

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

August is Breastfeeding Awareness and Prevention Month. Did you know breastfeeding can improve outcomes for infants and children into adulthood? Breast milk has antibodies that help protect a baby from illness, and lowers their risk of asthma, obesity, type 1 diabetes, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Studies also show that breastfeeding can improve a child's verbal intelligence and other intelligence measures. Now that's prevention!



I would like to commend the great work of our Roundtable Member Agencies, the Healthy Start Coalition, led by Executive Director, Lisa von Seelen and her staff, the St. Lucie County Department of Health, led by Administrator Clint Sperber, and the Department's Community Health Nursing Consultant, Sonya Gabriel who serves as chair of Healthy St. Lucie's Breast Feeding Workgroup. Through their partnership with local hospitals and community stakeholders, the initiation of breastfeeding in our community has changed significantly. From 2010 to 2020, these partnerships contributed to increasing the overall percentage of mothers who initiate breastfeeding from 73.5%, which was under the state average, to 85.9% positioning St. Lucie County above the state average of 85.4%. For Black mothers, initiation increased from 56% to 78%, also above the state average of 77.4%. This was not serendipity. This represents intentional leadership laser-focused on this issue. This month at the Healthy St. Lucie meeting, on August 11th @ 3:00pm, their partners will be recognized including the HCA St. Lucie Medical for obtaining their "Baby Friendly" Hospital Designation, an evidence-based practice to increase breastfeeding, and the HCA Heart and Family Residential program for their implementation of the American Academy of Pediatrics Breastfeeding Curriculum for residents. In addition, Open Arms Childcare and Little Scholars Academy will be recognized for pursuing their "Breastfeeding Friendly" designation supported by the Department of Health.

The Roundtable's mantra "All children are capable of success, NO EXCEPTIONS", starts early in a child's life. Let's celebrate the accomplishments of our community partners for their diligence in changing the landscape of breastfeeding in our very own community which will surely impact many lives today and in the future. We are better together!

Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



Inside this issue

Drug Free St. Lucie	2-
Kids at Hope Tunnels.....	3
IGNTIE Youth Alliance	4
Youth Leadership St. Lucie.....	5
Board Members.....	5
About Us.....	6

Special Dates in August:

- World Breastfeeding Week 8/1-8/7
- Friendship Day 8/1
- Happiness Happens Day 8/8
- Book Lovers Day 8/9
- International Youth Day 8/12
- Left Handers Day 8/13
- Relaxation Day 8/15
- National Non-Profit Day 8/17
- Senior Citizens Day 8/21



Youth Voices and Choices to Impact Today and Tomorrow's World

In 2021, St. Lucie County officials, brought together youth-serving agencies to coordinate and plan a county-wide youth conference that would serve to engage youth in discussions on issues that specifically impact them. This annual county-wide youth engagement activity was seen as necessary, to strengthen teens problem solving and decision-making skills, develop positive relationships with others and build ownership in community development efforts that will have an impact not only today, but for their future. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic stalled the planning of that event. However, earlier this year, the Roundtable of St. Lucie County was identified as the lead agency to reignite and spearhead this initiative, as the goals for this youth event align with the Roundtable's existing networks, in particular, Drug Free St. Lucie, Kids at Hope, and Youth Leadership St. Lucie.

Youth involvement and participation were identified as necessary for not only naming the event and designing the logo, but also in choosing the topics and activities for the day. Youth were surveyed to get their input, a logo competition was launched and after months of planning, **"One St. Lucie Youth Con"** was created! Several promotional activities were put in place for teens to register, including an early registration raffle to win a wireless party speaker and a \$50 gift card for the teen who had the most social media promotional posts spreading the word about Youth Con.

Presentation topics include:

- ◆ Teens, Cops, and Traffic Stops.
- ◆ "Stranger Things" - Do You Know Who You Are Talking To?
- ◆ Mental Health and Social Connectedness.
- ◆ Making Healthy Choices to Resist Peer Pressure.
- ◆ Life After Senior Year, What Now?
- ◆ Stress, Time Management, and Academic Burnout.
- ◆ "Dat Life" - How Can Youth Help to Prevent Gang Violence.



A World Café event is also planned to facilitate youth conversations on policy decisions related to substance misuse among teens. Vendors will also be on hand to share information and resources with teens.

"ONE ST. LUCIE CON" HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED.

Due to a variety of unforeseen circumstances, as well as a conflict with several back-to-school community events, the planning committee has agreed that it is in the best interest for the success of this event and youth involvement that we postpone the event until after the school year is underway.



Kids at Hope Tunnel Schedule



Date / Time	School	Address
08/10/22 8:15 am	C.A. Moore Elementary School	827 N 29th St., Fort Pierce, FL 34947
08/11/22 8:30 am	Morningside Elementary School	2300 SE Gowin Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
08/12/22 7:45 am	St. Lucie Elementary School	2020 S 13th St., Fort Pierce, FL, 34950
08/15/22 8:00 am	River's Edge Elementary School	5600 NE St James Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
08/16/22 6:55 am	Allapattah Flats K-8 School	12051 Copper Creek Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34987
08/17/22 8:15 am	Village Green Environmental School	1700 SE Lennard Rd., Port St. Lucie, FL 34952
08/18/22 8:00 am	Floresta Elementary School	1501 SE Floresta Dr., Port St. Lucie, FL 34983
08/19/22 8:00 am	Bayshore Elementary School	1661 SW Bayshore Blvd., Port St Lucie, FL 34984



**Welcome Back
to School !!**

For additional information contact:

Kevin Singletary at KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org or (772) 979-1575



Summer is Over Already?!

And just like that...Summer 2022 is gone. The IGNITE team participated in over 15 events with 105 of our youth and are already looking forward to next summer. We were able to bond over becoming trapeze artists at the Momentum Academy, creating custom cup-cakes with The Cake Lady, catching fly balls at the Mets Stadium, sailing the open seas with Sail Aiki, and so much more.

Every event was full of laughter, learning, and building stronger relationships, none of which would be possible without the Children's Services Council of St. Lucie County and the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce. We are all so grateful for each opportunity and hope you know that these memories will last forever.



Youth Leadership Civic Engagement



Youth Leadership St. Lucie's civic engagement workgroup invited several community leaders to a "panel discussion", held in a welcoming roundtable format, wherein YL members posed thought-provoking questions that led to insightful and mutually enriching conversations. We extend a heartfelt thank you to all of our panelists, Debbie Hawley (St. Lucie County School Board), Chief John Bolduc (Port St. Lucie Police Department), Dana Trabulsy (State Representative), Sandy Mack (Children's Services Council), and Monica Jakobsen (IGNITE Youth Alliance), for their presence as "personable professionals", offering wisdom, empathy, curiosity, and authenticity to connect with our youth.

A special thank you also goes out to the amazing leaders who desired to attend but were unable to do so. Rest assured, we will call on you again as our youths' thirst for knowledge is unquenchable. A desire for additional conversations has already been expressed by both the youth and our panelists, one of which may take place in Tallahassee as a result of a special invitation extended to the youth by Dana Trabulsy. We are incredibly grateful to be a part of a community in which youth voices are heard and valued!



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
- ◆ Debbie Hawley, Steering Committee Chair
- ◆ Brian Hester, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ Diane Holey-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
- ◆ Dr. Jonathan Prince, St. Lucie Public Schools
- ◆ 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

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.

Board of Directors

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

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



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:

Teresa Bishop, Chief Executive Officer

TBishop@RoundtableSLC.org

Dana Espinosa, Operations Manager

DEspinosa@RoundtableSLC.org

OUR INITIATIVES:

IGNITE Youth Alliance—(772) 448-5712

- ◆ **Monica Jakobsen, Project Coordinator**
MJakobsen@RoundtableSLC.org
- ◆ **Darcy McFolley, Outreach Supervisor**
- ◆ **Shantel Lariosa, Project Assistant**
- ◆ **Marcus Mills, Senior Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **LaKenya Ruffin, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Markesha Brockington, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Lee Davis, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Michael Johnson, Outreach Worker**
- ◆ **Ismael Angervil, Outreach Worker**

Kids at Hope & Youth Leadership St. Lucie

- ◆ **Kevin Singletary, Project Coordinator**
KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org
- ◆ **Kim Reid, School & Community Liaison**
KReid@RoundtableSLC.org

Drug Free St. Lucie

- ◆ **C. Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator**
JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org

