Orleans Parish Juvenile Court

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Candice Bates Anderson, Chief Judge *Quarterly Newsletter – 2016 Vol. 1*

Chief Judge Welcomes Suzie

Louisiana's First Juvenile Court Facility Dog

As Chief Judge of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court we are very proud that we were able to implement a Facility Dog Program. We are also proud that we are the only Juvenile Court in the State of Louisiana to have implemented such a program. Suzie is her name and she arrived on July 28, 2016 from NEADS (National Education Assistance Dog Services). Since birth Suzie was trained to be a therapy dog and her job is to provide therapeutic services to youth and staff at the Juvenile Justice Center. Suzie's place on the OPJC team was a collaborative effort by many court staff. Suzie was officially introduced to the Court and the community at our Juvenile Justice Awareness Day. Suzie received sponsorships through partnering non-profits, Building A Better 2morrow, Inc. and Louisiana SPCA.

See OPJC Facility Dog Program News Article:
http://www.theadvocate.com/new_orleans/news/courts/article_ee549856-600d-11e6-871d-bff81c4bf831.html

OPJC Juvenile Justice Awareness Day event drew over 200 guests introducing community leaders and members to court programs. Tours were facilitated of the new facility by court staff.

Image Credit: Dawn Hebert-Event Volunteer

OPJC's First Human Trafficking Training Seminar

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court held its first Human Trafficking training on Friday, August 26, 2016. The training focused on sex and labor trafficking involving all types of victims including adults, juveniles, foreign nationals and U.S. Citizens. Case study examples were utilized to demonstrate indicators of human trafficking as well as the complexities of presenting cases for prosecution. The training also provided details on conducting online investigations involving Backpage and other social media outlets.

Above Caption: Volunteers from the audience perform role playing during the HT training.

Court News and Updates

The Orleans Parish Juvenile Court is dedicated to providing a court of excellence for children, youth and families by enforcing the Louisiana Children's Code. The long-term vision of the Judges of the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court (OPJC) is to become a court of excellence that effectively and efficiently hears and disposes of cases that are brought in the areas of abuse and neglect, adoption, child support, delinquency, juvenile traffic offenses, terminations of parental rights, voluntary transfers of custody, voluntary surrenders and other miscellaneous matters.

Hon. Ernestine S. Gray – Dependency Court (Section A)
Honorable Ernestine S. Gray has served at Juvenile Court since November 1984. Judge Gray handles all Children In Need of Care cases also known as "CINC" and is the supervisory Judge over the Orleans Detention Alternative Program.

Hon. Tammy M. Stewart – Delinquency Court (Section B)
Judge Stewart has been serving at Juvenile Court since 2009 and currently oversees Project One Court initiatives and implementation of OPJC's "trauma informed" court initiatives. In addition, Judge Stewart oversees court initiatives for the JDAI program.

Hon. Candice Bates Anderson, Chief Judge – Delinquency Court (Section C)
The Honorable Candice B. Anderson has been serving Juvenile Court since 2010 and is currently the Chief Judge of the Court. Judge Anderson is Chief Administrative Judge over all Court operations.

Hon. Desiree Cook-Calvin - Delinquency Court (Section E)
Judge Cook-Calvin has been serving Juvenile Court since 2014. Judge Cook-Calvin is the sitting Drug Court Judge.

Hon. Mark J. Doherty – Delinquency Court (Section F)
Judge Doherty has been serving Juveniles and families in Orleans parish since 1999. Judge Doherty is the supervisory Judge over Families In Need of Services (FINS) program.

Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice, Bernette J. Johnson visits Juvenile Court's new Juvenile Justice Center.

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On September 12, 2016 Chief Justice Johnson along with other members from Louisiana Supreme Court received a tour of the Juvenile Justice Center.

Latest Court Program Initiatives

OPJC Drug Court H.E.A.T. Program

Drug Court's Director, Kimberly Beshears started a new pilot program titled Habilitation Empowerment Accountability Therapy for Youth. This program known as H.E.A.T. 4 Youth applies a holistic, Afrocentric strength-based model that emphasizes a positive and engaging approach to treatment. H.E.A.T. serves African American males ages 13 to 17 years. The Pilot program will run for six months with mandatory parental involvement. A youth does not have to have a drug problem to join the program but they must have a history of drug involvement or have experimented with drugs. The program components include some of the following:

- African American/ Black Males
- Abuse, mild, moderate DX
- 6 months
- Parent's Component
- Risk/Need Analysis (Accountability Emphasis)
- Cognitive based intervention/ intrinsic
- Addresses ambivalence and resistance

H.E.A.T. curriculum accomplishments covers the following:

- Validates participants life experiences
- Helps resolve emotional, psychological, environmental and experimental issues that shape self-image, behavior and lifestyle choices
- Group Therapy
- Family Therapy
- Manhood Training

Meetings are held twice a week for 90 minutes for 6-month pilot program.

Referrals can be made to the H.E.A.T program by sending an e-mail to Kimberly Beshears at knbeshears@nola.gov.

Girls Reaching Out Works Wonders Partners with Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies

Believe In Youth Initiative

Girls Reaching Out Works Wonders (GROWW) has partnered with Institute of Women and Ethnic Studies (IWES) for the "*Believe In Youth*" Collaborative. This Collaborative a comprehensive sexual health education program and will begin with the GROWW program in September on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00-6:00 p.m. The first session with begin on September 6, 2016. The program will be incorporated with GROWW's existing curriculum and will present information over the course of 13 one-hour sessions that will include positive youth development topics such as, goal-setting, decision-making, communication skills, and stress management. The program also offers education and skill building that encourages participants to make responsible decisions through building self-esteem, placing emphasis on family and community, creating a positive self-image, and making safer sex choices in order to prevent sexually-transmitted infections and teen pregnancy.

The partnership program will be highlighted in GROWW's next participation ceremony scheduled for October 6, 2016 in the Juvenile Justice Training Center at 4:00pm.

For more information you may contact Sondra Mullen at 504-658-9585 or smmullen@nola.gov

Article of the Month

Why Therapy Dogs?

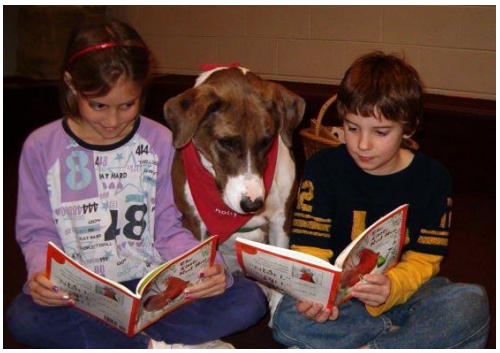


Photo courtesy of Therapy Dog International

A good companion of a good friend is always a wonderful thing to have during hard times. This is why surprisingly, therapy dogs are so important and could offer the same advantage. Therapy dogs are trained to provide assistance to relieve stress, provide emotional support, and provide calm, obedience, and great friends. Therapy dogs will entertain, show affections, and eventually motivate individuals to tackle the sufferings. Here are at least five health benefits of therapy dogs:

1: ***Lowering levels of Epinephrine and Norepinephrine*** - Both important neuro-transmitters in the brain affecting the heart rate, blood pressure, and glucose levels. Interaction created between human and therapy dogs helps lower the levels of these hormones causing more relaxation and promoting *healt*hier conditions.

2. ***Reducing Individual's Anxiety*** - therapy dogs are great in reducing a person's stress level before confronting certain situations, i.e.: facing legal proceedings.

3. ***Increasing the level of endorphin*** – Endorphin is a natural substance produced by the body works by manipulating the perceptions of pain or stress. Petting a therapy dog brings happiness and the feeling of euphoria promoting a better immune response.

4. ***Increasing the level of oxytocin*** – Benefits of a therapy dog are that the animals can boost happiness, improve empathy, stimulate better pair bonding, and promote happier and healthier life.

Reference: Health Benefits of Therapy/Dogs...www.therapydogcertification.com.

Greeting Suzie Tip!

It is so easy to pet Suzie because she is so ADORABLE! Suzie was bred to be a service dog and she actually enjoys following her commands. That's why it is important for her to listen to her Handler, Kimberly when interacting with the public. So, when you see Suzie on the job working with clients hold off on greeting her until she is off duty and not working with court youth. This will confuse Suzie less and everyone could get the pleasure of greeting her.

Community Meetings and Events

September 21st - Family In Need of Services (FINS) Reboot Training

Juvenile Justice Training Center - 8:30am to 4:00pm

Facilitated by: Arnold James, PhD

September 28th - Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: From Prevention to Survivor Care

St. Charles Room, 1st Floor - Dana Student Center

Loyola University, New Orleans, LA

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

This is a FREE event with 6 approved CEUs for social workers.

We have several tickets for our community partners and Juvenile Court staff and Judges.

Please call 504-896-9237 to confirm your attendance.

October 23-26 – The 106th Annual International Association for Truancy & Dropout Prevention Conference

Featuring Governor John Bel Edwards and Mrs. Donna Edwards

CROWNE PLAZA – New Orleans French Quarter

For registration information visit www.iatdp.org

October 29th –Down Syndrome Association of Greater New Orleans

BUDDY WALK 2016 – OPJC OUTREACH - Resource Table

Registration @ 9am - WALK @ 11am Visit: www.dsagno.org

Hon. Ernestine S. Gray

Presents

"Adoption Day"

Saturday, November 19, 2016 at 1:00 pm

Juvenile Justice Center - Juvenile Court

Community Awareness

HURRICANE SEASON…… ARE YOU NOLA READY?

This September is National Preparedness Month and City officials are urging all New Orleans residents to sign up for the NOLA Ready Emergency Alert System, and also urges any resident who may require special assistance during emergencies to sign up for the City's Special Needs Registry. Residents can get more information and sign up for both at ready.nola.gov.

Louisiana Flood Victim Donation Information

NOLA Pay It Forward Fund
https://www.gnof.org/nolapayitforward/

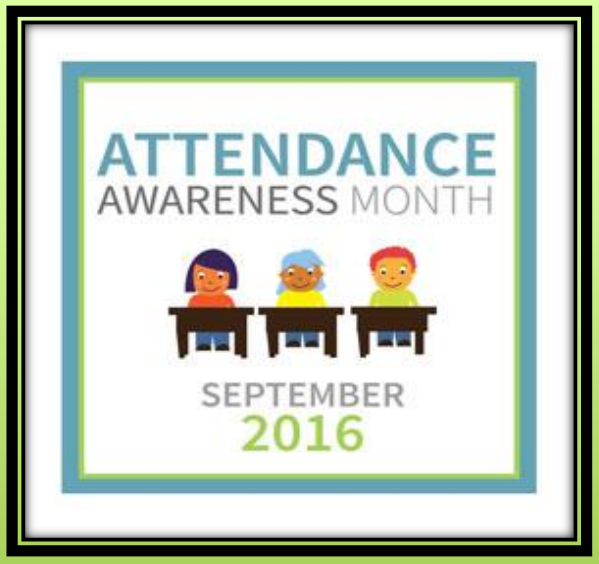
Red Cross
Call 1-800-REDCROSS or text LAFLOODS to 90999 to donate $10

United Way of Southeast Louisiana
2515 Canal St.

Second Harvest Food Bank
700 Edwards Ave., Elmwood, LA.

Louisiana SPCA
Canine Connection
4920 Tchoupitoulas Street; Camp Bow Wow Mid-City
3301 Conti Street
Demo Diva
6426 Memphis Street

Junior League of Greater New Orleans
4319 Carondelet St., 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mon - Fri



Encourage Our Families to Attend School Everyday
Promote
NO ABSENCES!!

Nearly all school districts have some chronically absent students, but half of the nation's 6.5 million chronically absent students – those who miss three or more weeks of school – are concentrated in just 4 percent of its districts, according to a new analysis of federal data.