



October 2023

# Roundtable Review

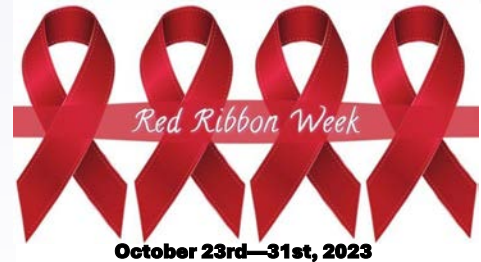
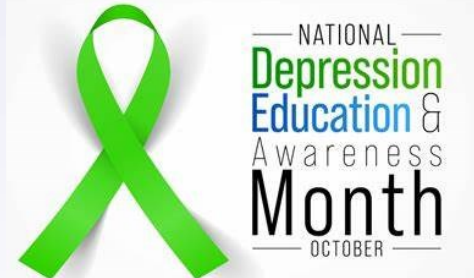
## Message from our CEO

Greetings,

This year, board members of the Roundtable expressed concerns about the impact, escalation and lack of resources to address mental health challenges our community is experiencing post pandemic. In response, members of the board and community partners have responded. Effective October 1, IGNITE Youth Alliance staff transitioned from the Roundtable to Cayuga Centers, nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) since 2000 with over 170 years of experience working with underserved communities. Led by Mr. Edward Hayes, the mission of the organization is “to help children, families and individuals to grow as independent, healthy and productive citizens through quality counseling, out-of-home care and support services”. This strategic partnership with the Roundtable, funded by Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network, Children’s Services Council and the United Way, repositions IGNITE Youth Alliance to have direct access to mental health and other support services needed by the vulnerable families they serve. IGNITE will retain its name and the staff in its new capacity will transition from “Outreach Workers” to Certified Targeted Case Managers or Peer Recovery Specialists and continue their work with youth (and their families) at risk for or involved in gangs utilizing a behavioral health approach. In addition ,the Roundtable has been awarded the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA), Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnership for Success Grant for \$1,875,000 over 5 years. With these funds, the Roundtable is launching the **St. Lucie RISE- Strategic Prevention Partnership** under its umbrella to establish a Mental Health Collaborative made up of community stakeholders to identify and respond to ongoing behavioral health needs for our community. Funds will also be used to deliver community-wide Teen Mental Health First-Aid training, support the development of Pediatric Integrated Care to identify behavioral health needs in the primary care setting, provide Functional Family Therapy to underserved communities in partnership with Cayuga Centers, promote community-wide trauma-informed care approaches and provide additional funding to Drug Free St. Lucie, currently funded by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, to expand its substance misuse prevention efforts through the implementation of youth-led Social Norms and Mental Health awareness campaigns. St. Lucie County, we are better together!



**Teresa Bishop**  
Chief Executive Officer



### Inside this issue:

Kids at Hope / YLSL .....	2-3
Drug Free St. Lucie .....	4-5
IGNITE Youth Alliance .....	6-8
Board Members .....	8
About Us.....	9

### Special Dates:

- Mental Illness Awareness Week 10/1-7
- World Day of Bullying Prevention 10/2
- Improve Your Office Day 10/4
- World Teachers’ Day 10/5
- America’s Safe School Week 10/15-21
- National School Bus Safety Week 10/16-20
- Unity Day—Kindness, Acceptance, Inclusion 10/18
- International Stuttering Awareness Day 10/22
- Red Ribbon Week (Drug Free America) 10/23-31
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month



# "Creating and Activating HOPE"

"Hope is the companion of power, and the mother of success; for who so hopes strongly has within him the gift of miracles." -Samuel Smiles. In September, the Kids at Hope (KAH) team, Kevin Singletary-Project Coordinator and Amanda DeMan-School and Community Liaison, attended the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Master's Institute "Creating and Activating Hope". The team was immersed in the inspirational spirit of this incredible conference for four days in Phoenix, Arizona surrounded by fellow professionals from all over the country who have dedicated their lives to serving youth. It was emphasized again and again: the impact that we have as professionals who work with and for the youth is of paramount significance. When we sincerely believe in the children we work with, connect with them on a deep level, and we encourage them to envision their future with hope and optimism, their ability to soar to great heights is limitless.

On the first day of the Institute, the keynote speakers spoke of topics such as strategies and skills to promote positive youth development, the power of positive thinking, and how hope and optimism act as protective agents against developing mental health disorders such as anxiety and PTSD. The KAH team networked with agencies and individuals who serve youth around the country, gleaned inspiration, and contacts to strengthen their home base operation for Kids at Hope in St. Lucie County. The energy of the room was buzzing with possibility, optimism, and earnest conversation. In the following days, the team got to witness how KAH is incorporated in schools, agencies, and counties around the country. This session was fittingly called, "Hope: From Theory to Practice". A variety of agencies presented their methods of incorporating and operationalizing Kids at Hope, as well as presented data that further proves that KAH is a strong evidence-based practice that, when implemented to the fullest extent, has many positive impacts on data points including school attendance, reduced recidivism in children involved in the juvenile justice system, and positive outcomes for children involved in mental health and drug treatment facilities.

On the final day of the conference, the Kids at Hope St. Lucie County team traveled to Sunnyslope K-8 School in Phoenix, which has fully incorporated the KAH philosophy in their daily practices. Principal Chance Whiteman shared how adopting and fully embracing Kids at Hope on campus has impacted their campus for the better. Their school motto "Hope on the Slope" reflects that despite the risk factors present in the surrounding area and within the student body, HOPE is at full capacity within the school. As a result, the Sunnyside School has gone from a C-grade school to a B-grade school (just 6 points shy of an A) for their high level of growth and achievement in just 2 short school years. This compelling data proves, once again, that Kids at Hope is a culture that improves the overall well-being and academic performance of children who live in a Kids at Hope engaged community. On the tours, the KAH team visited classrooms full of children engaged in activities related to ELA, art, math, and history all incorporating a KAH perspective. One class was working on a math assignment where they were planning a monthly expenses budget for their ideal family (the focus being on the KAH "Home and Family" Destination of Travel) another class researching the historical origins of their family names, and beyond.

All in all, the most important thing to take away from the Kids at Hope culture weaved into Sunnyslope School was this: when a community of caring adults surround the children and make it their purpose not to give up on them, the children are happier, healthier, and grow into being happy and healthy adults. Happy, hopeful children make for a happy, hopeful future for an entire community. The Master's Institute leaves the team at Kids at Hope feeling refreshed in their purpose, returning to St. Lucie County with a toolbox full of new ways to create and activate hope back home in St. Lucie County.



L-R: Amanda DeMan, KAH School & Community Liaison; Rick Miller, KAH Founder; and Kevin Singletary, KAH Project Coordinator



## Youth Leadership St. Lucie Installation of Officers

John C. Maxwell, one of the leading consultants on leadership, says “The higher you want to climb, the more you need leadership. The greater the impact you want to make, the greater your influence needs to be.” Youth Leadership St. Lucie (YLSL) is looking to increase its influence and effectiveness in this county this year and it starts with the newly installed officers. On September 20, 2023, five members of YLSL accepted the charge to lead this organization during the 2023-24 school year. Three of the newly elected officers attend Fort Pierce Central High School, Zara Chowdhury will serve as Chair, Amani Mohd as Vice-Chair, and Lilly Herndon as the Secretary. Grady Bodawala attends Treasure Coast High School and will serve as the Assistant Sectary. Evan Sierra attends John Carroll High School and was serve as the Treasurer.

The members heard inspiring words and personal testimonials, and were given a charge to uphold the high standards of YLSL by Teresa Bishop, CEO of the Roundtable, Sean Boyle, CEO of the Children’s Services Council, and Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator, Drug Free St. Lucie. The ceremony was a wonderful way to kick off the school year and the members are looking forward to positively impacting this St. Lucie County.



Teresa Bishop, CEO, Roundtable (left) and Sean Boyle, CEO, Children’s Services Council (right) with YLSL Officers.



**Red Ribbon Week, October 23rd—31st, 2023**

**Be Kind to Your Mind, Live Drug Free!**

Red Ribbon Week is the nation’s largest and longest-running drug-use prevention campaign. In response to the murder of DEA Agent Enrique Camarena, parents and youth in communities across the country began wearing red ribbons as a symbol of their commitment to raise awareness of the killing and destruction caused by drugs. Since its beginning in 1985, it has touched the lives of millions of people around the world.



**This year, the cities of Fort Pierce and Port St. Lucie, and St. Lucie County have granted Red Ribbon Week Proclamations!** Drug Free St. Lucie would like everyone in our community to show their support by participating in the planned activities.



**Hidden in Plain Sight, Monday October 23rd, 9am – 3pm**

A special thank you to Councilman Anthony Bonna for facilitating the use of the TOT room at the Port St. Lucie Community Center for our Hidden in Plain Sight program. Thru this partnership we have been able to utilize the space for an interactive experience of a mock teenager's bedroom containing hidden items to raise awareness and recognition of signs that may point to risky adolescent behaviors/drug use.



**DEA Drug Take Back Day, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 2:00pm**

Let's "**Team Up Against Drugs**" - Bring your expired, unused prescription medications for safe disposal to **Jackson Drugs, 2301 Okeechobee Rd., Fort Pierce.**



The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day aims to provide a safe, convenient, and responsible means of disposing of prescription drugs, while also educating the general public about the potential for abuse of medications.

To learn more, visit: [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug\\_disposal/takeback/](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/)

**Enhancing Skills and Knowledge of New Horizons of the Treasure Coast Prevention Specialists**

Technical assistance and training was provided by the Opioid Response Network on September 26, 2023, "**What Prevention Providers Need to Know About Cannibals: The Adolescent Brain**". Guest speaker: Dr. Hayden Center, Jr.



"**Empowering Treasure Hunters: SUD/ODU Youth Risks and Choices**". Guest Speaker: Jerria Martin, Executive Director, Drug Free Communities on October 16, 2023.

**UPCOMING TRAININGS:**

**Thursday, November 9th, 11:00am-12:00pm: "Trauma Informed Care: Resources and Supports for Creating Healing Centered Environments"**. Guest Speaker: Cassey Chang, LCSW, Tykes & Teens. **Location:** Virtual Training via Zoom.



# **Annual Meeting** **&** **Champions of Prevention** **Awards Ceremony**



**October 26<sup>th</sup>, 8:30am – 4:00pm**  
**Port St. Lucie Community Center**  
**(4.5 CEUs Offered)**

## **Meeting Objectives:**

- ◆ Increase participation in St. Lucie County’s youth substance use prevention efforts across different sectors through the promotion of coalition initiatives and opportunities to collaborate.
- ◆ Provide coalitions, community members, and stakeholders the opportunity to gain knowledge and skills for youth substance use prevention.
  - \* ***“Understanding Risk and Protective Factors For the Healthy Development of Children”***
  - \* ***“Best Practices for Effective Prevention”***

**Christine Stilwell, CPP** is a consultant for the Opioid Response Network with 23 years experience in substance misuse and non-profit programming. A graduate of Pennsylvania State University with a degree in Economics, Christine was a Children’s Home Society *Volunteer of the Year* and a Junior League of Greater Orlando *Chapin - Hood Award* winner for community involvement. Christine has been an Addictions Prevention Professional certified by the Florida Certification Board since 2003. She is chair of the Orange County Drug Office Education Committee, Board Member of the Seminole Prevention Coalition, and longtime member of the Junior League of Central Florida where she served four years as a Board Member and as the Vice-President of Community. She has routinely administered Federal, State, County, and private grants, and contracts during her twenty-three-year tenure at Informed Families.

- \* ***“Adverse Childhood Experiences: Impacts Your Physical, Emotional, and Mental Health”***
- \* ***“Trauma Changes Lives: Becoming More Informed Can Improve Prevention & Early Intervention”***

**Dr. Hayden D. Center, Jr.** is a core faculty member in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program at the University of Phoenix and has taught at several universities over the past thirty years. He has been a Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) specializing in addiction issues for over 35 years. Dr. Center, Jr. has served as the Director of a U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) grant while at Auburn University; as coordinator of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program for the State of Alabama Department of Education; a consultant to the Alabama Governor’s Office of Drug Abuse Policy for ten years, and has worked with numerous state and local agencies in the state of Alabama. In addition, he has worked with numerous agencies and organizations at the national, state, and local levels as an evaluator, including three Drug-Free Community grants and has provided over 500 trainings and workshops on the topics of science-based prevention, evaluation, risk and protective factors, sustainability of health promotion efforts, cannabis, opioid use disorder, implementation science, the psychopharmacology of marijuana, and trauma-informed care. Dr. Center, Jr. also developed an education module for a national project on “What Prevention Professionals Need to Know About Cannabis”.

**Who Should Attend:** Behavioral Health Practitioners, Prevention Professionals, Individuals Serving Young People, Program Managers and Supervisors, Community Organizations and Coalitions, Department of Children and Families Program Staff, Parents/Caregivers, Clinicians, Health Care Providers, School Mental Health counselors, Child Welfare Professionals, Social Workers, Law Enforcement and Corrections Officers, Juvenile Probation Officers; and Educators/Early Childhood Educators.

**Questions? Contact: Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator, Drug Free St. Lucie at [JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org](mailto:JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org)**



## “Every Youth is Capable of Success, NO EXCEPTIONS!”



L-R: Marcus Mills, IYA Outreach Supervisor, Fedson Delcis, Lee

The IGNITE Youth Alliance (IYA) Intervention Team consists of a “village” of dedicated and passionate “caring adults” (also known as, community partners) who come together regularly to give every IYA program participant the support and encouragement needed to overcome obstacles and setbacks, and to ensure every youth is provided the opportunities and services to help them achieve success in school, employment, and their future as a whole. IGNITE program youth Fedson Delcis’s “village” consists of his IYA Outreach Workers, his Department of Corrections Probation Officer-William Christmas, and the administration and teachers from St. Lucie Public Schools. Years ago, as a juvenile, Mr. Delcis was sentenced as an adult and served several years in prison. Upon his release in early 2023, Fedson’s “village” immediately began working together to offer him the support and guidance they knew was needed to help change the trajectory of his life forever. The process was not always smooth or easy, but Fedson never gave up, nor did his “village” ever waiver in their commitment to help Fedson reach his goals.

When Mr. Delcis achieved his first goal of graduating with his high school diploma, his “village” was on hand to celebrate his special day. Fedson did not stop there, after his high school graduation in June, he enrolled in the Youth Connection Program with CareerSource Research Coast and successfully completed his internship. Thanks to his hard work and determination in the Youth Connection Program, Mr. Delcis was offered a full-time position with the UP Center. But Fedson is not finished, his next goal is to attend the Career Training Program at Indian River State College with a focus on a plumbing apprenticeship in the spring of 2024. Fedson’s drive to succeed and to change his life for the better is undeniable, and with these dedicated community partners and “caring adults” surrounding him he is capable of many more successes. Your future is bright Fedson!

## Congratulations Fedson Delcis!



L-R: William Christmas, Probation Officer, DOC, Fedson Delcis, Mrs. Cobb, Employment Specialist-DOC, and Lee Davis, IYA Outreach Worker



L-R: Fedson Delcis and William Christmas



## IGNITE Leadership Visits Project Imagine in Danville, VA



The IGNITE Youth Alliance leadership team visited Project Imagine in Danville, VA for a Comprehensive Gang Model peer-to-peer site visit which is encouraged by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the National Gang Center. Hosted by Robert David, Director of Project Imagine, we learned about approaches they are using to reach youth who are at risk for or involved in gangs. It was a great experience to meet several of their providers in the community, tour their facility called “The Haven” equipped with a complete recording studio where the youth are served, and the PEACE Center, another location youth go for recreation and programming. Mr. David and his team also shared how the law enforcement and community agencies organize to conduct “door to door knocks” immediately following shooting incidents to see what the residents need and to show support. We also visited their juvenile detention facility and were impressed with how they have a therapist on site that provides counselling to the youth.

Chief Scott Booth of the Danville Police Department and his team provided a presentation about the gang suppression efforts and the history of Danville relating to gang violence and social unrest. He spoke about their efforts to repair the community/law enforcement relationship to reestablish trust and buy-in for the model. Danville is the historical site of the infamous “Bloody Monday” in 1963 where there were a series of arrests and attacks that took place during a civil rights protest. Though it was unpopular for some, but received well by the community residents, Chief Booth expressed how important it was under his leadership for his agency to issue an overdue apology for that dark day in history in an attempt to repair the department’s relationship with the community and advance their efforts to reduce gang violence. Since the implementation of the Comprehensive Gang Model, they shared their data that demonstrated a significant decrease in gang violence, improvement in law enforcement community relations, and an increase in solving gang related and other crimes in the community. The IGNITE leadership team came away from this historical site visit energized and inspired. A great example of how “Iron sharpens iron”. *(see more photos from the trip on page 8)*





## 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 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](http://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

### **Kids at Hope & Youth Leadership St. Lucie**

- ◆ Kevin Singletary, Project Coordinator  
KSingletery@RoundtableSLC.org
- ◆ Amanda DeMan, School & Community Liaison  
ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org

### **Drug Free St. Lucie**

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

