



June 2023

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

This is a special time of year when many young people sashay across the stage to receive their hard-earned diplomas. Congratulations to all of you who persevered during and after the pandemic to cross the finish line.



What a feat! To each of you who cheered on and supported the graduates with words or in deeds along the way, you are part of the "Treasure Hunter" community of caring adults. In 1968, a psychologist named Robert Rosenthal and a school principal partnered to study if simply believing in a student would make a difference. The teachers were given names of random students in their class and were told that these students had done well on a performance test. Later that year, the students were tested and those whose names were given to the teachers in advance had higher scores. It is amazing that just believing and investing in young people can make a tangible difference. I would like to give special recognition to our IGNITE Youth Alliance team, led by Darcy McFolley, and all of our community partners, especially Dr. Sunny Booker of St. Lucie Public Schools who are committed to supporting our program participants. With our collective efforts, 7 out of 8 participants who were eligible to graduate received their diplomas. The eighth student is scheduled to graduate after summer school. Some of our participants had been written off by others that did not believe in them, while some had no one to attend their graduation. The amazing community of Treasure Hunters that are part of the IGNITE partnership have high expectations and stood in the gap for these young people, to get them across the finish line. Our Outreach Workers attended every graduation to make sure there was a caring adult present in the audience, rooting them on for a job well done. I am sure this is a moment our participants will never forget. What an example of our commitment to believing, "ALL children are capable of success – NO EXCEPTIONS". Thank you, Treasure Hunters for making a difference. Happy Summer!

Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



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Special Dates:

- World Bicycle Day 6/3
- World Environment Day 6/5
- Yo-Yo Day 6/6
- Family & Health Fitness Day 6/10
- Children's Day 6/11
- World Blood Donor Day 6/14
- Flag Day 6/14
- Father's Day 6/18
- Juneteenth 6/19
- First Day of Summer 6/21
- Sunglasses Day 6/27



Saving Lives by Transforming Systems, Hearts, and Minds

With over one hundred stakeholders in attendance, Drug Free St. Lucie in partnership with the Treasure Coast Opioid Task Force and the Drug Enforcement Administration, hosted its first Opioid Summit. The event was held on May 11th at the Fenn Center with the objectives of:

- ◆ Bringing together programs addressing opioid use disorder or substance use disorder
- ◆ Developing collaborative program partnerships and promoting networking
- ◆ Sharing of information on current community projects and available resources
- ◆ Addressing how stigma impacts or prevents people from accessing treatment
- ◆ Highlighting local and national data and the effects on our local population

As part of its strategic action plan, Drug Free St. Lucie will continue to strengthen collaboration amongst our community partners who are working to prevent and reduce youth substance use by addressing factors in our community that increase risks for substance use and promote factors that minimize risk for substance use.

Man thanks to all of our panelists/presenters and our keynote speaker, Mr. Tony Volrath, Assistant Regional Director, SAMHSA, Region 4, who helped to make the event a success.



Save the Date – “SCREENAGERS” DOCUSERIES

This summer Drug Free St. Lucie will be screening three movies: SCREENAGERS. The films are one hour documentary-style films, with poignant and unexpectedly funny stories, along with insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists. All screenings will be **FREE for parents and their tweens ages 10+**. Ticket reservations will open on June 1st.

Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age - This film looks at how tech time impacts kids’ development and offers solutions on how adults can empower their kids to best navigate the digital world, find balance, and solutions to help kids navigate the digital world.

- **Date:** July 10th, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm, Port St. Lucie Community Center.
- **View movie clip:** [SCREENAGERS Movie Trailer on Vimeo](#)

Screenagers: Under the Influence - Addresses the impact of our digital age on teens' decision-making concerning substances such as vaping, alcohol, and drugs. The film explores the latest research and the personal experiences of teens and families, while highlighting the changing landscape of the substances themselves, offering solutions for how we can best empower teens, as they face decisions about what they will and will not be influenced by.

- **Date:** July 14th, 6:30—8:30 pm, City of Fort Pierce Recreation Center

Screenagers: Next Chapter: Uncovering Skills for Stress and Resilience - Young people are experiencing high stress, anxiety, and depression. This film addresses the impact of social media and screen time and how it may be impacting our teens’ mental health and what we can do to help support youth in the face of struggles.

- **Date:** July 28th, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm at the Port St. Lucie Community Center
- **View movie clip:** <https://vimeo.com/463210884>

Check out the films being featured on Good Morning America:

<https://www.goodmorningamerica.com/living/video/documentary-addresses-vaping-drugs-digital-age-98400079>

SCREENAGERS
GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE
7/10
An award-winning film that probes into the vulnerable corners of family life and depicts messy struggles over social media, video games, and academics. The film offers solutions on how we can help our kids navigate the digital world.

SCREENAGERS UNDER THE INFLUENCE
ADDRESSING VAPING, DRUGS & ALCOHOL IN THE DIGITAL AGE
7/14
Join Screenagers' filmmaker, Delaney Ruston, as she picks up her camera once more to examine the impact of our digital age on teens' decision-making in relation to substances such as vaping, alcohol and drugs.

SCREENAGERS NEXT CHAPTER
UNCOVERING SKILLS FOR STRESS RESILIENCE
7/28
HIGH STRESS, ANXIETY AND DEPRESSION ARE EXPERIENCED BY MILLIONS OF YOUNG PEOPLE. WE FOLLOW PHYSICIAN AND FILMMAKER DELANEY RUSTON, AS SHE DISCOVERS SOLUTIONS FOR IMPROVED ADOLESCENT WELL-BEING IN THE DIGITAL AGE.

FREE Family Movie Nights!
SAVE THE DATE
Parents and Youth (Ages 10+) Are Invited!
Free Dinner & Raffle Drawings!
Community service/volunteer hours available for all students/parents attending.

DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE
For More Information:
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Children's Mental Health
Southeast Florida

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Hidden in Plain Sight

Another successful Hidden in Plain Sight was held on May 8th at the Port St. Lucie Community Center. Staff from the following agencies participated, Florida House District 84, Florida Department of Health, Guardians for New Futures, Easter Seals/Early Steps, SafeSpace, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Our Village Okeechobee, and the Martin County School District.



Environment Scans

This summer, Drug Free St. Lucie, with the support of volunteers from New Horizons, Students Assistance Program, will be undertaking environment scans to document youth exposure to alcohol, CBD, vaping, Kratom, and weed light products and their messaging with the community. This information will be utilized to identify practices and policies toward healthier advertisement and sale methods within the retail environment in St. Lucie County. The environment scans will be conducted at gas stations/convenience stores, liquor stores, retail stores, and smoke/vape shops, with the following key components being addressed:

- ◆ Products and Product Placement
- ◆ Promotions/ Advertisement
- ◆ Price
- ◆ Atmosphere
- ◆ Warning Signs
- ◆ Use of accessories
- ◆ Identification efforts



Training for all volunteers will be held on Wednesday May 31st, 10 am – 12 pm at the Children's Services Council Board Room. The information collected through this activity will be used to inform the efforts of the coalition. A report will be developed and provided to our community partners, state agencies, and policymakers.



Kids at Hope – On The Move In Our Community

As the school year is rapidly ending, Kids at Hope (KAH) is still moving in the community. On May 3, 2023, the Kids at Hope team presented our Kids at Hope “10’s Certificate” to Michelle Kubitschek, Facility/Program Specialist for the City of Fort Pierce. Mrs. Kubitschek’s ongoing support of Youth Leadership St. Lucie (YLSL) members is a shining example of what a Kids at Hope Treasure Hunter and caring adult (or “10”) is. She displays the attributes of an adult who believes in the success of all children without exception. The River Walk Center in Fort Pierce has graciously permitted the Roundtable to host our monthly YLSL Meetings. Mrs. Kubitschek and her staff always ensure the facility is prepared by setting up the audio and visual equipment and preparing the room for a successful youth-led meeting. ACES/caring adults like Mrs. Kubitschek enable the message of hope to be shared in our community.

Kids at Hope Adults are ACES.



But they are also called *Treasure Hunters* because they search to find all the talents, skills, and intelligence that exist in children.



Michelle Kubitschek

The new staff at Project LIFT in Fort Pierce participated in the “Unleashing the Power of Hope” training to become KAH Treasure Hunters. The staff is eager to share the message of hope with the students and families they serve. The KAH Team will be working with the Project LIFT students over the summer on time travel activities, identifying their “ACES”, and more.

Families of the Treasure Coast invited the Kids at Hope Project Coordinator, Kevin Singletary, to assist with their basketball camp for boys ages 13-18. Mr. Singletary presented to the twenty teens in attendance on the value of having “ACES” in their lives by looking through the lens of the five Cs of leadership. The youth discussed Character, Courage, Charisma, Communication, Commitment, and the importance of having a meaningful and sustainable relationship with a caring adult.

The KAH Team celebrated with the students of CA Moore Elementary School for the outstanding gains they have made this school year by providing ice cream and glow sticks for their Glow Party. Teresa Bishop, Roundtable CEO, Principal Dr. Thelma Jackson, and Darnell Canamas, Executive Director of Schools shared in the student’s excitement about their accomplishments. The students in grades K-5 had a great time dancing and wearing their glow accessories.



Youth Leadership St. Lucie held a Heritage Day Event during their May 17th meeting. The members brought food dishes that represented their country’s heritage. Some of the fine cuisines included Jamaican-style curry chicken, Palestine veggie kabobs, Sicilian spaghetti, deep southern chicken and rice, Dominican pork shoulder, rice from Haiti, Panama, Jamaica, Palestine, and the USA, and homemade macaroni and cheese. The highlight of the event was the awarding of

three \$1,000 scholarships and new laptop computers to three Youth Leadership St. Lucie members. Mia, Tyler, and Sara were selected by the Children’s Services Council as their Youth of the Year recipients. Sean Boyle, CEO and Ashley Mock, COO of Children’s Services Council presented the Youth of the Year awards to Mia, Tyler, and Sara for their exceptional community service record in St. Lucie County. Together these three young ladies earned over \$2 million dollars in scholarships, which is a testament to their academic achievements.

The KAH Team will be out and about during the summer providing activities and trainings at several summer program sites. If you are interested in scheduling the KAH Team for the summer please contact: Kevin Singletary at KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org or Kayla McDonald at KMcdonald@RoundtableSLC.org or call us at (772) 871-5880.

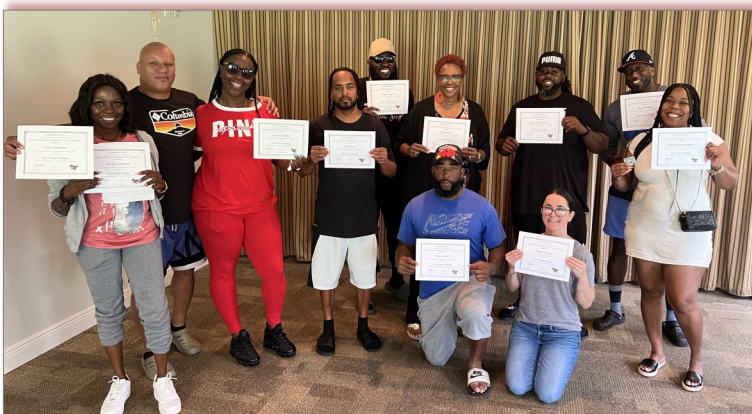


They say it takes a village to raise a child, and it rings true in the field of human services. The Outreach Workers and Family Navigators work tirelessly to ensure the IGNITE youth and their families' needs are met daily. That work may be as simple as ensuring a youth gets up for school or has clean clothes, or as heartbreaking and traumatic as losing a youth to violence. The IYA team is present and invested in every youth and family they serve. Celebrating all their successes, and providing their love and support for every challenge and heartbreak. Their dedication does not go unnoticed, it is always appreciated, and at the end of the day what is given out is given back tenfold.

This tireless and emotional work often times comes with a toll and it is especially important to take time for self-care. In April, the entire IGNITE Youth Alliance team traveled to Tampa to visit the Franciscan Center, where they spent several days with the amazing staff who led the team in a powerful and moving retreat that included sessions on self-reflection and meditation, as well as post-trauma training. As the retreat came to a close the IGNITE team agreed it could only be described as a "truly healing event".

- ◆ *"My time spent at the retreat was very liberating. Thanks to the staff for a pleasant experience."*
- ◆ *"This was a much-needed retreat. I found out a lot about issues that I thought I'd dealt with and put behind me. I got a lot of weight off my back at the Franciscan Center."*
- ◆ *"A place that gives you the opportunity to go deep in your thoughts to find healing."*
- ◆ *"One of the things I got out of the retreat was talking to God, I wasn't looking to him for guidance as much, not thanking him or appreciating his blessings for me and my family, and the hundreds of youth that I have had the pleasure of helping."*
- ◆ *"Slowing down was not something I was comfortable doing, but after a few days I realized that I needed that."*
- ◆ *"They say forgive and forget, but "let go" is just as important."*

The IGNITE Youth Alliance team is now preparing for the summer season, one of the busiest and most fun seasons for our youth and team, rest assured that Team IGNITE is refreshed and ready. May you all get the chance to rest, relax, reflect, forgive, let go, and slow down.



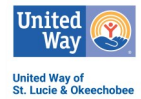
Congratulations!

The Roundtable and IGNITE family would like to congratulate our IGNITE Youth Alliance Project Assistant, Shantel Lariosa on her recent nuptials to her husband, Robert Bressler! We wish the new Mr. & Mrs. Bressler a forever together that is overflowing with love and joy!

Just  Married



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- ◆ 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

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- ◆ 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
- ◆ Jevon Weston, Outreach Worker
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