



October 2024

Roundtable Review

Message from our CEO

Greetings,

In October, we celebrate National Substance Abuse Prevention Month. The Roundtable-supported Drug Free St. Lucie Coalition is dedicated to its mission “to prevent and reduce youth substance use, increase community awareness, and create change through collaboration, education, prevention initiatives, and policy change.” Most people reading this newsletter have been impacted personally or witnessed first-hand the devastating disease of drug addiction. Prevention early in the lives of youth is a great investment in our community’s future. We invite everyone to stand with us throughout the year, especially this month to raise awareness. During the week of October 23-31, we celebrate Red Ribbon Week. According to the official Red Ribbon website (www.redribbon.org), in 1985 a Drug Enforcement Agent by the name of Enrique "Kiki" Camarena was killed in Mexico. In honor of Kiki's memory and his battle against illegal drugs, friends and neighbors began to wear red badges of satin. Parents then began to form coalitions using Camarena as their model while embracing his belief that one person can make a difference. These coalitions adopted the symbol of Camarena's memory, the Red Ribbon. Today, the Red Ribbon serves as a catalyst to mobilize communities to educate youth and encourage participation in drug prevention activities. With great appreciation, we take this opportunity to thank the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners, the City of Port St. Lucie, and the City of Fort Pierce for their Red Ribbon Week Proclamations as we stand on one accord for this week. Please see page 3 for a schedule of events, including an opportunity for youth to take an online Red Ribbon Pledge, to support our local “Drug Take Back” event, to participate in our “Life is a Movie: Film Drug Free” themed decorations and to wear red in unison with our community. Also, that week, join us in celebrating the work of our Champions of Prevention Award nominees during the hallmark ceremony at the Drug Free St. Lucie Annual Meeting. Be sure to see page 5 for more information. We hope to “see” you as we paint the town red for “Red Ribbon Week”. As always, we are better together!

Teresa Bishop

Chief Executive Officer



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Special Dates:

- Mental Illness Awareness Week 10/6-12
- World Smile Day 10/4
- Nat'l Depression Screening Day 10/7
- Children's Health Day 10/7
- Boss's Day 10/16
- Nat'l School Bus Safety Week 10/21-25
- Red Ribbon Week 10/23-31
- Halloween 10/31



Red Ribbon Week

Red Ribbon Week, October 23-31 - “Life is a Movie, Film Drug Free”

Every year, from October 23-31, more than 80 million people—both kids and adults—show their support for a healthy, drug-free life by wearing or displaying the red ribbon. Red Ribbon Week is a great reminder of why it's important to live a drug-free life. It's a chance for parents, teachers, and communities to come together and reinforce the drug-free messages they share with kids all year long. The eight-day celebration is an annual way to show that we won't accept drugs in our schools, workplaces, or communities.

Highlights Include:

- **October 24th – Make St. Lucie County Red Today!** On this day, we want everyone to wear red, post pictures on social media, and tag @drugfreestlucie. Coalition members and prevention partners should register and attend *Drug Free St. Lucie's Annual Meeting and Champions of Prevention Awards*. **(Flyer Page 5)**
- **October 26th – Let's Team Up Against Drugs!** Participate in National Drug Take Back Day by bringing your expired or unused medication to Jackson Drugs. **(See Flyer Page 6)**
- **October 29th – Wow, Prevention Gets Visual!** South Dade One Voice Community Coalition will offer a training opportunity titled: *An Introduction to Photovoice and Sound It Out Project*. **(Flyer Page 7)**

We invite you to take the **National Red Ribbon Campaign Pledge** and be part of the movement:

Parent Pledge:

*As parents and citizens, we will talk to our children and the children in our lives about the dangers of drug abuse.
We will set clear rules for our children about not using drugs.
We will set a good example by not using illegal drugs or medicine without a prescription.
We will monitor our children's behavior and enforce appropriate consequences so that our rules are respected.
We will encourage family and friends to follow the same guidelines to keep children safe from substance abuse.*

Youth Pledge:

*I pledge to grow up safe, healthy, and drug-free by:
Understanding the dangers of drug use and abuse.
Respecting myself and staying drug-free.
Spreading the word to family and friends about the importance of being healthy and drug-free.*

Red Ribbon Week Proclamation!

To show support for Red Ribbon Week, the City of Port St. Lucie has issued a Red Ribbon Week Proclamation. In addition, the City of Fort Pierce and the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners will also be issuing their proclamations on October 15th and 21st, respectively. **(Flyer Page 4)**

During Red Ribbon week, people across the country, young and old, pledge to learn more about the harmful effects of drug abuse, including the misuse of prescription drugs, and renew their commitment to living a healthy, drug-free life. Drug Free St. Lucie has planned a week of activities and encourages our community to participate. **(Flyer Page 3)**



DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE

FOLLOW US!
@DrugFreeStLucie
www.RoundtableSLC.org

Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2024

**Oct
23**

We Are RED-Y To Say "NO" To Drugs and Alcohol!

Teens - take the online pledge at www.redribbon.org/pledge.
Parents - download SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You." mobile app.



**Oct
24**

Make St. Lucie County Red Today!

Wear RED, light it up in RED, post pictures on social media while tagging @DrugFreeStLucie & #RedRibbon.
DFS Annual Meeting/Champions of Prevention Awards, Fenn Center, 8:30 am - 4 pm.



**Oct
25**

Theme Decoration

Decorate your door, mailbox, fence, or school with a Red Ribbon for this year's theme: "Life is Like A Movie: Film Drug Free". Post pictures on your social media pages and tag @DrugFreeStLucie & and add the hashtags: #BeKindToYourMindLiveDrugFree & #RedRibbonWeek



**Oct
26**

Let's TEAM UP Against Drugs!

DEA Drug Takeback Day: Jackson Drugs, 12301 Okeechobee Rd., Fort Pierce, 10am-2pm



**Oct
28**

Take the #LiveDrugFree Social Media Challenge

Post Red Ribbon messages on your Facebook, Instagram or Twitter pages, tag @DrugFreeStLucie and add the hashtags: #LifeIsLikeAMovieFilmDrugFree & #RedRibbonWeek



**Oct
29**

Wow! Prevention Gets Visual

Register to attend for "An Introduction to PhotoVoice and Sound It Out Project" - A Youth Engagement Strategy for Substance Use Prevention - Oct. 29th at Children's Services Council Training Room. Register Here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6R3L3LJ>



**Oct
30**

Enter the 2025 RED RIBBON THEME CONTEST

Email your name, school, telephone number and email address, by December 6th. For details: www.redribbon.org/theme/contest/. Winners will be announced on or before February 2nd, 2025.



For more information:

C. Jovil Wharton, Project Coordinator, Drug Free St. Lucie at:
JWhartoneRoundtableslc.org



CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
Proclamation

WHEREAS, alcohol and drug abuse are particularly damaging to one of our most valuable resources, our children, and affects individuals, families, and communities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that visible, unified efforts by community members be launched to prevent alcohol and drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of Red Ribbon Week to involve families, schools, healthcare providers, businesses, religious institutions, law enforcement agencies, government, media, community-based organizations and service organizations in all aspects of this campaign, and establish an atmosphere that supports awareness, education and on-going initiatives to prevent alcohol and drug abuse; and

WHEREAS, the Red Ribbon Week Campaign will be celebrated in communities across the nation between October 23-31; and

WHEREAS, businesses, government, law enforcement agencies, media, health care providers, religious institutions, schools, parents, and other community-based organizations and services organizations, will demonstrate their commitment to Drug-Free lifestyles, by wearing red ribbons and participating in drug prevention awareness and education activities; and

WHEREAS, the city of Port St. Lucie further commits to support the health and wellness of our citizens, residents and visitors.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Shannon M. Martin, Mayor of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, do hereby proclaim *October 23-31, 2024*, be observed as:

Red Ribbon Week

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of the City of Port St. Lucie, Florida, to be affixed, this eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-four.


Sally Walsh
City Clerk




Shannon M. Martin
Mayor

Make St. Lucie County Red!

Drug Free St. Lucie Annual Meeting & Champions of Prevention Awards

Every now and then we all need a bit of a revival, new life breathed into our heart and soul. St. Lucie County has its challenges, but we also have the most amazing community members leading the charge to bring about positive change. We invite our leaders and partners in prevention to join us at our annual meeting to “Re-fresh, Re-energize, & Re-ignite” your passion! This hands-on, fun, and engaging meeting will not only help us reflect on the great work we've done thus far, but it will also help us strategize and plan our next steps to take transformational action in our communities.

Who should attend: Behavioral health practitioners, prevention professionals, individuals/organizations 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.

Objectives:

- To reflect on the successes and challenges each organization is facing, identify gaps, and explore ways to fill them.
- To understand the connection between mental health and substance use, and the coalition's role in addressing these issues in St. Lucie County.
- To assess current marijuana use trends, identify community-specific challenges, and use data to inform prevention strategies.
- To learn how to apply the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to address marijuana use and other emerging substance trends.
- To elevate youth voices by creating strategies that make them feel seen, heard, and understood.
- To develop layered prevention strategies focused on marijuana for maximum community-level impact.
- To create actionable, community-wide prevention steps to implement after the training.

**Let's Make St. Lucie County Red
on October 24th!**

Register by October 16th!

Scan the QR Code on the flyer or visit:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53B6FGR>



DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE ANNUAL MEETING & CHAMPIONS OF PREVENTION AWARD CEREMONY

Trainer: **Jerria Martin**, Executive Director, Drug Free Communities of Dades County

Guest Presenter: **Yamila Rellan Escalona**, Founder / Executive Director, Yaya Por Vida

Trainer: **Kristina Clark**, President / Founder, KM Clark Consulting Group

Training Sessions:

- Mental Health Matters
- Leveling Up Community Impact: Marijuana Synopsis
- Youth Voices, Adult Actions

THURSDAY OCTOBER 24TH, 2024

8:30AM - 4:00PM

HAVERT L. FENN CENTER
2000 VIRGINIA AVE, FORT PIERCE

REGISTER NOW

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/53B6FGR>

www.RoundtableSLC.org

OPLOID RESPONSE NETWORK

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
DFSL Project Coordinator, Joyil Wharton, Email: JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org

OUR FUNDING STATEMENT:
Funding for this initiative was made possible (in part) by grant no. U49K033543 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.



2 out of 3

DRUG FREE
ST. LUCIE

teens abusing prescription pain medication say they got them from friends or family.

Let's "Team Up Against Drugs" - Eliminate the risk of misuse and prevent overdose in your home by participating in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Bring your expired, or unused prescription medications for safe disposal to **Jackson Drugs on October 26th, 10am – 2pm.**

Everyone participating will receive a Deterra pouch to safely dispose of your medications at home and a medication lock bottle.

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

To learn more, click here: [Take Back Day \(dea.gov\)](https://www.dea.gov/take-back-day)

DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

DISPOSE UNUSED MEDICATION RESPONSIBLY!

Bring your expired or unused prescription medications to the event for safe disposal or stop by to pick up a Deterra Drug Deactivation Kit for safe home disposal and a locking prescription medication vial.

Saturday, October 26, 2024 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm



LOCK YOUR MEDS!

Prevent prescription drug misuse, overdose, and unintentional injury/poisoning in St. Lucie County.

Poison Emergencies or Questions Call:
Florida Poison Control Center: (800) 822-1222

LOCATION:
JACKSON DRUGS
2301 OKEECHOBEE RD.
FORT PIERCE, FL 34950

www.RoundtableSLC.org
@DrugFreeStLucie

For More Info: Jovil Wharton, DFSL Coordinator at JWharton@Roundtableslc.org

Roundtable of St. Lucie County
FLORIDA NATIONAL TAKEBACK
JACKSON DRUGS, INC.
Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network



Wow, Prevention Gets Visual!

Introduction to PhotoVoice & Sound It Out Project

Join Drug Free St. Lucie and South Dade One Voice Community Coalition for this **FREE** - *Introduction to PhotoVoice and Sound It Out Project* on **October 29th, 11:00 am – 1:30pm.**

PhotoVoice (PV) is a way to get young people engaged in their communities and be featured as “experts on their own lives” (Wang, et al., 2004). The process involves giving youth cameras they can use to document the realities of their day-to-day experiences and highlight the strengths and challenges within their communities. The photographs they take and the stories that emerge from small group discussions around the pictures are used to engage in important discussions with policymakers, community leaders, and power brokers within the community to promote positive change.

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Deadline to Register:
October 22nd

Scan the QR Code in the flyer or visit:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6R3L3LJ> to register for this **FREE** interactive training on how to implement these projects.

DRUG FREE ST. LUCIE

Prevention Gets Visual

PhotoVoice (PV) is a way to get young people engaged in their communities and be featured as “experts on their own lives” (Wang, et al., 2004). The process involves giving youth cameras they can use to document the realities of their day-to-day experiences and highlight the strengths and challenges within their communities. The photographs they take and the stories that emerge from small group discussions around the pictures are used to engage in important discussions with policymakers, community leaders, and power brokers within the community in order to promote positive change.

REGISTER NOW!

www.surveymonkey.com/r/6R3L3LJ

FREE

Introduction To PhotoVoice & Sound It Out Project

Gabriela Hernandez, Project Facilitator

Anthony Cooper II, Lead/Media Coordinator

Tuesday, October 29th, 2024
11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Lunch provided

Location: Children's Services Council
546 NW University Blvd, Port St. Lucie, FL 34986

@DrugFreeStLucie
www.RoundtableSLC.org

Who Should Attend:

- Youth Serving Agencies
- Schools & Afterschool programs
- Health Providers
- Organizations that serve people with physical and mental disabilities or substance use and mental health issues
- Advocacy organizations
- Human Services Organizations
- Coalitions

For More Info: Jovil Wharton, DFSL Coordinator at JWharton@RoundtableSLC.org



St. Lucie RISE Develops St. Lucie Cares: A Comprehensive Behavioral Health Resource Guide

As part of our efforts, St. Lucie RISE is taking a significant step toward enhancing the well-being of local youth and families through the launch of **St. Lucie Cares**, a new Behavioral Health Resource Guide. This guide aims to provide a comprehensive, user-friendly resource that connects youth and families with the mental health and substance use support they need.

Purpose of St. Lucie Cares

The primary purpose of St. Lucie Cares is to address the pressing challenges of youth substance use and untreated mental health challenges in St. Lucie County. Beyond merely listing clinical behavioral health services, the guide is designed to be a holistic resource, featuring a wide array of services that promote overall well-being. This includes prevention coalitions, youth-serving organizations, after-school programs, and various other resources that contribute to improving the lives of youth and their families.

St. Lucie Cares Goals:

- ♦ **Enhanced Access to Resources:** By compiling a comprehensive list of services, the guide aims to simplify access for families seeking support. It provides a central location where individuals can find resources tailored to their specific needs.
- ♦ **Promotion of Community Services:** The guide will not only include direct service providers but will also highlight organizations and programs that foster resilience, education, and pro-social engagement. This ensures that families are aware of all the supportive options available to them.
- ♦ **Fostering Collaboration:** By uniting various service providers in one resource, St. Lucie Cares encourages collaboration among organizations, helping them work together to better address the multifaceted challenges faced by youth and families regarding their behavioral health.

Benefits for Youth and Families:

- ♦ **Increased Awareness:** Families will have improved access to information about available services, empowering them to seek help when needed and breaking down the barriers to accessing care.
- ♦ **Supportive Environment:** By showcasing a variety of resources, the guide will help create a more supportive environment for youth, facilitating connections to services that promote mental health and well-being.
- ♦ **Community Engagement:** The initiative aims to foster stronger relationships between service providers and the community, ultimately enhancing trust. Engaging families in discussions about available resources will help build a network of support around youth.

Get Involved!

St. Lucie Cares is inviting organizations to participate by sharing their services and referral information. This collaborative effort will ensure that the guide is comprehensive and reflects the diverse resources available in our community.

If your organization would like to be included in this valuable resource, please submit your information through the provided link or QR Code: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BRWPGHP>

The launch of St. Lucie Cares marks a pivotal step in our ongoing commitment to fostering well-being and addressing the behavioral health needs of our community. Stay tuned for more updates and information on how to access the guide!

For more information email: Shamra Gilles, Project Coordinator, St. Lucie RISE at SGilles@RoundtableSLC.org or visit our website at www.RoundtableSLC.org.





Creating a Trauma-Informed Community in St. Lucie County



As we enter October, a month dedicated to mental health awareness, we're reminded of the critical need for trauma-informed practices within our community. With the observance of National Depression Awareness Month and World Mental Health Day on October 10th, this is the perfect time to reflect on how we can support each other and foster resilience county-wide.

The Importance of a Trauma-Informed Community

Trauma affects individuals in profound ways, influencing their mental health, relationships, and overall quality of life. A trauma-informed community recognizes the prevalence of trauma and adopts practices that support recovery and resilience. By cultivating an environment where individuals feel safe, respected, and empowered, we can reduce the impact of trauma and promote a healthier community.

In partnership with Tykes & Teens and the Children's Services Council, the Peace 4 St. Lucie (P4SL) initiative is focused on creating a trauma-informed environment for all residents. Our strategies are grounded in the Trauma-Informed Community Building Model, complemented by elements of traditional community-building strategies. This holistic approach ensures we address the specific needs of our community while fostering a sense of belonging and connectedness.

Key components of our trauma-informed approach include:

- **Safety and Security:** Ensuring that all community members feel physically and emotionally safe in their environments.
- **Awareness and Understanding:** Educating community members and service providers about the effects of trauma to foster compassion and empathy.
- **Empowerment and Choice:** Encouraging individuals to take an active role in their healing process, respecting their autonomy and decisions.
- **Collaboration and Support:** Building partnerships among organizations and community members to collectively address trauma and promote healing.

Community Survey: Your Voice Matters!

To better understand the needs of residents and shape P4SL, we have launched a community survey, operating as a vital tool for gathering insights on the experiences and needs of individuals in St. Lucie County related to trauma and subsequent support systems. The survey will help us identify gaps in services, understand community concerns, and develop effective programs that resonate with the needs of our residents.

Access the Survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HJQVVP8>

We encourage all residents to take a few moments to share their thoughts. Your feedback will directly inform our strategies, ensuring that we create a supportive and inclusive environment for everyone.

Join Us in Creating Change

With Peace 4 St. Lucie, we believe that collectively, we can create a community that prioritizes mental health and well-being. For more information about Peace 4 St. Lucie and to stay updated on this initiative, please visit https://www.roundtableslc.org/stlucie_rise/ or contact us at peace4st.lucie@tykesandteens.org.



Kids at Hope Corner



Henry Ford stated, “Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.” The past month was about the Kids at Hope Team showing appreciation to some of our community partners who continue to support the mission of Kids at Hope. Many of our partners started on this journey years ago and have witnessed the success of building meaningful relationships as Treasure Hunters and “ACEs or Caring Adults” to the youth in St. Lucie County. Five front office school staff, Forest Grove, Ft. Pierce Central, Southern Oaks, Northport K-8, and Allapattah Flats K-8, were treated to donuts courtesy of the Roundtable’s Kids at Hope team. This small token of appreciation was shared because these partners consistently exemplify the Kids at Hope practices and beliefs. Forest Grove is opening the doors for Kids at Hope to assist with male mentoring; Southern Oaks recently held their Parent Engagement Night and invited Kids at Hope to host a table; and Northport K-8 and Ft. Pierce Central are home to the Roundtable’s H.Y.P. E. youth coalition chapter sites.

Recently, Allapattah Flats K-8 sponsored a Kids at Hope College Destination Day. Each grade level was charged with decorating their pod in the theme colors of one Florida’s colleges or universities. The fifth grade students were the winners choosing the University of Miami. Students and teachers were decked out in their University of Miami gear, and the pod was filled with the orange and green of the Hurricanes. The entire fifth grade enjoyed an ice cream social award!



Kids at Hope Day in St. Lucie County on November 1st!

On November 1, 2024, we will celebrate Kids at Hope Day in St. Lucie County! The Kids at Hope team and the Roundtable are asking our community partners, schools, youth-serving agencies, and other organizations to show their Kids at Hope spirit by wearing blue and yellow on November 1st and sharing your photos or videos with our KAH team! Your KAH spirit submissions will be entered into a contest to win a prize and shared via our social media pages and newsletter. The winner will be announced on November 11, 2024. For more information, contact Kevin Singletary at KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org. We are a community that believes **“ALL Children are Capable of Success, NO EXCEPTIONS!”**

Contest Entries Must Be Submitted By November 6, 2024. (Flyer Page 12)

Mothers at Hope Delivering Hope to Go:

During our first session of Mothers at Hope, many donations for mothers and babies alike were graciously contributed by our community and fellow supporting nonprofit agencies. These donations included diapers, baby and toddler clothes, toys, formula, baby food, wipes, self-care items, and more. This outpouring of love and support for the mothers of our community was abundant. In order to share this outpouring of love with our community, Mothers at Hope will be hosting a “Hope and Go Pop-Up Boutique” event at Winterlakes Park on November 9th from 11am-2pm. Families can come and collect free baby/toddler clothes, toys, and baby or self-care supplies. This event will include crafts, raffle giveaways, games, and light refreshments for families to enjoy. Agencies who would like for their brochures/flyers to be displayed on the Mothers at Hope resource table at this event, or for more information please contact Amanda DeMan, Kids at Hope School and Community Liaison at ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org.



H.Y.P.E. News!



Our first H.Y.P.E school-based chapter meetings of this school year at Northport K-8 and Fort Pierce Central focused on team building, the knowledge and skills needed to work together in a coalition, the traits needed to act as a role model for peers, and an introduction to goal-setting. Our H.Y.P.E members also shared what issues and topics are important to them, and issues that they would like to address on their school campuses and in the community.

On Northport K-8's campus, thanks to the incredible partnership and support of New Horizons of the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee, two expert Prevention Specialists, Maryanne Warren and Krista Messer, are on-site at our meetings to deliver the Botvin Life Skills curriculum to our H.Y.P.E youth. This evidence-based curriculum focuses on substance use prevention, emotional and behavioral self-management, communication and social skills, as well as anger management and conflict resolution. These skills will be married perfectly with the H.Y.P.E Coalition's curriculum and activities which are focused on teaching our H.Y.P.E youth how to problem solve issues in their school and communities using the Strategic Prevention Framework and Public Health models gleaned from CADCA's National Youth Led Initiatives model.

The H.Y.P.E Mobile Youth Development Academy was also proud to be invited to host a youth development activity for the City of Port St. Lucie's Youth Council Summit! Our H.Y.P.E adult advisor, Amanda DeMan, led a session and team building activity for 50 youth. The youth were prompted to identify the skills needed to work as a team, to be a part of something larger than yourself, and to make positive changes in their community. These youth were able to put these skills into action with our H.Y.P.E Balloon Tower Challenge, which challenges youth to work together, given limited resources and time, to build the tallest tower possible! This challenge serves as a perfect metaphor for solving large community problems as a coalition. Every member must communicate effectively, use their unique skills and expertise, and the team must delegate smaller tasks to achieve larger goals.

Our coalition was proud to premier our Mental Health PSA and PhotoVoice Project at the Roundtable of St. Lucie County's most recent board meeting. This was a collaboration between fellow Roundtable of St. Lucie County Initiative St. Lucie RISE, and community partners—E.N.D. It! and the Lincoln Park Community Center. This youth mental health showcase entitled "The Youth Voice" also featured community assessment maps completed by H.Y.P.E youth and youth from partnering agencies on substance use issues impacting the youth of St. Lucie County. The message our youth sent through these projects was clear: Our youth know where to access substances, but not where to access safe spaces to get help for substance use or mental health issues. The surmounting stress of the pressures of being a teen in today's world, and the lack of resources are having detrimental effects on our youth, and they need us as the adults who support them to increase resources, awareness campaigns, and safe spaces.

H.Y.P.E is off to a strong start, and we know this momentum will carry us forward into a year full of fun, growth, and making a difference in St. Lucie County! Our coalition hears and amplifies the youth voice, and empowers our youth to make a positive impact in the spirit of the excellence we help them pursue! For more information about H.Y.P.E Youth Coalition, or to bring H.Y.P.E Mobile Youth Development Academy offerings to your school/youth-serving agency, contact Amanda DeMan at ADeman@RoundtableSLC.org.



Wear

blue

and

yellow!

to observe



National Kids at Hope Day

All Children are Capable of Success, NO EXCEPTIONS!

November 1st

**Show your Time Traveler and
Treasure Hunter Spirit by wearing
blue and yellow!**

CONTEST

Email your photos and
videos showing your
Kids at Hope Day support
to enter to win a BIG prize
for your school or agency!

**Entries Due By:
November 6th**

**Winner will be announced
November 11th!**

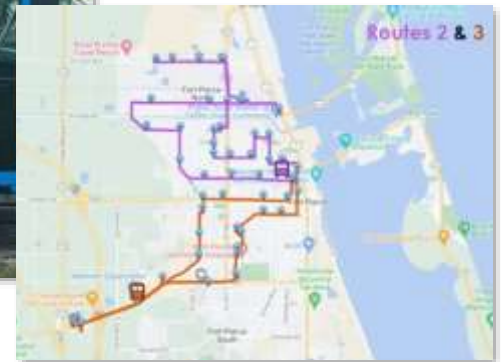
**FOR MORE
INFORMATION AND TO
SUBMIT ENTRIES**

Kevin Singletary, KSingletary@RoundtableSLC.org
Amanda DeMan, ADeMan@RoundtableSLC.org



www.RoundtableSLC.org/KidsAtHope





Look out for Drug Free St. Lucie's bus billboard traveling on Bus 1205 on routes 2 and 3 throughout Fort Pierce.

The SAMHSA's "Talk. They Hear You." campaign will run for 38 weeks and encourages parents to talk with their kids about the risks of misusing prescription pain medications and to have conversations about the risks of taking medication that is not theirs.

Our Funders:



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
- ◆ Sonya Gabriel, Steering Committee Chair
- ◆ Arnold Gaines, City of Fort Pierce
- ◆ Diane Hobley-Burney, Fort Pierce Police Department
- ◆ TBD, 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

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.

2024-25 Executive Committee

CHAIR

Heather Parker, Guardian ad Litem

VICE-CHAIR

Carol Deloach, Communities Connected for Kids

SECRETARY

Ann Berner, Southeast FL Behavioral Health Network

TREASURER

Nathan Peterson, Department of Juvenile Justice

PAST CHAIR

Tony Loupe, Early Learning Coalition

STEERING COMMITTEE

TBD

AT LARGE

David Pickett, City of Port St. Lucie

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- ◆ **Dana Espinosa, Operations Manager**

OUR INITIATIVES:

Kids at Hope & H.Y.P.E.

- ◆ **Kevin Singletary, Training Coordinator**
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- ◆ **Amanda DeMan, School & Community Liaison & H.Y.P.E Lead Advisor**
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Drug Free St. Lucie

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