



1100B Milton Street – New Orleans, LA 70122

(504) 658-9500

www.nola.gov/juvenile-court/

Candice Bates Anderson, Chief Judge

OPJC Newsletter – Vol. 2



Message from the Chief Judge

The Importance of Community Partnerships

As we embrace 2017, it is important that we recognize our significance in the community and how we assist families in fulfilling their need to live substantially. As a juvenile court, our vision is to provide information and referrals that would increase the well-being of our children and families.

We believe that partnerships are important components of OPJC's community advocacy efforts. Partners can enhance community engagement in projects, increase awareness of issues being addressed, and establish a framework for the continued support of services that OPJC has to offer. In addition, our new mentor programs are a perfect example of joining community partners to ensure success. Providing juveniles with alternatives that deter them from entering the juvenile justice system is our focus.

We believe it is important to effectively carry out our programs' goals and objectives. We are all a team and are working for the same cause; to restore and rebuild the family unit within safe communities.

We want to thank our existing partners and ask all community members for their continued support in providing the resources needed to enhance the lives of our children and their families.



JUVENILE COURT OPEN HOUSE

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On October 20th and 21st, 2016, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court's hosted an open house where Judges and City Officials were invited to tour the new facility and meet and greet court staff.

Tours were conducted by our Administrative staff and all visitors received literature on court programs and were introduced to new initiatives at the court.

ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT

Youth Programs on the Rise

Men Engaging in Leadership and Opportunity Works

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court announces a new youth program, Men Engaging in Leadership and Opportunity Works (M.E.L.O.W.). MELOW is for court-involved male youth ages 10 – 17 years. This program serves as an alternative to detention for youth who commit status offenses. Participating youth will receive intensive instruction in the following areas:

- *Mentoring;*
- *Building leadership skills*
- *Learning conflict resolution*
- *Career Development*
- *Community Engagement*

Referrals are made through OPJC's Intake process, Family In Need of Services, partnering community agencies and families. Youth may also be referred directly from their school. The program will be facilitated by a Program Coordinator and Licensed Professional Counselor.

School-Based Diversion Program



*School-Based Diversion Intervention Initiative (S.B.I.I.) is designed for youth who commit minor school violations that result in the individual being arrested, suspended, and/or expelled from school. School-based arrests, suspensions and expulsions further fuel the school to prison pipeline across the country and account for more than 14% of the youth arrested in Orleans Parish from August 2015 - May 2016. Once a youth enters the SBII program, they attend for ten weeks twenty groups and/or individual sessions. A SBII counselor/therapist meets with participants during the elective period to ensure youth attendance. SBII uses two therapeutic models: *restorative approaches* – processes and strategies used to repair harm and build/strengthen relationships, and H.E.A.T. - (Habilitation Empowerment, Accountability and Therapy). Program success will be weighted by three categories: recidivism (new or repeat offenses), school program attendance, and positive changes in behavior while at school. (*Anticipated Program Start Date is August 2017*)*

ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court relies on community partnerships for successful youth programs. Improving our community and making it a place where people are healthy, safe, and cared for – takes a lot of “teamwork.” Having effective collaborative partnerships gives hope that changing unhealthy conditions in our community will change people’s behavior and present more productive outcomes in their lives.

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court would like to thank the community partners listed below for their collaborative efforts to make a better community for our families.

Welcome OPJC Partners



**DOG FACILITY PROGRAM
OPJC RECEIVES GRANT FOR TALE-TO-TAIL COMPANION
READING PROGRAM**



*Pictured are students from
Mahalia Jackson Elementary
School.*

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court received a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for Humanities Foundation for its “Tale-to-Tail Companion Reading Program.” The grant, “Soixante-dix (70)” is for seventy days and will focus on increasing language and reading skills for court involved youth.

Thank You Sponsors for a Wonderful 2016!

The Judges and staff of Orleans Parish Juvenile Court would like to thank Suzie’s sponsors who continue to support her through health and wellness:

Building A Better 2morrow, Inc.

City Park “Dog Bark”

Louisiana SPCA

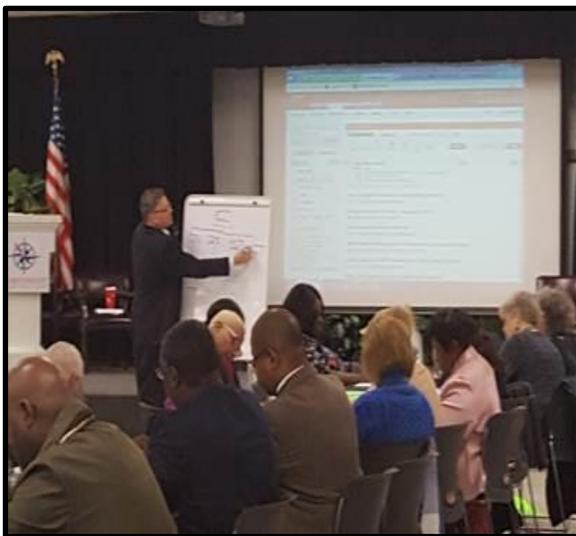
JCB Creations

Petco

COURT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Co-Sponsors Grant Workshop 26th Judicial District Attorney's Office

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court co-hosted a Statewide Grant Writing and Resources Training Workshop presented by J. Schuyler Marvin District Attorney for Bossier – Webster Parishes. Mr. Lee Clemons, Program Coordinator of DA's Office. Mr. Lee Clemons of the D.A.'s Office served as the organizer of the workshop. Mr. Scott Peterson, CEO of Global Youth Justice, Incorporated and the Honorable Arthur L. Burnett, Sr., Providence town, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, USA were facilitators of the workshop. The workshop featured a component on establishing a Teen Court for juvenile courts. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court plans on implement a Teen Court in the August 2017.



Mayor Lorenz Walker (left) present an honorary award to Judge Burnett and Scott Peterson.



Teen Court volunteers for Bossier/Webster District are recognized by Pat Faulkinberry, Director of Bossier Parish Teen Court.

COURT MEETINGS AND EVENTS

“Conversations with Juvenile Court” was presented to the board members of Orleans Parish School Board to discuss court partnership for the children of New Orleans and working together to prevent juvenile delinquency.



The Honorable Judge Candace B. Anderson, Chief Judge of OPJC, presents to members of OPSB on February 16 on court programs and processes.

Chief Judge Anderson and Ranord Darensburg, OPJC’s Judicial Administrator, are pictured with OPSB members.



OPJC staff attend OPSB meeting. Pictured from left to right: Tina H. Brown, Ranord Darensburg, Willie Morgan, Dashika Davis, and Judge Anderson.

“Conversations with Juvenile Court” is a community outreach initiative. Contact (504) 658-9545 for more information.

COURT PROGRAM NEWS

GROWW IS ON THE MOVE!

GROWW teamed up with "Girl Trek" a nationally recognized organization that teaches young girls healthy living and encourage "walking" for a healthier heart.

Pictured are participants of the program who visited with the local "Girl Trek" team.



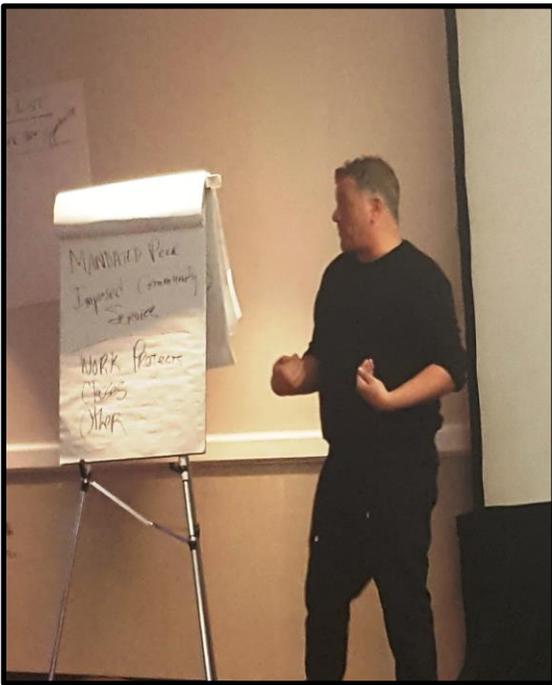
GirlTrek

GirlTrek is a National Organization with a chapter in New Orleans. Walk meetings are done in Audubon Park and City Park, twice a week.

Guests joined GROWW participants in the monthly *celebration participation ceremony*. Guests included, (from left to right), Ann Maier, OPJC Data Analyst, guest speaker and poet, Daisha Calliet and special guest, Councilmember Susan Guidry, District "A"



FUTURE INITIATIVE FOR JUVENILE COURT TEEN COURT 2017



Above: Scott Peterson of Global Youth Initiative presents at the 2017 Teen Court Conference in January

Orleans Parish Juvenile Court will re-introduce its Teen Court program in 2017. Teen Courts are nationally recognized youth court programs that provide an alternative disposition for juveniles who have committed a delinquent act. Allowable offenses include misdemeanors that are otherwise eligible for diversion. OPJC staff members attended a Teen Court Conference held in January 2017 in preparation of re-implementing OPJC's Teen Court program scheduled to begin in August.



T.H. Brown, grant writer of OPJC, is pictured with the Hon. Arthur L. Burnett, Sr. presenter with Global Youth Justice, Inc.

A Teen Court is also an opportunity for high school students to obtain volunteer service hours while learning about court processes.

For volunteer opportunities contact Tina Haines Brown, Grant Writer at (504) 658-9520 for more information.

ORLEANS PARISH JUVENILE COURT EMPLOYEES HONORED



“ANGEL AWARD”

On November 30, 2016, Ms. Kendra Alexis, Director of Orleans Detention Alternative Program received the “Angel Award” from the Louisiana Institute for Children in Families & The Legislative Foster Care & Adoption Caucus. Ms. Alexis is pictured with The Honorable Ernestine Grav, OPJC.



The Honorable Desiree Cook-Calvin receives a plaque from the 26th Judicial District Attorney’s Office at the Statewide Grant Workshop. Orleans Parish Juvenile Court co-sponsored the grant workshop with Bossier City/DA’s Office.



Mr. Clarence Bickham, Youth Advocate for ODAP, receives a certificate at a speaking engagement at Southern University at New Orleans. Mr. Bickham presented to the Public Administration Department/Public Policy Class.

SUZIE HONORED AS "DUCHESS" IN KREWE OF BARKUS PARADE



Kimberly
Beshears,
Suzie's
Handler, in
costume.

Pictured Right:
OPJC Staff:

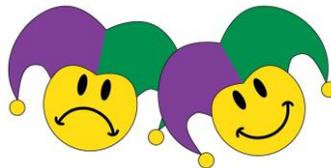
Judge
Doherty,
Germaine,
Kimberly, and
Tina, take a
picture with



Suzie before
her Grand
Debut.



Suzie's Float



Suzie is pictured with her parade escort, Brice.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



OPJC Staff members, Kimberly Beshears and Jetaun Griffin, attend the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Walk in October 2016.



Pictured with Suzie is Judge Cook-Calvin who participated in the Character Reading Program at Mary McLeod Bethune Elementary in October 2016. Judge Cook-Calvin dressed as Mama Odie from Disney's Princess and the Frog.



Suzie visits St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton Catholic School. Presentation of OPJC's Dog Facility Program was given by Suzie's handler, Kimberly Beshears.

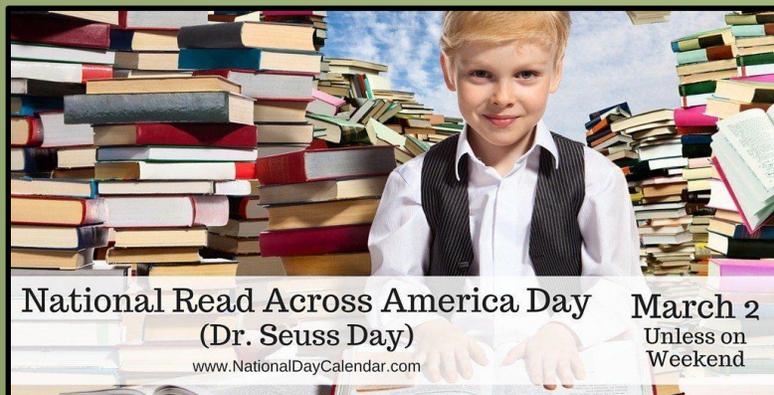
COMMUNITY AWARENESS



OneApp Applications are Due February 28, 2017. Enroll at <https://enrollnola.org/how-to-enroll-in-nops/apply-transfer-next-school-year/>

NORDC - New Orleans Recreation Department Commission
Summer Expo - Saturday, March 4, 2017
10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Get information and register for youth summer camps, teen summer camps, and other NORDC summer activities. Registration Locations: Gernon Brown Rec Center; Joe W. Brown Park, Tremé Rec Center, Cut-Of Rec Center, Lyons Rec Center. For more information visit www.nordc.org/sumer-camp/



March 2nd is *National Read Across America Day*. An annual event that is part of the Read Across America initiative. This awareness was created by the National Education Association. *Let's encourage our children to read!*

For questions and concerns regarding the newsletter please contact Tina Haines Brown, (504) 658-9520.
E-mail: thbrown@nola.gov