



A New Beginning

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

Maya Angelou



Girls Transition Home

The DJJ Girls Transition

Home opened to eight girls in October and is adorned with inspirational quotes that inspire and offer hope for a better tomorrow. The Home is the first for DJJ and is a secure, short-term living environment for girls who are within six months of their release.



The Home is the result of a collaborative effort of DJJ and the Friends of Juvenile Justice, a non-profit foundation that supports juvenile justice initiatives.

While living in the Transition Home girls are focused on using and learning skills they will need in the future. At its Grand Opening in September, a gift registry was created to give staff and DJJ community partners the



opportunity to make donations to the Home. It features decorative ceramic wall tiles designed by DJJ students, original artwork donated by local artists, and interior design touches, which were a donated service. The pergola, furnishings, and landscaping, also were donated by community partners.

Intensive Supervision Initiative

DJJ has added an additional 21 Intensive Supervision Officers (ISOs) to support the Intensive Supervision Initiative (ISI). There are currently a total of 51 ISOs serving juveniles and their families in communities around the state.

Intensive Supervision Initiative

ISOs are assigned to paroled juveniles after release from DJJ. TeNeane Bradford is the statewide ISI coordinator.

Virginia Barr is pictured with her award and Director Bill Byars



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Donald H. Holland Lifetime Leadership Award

DJJ is proud to announce that Virginia Barr, restorative justice coordinator of the Division of Community Services, has received the Donald H. Holland Lifetime Leadership Award for her support of alternative programs within the criminal and juvenile justice systems. The award was presented by the SC

Association of Pretrial Intervention Programs at the Annual Solicitors' Conference in Myrtle Beach in September.



Yolanda Cornish receives award from Dr. Christopher L. Gibson

Making a Difference with TASC

Yolanda Cornish, DJJ's statewide coordinator for the Teen After School Center (TASC) has received the 2007 Southern Criminal Justice Association's Award for her "hard work and success realized in the context of the SCDJJ Teen After School Program." Additionally, the TASC program was recently recognized as one of 10 regional finalists for the 2007 Council of State Governments Innovation Awards.

Currently, there are 22 TASC sites that are hosted by local churches and community centers that provide the Department with use of their facilities and volunteer staff on afternoons and during the summer. The centers are designed for at-risk teens who have committed minor offenses, as a preventative measure to keep them from moving deeper into the juvenile justice system.

Agencywide Holiday Drop-In

Make plans to attend the annual DJJ Holiday Drop-in on December 13 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Goldsmith Building.



**DJJ C.A.R.E. Program
(Comprehensive Assistance in
Response to Employees)**



DJJ staff working with offenders in the community and in DJJ facilities are often victimized by the young people under their care and supervision.

When this happens, DJJ's Comprehensive Assistance in Response to Employees (C.A.R.E) Program is available to the victims. C.A.R.E has 12 Advisory Council members and 83 staff peer supporters.

After an assault or other serious incident, C.A.R.E. representatives can provide peer support, information, and referral.

For C.A.R.E. care assistance in your facility contact one of your facility care peer supporters. If no one is available, please call DJJ Victim Services at (803) 896-9544 or pager at 1(800) 614-4407.

Annual Girls Symposium

On October 5, DJJ, along with Columbia College and The Girls Center at Clemson University, sponsored the second annual Girls Symposium to address gender specific issues, programs, and services relating to the needs of girls. Sumter Police Chief Patty Patterson was the plenary speaker and urged that we "not let girls down." The symposium also featured workshop presenter Giovanna Taormina, a national

consultant who specializes in training on the Girls Circle concept and other gender specific girls' issues.

DJJ's focus on programs and services for girls follows a national trend that is placing girls' needs as a top priority as it relates to their behavior, decision-making, and past influences.

DJJ at a Glance...

- Congratulations to **Vontressa Samuel**, the first place winner in the 2007 South Carolina State Fair Baking Contest. Ms. Samuel received first place ribbons for her prize winning entries in both the Pound Cake and Red Velvet Cake categories. She is DJJ's disciplinary officer.

- **Jacqueline Lockwood** recently obtained her LISW-CP. This is a major milestone in her career as a social worker.

**Outstanding Employees and
Group of the Year**

Colleagues and family members joined in the recognition of DJJ's 2006-2007 Outstanding Employees and Group of the Year at an annual Awards of Excellence ceremony on October 12.

The awards recognize those who have demonstrated actions, ideas, initiatives, and/or consistent performance that have contributed significantly to the department, the juveniles in its custodial care and/or the field of juvenile justice.

The recipients are: **Nicol Ashe**, director, Berkeley County Office; **Virginia Barr**, coordinator, Restorative Justice; **Eugene Benjamin**, manager, Human Resources; **June Clayton**, coordinator, Medicaid Program; **Mamie Hayes**, career education

teacher, Birchwood School; **Nancy Kuhl**, administrator, Office of Community Alternatives; **Paulette Weston**, program assistant, Educational Services; and **The Reconciliation Group**, which is a multi-disciplinary team responsible for reporting incidents among juveniles. The following persons were nominated: Pamela Childers-Altman, TeNeane Bradford, Brett Macgargle, Meda Cobb, Donald (Max) Dorsey, Sheila Dortch, Antoinette Green, Keisha Dunnom, Jennifer Miller-Green, Larry Harrison, Juile Lamson, Cynthia Lown, Wendell Pace, Louanne Robertson, Torsha Salley, Vanetta Sarratt, Johnavan Smith, Betty Harrison, Crissandra Elliot, Angela Cummings, and the Richland County Intake Unit. If you haven't already, please share in congratulating each person.

**DJJ Teacher of the Year
Melissa Boyd**

Birchwood School science teacher Melissa Boyd is committed to bringing about change in the classroom. Her approach to teaching is to encourage students to learn, and then learn more.



Melissa Boyd

It is no surprise that she was selected the 2006-2007 District Teacher of the Year by her peers. She came to DJJ in 1997, soon after graduating from the University of South Carolina, where she recently received a Master's degree in curriculum and instructional design.

Clearly, she is an educator that moves beyond her normal duties to infuse knowledge and understanding among her students.