



THE DJJ FORUM

Where DJJ employees gather to stay informed and celebrate our victories March 4, 2014



Gray Is Beautiful To CSU 1 Senior Probation Officer

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CSU 22 Intake Diversion Specialist Lori Cramton, left, and Constance Covington, president of the Cardinal Village Tenants Association in Danville, lead the "Pretty In Pink" program for girls ages 10-14. At right, a participant joins in the prayer that leads off every meeting.

CSU 22 Program Has Local Girls Tickled "Pink"

Helping to pick up trash along city streets and neighborhoods is a perfectly good community service project, Lori Cramton will tell you. But for all it has to offer, it doesn't teach young girls much in the way of social skills, or how to be a good friend.

Following a stint with the Boys & Girls Club of Danville, Cramton arrived at CSU

22-Rocky Mount to serve as an Intake Diversion Specialist. She immediately noticed something she has found true in many other communities: young boys usually have an array of sports programs to participate in ... but not so much for the girls. With female gang activity increasing (See "Pretty In Pink," page 2)



What's Not To "Like"? DJJ Now on Facebook

DJJ now has a presence on Facebook, providing the agency another way to publicize the excellent services and programs it offers.

"Our Facebook presence will also allow our Human Resources Department to post job openings," said Public Information Officer Assistant Riley Matsen. "We encourage all employees with Facebook accounts to 'like' our page and share it with their friends and acquaintances, especially those who are seeking a career opportunity."

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Department-of-Juvenile-Justice/1435765579993038>



Rodney Hubbard

In Memoriam Rodney Hubbard

Rodney Hubbard, who had a long and storied history of helping others over his nearly 40-year career with DJJ, died Jan. 29 at the age of 61.

Shortly after graduating from Washington & Lee University in 1974, the Natural Bridge native started his career as an institutional rehabilitation counselor with the Virginia Department of Welfare and Institutions (DJJ's predecessor agency) at the Natural Bridge Learning Center. Over the ensuing 39½ years he held a number of

different positions with the department including intake officer/mediator, probation counselor and probation supervisor in the 25th Court Service Unit (Lexington, Covington, Botetourt). For the past 15 years he served as director of CSU 23A in Roanoke City.

Hubbard was an active member of the Virginia Juvenile Justice Association (VJJA) throughout his career and was a former member of the VJJA Board of Directors. He was twice honored

(See "Hubbard," page 3)



“Pretty In Pink” program participants at Cardinal Village in Danville engage in activities that celebrate “what it means to be who we are as females,” says program creator Lori Cramton (in photo at right).

Pretty In Pink

(Continued from page 1)

in Danville, Cramton figured it was time to dust off an initiative she first introduced when she was working with the Boys and Girls Club in 2010: the “Pretty In Pink” program.

“There was a lot of discourse and drama among the young ladies, especially between the ages of 10-14, and much of it stemmed from issues within their neighborhoods and schools which they brought to the Club,” Cramton says. “It was affecting them socially, emotionally, and academically. To promote prevention, I decided they needed some unification. The name came as a way to allow them to own it by ‘wearing the colors’ just like gangs do, but in a positive, constructive way.”

Cramton targeted Cardinal Village, a low-income housing area in Danville that has experienced a high level of gang activity. She knew immediately she had hit upon something promising when she arrived to see a group of girls approaching, all dressed in their “Sunday best,” and all in pink. The day progressed with activities such as writing down “the two things I love about being a girl.” They talked about “what it means to celebrate who we are as females, how we can enrich others’ lives, and how ‘love of self’ must come first,” Cramton says. Cardinal Village residents then provided a reception where participants ate finger sandwiches, pink punch and strawberry cupcakes. This was followed by a fashion show, a nail spa, and a “cheer clinic,” where they learned how to work as a team to lead cheers.

“The whole experience brought tears to my eyes,” Cramton admits. “In the midst of all these activities was mentoring, talking, laughing, teaching and listening. I did not expect it to take off the way it has and am very excited that this will be

an ongoing thing. I am humbled that it was received so well, and that the adults who volunteer at Cardinal Village took it upon themselves to continue the process.”

“Pretty In Pink” continues to make a difference through an ongoing partnership with Constance Covington, president of the Tenants Association at Cardinal Village. Since the first event held last summer, the young ladies at Cardinal Village have started “Pretty In Pink” clubs. They entered a cardboard city contest in which they are building a “pink” city out of cardboard to bring attention to the concept behind “Pretty In Pink.” They have designed “Pretty In Pink” T-shirts for club members to wear.

“It’s both rewarding and necessary to be involved with youth on the front end in an effort to prevent future court involvement,” Cramton says. “If by chance we do see them again in the system, we have established a relationship with them and are in a better position to help them.”

The “Pretty In Pink” Proclamation

We come together to celebrate being young women of promise, beauty, smarts, and happiness.

We celebrate friendships with each other as only young women can have.

We completely and totally accept one another, flaws and all, and reach out to each other without judgment.

We offer truth and love wrapped up in courage, strength and compassion.

We unite, lock arms, and tell each other ... we are all Pretty in Pink!

Ancient Art Of Yoga Helps Modern Kids At Bon Air



Yoga instructor Sarah Lovelace leads a session at Bon Air.

By Ashley Williams, Mentoring Program Coordinator

Studies have shown that youth that participate in yoga tend to have greater control of their emotions, display a marked increase in peaceful resolution, and are more likely to ask for help when they need it – which makes it a prime candidate for DJJ residents.

In January, 2013, DJJ partnered with Project Yoga Richmond (PYR) to provide the practice of yoga to female residents at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. PYR is

a non-profit organization that offers donation-based yoga classes in the Richmond metro area. There are two yoga instructors, Wendy Warren and Sarah Lovelace, who volunteer one hour each week with two groups of female residents. All yoga classes are voluntary and take place on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

The goal of the program is to help the residents rediscover a deep respect and reverence for their bodies, learn to distinguish one's perceptions from reality, control one's mind, connect with others, and increase positive thoughts. Each week, the residents are introduced to various poses, breathing exercises and guided meditation to increase better sleep, decrease emotional difficulties and improve self-awareness. The instructors use increased verbal praise that arms each youth with a sense of accomplishment and confidence, both of which are necessary when faced with the test of making wise decisions.

The classes are designed to teach the residents that structure, in combination with focus and laughter, brings progress and success.

"My greatest joy in teaching arrived after one young woman stated that she memorized the postures during our classes and she practices them on her own while in her room during the week," Warren says.

Our goal is to expand the yoga program to include males, and offer yoga practice at both juvenile correctional centers.



Instructor Wendy Warren demonstrates proper stretching techniques.

Hubbard

(Continued from page 1)

by the association. He received VJJA's 1988 Meritorious Award in the Area of Court Services. Fifteen years later, he received VJJA's 2003 Meritorious Award in the Area of Administration. In 2006, he returned to VJJA's Fall Institute to introduce the opening speaker following successful heart transplant surgery.

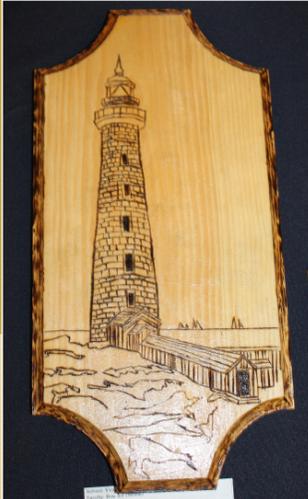
He was also active in his community. He was a lifelong member of the First Baptist Church of Natural Bridge where he served in numerous capacities including playing a role in the church's music program for more than 50 years. He was also a former member of the school board for Rockbridge County Schools.



Left: Hubbard receives the 2003 VJJA Meritorious Award for Administration from former DJJ Director Jerauld Jones. Right: Hubbard chats with former CSU 27 Director Ken Miller at the 2012 DJJ Leadership Summit.



Right: Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran holds a piece of tissue art purchased by Deputy Director for Operations Ralph Thomas, who loaned it to Secretary Moran for display in the Secretary's office. Below: An example of pyrography, the ancient art of woodburning. Below center are examples of other artwork completed by DJJ residents.



Expressions XXII

Secretary of Public Safety Brian Moran, along with DJJ Director Mark Gooch and many other dignitaries, artists, and curious members of the public, were on hand Feb. 24 for the kickoff to this year's "Expressions XXII" art exhibit on display in the lobby of the Virginia General Assembly Building during the week of Feb. 24-28. The show featured artwork created by residents in DJJ juvenile correctional centers using a variety of media including box painting, drawing, pyrography (woodburning), origami, tissue art, graphic design, and quilting.

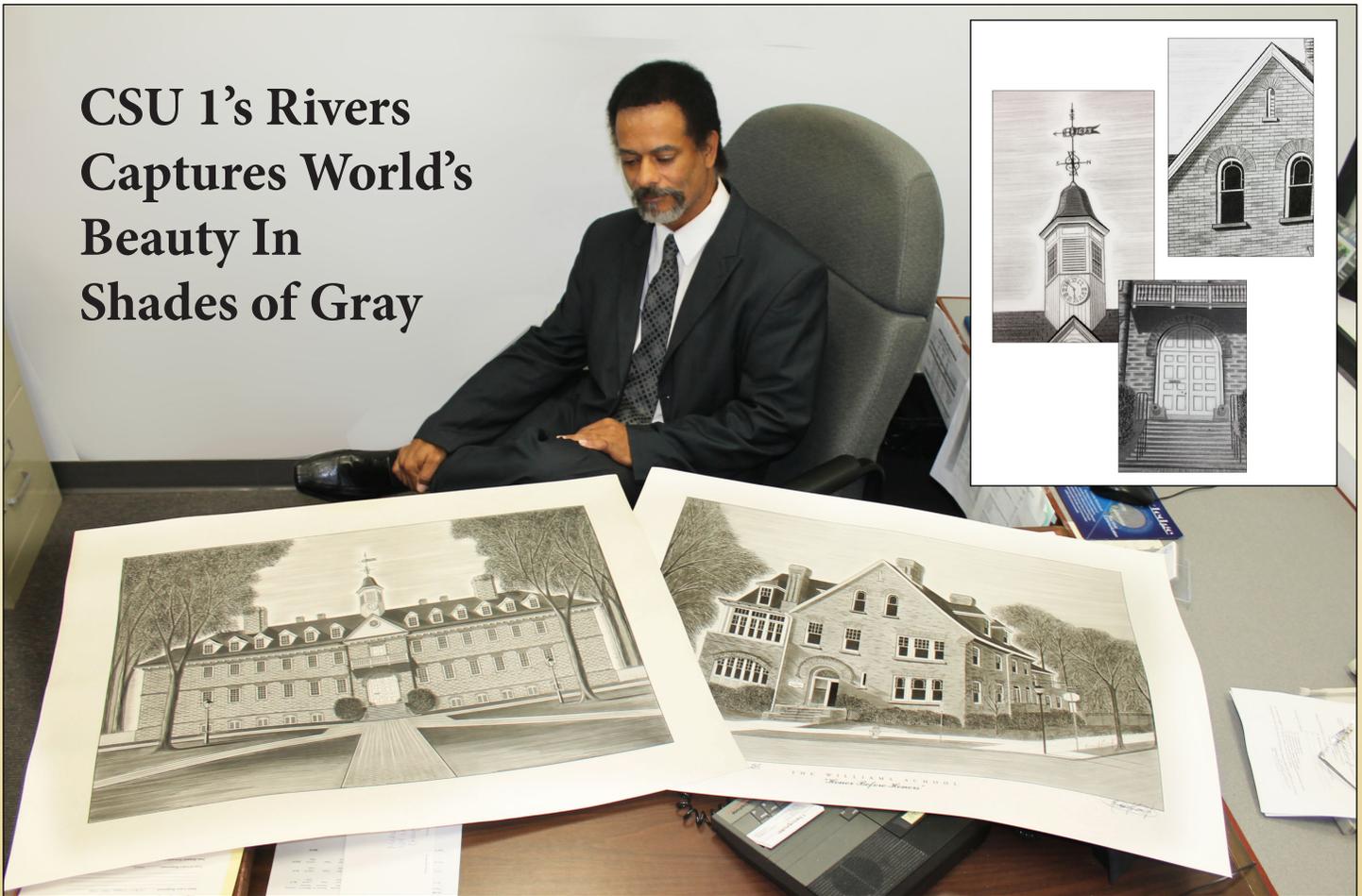
"Expressions XXII" is more than just an art show. It is a means of encouraging residents to use their time constructively to outwardly express thoughts and visions in a creative way they may never have considered before. All the artworks were for sale, with proceeds going to the artists.



Above: Re-Entry Program Assistant Monica Jackson welcomes Quilting Instructor Roy Mitchell to the exhibit. Below: Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator Velma Briggs signs up to purchase a piece of artwork.



CSU 1's Rivers Captures World's Beauty In Shades of Gray



Mike Rivers displays his pencil drawings of the Sir Christopher Wren Building in Williamsburg, left, and the Williams School Building in Norfolk; inset shows details from three of his drawings.

Like most children, Mike Rivers enjoyed drawing when he was a kid growing up in Portsmouth. But his family soon noticed he had an eye for detail and perspective that was unusual for one so young. Using just a simple pencil, he would amuse his family by drawing surprisingly detailed portraits of family and friends.

Rivers continued to draw well after he earned a criminal justice degree at ODU and a master's degree in public administration from Golden Gate University; he drew "surprise portraits" for birthday parties as a hobby while working as a senior probation officer at CSU 1 in Chesapeake.

It wasn't until he was nearly 40 that Rivers decided to try his hand at drawing historic buildings and edifices. This initial experiment resulted in a steady stream of intricately detailed, graceful

artistry that now grace the walls of several local government buildings, including CSU 1—all with only a pencil as his medium. He followed his initial drawing of the MacArthur Memorial Building in Norfolk with stunningly accurate renditions of the Sir Christopher Wren Building at the College of William & Mary, the Rotunda of the University of Virginia,

Norfolk's Harrison Opera House and the City Hall Building in Chesapeake.

Rivers figures it's probably just as well that he stayed with pencil for his drawings, since he discovered while he was in the military that he experiences a form of color blindness that causes him to see colors differently from most others. As Rivers points out, that has not affected his ability to do his gray drawings.

Rivers' latest project has been what he calls "Graduation Art," in which he superimposes a drawing of a college graduate over a rendering of a recognizable building on the campus of the school the graduate attended. The completed work conveys an "air brush appearance" that shows a two-dimensional rendering. "I really enjoy doing these, because each drawing is unique, and it encompasses a personal memory of the graduate's graduation day."



Rivers' drawing of The Rotunda at the University of Virginia hangs in CSU 1 offices in Chesapeake.

Stereotype Of “Troubled Teen” Usually Doesn’t Fit

(Editor’s Note: Mara Fuller is an intern at CSU 27 in Pulaski, and a student in the Social Work Program at Radford University (RU), where she is pursuing her second master’s degree. Mara has agreed to provide periodic impressions of her DJJ experience for the Forum from an intern’s perspective.)



INTERN INSIGHTS

Mara Fuller
Intern, CSU 27

During my first semester I have noticed I am drawn to the juveniles others may deem “lost causes” – those who want to go to detention, those who despite multiple probation violations still refuse to attend school, those who have sexually assaulted a young child, those who have burned down buildings, those who have assaulted their bus driver. It is this group of juveniles I found most compelling during my first semester at the CSU.

For several weeks I observed the probation officers in the office as they met and worked with the many different clients on their caseloads. I listened as they sat together, attempting to create another plan of action for a client. I was able to witness their frustration as a client canceled another appointment and their disappointment when a client failed another drug test. I saw the triumph of a successfully completed probation case. But while I listened to meetings, heard frustrations, and watched the POs work diligently for their clients, I did not know these juveniles; their past and their legal history was simply a story to me.

However, as I began to work independently with clients, I was able to experience that disappointment and triumph myself. I knocked on doors at 9 a.m., forcing teenagers to wake up and attend school, driving them there myself. It was during these car rides I was able to talk to them and learn they did not want to go to school because they were being bullied or because they could not understand the class material or

because they had an abscessed tooth and no insurance to go to the dentist. I also started meeting one-on-one with clients, where I learned the client charged with sexual assault is a teenage boy, almost broken because of his actions and dealing with the trauma of his own sexual abuse history. I learned the arsonist was completely oblivious to the ramifications of his actions, and that while the building filled with

smoke he was terrified, a terror that is still present when he relives his actions. I was able to celebrate with a client when she passed her GED test after several attempts, and listened as she imagined different future plans because of attaining her GED.

When I tell people I am interning with juvenile probation, their initial reaction seems to be either “Oh, so you’re working with a bunch of potheads,” or “What’s the point, they are just going to jail once they are 18,” or “So you’re only working with the poor kids.” However, during the course of my first semester as an intern at the CSU, I learned the majority of juvenile probation clients do not fit the stereotypical image of a juvenile offender, as stereotypes rarely hold up in real-life scenarios. I have learned that the clients are not just one-dimensional people contained within a file. Instead, these youth that the Court Services serves are troubled, typically with many other difficulties than just the legal ones for which they are assigned probation. It was by allowing the clients to be more than a case, more than a file, more than an offense, that I was able to step away from my own preconceived ideas and away from society’s stereotypes and recognize the value each juvenile has independently, simply because of who they are, acknowledge the many contributions these juveniles can eventually make to the community, and fully comprehend the importance of the role of the CSU within their lives.

Training Activity Increasing at VPSTC; FBI Holds First Session



The Virginia Public Safety Training Center has become much busier in recent weeks as other agencies and clients begin taking advantage of the recently repurposed property once occupied by the Hanover Juvenile Correctional Center. The Virginia State Police has moved its Bureau of Criminal Investigation into the new building completed last November. In these photos, members of the FBI’s Richmond-based evidence response team inspect a “crime scene” set up in the former Bannister House. Participants were learning how to process a crime scene and the proper way to collect evidence.





DJJ NEWS BRIEFS

DJJ Mourns Passing Of Longtime Volunteer Ruth Lucas

By Beverley Tackett, Executive Secretary, Beaumont JCC

Ruth Lucas, a dedicated DJJ volunteer for over 40 years, passed away on Christmas Day, 2013, at the age of 91. Mrs. Lucas volunteered faithfully every month at RDC, Bon Air, Beaumont, Oak Ridge, Hanover and Barrett JCCs as well as the James River Detention Center.

Her sweet spirit and positive message always offered encouragement to the residents in our facilities. On the third week of every month she went to all of the centers with an inspirational movie for the residents to watch. For those who remember her in early days of volunteering, she brought movies in on the old



Mrs. Ruth Lucas with Governor Mark Warner in 2004 when she was awarded the Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award.

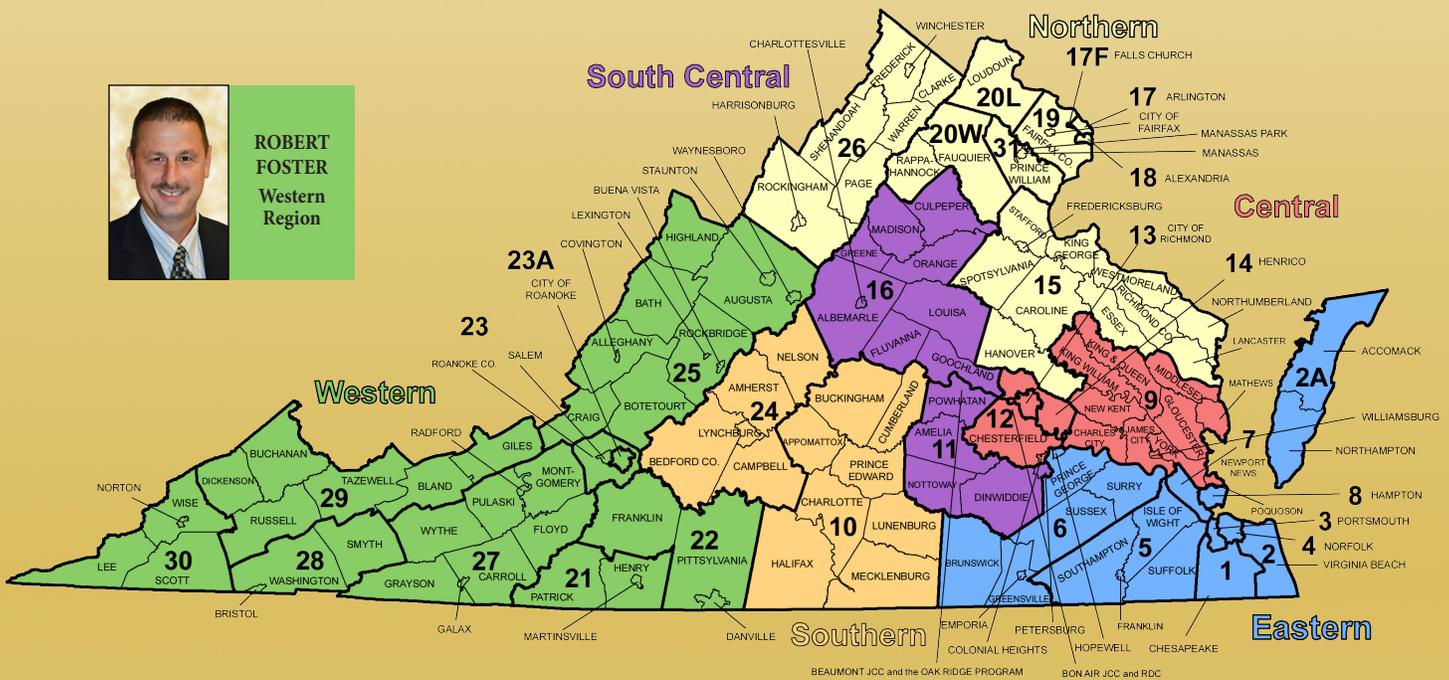
reels to be shown with a projector and screen. Later, she switched to VHS movies.

As founder and president of Richmond Youth Challenge, she also brought many programs to the facilities, including inspirational speakers, concerts and other activities. Her mission was always to help incarcerated youth learn that there were better choices to be made. Her positive influence and strong faith touched the lives of thousands of young people. In recognition of her volunteer efforts, she was awarded the Governor's Community Service and Volunteerism Award by Gov. Mark Warner in 2004.

New RPMs Assume Duties; Regional Map Redrawn



ROBERT FOSTER
Western Region



TERRI STOTT
Northern Region



REGINA HURT
Central Region



DEE KIRK
South-Central Region



JOYCE HOLMON
Southern Region



STEPHANIE GARRISON
Eastern Region

NEWS BRIEFS (Cont.)

City of Richmond Honors Stephanie Garrison



Eastern Region Program Manager and former CSU 13–Richmond Director Stephanie Garrison, left, receives proclamation from the Hon. Marilynn Goss of Richmond’s Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

The Richmond City Council recently presented former CSU 13–Richmond Director Stephanie Garrison with a recognition award, citing her work in “improving program and therapeutic services” while serving as director.

“In America, public service is considered to be among the most important and noble work a person can do,” the award states. “Through her example, Ms. Garrison has proven her dedication to and support of the principles and creed written into the founding documents of our great nation.”

Ms. Garrison has served more than 28 years in the human services field, including with DJJ as a probation officer, rehabilitation counselor and a juvenile corrections officer.



CSU 12 Chesterfield

The new Colonial Heights Courthouse (top) recently opened in Chesterfield County, and CSU 12 staff is enjoying its new offices housed there. Below: Intake Officer Stephanie Underwood at her much-improved work space.

CSU 27 Pulaski

Staff members from CSU 27–Pulaski pause for a group photo in front of the Wythe County Court House in Wytheville, from left: VJCCA Coordinator Jen Kremm, CSU Director Rob Hiatt, Probation Officer Marla Martinez, Senior Probation Officer Barry Anders, Probation Officer Galena Grubb.



CSU 7 Newport News

CSU 7–Newport News recently helped 33-year veteran Probation Supervisor **Mary Daniel-Williams** celebrate her retirement. She began her career with CSU 7 in 1980 as a non-support/intake officer. Over the years, Ms. Daniel-Williams also served as a probation officer, diagnostic officer, senior probation officer, and probation supervisor. “My passion and focus was always to help at-risk youth and families become successful, or effect some positive outcomes in their lives for their good and that of the community,” she said.

She was voted “Employee of the Year” in 1985 by her peers. She has been a licensed real estate agent since 2004, and became a licensed minister in 2012. “I am already enjoying my retirement, and I wish to thank you all for having been a great part of my life over these past 33 years.”



Joining Mary Daniel-Williams, center, at her retirement celebration were members of her CSU 7 probation staff, from left: Gary Downey, Alda Barnett, Renee Copeland, and Amanda Koehly.

NEWS BRIEFS (Cont.)



Ready To Serve

Congratulations to our latest graduating class of Juvenile Correctional Officers, back row, from left: Evan Wallace, Javon Waddell, Joseph Pezzuto, Desmond Stovall, Aswad McLane, Michael Williams, Ashly Williams, Nathaniel Werner, John Kwolek, Andrew Dohm. Top step, from left: Marlon Ricks, Kiyonda Mayo, Jessica Jones, Laquitta Murray. Bottom step, from left: Angel Liggins, Katherine Busch, Evandra Thompson, Genne Jackson. On ground, from left: Mary Collins, Christopher Brown, LeChelle Herron, Sarah Perez, Alonza Bland, Charaya Bennett.

Cedar Lodge Open For Business As A Meeting Center

Effective Monday, March 3, meeting room space at Cedar Lodge, 1701 Old Bon Air Rd., is available for scheduling. To schedule a room, contact Margaret Howard at (804) 323-2505 or by e-mail at margaret.howard@djj.virginia.gov.

Available Meeting Spaces

- Maple Room – Meeting Capacity 40 – Overhead Projector
- Oak Room – Meeting Capacity 15 – Overhead Projector
- Computer Lab – Annex First Floor – Meeting Capacity 18 – 15 Computer Stations
- Conference Room 105 – Annex First Floor – Meeting Capacity 15 – Overhead Projector
- Conference Room 204/205 – Annex Second Floor – Meeting Capacity 40 – Overhead Projector, Polycom

Hours/Days of Availability

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays.

The meeting requester/organizer is responsible for furniture arrangement, ensuring equipment is working properly, and reporting to on-site HR staff any concerns. Basic technical assistance will be provided by on-site staff for overhead projector, Polycom, and computer lab.

Services

Available services include a break room on the Annex second floor, a computer and phone for official business in the Annex first floor lobby, and vending services in the Annex first floor lobby, effective March 15. Restrooms are located in the lobby of the main building, and on first and second floor of the Annex.

❧ Welcome To the DJJ Team, New Employees! ❧

Riley Matsen



Riley Matsen is DJJ's new Assistant Public Information Officer. Ms. Matsen comes to DJJ from serving most recently as the communications and outreach coordinator for the Governor's Secretary of Public Safety, where she developed and implemented a social media strategy, produced a bi-monthly newsletter, prepared press releases and planned press conferences. Before joining the secretary's office, Ms. Matsen served as an intern for McGuireWoods LLC in Columbia, SC, and for the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. Ms. Matsen also worked on the Henry McMaster for Governor campaign in 2010, and in the transition office for the governor-elect. She holds a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and mass

communication with an emphasis on public relations from the University of South Carolina. She is a member of the Alpha Delta Pi sorority and the Phi Alpha Delta pre-law fraternity.

Kathi Mears



Kathi Mears is DJJ's new Capital Outlay Business Manager. Ms. Mears comes to DJJ from serving most recently as the general administration manager at the Science Museum of Virginia. Before joining the museum her prior state service includes seven years at the Department of Health as its compliance and disbursements manager. She holds a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Elon University in North Carolina.

Promotions

Kristina Ashley



Kristina Ashley was promoted to Senior Probation Officer at CSU 28–Abingdon. Ms. Ashley has been an officer with the CSU since April, 2008. She previously worked with the Bristol Virginia Department of Social Services, Highlands Juvenile Detention Center, and with mental health agencies. She is a gang specialist for the unit, and she regularly holds treatment team meetings to manage her high-risk cases.



Pathways Program staff on hand for the graduation ceremony were, from left: Case Manager Todd Smith, Site Supervisor Brandon Jones, Projects and Facility Manager Randy Smith, CPR Instructor Joe Griffiths, Chief Operating Officer Juanita Epps, Chief Training Officer Mike Watts, along with Bon Air JCC Superintendent Don Inge.

Marc Crippen



Marc Crippen has been promoted to Probation Supervisor with CSU 3–Portsmouth. He has been a probation officer for seven years in both the probation and parole units. Previously he was employed as a counselor at Newport News Juvenile Detention and a police officer with the City of Chesapeake. He is a member of MENSA, Virginia Juvenile Justice Association, Virginia Governmental Employees Association, and the Virginia Gang Investigators Association.

38 Residents Complete “Pathways”

Residents of Bon Air JCC who participated in the Pathways-Virginia program, a not-for-profit faith-based organization that helps youth gain employability skills, recently were honored for completing the program.

The program also provides residents with an opportunity to pay required restitution and fines using stipends earned during the program.

The program's goal is to equip residents with nationally recognized credentials to seek employment and/or choose to further their education upon release to the community. The programs offered through Pathways include National Center for Construction Education and Research, Core and Your Role in the Green Environment; First Aid and CPR; Personal Care Assistant; Lead Worker; Customer Service; OSHA Basic Safety; EPA Renovate, Repair, and Paint; and HAZWOPER.

The 38 participants earned from one to seven credentials and more than \$80,000 was issued in stipends.

Kevin Downs



Kevin Downs was promoted to Probation Supervisor at CSU 28–Abingdon. Kevin has more than 28 years of experience with the CSU including work at the Reception and Diagnostic Center. He has also worked with the Department of Corrections. Mr. Downs is currently supervising the Bristol Branch Office.