



# IMAGINE

## JTDC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2017



*“When residents arrive at the detention center, we focus on putting them in a position to succeed. We must return these youngsters to the community with the tools they need. And this barbershop provides a social and educational atmosphere for the students to develop life and job skills. Programs like this also offer hope – hope that the resident’s current stay at the center will be the last.”*

-Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans

### SUPERINTENDENT’S MESSAGE

We have a responsibility to our profession. We must have confidence in what we do. I have confidence in myself, my vision for this facility and the people who work here. We will not allow confidence killers, such as low self-image, fear and other people’s opinion of us deter us from our goal of operating a constitutionally sound and professional facility poised on detention standards.

Thank you and keep up the good work!

-Leonard B. Dixon, Superintendent

### IN THIS ISSUE

Superintendent’s Message	Pg. 1
JTDC’s S.T.A.R. Barber College	Pg. 1
Tell Your Story: Investing in Our Youth	Pg. 2
Resident Parenting Program	Pg. 2
Annual Louder Than A Bomb Poetry Slam	Pg. 2
Health & Wellness Week	Pg. 2
Human Resources Service Center	Pg. 2
JTDC Staff News	Pg. 3
Resident Graduation Ceremony	Pg. 3
Onsite Pediatric Cardiology Clinic	Pg. 3
Pre-apprentice Painting Program	Pg. 3
Karma Garden Program	Pg. 3
Volunteer Programming	Pg. 3
Kudos Corner	Pg. 4
Nancy B. Jefferson School Administration	Pg. 4
Project Safe Neighborhoods	Pg. 4
Policy Review	Pg. 4

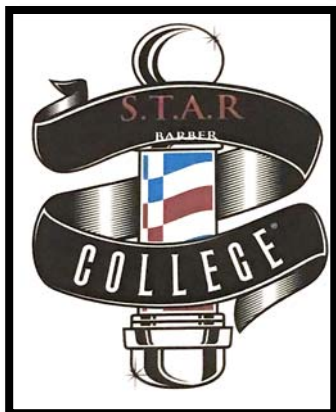
## Standing Tall Against Recidivism: Grand Opening of JTDC’s S.T.A.R Barber College

On June 14, 2017 JTDC celebrated the grand opening of its on-site barber college, S.T.A.R. Barber College. S.T.A.R., an acronym for *Standing Tall Against Recidivism*, is the first barber college located in a juvenile detention center in Illinois.

S.T.A.R.’s Barber Supervisor, Bobby Mattison, founded the program with a goal to give JTDC residents the tools to: leave JTDC better than they came in, obtain a lucrative career and an honest living, give back to their community, and acquire skills that cannot be taken from them.

S.T.A.R. is fully licensed in the state of Illinois and credits earned are transferrable to other barber colleges in Illinois. Eight residents, selected from a competitive group of qualified applicants, are enrolled in classes which began in June 2017.

Chief Judge Timothy C. Evans and Superintendent Dixon thank the community, residents, families and JTDC staff for supporting these young men and women as they embark on a new career.



## Tell Your Story: Investing in Our Youth

by Debra Hart

Commissioner Bridget Gainer and the Art of Men mentoring organization partnered to host a book drive and community panel for JTDC youth entitled Tell Your Story: Investing in Our Youth. The book drive resulted in over 1,000 books being donated for JTDC residents.

The community panel was held at JTDC on May 19th, and included Bridget Gainer, Cook County Commissioner for the 10th district, JTDC Superintendent Leonard B. Dixon, Jamal Cole from My Block, My Hood, My City, Kevin Coval from Young Chicago Authors, Berto Aguayo of the Resurrection Project, and Arthur Gurwitz from Art of Men. The program was moderated by WLS-TV ABC 7 news anchor, Terrell Brown, who also concluded the program with questions from the residents.



## Resident Parenting Program

by Anna Buckingham

Through the generosity of the JTDC Foundation and a partnership with Changing Children's Worlds Foundation (CCWF), JTDC hosted a 6 week parenting program for expecting and parenting residents.

Through semiweekly lessons and discus-

sion, residents explored the roles parents play in the development of children and discussed the importance of the environment that enables parents to have a supportive and nurturing foundation.

Residents were given RealCare Baby infant simulators and "pregnancy pouches" to create confidence in handling infants and carrying a pregnancy. With these hands-on

tools and interactive role-plays, residents were able to grasp the concepts of empathy and increase their comfort level in handling an infant and managing an upset child. Participants expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn the skills taught in the course. JTDC hopes to offer this experience to our other pregnant and parenting residents.

## Annual Louder than a Bomb Poetry Slam

by Anna Buckingham

Our youth have a lot to say. Are you listening?

Founded in 2001 by Young Chicago Authors (YCA), Louder than a Bomb (LTAB) is an annual youth poetry slam which engages schools and community organizations

from throughout the Chicago region. LTAB is a friendly competition that emphasizes self-expression and community via poetry, oral story-telling and hip-hop spoken word.

On Sunday June 4, 2017, the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC) held their annual Louder than a Bomb Poetry Slam. The slam was hosted by YCA teaching artist, Tim "Toaster" Henderson, sound was provided by Free Write

teaching artist, Elgin-Bokari T. Smith, and a JTDC Resident was the disc jockey.

The slam featured performances from 28 JTDC residents. In their spoken word pieces residents shared their personal struggles, romantic aspirations and hopes for the future. The residents showed great senses of humor and an enormous amount of wisdom. The talent displayed by the residents of the JTDC was outstanding.

## Health & Wellness Week

by Erie Solomon

In June 2017, JTDC's Office of Training and Professional Development initiated the JTDC Wellness Week. This was the first training of its kind at JTDC and concentrated on improving employee wellness and reducing staff burnout. Staff were offered training in: (1) Methods for managing stress/burnout; (2) Coping with vicarious

trauma; and (3) The fitness program offered to Cook County employees through Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Employees participated in "hands on" activities including guided meditation, yoga, nutrition bingo, health screening by University of Illinois-Chicago Nursing School students, acupuncture, massage therapy and Reiki. A JTDC intern led employees in an opportunity to "work off some steam"

during a creative dance workshop and a personal trainer followed up with a group fitness class.

JTDC showcased an array of services that encouraged healthy lifestyle choices and wellness. The Wellness Week Training received excellent feedback from all participants. JTDC Training Department's goal is to include this training in the annual JTDC training calendar.

## Human Resources Service Center

by Yolanda Adams

On May 22, 2017 the Human Resources Department celebrated the Grand Opening of the Human Resources Service Center (HRSC)! The purpose of the HRSC is to increase the level of service and resourcefulness offered to staff. The event was attended by approximately 150 employees

who enjoyed learning more about the HR goals, initiatives, and commitment to being Customer-Centric. Staff on all shifts were excited to see their HR Representatives and had great questions about our vision. To learn more about the purpose of the HRSC or to provide feedback on our development, please see a member of the HR Department. We are excited about the center and excited about our renewed commitment to the JTDC Staff!



## Resident Graduation

### Ceremony

by Philippe Magloire

On June 15, 2017, five (5) High School and eight (8) Elementary School students graduated from Nancy B. Jefferson School (NBJ). Bridget Gainer, Cook County Com-

missioner for the 10th district, was the ceremony's keynote speaker. During her speech, Commissioner Gainer motivated the graduates to move forward with their lives and to continue with their education. The ceremony was well attended, with over one hundred NBJ faculty, JTDC staff, and family members cheering our graduates.

## Onsite Pediatric Cardiology Clinic

by Josie Mabalay

Cermak Health Services unveiled the first pediatric cardiology clinic at the JTDC. Dr. Zahra Naheed, a CCHHS pediatric cardiologist, agreed to provide specialty pediatric cardiology clinic at the JTDC every first

Wednesday of the month. This provides tremendous benefit to the patients as well as the JTDC. Cermak anticipates a reduction in off-site appointments and resident refusals to go to Stroger clinic. This initiative is twice favorable to JTDC since the ECG, a procedure required prior to seeing the pediatric cardiologist, is also now performed on-site.

## Pre-Apprentice Painting Program

by Philippe Magloire

In partnership with Facilities Management and the Painters District Council 14, the JTDC provided a Pre-Vocational Painting

Program to residents during the month of June. The residents who completed this program were able to earn Chicago Public Schools CTE credits, as well as apprenticeship credits. Residents learned basic painting techniques and how to patch holes in walls.

## Karma Garden Program

by Debra Hart

The JTDC Karma Garden is off to a great start for 2017 thanks to the partnership of JTDC, the Nancy B. Jefferson Alternative School, the University of Illinois Extension and the JTDC Foundation.

JTDC residents gain gardening and horticulture skills while earning Chicago Public School (CPS) Service Learning Hours towards graduation. In 2016, the garden

produced 400 pounds of vegetables which were donated to local food pantries. We are hoping to do the same this year!



## Volunteer Programming

by Debra Hart



Last quarter was brimming with activities for JTDC youth coordinated by JTDC's Office of Community Outreach & Engagement (Volunteer Services). The continued support of community volunteers like Ter-

rell Brown, news anchor for WLS-TV ABC 7 Eyewitness News, make a difference in the success of JTDC's special programs.

**APRIL** featured the return of Bill Glass Ministries' program titled Behind the Walls. This program offers a message of hope and deliverance to JTDC residents. Ninety-seven (97) residents participated.

**MAY** concluded the 10-week Write On! Residency with the Writers Theatre. This was a residency designed to spark a dialogue with participants on conflict resolution and healthy relationships. Writers Theatre teaching artists worked with one

## JTDC STAFF NEWS

### NEW HIRES

**Nicholas Glass**

*Youth Development Specialist*

**Justin West**

*Youth Development Specialist*

**Miguel Gonzalez**

*Youth Development Specialist*

**Angelina Lasenby**

*Youth Development Specialist*

**Leon Guyton**

*Barber*

**Dorrian Whigham**

*Barber*

**Albertine Donaldson**

*Night shift House Administrator*

*Cermak at JTDC*

**Ebonie Hagler**

*Ward clerk (Clinic Scheduling)*

*Cermak at JTDC*

**Daarina Muhammad**

*Clinical Nurse 1*

*Cermak at JTDC*

**Summer Whigham**

*Clinical Nurse 1*

*Cermak at JTDC*

\*\*\*\*\*

### STAFF SUGGESTION BOX

A staff suggestion box is now operational and located in the south staff lunch room. Please share your ideas or concerns— anonymously or not.

pod using theatre to explore ways students can reflect on choices in order to equip participants with recognizing and responding to conflict.

**JUNE** included successful community outreach events from the JTDC Detention Prevention Initiative. Presentations were conducted at Sherman Elementary and the Cook County Sheriff's Department Juvenile Justice and Advocacy Unit. These events are great opportunities for the youth to be educated about the JTDC and be reminded that they are important and that if they set goals and make positive decisions, detention prevention is possible.

## Nancy B. Jefferson School Administration

by Dr. Leonard Harris

It is with a great sense of humility, servitude, and pride that I, Dr. Leonard Harris, Principal of Nancy B. Jefferson School, introduce the school's new administrative team. First, joining the team in June 2017 was Assistant Principal Syrena Bodden-Alexander. For the past 12 years, Mrs. Bodden-Alexander has served in the capacity of a school psychologist for Chicago Public Schools. Mrs. Bodden-Alexander brings a plethora of knowledge and expertise in the areas of cognitive assessment and implementation of effective behavioral and academic interventions, along with a razor focus on cutting edge research to address students' cognitive and non-cognitive abilities. Jenelle Spearmon, our second Assistant Principal, joined the team in July. For over 22 years, Mrs. Spearmon has worked for Chicago Public Schools in various capacities as an elementary and high school math teacher, high school scheduler, and as an assistant principal. Collectively, as an administrative team, we have over 40 years of experience in the field of urban education leadership.

It is our goal and commitment to the students, parents, teachers, Cook County Temporary Juvenile Detention personnel, and to all external stakeholders to make Cook County's Juvenile Temporary Detention Center the premier detention center in the United States. This will be achieved by working collaboratively and in tandem with Superintendent Leonard Dixon and Deputy Superintendent Diane McGhee, along with their administrative staff and the Chicago Public School's Network 11 Chief, Megan Hougard. We will develop intricate educational systems, structures, and restorative intervention strategies and programs to provide maximum support for the academic and behavior challenges of 21st century students residing in the Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center.



## Project Safe Neighborhoods Program

by Philippe Magloire

During the month of June, the JTDC continued to partner with the US Attorney's Office and the Chicago Police Department to provide residents with the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program (PSN). This program, which seeks to reengage youth with

their communities, the police, and schools, through a series of forums was very well received by residents of the Renaissance and Destiny Centers.

Speakers for the PSN program during the month of June at the JTDC included Deputy Chief Watson of the Chicago Police Department and Beth Ford, Deputy Director of the Community Relations Division of the Chicago Police Department.

## Policy Review

by DED Bill Kern

**JTDC HELPDESK REMINDER:** For all computer and phone issues, e-mail the JTDC Helpdesk at [JTDC.Helpdesk@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:JTDC.Helpdesk@cookcountyil.gov). If you cannot access your e-mail, contact your supervisor to e-mail the Helpdesk. This ensures that the issue will be addressed by the first available MIS Team

member. For after-hours IT emergencies, contact the Supervisor in Charge. (Examples of an IT related emergency include: An entire critical system outage such as RMIS or S drive or loss of the phone system.) Reference: Bulletin #RAQL-2016-001.

**COOK COUNTY DATA STORAGE TIPS:** It is prohibited by Cook County employees to

## KUDOS CORNER

JTDC extends a special Kudos to the following staff/interns:

\*\*\*\*\*

Interns **Bianca Rosado** (DePaul University) and **Chandra Perkins** (University of Arkansas Pine Bluff) as well as JTDC Staff **LaToya Hazelwood**, Assistant Team Leader, and **John Adams**, Gang Specialist, for their help with the JTDC Detention Prevention Initiative. Their contribution made the experience memorable for the youth as well the Cook County Sheriffs.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Ms. Reema Hamdan**, Nancy B. Jefferson School teacher, for assisting with an Arabic speaking youth and his family.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Mrs. Grymes and Mr. Kilgore**, Nancy B. Jefferson School staff, for their great work performed with regards to Nancy B. Jefferson School's 2017 graduation ceremony.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Melinda Maciel**, PREA Coordinator, for conducting PREA training for Nancy B. Jefferson School staff.

# Thank you!

store non-business related files, music or photographs in their My Documents Folder, S drive or H drive or on any Cook County network resources. Avoid having duplicate files in multiple locations, and do not save work to your Desktop; any work saved to the Desktop is not backed up and can be lost permanently should there be a system malfunction.