

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

Where did the summer go? Our IGNITE Youth Alliance participants enjoyed countless opportunities to have fun, work, and learn through initiatives made possible by the Children’s Services Council, St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, and the Boys and Girls Club. Our IGNITE Outreach Team deserves a shout-out for working tirelessly in the heat to transport and participate with the youth in all types of activities throughout the county. I am sure this summer will be memorable for many years to come. Check out page 6 for a great article about these wonderful experiences our partners made happen for our young people. Now that summer activities are ending, everyone is gearing up for the first day of school. It’s time for the kiddos to buckle down and get ready for a great year of learning and building new relationships with their friends, teachers, support staff, and administrators. I have fond memories of my teachers who welcomed me to school in colorfully decorated classrooms accented by the smell of sharpened pencils and crayons, that they meticulously prepared for me to learn. The hours of planning and preparation for the students to return to a safe welcoming environment each day often go unnoticed. My teachers were my Treasure Hunters that made a difference in my life as they searched for and put into action my talents and abilities and believed in me when I didn’t believe in myself. It was an honor to kick the school year off with our Kids at Hope Tunnel to celebrate St. Lucie County’s new teachers arriving to serve. Be sure to recognize and express your gratitude to educators and school personnel that you know—often. They stand ready to celebrate the successes of the students and are also on the front-line serving youth with heightened challenges post-pandemic, while simultaneously navigating significant changes in education in our state. We want our educators and support staff to know that we appreciate them. They need our support and encouragement now more than ever to remain hopeful Treasure Hunters that believe all kids are capable of success—NO EXCEPTIONS! Together, we can make this school year the best!



Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer



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Special Dates:

- World Breastfeeding Week 8/1-8/7
- Coloring Book Day 8/2
- Friendship Day 8/6
- Happiness Happens Day 8/8
- Book Lovers Day 8/9
- First Day of School—St. Lucie County 8/10
- Left-Handers Day 8/13
- National Dog Day 8/26
- Women’s Equality Day 8/28

Surgeon General Issues New Advisory About Effects Social Media Use Has on Youth Mental Health

“The most common question parents ask me is, ‘is social media safe for my kids’. The answer is that we don’t have enough evidence to say it’s safe, and in fact, there is growing evidence that social media use is associated with harm to young people’s mental health,” said **U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy**. *“Children are exposed to harmful content on social media, ranging from violent and sexual content, to bullying and harassment. And for too many children, social media use is compromising their sleep and valuable in-person time with family and friends. We are in the middle of a national youth mental health crisis, and I am concerned that social media is an important driver of that crisis – one that we must urgently address.”* Access the full report [Surgeon General Issues New Advisory About Effects Social Media Use Has on Youth Mental Health | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/press/2021/sr0121-01)

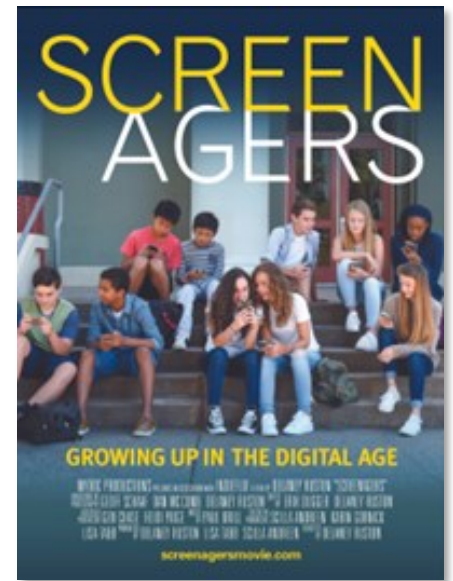


SCREENAGERS – Family Movie Night

With funding provided by the Children’s Services Council, sponsorship from the City of Port St. Lucie Parks and Recreation Healthy U program, Texas Roadhouse, and TCoast 360, and support from community partners and Youth Leadership St. Lucie volunteers, parents and their tweens/teens came out and enjoyed the screening of **Screenagers: Growing up in the Digital Age**, on July 10th at the **Port St. Lucie Community Center**. Thank you to Kim Eardley, Executive Director of Families of the Treasure Coast for moderating the event.

This is the first of three films in the documentary series, to explore the impact of screen technology on kids and offer parents and families proven solutions that work. This film addressed topics such as: use of screens in school; boys and video games; girls and social media; and risk of addiction.

Parent Quote: “I wanted to thank you for organizing these events. You did a wonderful job, and the event was a great experience. It is a topic that is valuable and needed! My son and I had several follow up conversations afterward and he has given less pushback when I won’t extend his time on his phone.”



The remaining two films, **Screenagers: Under the Influence** and **Screenagers: Next Chapter**, have been postponed due to low registration. New screening dates will be announced soon.





Drug Free St. Lucie Nominated for the MADD Underage Drinking Prevention - Community Group Award

The Regional Executive Director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving, Florida and Puerto Rico, Mr. Larry Coggin Jr., congratulated Drug Free St. Lucie for being nominated for the **Underage Drinking Prevention – Community Group** award that will be presented on Friday, August 4th, 2023, at the annual awards banquet being held at the Catoosa Sound Convention Center in Fort Myers.

Mr. Coggin Jr. shared that this award has been around for 20+ years, and evolved to include members of the community in addition to law enforcement and prosecutors. Drug Free St. Lucie was nominated for its work in the community that encompasses underage drinking prevention.

Drug Free St. Lucie Project Coordinator, Jovil Wharton, and the Chair of Drug Free St. Lucie, Casey Wood, Director of Prevention Services at New Horizons, will be attending the awards banquet in Fort Myers.

ALCOHOL IS THE #1 SUBSTANCE USED BY YOUTH IN ST. LUCIE COUNTY

- ⇒ 6.6% of middle school students & 5.6% of high school students reported they have used alcohol in the past 30 days
 - ⇒ 18.5% of middle school students & 14.4% of high school students used alcohol in their lifetime
- Source: 2022 Florida Youth Substance Abuse Survey (FYSAS), St. Lucie County*

Law Enforcement Compliance Checks

The St. Lucie County Sheriff's office continues to undertake alcohol compliance checks in order to reduce the availability of and access to alcohol and other substances from commercial sources to our underage youth.



In our community there are retailers who are doing their part by checking for ID on alcohol and drug paraphernalia sales. Drug Free St. Lucie would like to recognize and thank them for complying with the law.

- * Citgo, 285 NW St. James Dr., Port St. Lucie
- * 7 Eleven, 5401 NW. St. James Dr., Port St. Lucie
- * Mobil/7 Eleven, 5000 S US Hwy 1, Port St. Lucie
- * Sunoco, 550 NW Airoso Blvd., Port St. Lucie
- * Circle K, 701 NW Airoso Blvd., Port St. Lucie
- * Speedway, 149 NW Bayshore Blvd., Port St. Lucie
- * Marathon, 1200 W Midway Rd., Fort Pierce
- * Midway Quick Shop, 4935 Oleander Ave., Fort Pierce
- * 7 Eleven, 2496 Edwards Rd., Fort Pierce
- * BP, 2475 W Midway Rd., Fort Pierce
- * Mobil, 2995 W 25th St., Fort Pierce
- * Express Food Mart, 999 Edwards Rd., Fort Pierce
- * Mobil, 3110 S US Hwy 1, Fort Pierce
- * Mobil, 2200 S US Hwy 1, Fort Pierce
- * Chevron, 511 N 4th St., Fort Pierce





Red Ribbon Champions of Prevention

There are many unsung “Champions of Prevention” in our community, and Drug Free St. Lucie would like to know who you feel is a deserving candidate for this award.

We are so excited to announce that we are accepting community sector nominations for our 2023 Red Ribbon “Champions of Prevention” Awards. To nominate your community sector individual, group/organization, program, etc. please scan the QR Code on the flyer and fill out our simple nomination form. The deadline to submit nominations is September 15, 2023.



Drug Free St. Lucie’s monthly meetings provide the opportunity for your organization to showcase/highlight your agency’s prevention and intervention services and activities that enhance protective factors and promote healthy behaviors in youth to be substance-free. If you would like to share what your agency is doing, please email Jovil Wharton to schedule your presentation. Email: JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org

CADCA MID-YEAR TRAINING INSTITUTE

Drug Free St. Lucie (DFSL) attended CADCA Mid-Year and had the opportunity to attend sessions that delved into trending topics surrounding substance use, data, and evidence base prevention strategies for opioids. In addition, DFSL Coordinator, Jovil Wharton attended sessions related to advocacy and lobbying, increasing engagement with the youth sectors, sustainability, and prevention ethics.





Kids at Hope

Passports to the Future



John F. Kennedy is credited with saying, “Children are the world’s most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.” These powerful words resonate with the Kids at Hope (KAH) practices and beliefs. The Kids at Hope third Universal Truth states that children succeed when they can articulate their future. To help further that belief, the KAH team spent the summer assisting programs and their students with time traveling to their future using the Kids at Hope “Passports to the Future”. During these training sessions, the children and youth participated in activities that encouraged them to imagine their future, and with the help of the Kids at Hope passports they began to map out their journey to success.

When we speak of passports, most people imagine taking a vacation or a trip. A “Passport to the Future” in the hands of a Kids at Hope youth encourages them to explore their future in the four KAH destinations: “Home & Family”, “Hobbies & Recreation”, “Education & Career”, and “Community & Service”. While time traveling, children also learn how to identify the “ACES” in their lives. “ACES” are caring adults that have assisted the children along their journey through life by providing encouragement, unconditional love and support, giving them an opportunity to succeed, or setting high expectations for them. During the activities, children identified their coaches, teachers, band director, and faith-based leaders as their “ACES”. When children and youth “time travel” they mentally visit their future and envision themselves attending college or trade school, working in a career that is fulfilling to them, living in their own homes with their families, and volunteering in their community. The Kids at Hope “Passport to the Future” training opens the door for youth to explore the world and the many possibilities that exist for all of them. The children in St. Lucie County have incredible plans for a bright future and are capable of success, No Exceptions!

The Kids at Hope team would like to thank the summer programs that participated, Save Our Children, Boys and Girls Club-Garden Terrace Unit, ALPI CAT Program, In the Image of Christ Summer Camp, New Jerusalem Church of God Summer Camp, and IRSC’s Upward Bound students. Together with the Kids at Hope team, these Treasure Hunters introduced the endless possibilities that “Time Traveling” can provide to their youth. Older students were challenged to visit the destination of “Home & Family” by writing in their passports about their strengths, talents, skills, and character traits that make them good family members. The younger children drew pictures of themselves being successful in one of the four destinations. Over 200 children and youth had their passports stamped during our Kids at Hope “Time Travelling” adventures!



Now Boarding!

Destination ⇨ “Community and Service”

“Community and Service” is one of the four Kids at Hope destinations of travel and Youth Leadership St. Lucie (YLSL) is putting this principle into action. On Thursday, August 3rd, 2023 from 5:30-8:30pm, YLSL will be hosting a fundraiser at Blaze Pizza in Tradition. YLSL will receive 20% of the proceeds generated and will use those monies to purchase items for the homeless in St. Lucie County. Youth Leadership is working to make our community a better place to work, live, and play.





Summer Passport

Thanks to the Children’s Services Council of St. Lucie County, and the St. Lucie County Chamber of Commerce, the IG-NITE Youth Alliance (IYA) youth had another fantastic summer! They spent the summer jumping at Urban Air, baking cakes with the Cake Lady, kayaking with Lisa’s Kayaks, Sailing with Sail Aiki, jet skiing and watching dolphins with Salty’s Watersports, and cruising down the Indian River with Indian River Wildlife Boat Tours. IGNITE works year-round helping the youth reach their goals in school, employment, and more, so when summertime rolls around, it’s time to celebrate their hard work and success with lots of fun adventures!





KIDS AT HOPE TUNNELS OF HOPE!

JOIN US

SCHEDULE



**"ALL CHILDREN ARE
CAPABLE OF SUCCESS.
NO EXCEPTIONS!"**

For More Info: Kevin Singletary:
KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org
or 772-871-5880

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
	<i>First day of School</i> →		AUG. 10TH 7:50am: Fairlawn Elementary - 3203 Rhode Island, FP 34947 8:00am: Morningside Elementary - 2300 Gowin Dr. PSL, 34952	AUG. 11TH 8:00am: FK Sweet Elementary - 1400 Ave. Q, FP, 34950 8:15am: Village Green Elementary - 1700 SE Lennard Rd., PSL 34952
AUG. 14TH 7:30am: Bayshore Elementary - 1661 SW Bayshore Blvd, PSL 34984 8:15am: Weatherbee Elementary - 800 E. Weatherbee Rd., FP 34982	AUG. 15TH 7:50am: Lakewood Park Elementary - 7800 Indrio Rd., FP 34951 8:00am: CA Moore Elementary - 827 N. 29th St., FP 34947	AUG. 16TH 8:00am: Parkway Elementary - 7000 Selvitz Rd., PSL 34983 8:30am: Rivers Edge Elementary - 5600 NE St. James Dr., PSL 34983	AUG. 17TH 8:00am: White City Elementary - 905 W. 2nd St., FP 34982 9:00am: Southern Oaks Middle - 5500 NE St. James Dr., PSL 34983	AUG. 18TH 7:45am: St. Lucie Elementary - 2020 S. 13th St., FP 34950 8:15am: Oak Hammock K-8 - 1251 SW California Blvd., PSL 34953
AUG. 21ST 8:00am: Savannah Ridge Elementary - 6801 SE Lennard Rd., PSL, 34952	AUG. 22ND 7:50am: Manatee K-8 - 1450 SW Heatherwood Blvd., PSL 34986	AUG. 23RD 6:50am: Allapattah Flats K-8: 12051 NW Copper Creek Dr., PSL, 34987 9:00am: Forest Grove Elementary - 3201 S. 25th St., FP 34981	AUG. 24TH TBA	AUG. 25TH TBA

Our Sponsors:



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
- ◆ Richard Del Toro, Jr., Port St. Lucie Police Department
- ◆ Sean Boyle, Children’s Services Council
- ◆ Joseph Cracchiola, Department of Corrections
- ◆ Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids
- ◆ Thomas Epsky, United Way of St. Lucie & Okeechobee
- ◆ Debbie Hawley, Steering Committee Chair
- ◆ TBD, 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
- ◆ Jeff Lee, 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

Bob McPartlan, Department of Children and Families

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

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OUR INITIATIVES:

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- ◆ 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
- ◆ Jevon Weston, Outreach Worker
- ◆ Evelyn Coleman, Family Navigator
- ◆ Brittney Williams, Family Navigator

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