



IMAGINE

JTDC QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2017



Supreme Court Justice Anne Burke

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Staff:

I would like to continue to thank you for the outstanding work you are doing. Although these are challenging times during budget requests, we will continue to work for the best interest of the youth, staff and this community.

I am inspired by Nelson Mandela who told us: "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

-Leonard B. Dixon, Superintendent

IN THIS ISSUE

Supreme Court Justice Burke Conducts Circle with JTDC Residents

The Honorable Anne Burke, Illinois Supreme Court Justice, visited JTDC on September 7, 2017. Justice Burke met with Superintendent Dixon and DED Magloire to learn the "ins and out" of JTDC.

She facilitated a circle with female residents from the WINGS Center speaking with the residents about her life and the challenges that she conquered to reach her success. Justice Burke notes that she had learning difficulties while in school and advises parents to "be open to listening to what your children can do and encourage them to experiment, to try all kinds of things."¹ Justice Burke stressed the importance education plays in enabling a person to become a productive members of society.

She encouraged JTDC residents to set short and long term plans as a roadmap for their

future. WINGS Center residents were engaged and asked Justice Burke many questions about her position and how the Illinois Supreme Court works.

Burke and her husband, the alderman for Chicago's 14th Ward, are licensed foster parents and have five children. Burke began her judicial career in 1987, as the first woman appointed to the Illinois Court of Claims. She served on the Illinois Courts Commission, the Special Commission on the Administration of Justice, and the Board of Admissions to the Bar. Burke was appointed to the Appellate Court in 1995 and elected the following year to the Appellate Bench, where she remained until being appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court's First District in 2006.

¹The Yale Center for Dyslexia and Creativity <http://dyslexia.yale.edu/story/anne-m-burke/>

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Girls in the Game

by Anna Buckingham

JTDC had the opportunity to partner with *Girls in the Game* for over a year and a half providing comprehensive and dynamic programming to the JTDC residents. This partnership brings programming into the JTDC designed specifically to assist female residents.

The *Girls in the Game* program helps residents develop skills in leadership, self-worth, grit, healthy lifestyles, confidence, and teamwork. At *Girls in the Game* every girl finds her voice, discovers her strength and leads with confidence through fun and active sports, health and leadership programs. *Girls in the Game* empowers all girls to be game-changers.



Better Make Room for Nancy B. Jefferson Students

by Leonard Harris

Nancy B. Jefferson (NBJ) proudly announces the launch of three academic programs for the 2017-2018 school year. The programs ensure that NBJ graduates are ready to compete for all the exciting postsecond-

ary and career options Chicago offers. The programs include:

1. A competency based learning program aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) and 21st century workplace demands.
2. A Credit Attainment and Recovery program for students to retake classes or take extra classes as graduation looms.

3. A Dual Credit program, for students to take high school and college courses simultaneously.

NBJ wants JTDC residents to have the opportunity to knuckle down and get the job done.

Stay tuned and watch the JTDC residents grow through these new academic programs.

Latino Heritage Month

by Melinda Maciel



The Hispanic Heritage Week was inaugurated in 1968 and expanded to a month-long celebration in 1988. During Hispanic Heritage Month, the United States celebrates the history, culture, and contribu-

tions of Americans citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America and South America. JTDC offers Latino cultural awareness programming for all residents to encourage Latin residents to take pride in their diversity by celebrating their food, music, language, dance and history.

The 2017 celebration included:

- Latin inspired meals each week,
- Paño art workshop conducted by the National Museum of Mexican Art,
- Spoken word workshop,
- Dance workshop of bachata, merengue, cumbia and salsa courtesy of DanceMates Educational Arts,
- Piñata making contest,

- Soccer tournament,
- Latino fraternities presentations regarding fraternity history and importance of education,
- Tamale sale with postres (desserts) and an authentic Latino inspired luncheon for staff.

The final celebration of Bomba con Buya merged history, music and dance together in their captivating Afro-Caribbean performance.

Gracias to the JTDC Foundation, presenters and performers, JTDC residents, staff and Administration for making the 2017 JTDC Latino Heritage Month a success!

Resident Daily Life Summer 2017

by Tenae Gilyard-Robinson



Calling all superheroes and sidekicks to report to the middle yard for food, fun, and your favorite backyard games!

Over the two week NBJ school summer vacation, residents of the JTDC engaged in a myriad of competitive events ranging from chess, card playing, and video games to basketball, football and tug of war.

Winners of the summer tournament events were treated to a Sports Banquet held in the Chapel.

The summer events culminated with the Level 4 DOING GOOD CONCERT. At the CONCERT, staff, residents and guests were treated to live entertainment by local artists and talented dance groups.

The atmosphere was positively energetic! JTDC Recreation Specialists would like to acknowledge JTDC's ninety-five Level 3 and Level 4 residents who attended the summer break 2017 tournaments!

IN MEMORIAM

YDS Andrea Porchia-Percy

On October 13th 2017, The Omega Center lost an angel with the passing of YDS Andrea Porchia-Percy. The ever-smiling YDS Percy lit up the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center with her dedication and devotion to the residents and staff of Omega Center. She began her journey here on September 2, 2012 and from the moment she came upstairs made each and every staff she worked with that much better for working with and knowing her. I was honored to have helped her along this journey by helping to train her and becoming a friend to her. On behalf of myself and the Omega Family I thank you Miss Percy for giving us this short time with you. I know I am better worker and person for it. Our loss, the building's loss, was Heaven's gain.

YDS Vanderveen
Omega Center



**Storycatchers Film Screening:
Girls on the Wall**

by Anna Buckingham



On Friday 9/29/17, Cook County Commissioner Gainer partnered with Storycatchers Theatre to host a screening of the documentary film *Girls on the Wall* for female residents on WINGS.

The documentary focused on a group of incarcerated teenage girls, housed at the Illinois Youth Center in Warrenville, Illinois. The young women at the Youth Center worked with Storycatchers Theatre to create a musical based on their lives. In the film, stories of abuse and neglect, crimes committed and experiences at the Youth Center are shared.

The film showcased the bravery, resiliency and honesty of the young women willing to share their stories and their willingness and desire to change.

The residents of WINGS were captivated by the film, as many of them currently participate in the JTDC Storycatchers program and they could relate to the stories they saw on the screen.

The JTDC is grateful for our partnerships with Commissioner Gainer's Office and Storycatchers Theatre for continuing to support our youth and allowing them the opportunity to learn and grow.

Domestic Violence Awareness

by Melinda Maciel

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. In October 2017, JTDC collaborated with the South Suburban Family Inc. to provide educational resources and publicize the Silent Witness Project.



The Silent Witness Exhibit honors women, children, men and family pets murdered through acts of domestic violence. Life size silhouettes bear a shield telling the story of lives lost to domestic violence. The national initiative promotes community-based programs to eliminate all domestic violence.

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

- Nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. During one year, this equates to more than 10 million women and men.
- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have been victims of some form of physical violence by an intimate partner within

their lifetime.

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.
- 1 in 7 women and 1 in 18 men have been stalked by an intimate partner during their lifetime to the point in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.
- On a typical day, there are more than 20,000 phone calls placed to domestic violence hotlines nationwide.

For anonymous, confidential help available 24/7, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) now.

Breast Cancer Awareness Event

JTDC held a Breast Cancer Awareness day on October 17, 2017 in cooperation with Cermak Health Services. Staff and residents engaged in activities to raise awareness of breast cancer.

Residents decorated the walls of pods and classroom doors and designed Breast Cancer Awareness posters.

Some of our families and co-workers have been touched by this disease and we encourage you to honor those affected.



Winning Poster from Pod 5G

KUDOS CORNER

JTDC extends a special Kudos to the following staff:

Many thanks to **YDS Mario Starnes** of Omega! For his dedication to teaching JTDC Residents DJ skills and for providing sound for JTDC programming. We appreciate you!

Thank you!

Beautiful Bodies Inside and Out

by Debra Hart

Beautiful Bodies Inside and Out (BBIO) is a program and curriculum created by Debra Hart. The program aims to empower young women of color with history, knowledge and skills so they can rise above institu-

tional and societal systems of oppression and see the beauty within themselves.

WINGS residents participated in a three day workshop that focused on community building and self-care.

The final day concentrated on taking care of their outer beauty. The young ladies had a professional esthetician come speak

about taking care of themselves and ended the day with spa activities.

Beautiful Bodies Inside and Out is dedicated to reminding young women of color how beautiful they are and is the key to deconstructing the effects of criminalization.

JTDC All Staff Picnic

by Philippe Magloire

The annual JTDC Staff Picnic, sponsored by donations from the JTDC Executive Team, was held on August 17, 2017. Staff were served delicious hot dogs and hamburgers

by members of the Executive Team.

Staff were also allowed to wear a t-shirt from their favorite college/professional team, and were encouraged to speak to JTDC residents about college and professional sports.

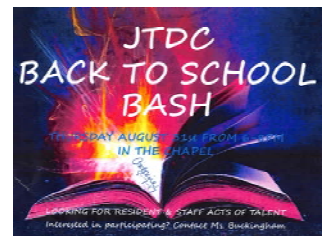


Resident Back to School Bash

by Anna Buckingham

Hosted by one of our own JTDC Residents, the JTDC Back to School Bash was a fun celebration featuring the many talents of

our youth. Residents sang, rapped, danced, performed spoken word poetry and stepped for a large audience of community and family members. The talent housed in the residents of the JTDC never ceases to amaze!



RMIS Enhancement Life Cycle

by DED Bill Kern

JTDC's Information Technology Department along with the Quality Assurance Analysts work together to review enhancements to the Resident Management Infor-

mation System (RMIS). Enhancements are analyzed to assess how new processes will improve the effectiveness of RMIS and how staff will be impacted. This review process is the "RMIS Enhancement Life Cycle".

The Life Cycle process includes:

1. Review
2. Design & Build
3. Release

This ongoing dynamic process ensures the quality of the JTDC data.