



September 2023

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

Tunnels, Tunnels, and more Tunnels of Hope! On behalf of the Roundtable, we want to thank all of our community partners who participated in the Kids at Hope Tunnels to start the school year off on a high note for St. Lucie County.



I was deeply moved when I saw the pictures and the turnout. So many of you were committed to arriving early in the morning and standing in the sweltering heat to cheer on the thousands of students arriving with their backpacks and lunch boxes. Check out the collage of pictures in the newsletter and shared on our Facebook pages. You just might see yourself or someone you know waiving or giving a “high-five”. We came together and saturated our community with the message of hope.

The word hope means “a feeling of expectation and a desire for a certain thing to happen”. We want all of our students to be hopeful about their future, especially those who do not have the support they need. I realize how important it is to spread the message of hope in word or deed to the children, youth, and families we serve. The absence of hope is devastating to the soul. I can imagine that some of the students who arrived at school and heard cheers from everyone had a great summer, while others were happy that they had food to eat each day or a place to sleep. I am confident that each cheer, high-five, and “Have a great year!” resonated in the hearts of our young people across the county. Sometimes it was difficult to tell from the looks on their faces, but I am convinced that each student felt the love and inspiration from all our community partners standing in agreement and believing each of them is capable of success—No Exceptions! Let’s not stop at the Tunnels of Hope. Be sure to carry the message and create an environment of hope for the students, their families, and our committed educators who serve them throughout the year. In the words of Martin Luther, “Everything that is done in this world is done by hope”. Hope is necessary. Happy school year!

Teresa Bishop
Chief Executive Officer

Families and family-run organizations are vital components of **RECOVERY-ORIENTED** service systems.

NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH
RECOVERY IS REAL.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION MONTH

SEPTEMBER: National Campus Safety Awareness Month

EMERGENCY

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Special Dates:

- Read A Book Day 9/6
- Teddy Bear Day 9/9
- Grandparents Day 9/10
- Patriot Day 9/11
- Star Trek Day 9/16
- Coastal Cleanup Day 9/16
- Talk Like a Pirate Day 9/19
- Suicide Prevention Week 9/10-9/16
- First Day of Fall 9/23



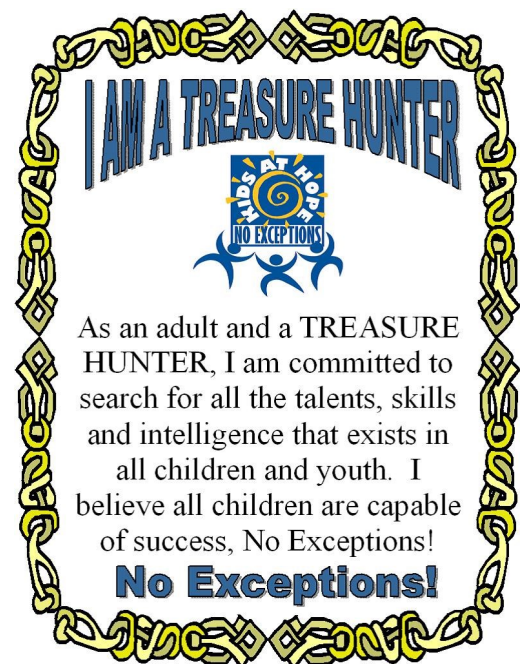
Tunnels of Hope

What do the words fantastic, spectacular, dazzling, incredible experience, welcoming, and energetic all have in common? These are all the adjectives used to describe the Tunnels of Hope that were held in St. Lucie County to kick off the new school year. More than 17,000 students were welcomed back to school with positive affirmations such as “You’ve got this!”, “Welcome back!”, “You are amazing!”, and “You are smart!” Twenty public schools and two Charter schools participated in our Tunnels of Hope this year. Imagine the thoughts flowing through the mind of a child as he or she walks up the roaring sounds of welcome back bursting in the air, high fives, fist bumps, music playing, noise makers in full effect, pom poms billowing, and positive affirmation signs waving everywhere. This is the greeting that children receive at the Tunnels of Hope.

The Tunnels help to set the tone for a productive and positive school year. One of the principles of Kids at Hope is establishing an atmosphere that is conducive for children to grow and develop properly. The well known proverb that it “takes a village” was evident at the Tunnels of Hope in St. Lucie County. Our entire community or “village” came out to support our students’ returning to the new school year. Thank you to our amazing community partners and “Treasure Hunters” who joined in the early morning fun from all of these amazing agencies: the Children’s Services Council, St. Lucie Public Schools (SLPS), Superintendent, Dr. Jon Prince, Retired SLPS Superintendent, E. Wayne Gent, SLPS Board Members, the St. Lucie County Sheriff’s Office, Port St. Lucie Police Department, Fort Pierce Police Department, St. Lucie County Fire District, Early Learning Coalition, CareerSource Research Coast, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, representatives from the offices of State Representative Dana Trabulsy and Congressman Brian Mast, Fort Pierce Mayor- Linda Hudson, Fort Pierce City Commissioners, New Horizons Treasure Coast Student Assistance Program, St. Lucie County Education Foundation, Boys and Girls Club, United Way St. Lucie & Okeechobee, Dunn’s Kids Foundation, Fort Pierce Utilities Authority, Helping People Succeed, Project LIFT, Delta Sigma Theta, Zeta Phi Beta, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Omega Psi Phi, Shriners, St. Lucie County Property Appraiser, Department of Corrections, and so many other fabulous civic groups, healthcare representatives, social serving agencies, parents, and school employees! Every one of you made these tunnels a fantastic and memorable event for all the children and youth! The Kids at Hope team would like to extend a special shout-out to Drug Free St. Lucie and the IGNITE Youth Alliance team for helping our agency divide and conquer. With so many tunnels requested this year, the IGNITE team made sure we had a Roundtable cheering squad at every school!

Kids at Hope and the Roundtable would like to thank all of those who shared in these Tunnels of Hope. Your contribution has impacted lives for years to come. St. Lucie County is a special place filled with Kids at Hope ACEs/caring adults who are truly concerned about the well-being and success of all our children. Participating in the Tunnels of Hope is a small glimpse of the commitment Treasure Hunters have made to ensure that “All Children are Capable of Success, NO EXCEPTIONS!”

Check out the photo celebration on pages 4-7! Thank you to Mary Ann Ketchum, and all the wonderful agencies who captured these amazing moments from the tunnels!



Youth Leadership St. Lucie Committees Hard At Work!



The members of Youth Leadership St. Lucie (YLSL) are committed to improving the quality of life for everyone in St. Lucie County. The YLSL **Environment Committee** wanted to bring attention to the needs of the homeless in our county by planning an activity to raise funds to purchase essential items for those in need. In previous years, YLSL members organized a sock drive to aid the homeless population. On August 4, 2023, YLSL hosted a fundraiser at Blaze Pizza in Tradition during which Blaze Pizza donated a percentage of the evenings' proceeds to Youth Leadership. Youth Leadership St. Lucie had a successful event and raised \$468 to purchase items for the homeless population. YLSL also plans to volunteer with agencies that aid the homeless population in the coming months. YLSL would like to thank the staff at Blaze Pizza for being such a welcoming host and for their generous contribution to a worthy cause. Their act of kindness continues to keep the conversation moving forward until all of the problems and concerns surrounding homelessness are eradicated in St. Lucie County.

Youth Leadership St. Lucie's **Mental Health Committee** is hard at work creating a PSA that focuses on getting the message out to teens regarding the importance of seeking assistance for anxiety, depression, and any mental health struggle, as well as the resources available in our community.

Last year, the **Civic Engagement Committee** had the opportunity to meet and interview State Representative-Dana Trabulsy, Port St. Lucie Police Department-Chief John Bolduc (since retired), School Board Member-Debbie Hawley, IGNITE Youth Alliance Project Coordinator-Monica Jakobsen, and Children's Services Council's Program Specialist-Sandy Mack. Following that meeting, several members of YLSL were given the opportunity to travel to Tallahassee to meet with and interview seventeen State Legislators about proposed bills that could affect teens in Florida. That same committee is preparing to invite a new group of civic leaders for a question-and-answer session in the coming weeks. These YLSL committee members plan to focus on public schools and education and the new mandates that have been released at the state level.



**THANK
YOU!**





Tunnels of Hope









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
- ◆ 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
- ◆ Troy Norman, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office
- ◆ 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 Trabulsky, State Representative
- ◆ Andrew Treadwell, Indian River State College
- ◆ Lisa von Seelen, Healthy Start Coalition of St. Lucie County

DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE



(L-R) Casey Wood, DFSL Chair and C. Jovil Wharton, DFSL Project Coordinator

Drug Free St. Lucie Receives MADD Award!

Six Coalitions were nominated for the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Underage Drinking Prevention – Community Group Award and Drug Free St. Lucie (DFSL) was pleasantly surprised to hear our coalition’s name called to accept the **Outstanding Dedication to Underage Drinking Prevention Award!** This prestigious award was received on August 2nd, 2023 during the 2023 MADD Florida Law Enforcement Recognition and Training Symposium, thanks to the collective efforts of our twelve sector partners in prevention. The other nominees were - Hillsborough County Anti-Drug Alliance, Palm Beach Behavioral Health Coalition, Pasco County Alliance for Substance Abuse Prevention, Tampa Alcohol Coalition, and The Elijah Network Family and Community Alliance.



Florida Behavioral Health Conference

Drug Free St. Lucie’s Project Coordinator, C. Jovil Wharton and Roundtable CEO, Teresa Bishop, were among 1,700 people in attendance at this year’s Florida Behavioral Health Conference on August 16-18th, 2023 in Orlando, Florida.



Red Ribbon Champions of Prevention Awards!

NOMINATIONS CLOSE ON SEPTEMBER 15TH

Nominations are still open for an individual, a program, or an organization/business, who you think deserves an award because they are making an impact in St. Lucie County with the work they are doing to reduce risks or improve safeguards that promote healthy lifestyles for our youth. Please take a moment to visit the Roundtable’s website www.RoundtableSLC.org for more information or visit the link to complete a few short questions and submit your nomination **before the voting closes on September 15, 2023!** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3R2CXKN>.



Hidden in Plain Sight

Parents, Teachers, and Adults - Beware of Illegal Youth Appealing Products!

On August 23, 2023, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued **warning letters** to 15 online retailers for selling and/or distributing unauthorized e-cigarette products packaged to look like youth-appealing characters, school supplies, toys, and drinks. Since the appearance of these illegal products can be deceiving, the agency is also seeking to raise awareness among parents, teachers, and other adults headed into the new school year. **“The design of these products is a shamelessly egregious attempt to target kids,”** said Brian King, Ph.D., M.P.H., Director of the FDA’s Center for Tobacco Products. **“It’s a tough sell that adults using e-cigarettes to transition away from cigarettes need them to look like SpongeBob in order to do so successfully.”**

The unauthorized products described in the warning letters include e-cigarettes that feature youth-appealing characters from TV shows, movies, and video games, including: “SpongeBob,” “Lots-o’-Huggin’ Bear,” and “Super Mario”;



They are designed to look like youth-appealing school supplies and toys, such as highlighters, a Nintendo Gameboy and digital cameras;



Imitate youth-appealing drinks such as Starbucks and Dunkin Donuts coffee cups, soda, and water bottles:



The retailers receiving these warning letters sell and/or distribute e-cigarettes in the United States that lack authorization from FDA, which is a requirement under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act to legally market a new tobacco product. In addition to the specified products mentioned in the warning letters, the retailers were warned to address any violations that are the same as or similar to those stated in the warning letter, and promptly take any necessary actions to bring the tobacco products that they offer for sale in the United States into compliance with the FD&C Act. The retailers were given 15 working days to respond with the steps they’ll take to correct the violation and to prevent future violations. Failure to promptly correct the violations can result in additional FDA actions such as an injunction, seizure, and/or civil money penalty.

Read full article here [Retailers Warned to Stop Selling Illegal E-Cigarettes Resembling Youth-Appealing Characters, School Supplies, Toys, and Drinks | FDA](#)



Building Capacity to Prevent Youth Substance Misuse **A collaborative partnership with the Opioid Response Network**

Drug Free St. Lucie utilizes the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Strategic Prevention Framework as a guide to help with planning, implementing, and evaluating our prevention activities. In an effort to continue to raise awareness, develop and strengthen our coalition members, and engage our stakeholders, we apply several capacity-building strategies.

- ◆ **Grow our membership**
- ◆ **Maintain our coalition structure**
- ◆ **Cultivate leadership**
- ◆ **Identify and provide support for training opportunities**

When working on identifying and providing support for training opportunities, Drug Free St. Lucie will be receiving technical assistance from the Opioid Response Network to implement virtual and in-person Continuing Education Units (CEUs) trainings for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. These free trainings will be open to coalition members, stakeholders, and community members. In addition, Drug Free St. Lucie will also be providing quarterly in-person and virtual trainings for our Prevention Specialists who work and provide services in our schools.

Upcoming Trainings:

- * **“SUBSTANCE USE AND THE BRAIN”**
 - September 16, 2023, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm, via Zoom
 - Registration is required and is open to coalition members, stakeholders, and community members. Visit our website for more information - www.Roundtableslc.org

- * **“WHAT PREVENTION SPECIALISTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CANNABIS”**
 - September 26, 2023, 10:00 am—3:00 pm, at New Horizons Treasure Coast
 - In-person training for Prevention Specialists ONLY



SAMHSA Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF)

**Thursday,
September 14th, 2023
11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual Training**



**Malissa M. Barbosa
DO, MS**

"Substance Use and the Brain"

1 HOUR CEU

Malissa M. Barbosa, DO, MS, is a triple board-certified Family Physician and Addiction Medicine Specialist. As an osteopathic physician, Dr. Barbosa's training at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine instilled the principles that the body is a unit comprised of mind, body, and spirit. With this knowledge, Dr. Barbosa's approach to medicine addresses "Whole Person Care" to facilitate the process of true healing. Dr. Barbosa's method of care involves her patients finding a common ground upon which treatment can commence by working with patients through their fears and insecurities. As an empathic and conscientious physician, Dr. Barbosa is an advocate for both colleagues and patients. Her advocacy roles include service on various Opioid Taskforce Initiatives in Central Florida, the training of medical students and residents in Florida and Pennsylvania, physician leadership in multiple hospital systems in Pennsylvania and the Veterans Administration, in national service as a Board of Trustee for the American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine, and recently appointed to the DEA Ambassador Program. In every environment, Dr. Barbosa seeks to advocate, educate, and dismantle the stigma and attitudes that incarcerate many who not only battle with the mental and physical aspects of addiction but also serve those who care for the addicted individual.

TRAINING TOPIC:

"Substance Use and the Brain"

Participants will be able to:

- Describe the basic epidemiology and public health impact of substance use disorders.
- Explain basic neurobiological response to substance use.
- Use accurate clinical terminology and recognize stigmatizing language.

SCAN THE QR CODE OR USE THE LINK TO REGISTER :



A link for the virtual training will be sent in your registration confirmation email.



This course has been approved by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry as a NAADAC Approved Education Provider for 1 continuing education hour. NAADAC Provider #79495, American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, is responsible for all aspects of the programming.

<https://bit.ly/3P7gmWn>



**Opioid
Response
Network**

ORN FUNDING STATEMENT

Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. IH791083343 from SAMHSA. The views expressed in written conference materials or publications and speakers and moderators do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the Department of Health and Human Services; nor does mention of trade names, commercial practices, or organizations imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.



thank you

Throughout the school year, IGNITE Youth Alliance (IYA) holds Intervention Team (IT) Meetings where the IYA staff meet with other community partners to brainstorm how the IT Team and its partners can best serve the youth in St. Lucie County. The Intervention Team consists of a wide variety of essential community partners including the St. Lucie County Public Schools, Indian River State College, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, CareerSource Research Coast, Project LIFT, the Fort Pierce Police Department, Port St. Lucie Police Department, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Department of Corrections, Suncoast Mental Health, New Horizons Treasure Coast, Communities Connected For Kids, the Department of Children and Families, and many more valuable members. These agencies work together during the Intervention Team Meetings to ensure that the IGNITE program youth and their families are linked to the appropriate services in all areas. The Intervention Team addresses all areas, including education, employment, mental health, and family services and resources available in our community to address the need at hand. All these agencies play a crucial role in the lives and futures of these youth. At the conclusion of the 2021-22 school year, the IGNITE team recognized several of the Intervention Team members for their tireless work and dedication to making a difference for these IGNITE youth. Lives change after the Intervention Team gets together, and for that, IGNITE Youth Alliance is extremely grateful. IGNITE Youth Alliance and the Roundtable appreciates and values all of our community partners!



Dr. Alethia Dupont and the IGNITE Youth Alliance team, with Teresa Bishop, CEO, Roundtable



Darcy McFolley, IYA; Anthony Nixon and Eleanor Eberhart-Chin, CareerSource Research Coast, and Teresa Bishop, CEO, Roundtable



Darcy McFolley, IYA and Lauren Odell—Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network



Darcy McFolley, IYA and Dorothy Oppenheiser, Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network



Teresa Bishop, CEO, Roundtable; Vic Miller, Project LIFT; Marcus Mills and Darcy McFolley, IYA



Darcy McFolley, IYA and William Christmas, Department of Corrections



National Gang Crime Research Center

In August, Teresa Bishop, CEO for the Roundtable, and IGNITE Youth Alliance's - Darcy McFolley, Marcus Mills, and LaKenya Ruffin, attended the National Gang Crime Research Center (NGCRC) Conference in Chicago where they were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in gang prevention and intervention with the following NGCRC awards!

- ◆ **Frederic Milton Thrasher Award for Superior Accomplishment in Gang Prevention and Intervention Services**
- ◆ **Spirit Award for Significant Services Directed at Achieving Gang Prevention and Gang Counselling**



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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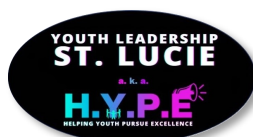
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OUR INITIATIVES:

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