

NEWS

READING &



The 5th Annual “Tell Me A Story Festival” was held on May 13th at Clarkston Community Center. This event was held for children

of all ages to promote cultural language and literacy. This year’s festival provided several literacy and art activities, including puppet making with the Center for Puppetry Arts, art projects with Emory Carlos Museum, literacy activities organized by local early learning programs, a Cat in the Hat visit, book signings, henna, and face painting! The stories were told in English, Farsi, and Somali. Youth also received free books and other giveaway items all promoting literacy and cultural language. At the OYS table, youth were provided the opportunity to create their own “Once Upon A Time...” story that was full of magical adventures and fairy tales. In addition, youth were given arts & craft materials to design sun visors!

ARTS

FESTIVAL!



OFFICE OF

**Youth
SERVICES**

DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT



YOUTH DESIGN SUN VISORS AT THE OYS TABLE!



THE COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO PROMOTE READING & ARTS!



CAT IN THE HAT STOPS BY THE OYS TABLE TO LAUGH WITH KIDS!



KIDS ARE CURIOUS ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE OYS TABLE!

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SAFE KIDS BIKE RODEO!



BIKE SAFETY IS A MUST IN DEKALB!

The parking lot of the Tucker Wal-Mart was bustling as hundreds of children zoomed around obstacles and raced through cones during the Second Annual Bike Rodeo. The Safe Kidz Day event, sponsored by the Office of Youth Services (OYS), Fire Rescue and the Tucker Precinct was created to teach children how to safely ride their bicycles. “We see kids riding without their helmets or darting across intersections without looking all the time,” said Sergeant Anthony Shover from Tucker Precinct. Last year, the Office of Youth Services decided they wanted to do something to promote bicycle safety and the Bike Rodeo was born. This year, the event included an obstacle course, racing areas, and a training area to help kids ride a bike without training wheels. Kids also received a white OYS T-shirt and cool gadgets throughout the day. Children who participated were required to wear helmets while on the obstacle course, and for children who showed up without helmets they were given one by OYS. OYS also made sure bikes were available for children to ride if they didn't have their own. The Safe Kidz program hopes to continue helping young bicyclists stay safe, while expanding the event to different locations.



YOUTH ARE EXCITED TO BE AT SAFE KIDS BIKE RODEO!



HE'S GIVING HIS BEST ATTEMPT TO FINISH THE BIKE COURSE!



YOUTH RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR PARTICIPATING IN SAFE KIDS BIKE RODEO!

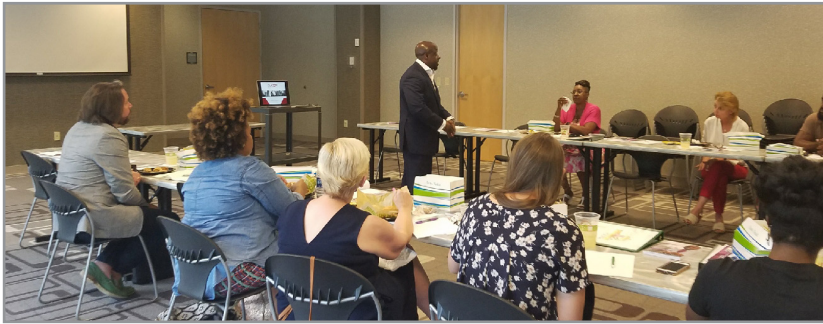
NEWS

DeKalb Alliance On Youth!



DEKALB ALLIANCE ON YOUTH IS BACK AT IT!

OYS officially re-launched the DeKalb Alliance On Youth. The Alliance consists of dedicated committee members represented by schools, clergy, non-profits, businesses, civic organizations and government entities who have demonstrated services or support towards the advancement of DeKalb's youth. The goal of the Alliance is to provide a platform for youth servicing organizations to offer ideas, and receive training and technical support while strengthening collaborative approaches to share resources. The Alliance meets on a bi-monthly basis with a goal to provide training and tools to assist stakeholders who provide services to DeKalb County. Some of these sessions include: Marketing/Branding, Maximizing Social Media, Communications & Strategic Messagings, along with Youth Outreach & Development. The Alliance's July session guest speaker was Karvance Ross, of KDR Consulting, LLC. Mr. Ross provided the Alliance with some basic keys in successfully branding and marketing their non-profits. In addition to being lectured on ways to excel in non-profit services the Alliance members received a copy of his book entitled "Leadership for Life," which is a self-helping tool that is described as a "guidebook to unparalleled greatness and success in leadership & life."



NEWS

REAL YOUTH! REAL PROGRESS!



Project One80 offers youth ages 6-12 a safe and constructive place to express themselves and begin developing effective coping skills to manage the obstacles they face as growing adolescents. At Project One80 the main goal is to enable youth to reach their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens of DeKalb County. We reach this goal through exercises focused on challenging current mental health practices and promoting healthy emotional, physical, and mental development. This summer, Project One80 successfully launched a mental health and wellness component to the STEAM Summer Camp at Clarkston Community Center. Over 70 youth, ages 6-12, had the exciting opportunity to met with specialized professionals on a weekly basis to discuss and learn about, personal development, life skills, positive attitudes, behavior changes, character development, and healthy emotional management. Youth also participated in fieldtrips, therapeutic art projects, and small group positive action activities!



Youth work on making "feelings slime" to help redirect negative thoughts, feelings and behaviors!



Youth share their thoughts, feelings, and reactions to family, school, and friends!



Youth add the final touches to their "feelings slime" and begin to discuss how they will use it to redirect negative feelings.

NEWS

FILM SCHOLARS IN THE MAKING!



YOUTH FILMING IN THE COMMUNITY!



YOUTH DISCUSSING FILM IDEAS!



OYS LAUNCHES D2BAWARE PARTNERSHIP WITH CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CENTER!

The OYS joined forces with Clarkston Community Center, Keyona Barnett, DeAnna Richards, Joshua Gordan, Kendall Smith, and Karyn Rob to host the D2BAware & 2017 Summer STEAM Plus Summer Camp. The program is designed to provide after-school and summer camp enrichment services to youth who suffer from low social economic disadvantages and/or who are battling homelessness. The program promotes and introduces discussions on diversity, leadership, healthy habits, bullying, mentorship, community service engagement and personal goal setting. During the academic year, D2BAware operates twice each week for two hour sessions and summer camp operations occur Monday – Friday from 9:00am - 5:00p. Also, this year's camp will be featured in an upcoming documentary addressing the transition of youth immigrants to the US lead by the production company of worldly news anchor, Dan Rather.



LEARNING THE BASICS!



YOUTH DISCUSSING NEW WAYS TO BRING IDEAS TO LIFE!



PREPARING TO MAKE D2BAWARE AMAZING!

NEWS

OYS SCHOLARS OFF TO COLLEGE!



A NEW CLASS GRADUATES AND HEADS TO COLLEGE!

The DeKalb County Youth Commission recently graduated 20 youth leaders from the 2017 class! The program celebrated its tenth year! Youth Commission is a year-long program to empower today's youth to become active leaders and participants in local volunteer programs as they help raise awareness of community issues county wide. The Office of Youth Services hopes to expand the program next fall by providing more young men and women with the opportunity to participate. The following seniors were recognized: Kalen Campbell, Jasmine Barber, Gillum Owens, Unique Lewis, Ryan Vaughters, Ahmaad Daniel, Yasmine Meadows, Patience Bigby, Zion Moore, Danielle Harrison and Jordan Holmond. For more information contact Jashawn Williams (404-687-7108).



NEWS

ESCAPE SEX TRAFFICKING



The Office of Youth Services (OYS) ESCAPE program, is a Anti-Human Trafficking Initiative. Through our partnership with Agnes Scott College, we participated in their Red Sand Project. The Red Sand Project is a global effort, organized on a local level by student organizations. The interactive art project took place on April 28th with students, DeKalb community members, and OYS staff siphoning red sand into sidewalk cracks. The red sand is used as a symbol to represent the victims who fall through the cracks of society, thus educating on the nature of human trafficking while engaging with the community. This event is used to stop people in their tracks and get them talking about the nearly 36 million people worldwide living in modern slavery. The ESCAPE project want people to be aware about local trafficking within the DeKalb County, we want people to questions their surroundings and create a dialogue.

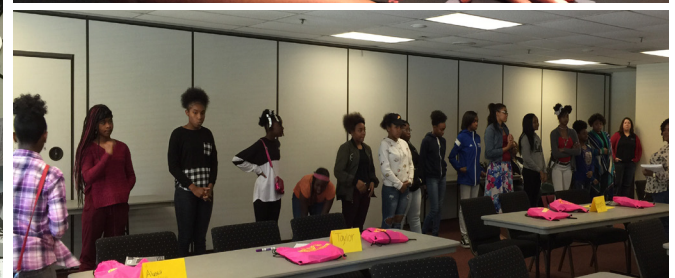


NEWS

DEKALB GIRL MAGIC!



The Office of Youth Services Girl's Clubhouse program provides DeKalb teen girls an opportunity to excel despite the everyday challenges they may face at home, school, or in their community. One Saturday a month, teen girls, ages 13-18, come together to develop healthy strategies in the areas of body image, emotional management, identity development, relationships, self-esteem, stress management, and coping. Girls Clubhouse members also participate in the Great Stories Club Nature vs Nurture grant designed to use literature as a form of therapy. This portion of Girl's Clubhouse allows girls to reflect on unexpressed, unexplored, and unresolved issues while providing the necessary skills and tips for coping and making successful life choices. Additionally, members participate in fieldtrips, such as a visit to the Atlanta Civil and Human Rights museum and team building trips to the Escape Room.



NEWS

BACK TO SCHOOL FESTIVAL!



**YOYS MAKES SURE
DEKALB STUDENTS
ARE READY FOR THE
NEW SCHOOL YEAR!**

With the first day of school fast approaching, the Office of Youth Services helped families get ready with a free back to school giveaway. The Office of Youth Services partnered with the Housing Authority of City of Decatur, Decatur Police & Fire Department and Tucker Police department to kick off our Back to School event held on Saturday, July 29th from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Parents and their children stopped by the event to listen to some tunes, grab some food, and kids played in bounce houses. The inspiration began at the DeKalb County Board of Health Consortium meeting when community organizations were brainstorming ideas to give back to the community. We prepared 200 free book bags packed with notebooks, pencils, erasers, binders and packs of paper for child in need. The Back to School event was a tremendous success that left the youth, their families and our partners feeling fantastic about the event!



NEWS

OYS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



MEET OUR PARTNER: CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CENTER!

Clarkston Community Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that is a reflection of the community around it: diverse, supportive, and strong. Their goal is to aid the needs of a population that represents over 150 different ethnic groups, has over 50 different countries of origin, and speaks over 57 different languages. The Clarkston Community Center is a gathering place for art, education, recreation and community building for long-time Georgians, newly arriving refugees, transplanted Americans, and established internationals. In 2016 they served 58,157 people. The Clarkston Youth Development program offers a after school program and a thriving summer camp called Art at the Center and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) Plus Camp. Their Healthy Living Initiative is growing rapidly as the lush herbs, and vegetables in the on-site Community Gardens and includes a Food Co-op, and Food Pantry. The Seniors on the Go programs include Tai Chi, Senior ESL, Monthly Art Programs with VSA, Dancing with Dance Core, Games, Pot Luck Lunches, and lots of fun. Programs include opportunities with Home Goods and Pilgrims. Recreation Programs feature Soccer, Contra Dancing, Uhuru Drumming, Tai Chi, Ballet, and Art Exhibits.



Business Hours of Operations – Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm.
 Program Hours of Operations – Varies based on programming call for details
 Website - <http://www.clarkstoncommunitycenter.org/>.
 Programs - programs@clarkstoncommunitycenter.org.
 Link to the schedule - <http://clarkstoncommunitycenter.org/eventsold/>
 Contact Information – 404-508-1050

NEWS

GROWING HEALTHY BABIES!



GOOD HEALTH AND WELLNESS BEGINS EARLY!

Growing Healthy Babies works with DeKalb County parents to share knowledge and resources on a variety of parenting topics, including, potty training, breastfeeding, car seat safety, healthy eating, and stress management. Our special topics help parents learn more about the best practices for the growth and development of their 0-5 year old. If you are expecting, or have recently given birth, come join us for our next Growing Healthy Babies session at the Clarkston Library, located at 951 N. Indian Creek Dr., Decatur, GA 30032! We meet every Wednesday at 11:15am!



Share Your Experiences!

We want to hear from you! Share your stories and photos of you helping youth in the DeKalb County community and have your experience featured in our next issue! Send your amazing experience and photos to youthservices@dekalbcountyga.gov or contact our office at 404-687-7123.



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