great opportunity for staff or personal development. Please click on the QR code on page 4 for details and registration.



For over 25 years, the Roundtable of St. Lucie County has embraced prevention science and adopted the Communities That Care (CTC) evidence-based framework developed by Drs. J. David Hawkins and Richard Catalano at the University of Washington Social Development Research Group. Prevention science is the application of scientific methodology that seeks to prevent or moderate major problem behaviors or conditions before they occur and promotes the idea that factors or root causes must be identified and addressed. The Roundtable has utilized the CTC framework, an initiative of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) in the office of the United States Government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to guide its prioritization and collective decision making for our community's prevention efforts for children, youth and their families. The framework employs a data driven process to measure levels of risk in communities for 5 problem behaviors/conditions: academic failure, delinquency, violence, teen pregnancy and substance abuse. CTC also focuses on protective factors in schools, communities and families. The Roundtable expanded this framework to include child and adolescent health, including infant mortality, obesity, and unintentional injury. CTC is designed to help community stakeholders and decision makers analyze, understand and apply information about risk and protective factors to identify programs, strategies and policies proven to make a difference in promoting healthy youth development. The Roundtable's funded initiatives, Drug Free St. Lucie, funded by the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy Drug Free Communities Support Program, and IGNITE Youth Alliance and the Comprehensive Gang Model, funded by the U.S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, are both evidence-based strategies that address risk factors for two of the problem behaviors in the framework: substance misuse and violence.

Over the next several months the Roundtable's strategic planning process led by its Networks, will be underway guided by the CTC framework to update our 5 year strategic plan for 2022. We are looking forward to engaging our community stakeholders in this effort. On behalf of the Roundtable, I would like to salute all of you that are engaging in prevention efforts to support the children, youth and families in our community. Happy Prevention!

**Teresa Bishop**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Memorial Day**  
We Will Always Remember



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### Special Dates:

- Teacher Appreciation Week 5/1-5/7
- National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day 5/5
- Screen Free Week (TV Turnoff Week) 5/2-5/8
- Prevention Week 5/8-14
- Nurses Week 5/6-12
- Armed Forces Day 5/21
- National Missing Children's Day 5/25
- Memorial Day 5/31
- World No Tobacco Day 5/31
- ◆ Military Appreciation Month
- ◆ National Bike Month
- ◆ National Foster Care Month
- ◆ Teen Pregnancy Prevention Month



## Finding a “Treasure” in Youth Leadership St. Lucie

Youth Leadership St. Lucie would like to spotlight this year’s chairperson, Christian Baca. He has been a true advocate for the voice of his peers and a member of youth leadership for the past two years. Christian was instrumental in establishing a student presence on the school board district advisory council in St. Lucie County. As Youth Leadership Chair, he has assisted his peers with leading two candidate forums this past election season. Currently, youth leadership is working on a sock drive for the homeless, arranging community conversations with county leaders, and looking to address the urgent need for more mental health assistance for teens. It has truly been a pleasure working alongside this young man. Christian Baca is currently a senior at Treasure Coast High School and will be graduating as the Class Salutatorian, with the second-highest GPA of approximately 750 students.

Christian serves as the Chairman of Youth Leadership St. Lucie, where he leads a cohort of student leaders from across the county as they organize community discussions with local officials, host leadership seminars, explore new ways of societal involvement, and much more. Youth Leadership St. Lucie has given Christian an endless source of inspiration. “The relentless drive, the determined passion, the intellectual curiosity, reminds me that youth are not just the leaders of tomorrow but they are also the leaders of the present.”

He also serves as the Founder and President of the St. Lucie Public Schools’ Youth Advisory Council where he works alongside the School Board and Superintendent to advocate for the interests of over 41,000 students in St. Lucie County. He credits his success within the community as a product of the rich leadership curriculum of Youth Leadership St. Lucie. It has taught him to be a more reflective leader and explore new ways of being involved within his community.

Christian is the son of two immigrants and will be a first-generation college student. His father, a college dropout, became a construction worker and his mother, limited by an early pregnancy, became a stay-at-home mom. He credits his parents for instilling the beauty of education in him. He shares, “my identity is the product of the gifts given to me by my parents; my father gave me the gift of a strong work ethic as a construction worker and my mother, the gift of a will to succeed by enrolling in community college.”

Christian was accepted into several prestigious universities including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and Stanford. He is among the first within his high school and the county to be accepted to many of these universities. In the fall, he will be attending Yale University where he will major in Political Science and Economics and minor in Educational Studies. He intends to return to St. Lucie County to serve as a high school social studies teacher, where he hopes to continue to uplift youth by sharing his passion for education.

Additionally, Christian has received several accolades throughout his service and academic journey including semi-finalist for United States Presidential Scholars (first in his school), Hispanic Scholarship Fund Scholar, Outstanding Youth Award from the Children’s Service Council of St. Lucie County, Young Floridian in Academic Excellence from the St. Lucie Chamber of Commerce, and selection to the Bank of America Student Leaders Summer Program.

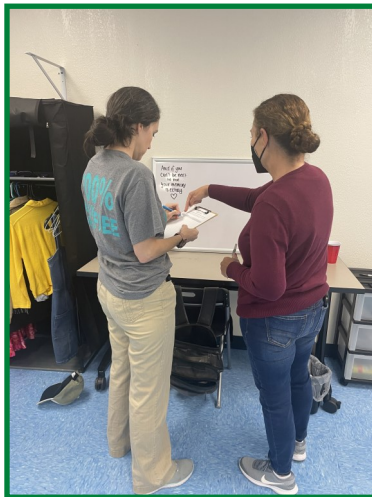
Christian is an example of why we as Kids at Hope Treasure Hunters practice the belief that— “All children are capable of success, No Exception!”





An in-person interactive experience for adults/parents to raise awareness, and enhance parenting and work skills, to help them recognize signs that may point to risky adolescent behaviors/drug use.

During the month of April, the ***“Hidden In Plain Sight”*** tours took place at the Incubate Neighborhood Center (INC) in Fort Pierce. Participants were given the opportunity to walk-through the mock teenager’s bedroom and search for over 50 items that may point to risky adolescent behaviors/drug use. Attendees then participated in a presentation and discussion that included: identification of items and how they may indicate risky behaviors; popular local youth trends backed up with local data; tools to help navigate the teen years and discussion points for family conversations; as well, as sharing additional community resources. If you would like to register for this tour, please contact: Jovil Wharton, Drug Free St. Lucie Coordinator at [jwharton@roundtableslc.org](mailto:jwharton@roundtableslc.org).





# DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE

*A Network of the Roundtable of St. Lucie County*

## **DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

Approximately 95 pounds of medication was collected during the DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The event was held at the Fort Pierce Police Department (Main Station) and was reported by one of the takeback officials as, “the best event yet”.

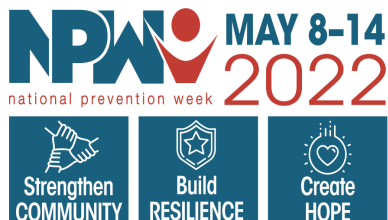
Special thanks to Sgt. Fasanello of the Fort Pierce Police Department and his efforts to accommodate and facilitate this event. Additional thanks to Sgt. Solano of the Florida National Guard, Sgt. Goz of the Fort Pierce Police Dept, Suzanne Howard and Tessa Falatovich from New Horizon’s Student Assistance Program and Adrian Kinkead of the Florida Dept. of Health in St. Lucie County-OD2A Program.

The DEA’s National Prescription Drug Take Back Day reflects their commitment to Americans’ safety and health by encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting. For more information visit [Take Back Day \(dea.gov\)](https://www.dea.gov).



## **National Prevention Week**

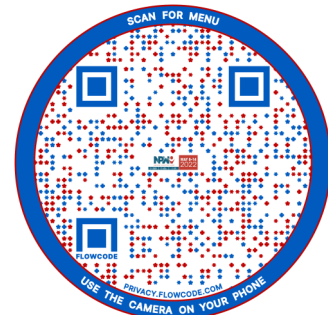
May 8 -14, 2022 - National Prevention Week (NPW) is a national public education platform bringing together communities and organizations to raise awareness about the importance of substance use prevention and positive mental health. Each year, National Prevention Week includes daily themes to focus on major substance use and mental health topics.



The 2022 daily themes are:

- ◆ **Monday, May 9: Strengthening Community Resilience: Substance Misuse and Overdose Prevention**
- ◆ **Tuesday, May 10: Preventing Substance Use and Promoting Mental Health in Youth**
- ◆ **Wednesday, May 11: Preventing Suicide: Everyone Plays a Role**
- ◆ **Thursday, May 12: The Talent Pipeline: Enhancing the Prevention Workforce**
- ◆ **Friday, May 13: Prevention is Everywhere: Highlighting Efforts Across Settings and Communities**
- ◆ **Saturday, May 14: Celebrating Prevention Heroes**

Show your support by participating in events and wearing your favorite shade of blue on May 11<sup>th</sup> and tag us on Facebook: [@drugfreestlucie](https://www.facebook.com/drugfreestlucie). For more information and to participate in NPW events visit: [www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week](https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-week)



# Roundtable Networks

## NETWORK MEETING DATES:

**Child & Adolescent Health:** Chair: Tricia Goulet, Email: tricia.goulet@flhealth.gov

**Healthiest Weight:** TBD. Chair: Stefanie Myers; Email: stefanie.myers@flhealth.gov

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

**Teen Pregnancy Prevention:** Monthly on third Thursday at 2:30pm. Chair: Sonya Gabriel, Email: sonya.gabriel@flhealth.gov

**SafeKids/Unintentional Injury:** Monthly on first Thursday at 10am. Chair: Ronda Cerulli; Email: ronda.cerulli@flhealth.gov

**Drug Free St. Lucie:** Monthly on second Thursday at 11am. Chair: Casey Wood; Email: cwood@nhtcinc@onmicrosoft.com

**Academic Success:** Monthly on first Wednesday at 1pm. Chair: Debbie Hawley; Email: debbie.hawley@bbbsbig.org

**Bridges to Prosperity:** Monthly on third Wednesday at 10am. Chair: Canieria Gardner, Email: 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

**Safe Neighborhood:** Monthly on third Wednesday at 2pm. Co-Chairs: Dr. Sunny Booker/Commander Carmine Izzo; Email: despinosa@roundtableslc.org

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

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



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*“Promise me you’ll always remember—you’re braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.” - Christopher Robin, Winnie the Pooh*

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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
- ◆ Dr. Jon Prince, 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
- ◆ Michael Linn, 19th Judicial Circuit—Judge
- ◆ 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.

546 NW University Blvd., Suite 204  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986  
Phone: 772-871-5880  
Follow us on Facebook @RoundtableSLC

For questions or to subscribe to our Newsletter:  
[DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org)



### ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

**Teresa Bishop, Chief Executive Officer**

[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**
- ◆ **Michael Johnson, 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)

