



March 2023

Roundtable Review

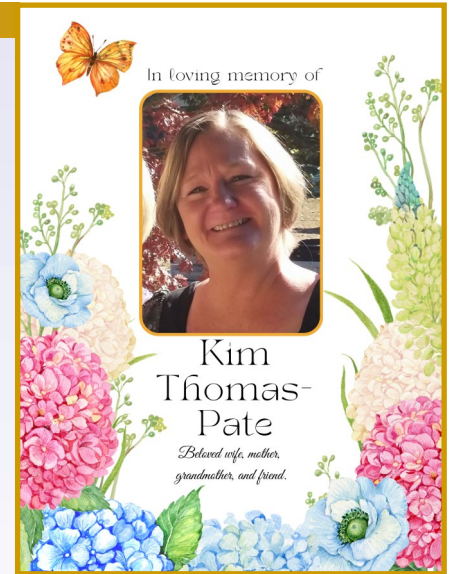
Message from our CEO

Greetings,

This month is National Social Work Month. Consistent with 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 efforts are laser-focused in this field. For almost 30 years, the Roundtable and its networks have engaged agencies in the field of social work to assess and address the needs of youth and families. Let us applaud the hard work of countless social workers employed by Roundtable members and partner agencies across our community who work tirelessly to make lives better for children and their families. I would be remised if I did not highlight that behind the scenes of the Roundtable for over 15 years, Kim Thomas-Pate served as Project Coordinator, then Operations Manager, and served three Executive Directors. This past month, we were deeply saddened to announce Kim’s passing. She truly cared about the needs of our community and always stood ready to roll up her sleeves and do whatever was needed to move the Roundtable’s mission forward. I admired Kim’s heart for the people and her service as a low-key activist on issues for the vulnerable, underserved, and disenfranchised. Though she liked to stay under the radar, she without hesitation took a stand for others. I recall her protesting on Roosevelt Bridge one year, the last place I thought she would be I might add. Kim was truly a social worker, whether she knew it or not. She had a pure heart toward people. Kim quietly served our community, was invested in the youth that we served, and was an integral part of the Roundtable’s organization and growth. For that we are forever thankful. Join us as we lift her memory of service to the community. Kim did not want a big deal to be made about her passing, a hallmark of who she was---Selfless. For those of you who would like to remember Kim in a special way, see pages 2-3 of the newsletter for details. To all the social workers on the frontline, stay the course. Kim is watching.



Teresa Bishop



We ♥ our Social Workers

Thank you to our passionate and dedicated staff who help build stronger families and communities!

#SWMonth #peoplematter



March Is Red Cross Month American Red Cross

Inside this issue:

- Memorial to Kim Thomas-Pate2-3
- Drug Free St. Lucie4-5
- Kids at Hope/ YLSL6
- IGNITE Youth Alliance7
- Kids at Hope8
- Board Members 9
- About Us.....10

Special Dates:

- Read Across America Day 3/2
- National School Breakfast Week 3/6-10
- Employee Appreciation Day 3/3
- International Women’s Day 3/8
- First Day of Spring 3/20

Remembering Kim



It is very difficult to express the impact of losing Kim Thomas-Pate (1960-2023). Kim's beautiful character speaks to her memory better than any written word ever will. As our longest-serving Roundtable team member of 15 years, Kim was our go-to resource for all things Roundtable, she was our very own "wizard behind the curtain" and the Roundtable historian. There was rarely a question or problem Kim could not answer or solve (unless it was locating a password, she was notorious for losing her passwords). When Kim announced her retirement in 2021, we knew it was going to leave a lasting void here at the Roundtable. Kim Thomas-Pate was not just an Operations Manager, she was a loving and generous human who made a deep and lasting impression on every person she encountered. Her heart was huge, and she was filled with a true spirit of service to her community. Kim was the type of person who saw the positive in all things and did not sweat the small stuff. She was such a loyal, sincere, and loving woman, coworker, and friend. Knowing her made you want to do and be better.

Kim also had a soft spot for animals and a love of the environment. She often participated in environmental causes and adopted several rescue animals. Kim was so lucky to find her soulmate in Keith, whom she married in May 2016, and enjoyed many years of great fun and adventures together until his passing in 2021. She was a proud mom to Jessie and a proud grandma to her two beautiful grandbabies. Kim is irreplaceable, a one-of-a-kind, and a person who made this world better every day she was in it. Those of us who knew her well and were fortunate enough to work alongside her are better for it.

The poem, "*When Great Trees Fall*", by Maya Angelou speaks so beautifully to Kim's legacy for all that knew her: You may not think of Kim as a "great tree" in stature or demeanor, because her sincere goodness was understated and without effort; but *we are better because she existed*. We love you and miss you Kim.

When Great Trees Fall, by Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder,
lions hunker down
in tall grasses,
and even elephants
lumber after safety.

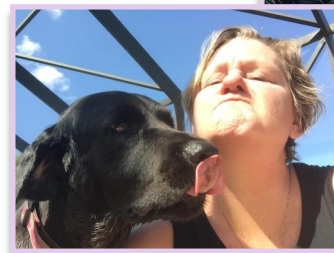
When great trees fall
in forests,
small things recoil into silence,
their senses
eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die,
the air around us becomes
light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly.
Our eyes, briefly,
see with
a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines,
gnaws on kind words
unsaid,
promised walks
never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls,
dependent upon their
nurture,
now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed
and informed by their
radiance,
fall away.

We are not so much maddened
as reduced to the unutterable ignorance
of dark, cold
caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always
irregularly. Spaces fill
with a kind of
soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never
to be the same, whisper to us.
They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and be
better. For they existed.



Continuing her humble and selfless nature, Kim did not want a service. Her daughter asks that those who would like to remember her mother, please consider donating to the Treasure Coast Humane Society in memory of Kim. Thank you.





CADCA's National Leadership Forum 2023

The Roundtable of St. Lucie County's CEO, Teresa Bishop, Drug Free St. Lucie Project Coordinator, Jovil Wharton, and Kids at Hope Project Coordinator, Kevin Singletary, were among some 4,000 attendees at CADCA's 33rd Annual National Leadership Forum & SAMHSA 19th National Prevention Day, held in National Harbor, Maryland from January 30th to February 2nd, 2023. With the theme "Together Toward Tomorrow", the organizers created a packed agenda that included: youth exhibits, learning labs, training sessions, state and territory networking meetings, a roundtable discussion with members of Congress on legislative issues, and Capital Hill appointments with State Representatives.



In addition, one of the main highlights of the Forum was the graduation of Coalitions who attended the National Coalition Academy. Drug Free St. Lucie, was one of the eighty (80) Coalitions that completed either an in-person or virtual 3 weeks of Coalition Training. Congratulations to Drug Free St. Lucie Project Coordinator, Jovil Wharton, and the Operations Manager for the Roundtable, Dana Espinosa, for graduating from the Academy. The next CADA forum will be the Mid-Year Training Institute held July 16-20, 2023, and will offer in-depth, interactive sessions for community coalition leaders and staff on fundamentals such as coalition building, strategic planning, evaluation, and research.

Prevention, Treatment, Recovery Advocacy Day 2023

If you were in Florida's Capital on February 8th, 2023, you would have seen a sea of red wearing prevention coalition members who were there for Prevention, Treatment, Recovery Advocacy Day. This year, the Florida Coalition and Community Alliance, and Drug Free America Foundation partnered with hosting 100 Coalition adults 50 youth from across Florida, who were welcomed to Tallahassee by Doug Simon, Director of the Office of Drug Control, Florida Governor's Office of Drug Control, and Senator Gayle Harrell, Drug Free America Foundation, Moxie Award Recipient.



The focus of this year's visit to Capitol Hill was to raise awareness with Coalition members, legislators and their staffers on three issues, namely; the influx of THC- Delta 8 and similar products being sold over the counter in our neighborhoods; marijuana use during pregnancy and post-partum; and behavioral health equity. Representatives and/or their aides were presented with one-pagers on each of these topics and Coalitions also had the opportunity to speak on issues specific to their community.

Hidden in Plain Sight

Community Partnerships at Work – Local/State Government Sector

Thanks to the generosity of Councilman Bonna, Drug Free St. Lucie hosted a *Hidden in Plain Sight* event, at the Port St. Lucie Community Center on February 13th in their TOT room. Thirty (31) participants representing the Boys and Girls Club, Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, RiteLife Services Inc., Center for Disease Control, Florida Department of Health, Department of Children and Families, Career-Source Research Coast, and Palm Beach Behavioral Health Coalition took part in a one (1) hour presentation and tour. Some of the feedback received included: Very enlightening, continue classes like this for awareness; Informative; All parents with children between the ages of 10-24 should be exposed to this presentation; It opened my eyes as to what is out there now; Amazing – even with experience in substance abuse, I learned a lot. Councilman Bonna, who is also a parent, also felt the need to have *Hidden in Plain Sight* reach more St. Lucie County parents and adults and graciously offered the TOT room for use monthly, pending its availability.



Community Partnership at Work – School Sector

Southern Oaks Middle School reached out to Drug Free St. Lucie once again, this time to partner with them to provide information to parents at their Student Led Conference held on Thursday, February 23rd from 5:15 pm – 7:15 pm. Approximately seventy-five (75) parents and staff toured the *Hidden in Plain Sight* mock teenager’s bedroom looking for signs of substance misuse/risky behaviors. Many of the parents and school officials shared that the experience was an eye opener and that they were amazed at what they found. Some parents even commented, “parents need to be more vigilant and aware of what is happening with their children”. Drug Free St. Lucie also provided resources/information to parents, such as, *Emoji Drug Codes - Decoded*, *Vaping and Marijuana Concentrates* and a variety of fact sheets on illicit drugs.





He IS a 10!



John Maxwell says, “A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” Sean Boyle is the Chief Executive Officer of the Children’s Services Council, and Roundtable Board Member who recently officiated the Youth Leadership St. Lucie (YLSL) Officer Installation Ceremony. To his surprise, the Kids at Hope Team (KAH) awarded him a certificate and pin for being a “10” in the lives of all children. Mr. Boyle has been an unwavering advocate for children’s needs in our community for many years. He is a KAH Treasure Hunter who exemplifies the practices and beliefs of Kids at Hope daily. He is a caring adult for all the children in St. Lucie County and impacts lives without recognition. Mr. Boyle has made a commitment to the universal truth of Kids at Hope by living by this motto, *All Children are Capable of Success, NO EXCEPTIONS!*



Knowing the way is one thing, but going and showing the way is another dimension. Mr. Boyle has been a trailblazer for many youth in St. Lucie County by providing opportunities through his leadership at Children’s Services Council to ensure every baby is a healthy baby, stopping child abuse before it happens, keeping kids off the streets and away from drugs and alcohol, and keeping kids in school with the tools they need to be successful. He has lived up to the Treasure Hunter’s Pledge to *search for all of the skills, talents, and intelligence that exist in all children and youth*. He has helped many to reach their goals. Sean Boyle is truly a 10!

Youth Leadership St. Lucie Officer Installation Ceremony

The new Youth Leadership St. Lucie Officers were installed on February 8, 2023 at the River Walk Center in Fort Pierce. Sean Boyle the CEO of Children’s Services Council (CSC), and Roundtable Board Member officiated the ceremony. City Commissioner Curtis Johnson, Lorrene Egan of Communities Connected for Kids; Aisha Nash, Assistant Federal Public Defender; Sandy Mack of CSC; and Myishea White, District Aide for Representative Dana Trabulsy were all in attendance along with YLSL parents and families. Youth Leadership St. Lucie Members would like to thank everyone for their participation in this grand event.

Youth Leadership Officers :

- ◆ Mia Morrison – Chair
- ◆ Sara Cheney – Vice-Chair
- ◆ Lily Herndon – Secretary
- ◆ Amani Mohd – Assistant Secretary
- ◆ Evan Sierra – Treasurer



Youth Leadership St. Lucie members will continue to grow and work to make a difference in St Lucie County.





IGNITE Outreach Worker of the Year - 2022!

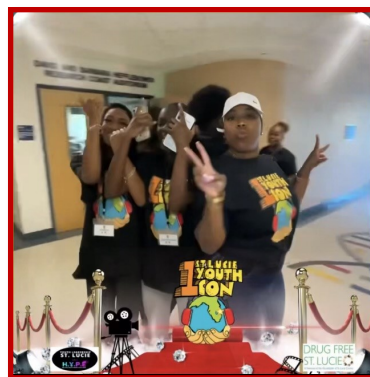
IGNITE Youth Alliance has had many successes throughout the years, but without Outreach Workers behind it, the successes would quite frankly be non-existent. The title of “**Outreach Worker of the Year**” is given to an employee because that individual has displayed various characteristics and achievements throughout the year to include not only teamwork, but the willingness to continue to do this hard work each day. They show up for the youth of St. Lucie County, never giving up, and always being the supportive, friendly hand to hold, stable, caring adult for ever youth they serve.

Markesha Brockington is the recipient of “**Outreach Worker of the Year**” for 2022. Markesha is a young, beautiful, educated, vibrant black woman who was born and raised in the inner city of Miami, Florida. She moved to the Treasure Coast in 2005 and has been working with the youth in St. Lucie County in a variety of capacities since 2008.

Markesha’s work as an IGNITE Youth Alliance Outreach Worker primarily focuses on helping the youth she serves (who she affectionately calls “my girls”) determine their self-worth, encouraging them to define success within themselves, and showing them unconditional love. Markesha was chosen because she continues to be passionate about street outreach and the young females that she inspires.

Markesha returns to Miami often to visit family and friends . Growing up, Markesha and her grandmother were very close, spending most of their time together. From a young age, Markesha saw that her grandmother worked with youth, whether it was at the local Boys and Girls Club, the YMCA, or just the neighborhood kids that were always around, helping children was always at the forefront of her upbringing. Markesha believes that it is thanks to the beautiful and inspiring role model that her grandmother was in her life, that Markesha now serves youth with that same empathy and unconditional love she witnessed in her grandmother.

Markesha has worked with IGNITE since 2021, and to say that she’s an asset to the program is an understatement. Markesha takes this job, although it can be very challenging most days, and continues to make it her priority day in and day out. Without individuals like her, this program and these youth in St. Lucie County, would be missing one very essential stable and caring adult in their lives. The Roundtable of St. Lucie County and IGNITE are extremely proud to have Ms. Brockington as part of their team and family.



ARE YOU NEW TO KIDS AT HOPE? DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A TREASURE HUNTER?

**GET TRAINED
TODAY!**

When:

March 7th, 2023

546 NW University Blvd.,
Suite 204
Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

Select one of two sessions
10am – 12 pm
or
2pm – 4 pm.

To RSVP Contact:

Kevin Singletary

Ksingletary@roundtablescl.org

(772) 979-1575



Calling all:

- Childcare providers
- Social services
- Teachers and staff



Board Member Spotlight



This month our Board Member Spotlight is on Nathan Peterson. Nathan has been with the Department of Juvenile Justice since 1995, he is currently the Chief Probation Officer for Circuit 19. He is a native Floridian, born and raised in Indian River County, and a graduate of Vero Beach High School. Nathan attended Stillman College, a Presbyterian liberal arts college, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama where he majored in Business Administration and minored in Accounting. Nathan was raised in a family where hard work, education, and faith were instilled at a very young age. As a young child, he began working in the citrus groves picking grapefruit and oranges with his father who came to Florida from the Bahamas. Nathan had his first “real” job at the age of 13 at the Howard Johnson Restaurant in Vero Beach and has not stopped working since. He was very close to his grandparents and credits his time helping care for them to developing his passion for social work and caring for others, especially those who cannot help themselves. Nathan followed in his father’s footsteps to become a Pastor in his church where he has served for almost 21 years. He and his wife recently celebrated 28 wonderful years of marriage and have two sons, both active servicemen in the Marines and Navy. People may be surprised to learn that Nathan is a talented singer, he began showcasing this talent in his high school chorus and today often participates in his church’s worship. He is also a superb “deep southern” cook! Nathan’s hope for our community is to recognize the importance of supporting our young people. ‘Our youth are our tomorrow and it’s important we don’t fail them, especially the young men. We need to provide them with a variety of avenues, whether it’s college, trade skills, alternative education, tech training, or other programs, to increase those opportunities for them to become successful members of society.’ Nathan not only practices this commitment to youth in his work with DJJ but also in the mentoring he provides to the young men in his church.



Nathan Peterson, Chief Probation Officer,
Department of Juvenile Justice



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
- ◆ Thomas Epsky, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 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.

Executive Committee

CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

VICE-CHAIR

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

SECRETARY

Vacant

TREASURER

Ann Berner, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network

PAST CHAIR

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

STEERING COMMITTEE

Debbie Hawley, St. Lucie Public Schools

AT LARGE

Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids

www.RoundtableSLC.org

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

- ◆ Darcy McFolley, Intervention & Outreach Coordinator
- ◆ Marcus Mills, Outreach Supervisor
- ◆ Shantel Lariosa, Project Assistant
- ◆ LaKenya Ruffin, Senior Outreach Worker
- ◆ Markesha Brockington, Outreach Worker
- ◆ Lee Davis, Outreach Worker
- ◆ Ismael Angervil, Outreach Worker
- ◆ Lance Johnson, Outreach Worker
- ◆ Evelyn Coleman, Family Navigator

Kids at Hope & Youth Leadership St. Lucie

- ◆ Kevin Singletary, Project Coordinator
KSingletery@RoundtableSLC.org
- ◆ Kayla McDonald, School & Community Liaison
KMcdonald@RoundtableSLC.org

Drug Free St. Lucie

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