

RESTORATIVE NEWS

FALL 2016

YOUTH SERVICES:

Neighborhood
Accountability
Boards (NAB)
and
Moral
Reconciliation
Therapy (MRT)

[http://
www.lee.gov/dhs](http://www.lee.gov/dhs)

TOP VOLUNTEER HOURS

Jack Ryan 179.5

Alibaba 83
Lumumba

Janet 48.5
Alexiou

Josette 45
Wahl

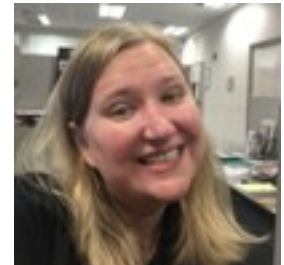
Kelvin 44
Thompkins

Staff News

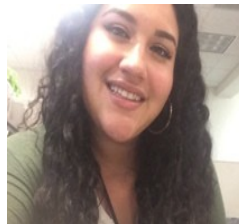
Our very own Jessica Rubinski was named the Employee of the Quarter for Lee County Human and Veteran Services on August 17, 2016 due to her exemplary leadership skills and willingness to be a team player. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful employee as part of our NAB team.



Welcome to our new intern, Tiffany Collado! She is a Senior at FGCU, majoring in Social Work. She chose the Neighborhood Accountability Board due to its utilization of restorative justice principles, which is something she has always been interested in. Tiffany started her internship on August 17, 2016, and will be with us until May 2017. When she is not working, doing her internship, or going to school, you can catch her at the beach listening to Guns N' Roses or Led Zeppelin.



A new staff member has come on board! Tara Daltry-Johnson joined the NAB team on June 23, 2016. She comes to us after working in the probation field for the last 8 years. She loves working with kids and appreciates the opportunities the NAB program provides for the youth by working with the youth, families, and community resources.



The Year in Review: October 2015— September 2016

Neighborhood Accountability Boards:
*224 youth enrolled
*143 successfully completed
*34 referred back for non-compliance
*47 carried over
*92% of youth remained crime-free 6 months after completion
*47 volunteers served a combined 677.75 hours

Moral Reconciliation Therapy:
*29 youth enrolled
*21 youth graduated from the program
*8 referred back for non-compliance
*100% of youth who graduated from the program remained crime-free 6 months after completion.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards/ Moral Reconciliation Therapy:
*973.5 hours of community service completed by youth
*\$9,910.60 in monetary restitution paid by youth

Spotlight on: Juvenile Assessment Center



The Juvenile Assessment Center (JAC) is the processing center for when a juvenile is arrested. It is run by the Lee County Sheriff's Office and is also staffed by the Department of Juvenile Justice and Lutheran Services.

The Juvenile Assessment Center provides many services for Lee County. Not only do they process all the arrested youth in Lee County, but they also house the Civil Citation program run by the Lee County Sheriff's Office, prevention counseling services for at-risk youth provided by Lutheran Services, and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) in conjunction with Lee County Human and Veteran Services.

The Juvenile Assessment Center's website provides a list of Frequently Asked Questions for law enforcement, youth, parents of arrested and at-risk youth, and the community. There are also links to helpful information on local resources for Lee County, the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice and how a case moves through the juvenile justice system, and a useful publication for all teenagers entitled "Know the Law".

Did you know?? The JAC provides a drug test kit to parents at NO COST! This FREE service is offered as a tool for parents to monitor or prevent drug use by their youth. Ask a member of the JAC staff for a FREE drug test! Please check them out at: <http://jac.sheriffleefl.org/>

An Apology Letter by: 15 year old girl



Dear Detective,

It was embarrassing being picked up from school by cops, especially for something so petty. I look forward to not getting in trouble with the law because that simply is just not for me. I have plans for the future and those do not include being on probation or even worse incarcerated. I want to finish school and go to college so I can get a good job and live good without having problems with the law; set a good

example for my future children so they follow my steps and become good people as well. I want to be an exceptional citizen that also sets an example for others, not just my family but for my friends and strangers. Thank you for setting an example for people who are misguided and for the services you provide. You put your life at risk literally every day just so we can be safe and are always there to serve injustice and crime. Thank you for everything.

THANK YOU!!!

As it is the season for giving thanks, we would like to take a moment to give thanks to all of the stakeholders who make the Neighborhood Accountability Board possible.

Thank you to all of our volunteers as we would not be able to do this program without you!

Thank you to the following places for allowing us to hold our NAB conferences: Cape Coral Library, Northwest Regional Library, North Fort Myers Library,

Fort Myers Regional Library, Lakes Regional Library, Veterans Park Recreation Center, and East County Regional Library.

Thank you to all of our community resources, especially Lutheran Services, Oasis Youth Shelter, the Juvenile Assessment Center, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the State Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, Lee County Clerk of Court, Sinfonia, the Lee County School District, and SalusCare. We have appreciated all of your assistance this past year!



Who would make an ideal member of the Neighborhood Accountability Board?

By: Jack Ryan, Volunteer



Front: Kelvin Thompkins, Laura Allard
Back: Alibaba Lumumba, Jack Ryan
Volunteers take a break between NABs to smile for the camera at North Fort Myers Public Library.

“That is a good question! One night as I sat on a NAB meeting, looking around the table of members, it became quite clear to me that a lot of citizens make perfect members. I taught for 30 years in Lee County and coached for twenty years. Teachers and coaches make perfect members. Also at the table was a police officer, who makes a perfect member since they know so much about the community and have so much wisdom to share. Also on the panel that night was a member, who two years before was on the other side of the table.

All her knowledge coming from another perspective is just too valuable. It was like been there done that. The last member that night was a NAB volunteer of 12 years who is retired and just loves working with what she calls her children. What a perfect mix. And, it seems every board is a perfect mix. Different but perfect in its own way. Our success rate is off the charts and the juvenile courts give us a big thanks for a job well done. Please bring your talents to NAB.”

“Volunteering is the ultimate exercise in democracy. You vote in elections once a year, but when you volunteer, you vote every day about the kind of community you want to live in”.
~Author Unknown

Meet Our New Volunteers!



Jesi Cason is a non-profit professional and small business owner who specializes in the disability services field and has worked

with at-risk youth. She believes volunteering brings out the best in humanity and also donates her photography skills to worthy causes.

Peter Knowler is a Senior Juvenile Probation Officer with the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, where he has worked for the past 11 years. Prior to joining DJJ, he was employed with Eckerd Youth Alternatives Re-entry



program for 7 years. He is a veritable wealth of knowledge on the juvenile justice system. In his off time, Peter enjoys spending time with his two awesome children and listening to heavy metal music.

Welcome to the graduates of the Neighborhood Accountability Board training held on September 10, 2016

Jeremy Azinger is the owner of U Break I Fix in downtown Fort Myers who got into volunteering while he was in the Army and while employed by Target. He



is the proud father of two beautiful children and in his off time, he enjoys spending time with his wife and kids and playing video games.

Jonathan Wilcox is an FGCU graduate majoring in Sociology and works for Goodwill Industries as the Goodwill Boutique manager. He learned about the importance of volunteering from his grandparents



who volunteered with the Guardian ad Litem program for 15 years. He previously volunteered as a Big Brother for the Big Brother Big Sister program. In his spare time, he likes to hike, kayak, and paddleboard.

WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

MRT NEWS

Moral Reconciliation

Therapy (MRT)

MRT group has started again at the JAC. Group is held on Thursdays from 6:30pm to 8pm. MRT strives to re-educate youth socially, morally, and behaviorally by enhancing self-image and adhering to a cognitive-behavioral 12 step treatment curriculum. Parents of MRT youth are encouraged to attend a parent support group that runs concurrent to MRT group.

THANK YOU TO FLORIDA MAIL AND PRINT FOR SPONSORING THE PARENT SUPPORT GROUP! The ability to provide evidenced based practices to our community could not be done without organizations like yours! Your community thanks you too!



6401 Metro Plantation Rd
Fort Myers, FL 33966
239-482-0110

UPCOMING EVENTS

Hope by Song: Please come join this talented group of musicians as they perform original pieces submitted by people struggling with addiction, homelessness, PTSD, and other issues. They will be at the Human and Veteran Services building, conference room 102, on the following dates at 6:00pm:

- January 9, 2017
- February 13, 2017

Check them out online at:
www.hopebysong.com



Taco Tuesday: Join us in celebrating Taco Tuesday on January 31, 2017 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at Lee County Human and Veteran Services conference room 102. Choose from beef, chicken, or bean tacos with a variety of toppings for the low price of \$5.00 for two tacos, chips, and salsa. Each additional taco will be \$2.00! All proceeds go to the United Way.



New Volunteer Training

Want to give back to your community? Enjoy working with kids? Then join the NAB Restorative justice program! Our next training is scheduled for December 10, 2016.



Please contact Nora at
NDonato-Hitchcock@leegov.com or
(239) 533-7900 for more information.

Free Training Offered

The Lee County Sheriff's Office is offering a free training on Frauds, Scams, and Cons on January 25, 2017 from 2pm to 3pm at the Human and Veteran Services building, conference room 102. All are welcome to attend.