

Inside YCS

A NEWSLETTER
BY AND FOR ALL YCS EMPLOYEES



VOLUME 36 | September 2026

PRESIDENT/CEO
TARA AUGUSTINE

EDITOR

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ART DIRECTION

BARBARA MAY

INSIDE YCS

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MONTH'S ISSUE OF THE
NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

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President's Message

Dear YCS Team,

Autumn, with its vibrant colors and changing foliage, reminds us that change is a natural part of growth and transformation. It is also a good time to reflect on where we have been, where we are today, and where we are going together.

On September 1, we successfully transitioned the administration of YCS' medical program from Marpai to Crumdale Claims Solutions. I want to thank our Human Resources department for their outstanding coordination throughout open enrollment—from hosting virtual information sessions and providing UKG instructions to ensuring employees could smoothly enroll and maintain their benefit coverage. Your hard work made an important transition easier for everyone.



Tara Augustine

On October 15, I look forward to speaking with you again at our next Town Hall about our agency's accomplishments and our goals for the future. We will talk about how you bring our mission to life every day, how YCS is evolving to better serve our participants and families, and how we are continuing to listen to our employees and respond to the challenges you face.

Most importantly, we will look ahead together and talk about what's next for YCS.

Shortly thereafter, it will be time to take our Great Place to Work® survey. Your voice matters. Your ideas, experiences, and honesty help us understand what we are doing well and where we can do better. Your feedback is an important part of creating the kind of workplace where our employees can thrive and our mission can flourish.

Autumn also brings many opportunities for our participants to experience the season—hiking and enjoying the colorful foliage, apple picking, hayrides, fall crafts, and so much more. In the coming months, Inside YCS will highlight the many ways our programs are creating meaningful experiences for the people we serve.

But behind every experience, every accomplishment, and every successful outcome is something incredibly valuable: your time and your presence.

The most valuable thing you can give to another person is your time.

Showing up each day to provide compassionate care. Helping a participant achieve a successful outcome and return home. Creating a place where an individual who lives with us feels safe, valued, and truly at home.

That is the difference you make.

The power of being there.

This will be the theme of our upcoming Annual Report, where we will share your stories and demonstrate our mission to our donors, parents, caregivers, and stakeholders.

Because the story of YCS is ultimately the story of the people who show up every day—and the difference they make in the lives of the individuals they serve.

Thank you for your commitment.

Thank you for your compassion.

And most of all, thank you for your time.

With sincere gratitude,

Tara

Tara A. Augustine, LCSW
President & CEO

Upcoming Event

2026 YCS Charity Golf Classic

As we prepare for the **2026 YCS Charity Golf Classic on September 14**, I hope you'll join in the fun and help make this year's event a great success!

The support of the YCS Foundation helps turn our houses into homes, creates meaningful experiences and activities for the people we serve, and allows us to respond to needs that traditional funding simply doesn't cover.

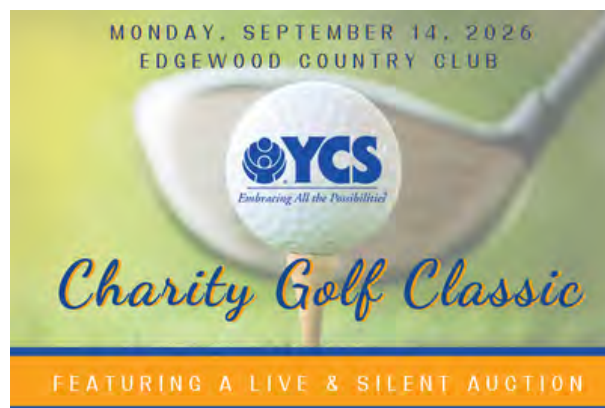
If you're able, there are a few easy ways to get involved:

- Purchase a 50/50 raffle ticket – Tickets are just \$10. If every YCS employee purchased just one, we could raise approximately \$13,000, with one lucky winner taking home half the proceeds! Purchase your ticket here: https://e.givesmart.com/events/OHZ/i/_Auction/AsR6/
- Join us for the Evening Program & Auction or volunteer – Come enjoy the evening, or lend a hand before or during the event. Tickets and event information are available at YCSGolf26.givesmart.com.

Whether you participate in one way or all three, every bit of support helps us create brighter days and better opportunities for the children, adults, and families who count on YCS.

If you have questions or would like to get involved, please reach out, at Heart@YCS.org. Thank you for everything you do for YCS. I hope you'll join me in making this year's Golf Classic our best yet!

Warmly,
Tara



Welcome New Employees

New Employees and Interns who completed 90 days by July 26 - August 24, 2026

Alford, Briana Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Fisher Hall	Gee, Darlene L. 1 to 1 Student Aide DOE-George Washington	Jones, Donnett Residential Assistant DCF-SPEC Pinewood Valley	Santiago Sanchez, Ana C. Service Coordinator CBP – Passaic Svc Coord U
Asogwa, Chidiebere J. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Phoenix	Gordon, Breunna M. Personal Assistant DDD-Morris	Lawson, Nicholas Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Coopers Crossing	Spence, Sontay Program Director DCF-SPEC Pinewood Valley
Brady, Victoria Board Cert BehavAnalyst-S HealthSvc-Behaviorists-S	Gordon, Jhamirah Residential Assistant DCF-IRTS Kilbarchan	Leighton, Jennifer A. Program Director DCF-IRTS Kilbarchan	Tang, Joyce Intern – UnPaid DCF-PCH Sicklerville
Branca, Meghan Chief Info Officer Exec Administration	Hassard, Simone G. Intern – UnPaid DCF-PCH Davis	Murray, Brittany B. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Bright Start	Thompson, Dawn L. Clinician-S DCF-SPEC Meadow Ridge
Charles, Rodrigue Personal Assistant DDD-Walnut	Hernandez, Rachel ParentEduHomeVisitor CBP-Parents as Teachers	Octalien, Mindy Program Director DCF-PCH Phoenix	Tisdale, Dorian Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Lawnridge
Crawford, Jonathan Program Director DCF-PCH IDD Cedarbrook	Herrera, Jasmin Personal Assistant DDD-Apts Supvr Buffalo	Odom, Crystal Personal Assistant DDD – Cavan House	Wagner, Katherine E. Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Holley
Flores, Miguel A. Maintenance Worker Facilities – N	Johnson, Lyric Clinician-S DCF-PCH Laurie Haven	Owusu, Frank K. Personal Assistant DDD-Hilltop	Washington, Nyiesha Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan
Gandhi, Sheetal Physical Therapist DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Jones, Danielle D. Personal Assistant DDD-Apts Supvr Buffalo	Pena Peralta, Adamilka 1 to 1 Student Aide DOE-George Washington	

Promotions

Congratulations!!!

*Your dedication and hard work have truly paid off.
Wishing you all the best in this new chapter of your career at YCG.*

Caizza, Julia G., Case Manager, DCF-PCH Sayre

Goree, Shermira D., SRT Coordinator, SRT - S

Jackson, Courtney, Shift Supervisor, DDD - Cavan House

Mcneil Jr., Davis, Shift Supervisor, DCF-CSAP Winslow

Seales, Indya I., Shift Supervisor, DCF-PCH IDD Sewell

Wright, April, Coordinator ResidentSvc, DCF-SPEC Pinewood Valley



Milestones



Professional Accomplishments

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Shirleece Roberts-Jackson**, Program Director at Ironcrest for passing her LSW exam! We're so proud of you!

Condolences

*Two of YCS's cherished employees passed away unexpectedly.
We send condolences to their families and to their YCS co-workers.*

Kyle Felton Johnson Sr.

March 31, 1994 - August 6, 2026



Kyle worked at the Vineland home, where he was deeply loved by the youth he cared for and by his colleagues. Kyle had a genuine love for people, especially children, and for individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities. His caring spirit and ability to connect with others were a true reflection of who he was.

Kyle worked at the Vineland program for the last 3 years and was a tremendous person, worker and colleague. Kyle's smile lit up any room he was in and he approached every situation with a great attitude. He made meaningful connections with the boys at the program and loved working with them day to day to help them accomplish their goals. He is not one to be soon forgotten. Vineland and YCS offer our dearest sympathies and condolences to Kyle's family in this time.

~ Brad Vetterly, VP SR Behavioral Health Services

Willie P. White

January 18, 1964 - August 10, 2026

Willie was a Gentle Giant who had a passion for working with youth. His career started at Mount St Joseph's, and he continued his calling at YCS. When he worked at Laurie Haven, the youth looked up to him as a father figure. What I admired the most about Willie was his ability to mentor and teach his co-workers how to work with the youth at Laurie Haven. He used to say, you don't have to raise your voice at the youth to get them to respect you. "You have to earn their respect". Willie was a true team player and will be missed. ~ Etta Sample, Laurie Haven Program Director



Moving On

Janis Nicolosi-Endo retires after 25 years at YCS!



THANK YOU

In August 2001, I was hired by the YCS Communications Department as a temporary employee—filling in for someone who was out on leave for just a couple of months. I had almost no computer skills, didn't really know how to take a decent photograph, and had limited writing experience. I was fortunate that the Director of Communications at the time took a chance on me.

As I got to know the children in YCS programs and witnessed the incredible, heartfelt work of our employees, I worked hard to develop the skills I needed to tell the stories of transformation happening every day at YCS. I loved my job!

Fast-forward to January 2020, when the Communications Department launched the first issue of Inside YCS. It was small and modest, but over time it evolved into what I hope has become a meaningful, encouraging and supportive publication for all of my colleagues.

Whenever my work became difficult or stressful, I knew what I needed to do to get back on track. Some of my most precious memories came from spending time with the children and young people we serve. Without a doubt, they fed my soul. They made me a better writer and photographer and continually fueled my creativity.

It has been a true honor and privilege to work alongside so many committed and caring people. I leave with countless wonderful memories and tremendous gratitude for the years we have shared.

Thank you for allowing me to tell your stories.

Wishing each of you an amazing journey ahead.

With gratitude,
Janis

Shoutouts

To All Our Amazing Employees!

- ✦ **April Wright** Congratulations to A on your promotion to CRS at Pinewood Valley!
- ✦ **Coopers Crossing Staff**—Thank you for everything that you do for our youth to keep them happy, healthy and safe. We appreciate you all so much!
- ✦ **Ebony and the Cavan Team** - I want to personally thank you all for hosting such a great cookout at Cavan. Everything was wonderful—the food, hospitality, and, most importantly, the teamwork displayed by everyone. Planning and preparing for an event like this takes a lot of coordination and effort, and it was very noticeable that you all worked together as a team to make the event a success. Thank you all again for your hard work and dedication. I truly appreciate each and every one of you. Great job, Cavan Team!
- ✦ **Joe Ciapanna**—You've been doing an amazing job at Coopers Crossing to support the youth and program on a daily basis. Thank you!
- ✦ **Mindy Octalien**, one of our newly hired Program Directors, joined YCS in May 2026 and has quickly become an amazing asset to the Division, the youth we serve, and the Phoenix Program.

Despite the many challenging behaviors and staff-related challenges within the program, Mindy continues to remain committed, resilient, and focused on moving the program forward. She has taken the initiative to learn most, if not all, of YCS's systems and has begun utilizing them effectively to improve the overall operation of the program.

Mindy consistently approaches her work with a positive attitude. She always seems to have a smile on her face and brings a sense of positivity to those around her. Even while expecting, Mindy has continued to demonstrate an impressive level of dedication and commitment to ensuring that the job gets done and that the needs of the Phoenix youth and staff are addressed.

We are extremely glad to have Mindy on board and appreciate the commitment, perseverance, and positive energy she brings to the Phoenix Program. Her dedication to the youth and staff does not go unnoticed, and we look forward to seeing her continued growth and impact within the Division.
- ✦ **Tameka McMillan, Yesenia Fulgencio, and Sherene Bartley-Rogers** , I want to take a moment to recognize for the outstanding leadership you continue to demonstrate within your departments. Your commitment to finding ways to improve in all areas, leading by example, and being present and engaged on-site has not gone unnoticed. Your dedication, visibility, and willingness to support your teams make a meaningful difference across the division. Thank you all for your continued hard work, leadership, and commitment to excellence. **Your efforts are truly appreciated and valued!**

Shoutouts



To All Our Amazing Employees!



SBYSP Team: I would like to give a special shoutout to my incredible SBYSP team: **Erica Parks, Jenny Walker, and Shatiek Billups.**

Although we are a newly formed team, we have come together with a shared commitment to supporting our students and creating positive outcomes at Eastside High School. Each team member brings unique strengths, dedication, and passion to the program, helping to create a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment for our students.

Erica has demonstrated strong leadership, organization, and a genuine commitment to student success. Jenny has brought compassion, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas that have helped strengthen our support services. Shatiek has made a tremendous impact through prevention services, mentorship, and his ability to connect with students in meaningful ways.

Together, we have built a foundation based on teamwork, collaboration, and a shared vision of helping students reach their full potential. I'm proud of what we have accomplished as a team and are excited about what lies ahead.

Thank you, Erica, Jenny, and Shatiek, for your hard work, positivity, and commitment to making Eastside High School and SBYSP a place where students feel supported, empowered, and successful. Here's to an amazing year and many more successes together!





Work Anniversaries



Congratulations!

YEARS	Name	YEARS	Name
37	Daise, Carol	13	Ruiz, Aaron E.
34	Gayle, Joseph	12	Lester, Leslie
30	Williams, Gay	11	Smith-Frierson, LaQuanna
27	McBride, Patrick	11	Pratt, Melissa
27	Segro, Joseph W.	11	Harvey, Hakeem
26	Marshall, Sharon L.	11	Okoli, Angelina
25	Nicolosi Endo, Janis	10	Williams-Womble, Kelley D.
25	Capers, Cornelia L.	10	Faniel, Shakida S.
25	Jessen, Elizabeth	10	Ford, Kenneth T.
20	McGann, Paul	10	Vetterly, Bradshaw
20	Boom, Maria	9	King, Esther
20	Castellanos, Edna G.	9	Lasaga-Ayala, Maite
20	Donat, Levard	9	McDade, Empra
20	Zisa, Kimberley	9	Crammer, Karen M.
18	Scott, Lamar	9	Boyer, Morgan S.
18	Harvey, Sean L.	9	Wilson, Dannelle R.
17	Wharton, Lasha L.	8	Heredia, Lesly B.
17	Lynn, Sivonne	8	Small, Damita D.
17	Smith, Alfred	7	Bell, Christinia
16	Tovar, Oscar O.	6	Anderson, April
15	Mckay, Sharon	6	Solomon, Tia L.
14	Scott, Chante	6	Lewis, Natasha
14	Hutchinson, Tempestt S.	5	Otero, Mariah
14	Dumas, Bianca	5	Burnett, Taakira
13	Sheppard, Dwayne L.	5	Forman, Shayla
13	Dziubek, Alexandra	5	Ayala, Jessica

Work Anniversaries

Congratulations!

YEARS	Name	YEARS	Name
5	Hemingway, Henrietta	2	Travis, Shanelle
5	Newman, Angela	2	Matthews, Myaijah
5	Anthony, Quinice	1	Barclay, Jennifer
4	Boloix-Alarcon, Sofia A.	1	Bryant, Latory M.
4	Dilworth, Dominique E.	1	Dominguez, Andrea
4	Eisenhuth, Sara	1	Jones, Annette
4	Landa, Melanie G.	1	Jones, Latia
4	Scaglione, Caitlyn E.	1	Matthews, Chyanna
4	Wright, April	1	Bonacci Jr., Edward
3	Burrows, Najira N.	1	Brown, Makal
3	Major, Natasha	1	Gatling, Taylor
3	Petrie, Carene	1	Lovett, La-Travis
3	Bland, Nateyah	1	Sutherland, Tashanna
3	Johnson Sr., Kyle F	1	Brown, Diana A.
3	Wiseley III, Charles A.	1	Harrigan, Cynthia M.
3	Diamond, Keri	1	Jones, Dominique
3	Fields, Dantaisha	1	Weaver, Zoe
3	Oechsner, Olivia T.	1	White, Shamera T.
3	Perez, Jacqueline	1	Allen, Tyrell
3	Petrick, Christine	1	Starks, Jarvis D.
2	King, JaNasha	1	Anthony, Nicholas
2	Clarke, Gabrielle	1	Forsythe, Katie L.
2	Corlett, Caitlin	1	Giron, Paulina Y.
2	Johnson, Khwmere K.	1	Hyman, Harry D.
2	Rios, Antonio		

Leading with Heart

Direct Support Professional Chartel Bush



Ms. Chartel Bush has a special talent for creating a warm, harmonious environment for the five boys ages 14-21, at the YCS Sawtelle Camden I/DD Home. Her secret? Great home-cooked meals.

"Ms. Chartel cooks the best food for us," says one of the youth at Sawtelle Camden.

Growing up in a large extended family, Chartel learned early about the importance of sharing healthy, delicious meals with the people you love. She has established a mealtime routine that brings structure and a sense of harmony to the home. After dinner, each boy is assigned a chore to help clean the kitchen. They then take care of their ADL hygiene, unw Direct Support Professional Chartel ind, and prepare for bedtime. Chartel has found that the familiar routine helps the youth feel much more relaxed.

Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship

A promotional banner for the Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship. The banner features a photograph of three diverse young people looking upwards. The YCS logo is in the top right corner. The text "Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship" is prominently displayed in the center. Below this, there are three columns of text: "Education should never be out of reach! Our Scholarship Program is designed to support bright and ambitious employees like you!", "Invest in Your Future!" with a large "APPLY NOW" button, and "WHY APPLY?" with the text "Simple application process" and "A stepping stone to your dream career".

YCS
Leading with Heart

Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship

Education should never be out of reach! Our Scholarship Program is designed to support bright and ambitious employees like you!

Invest in Your Future!

WHY APPLY?

Simple application process
A stepping stone to your dream career

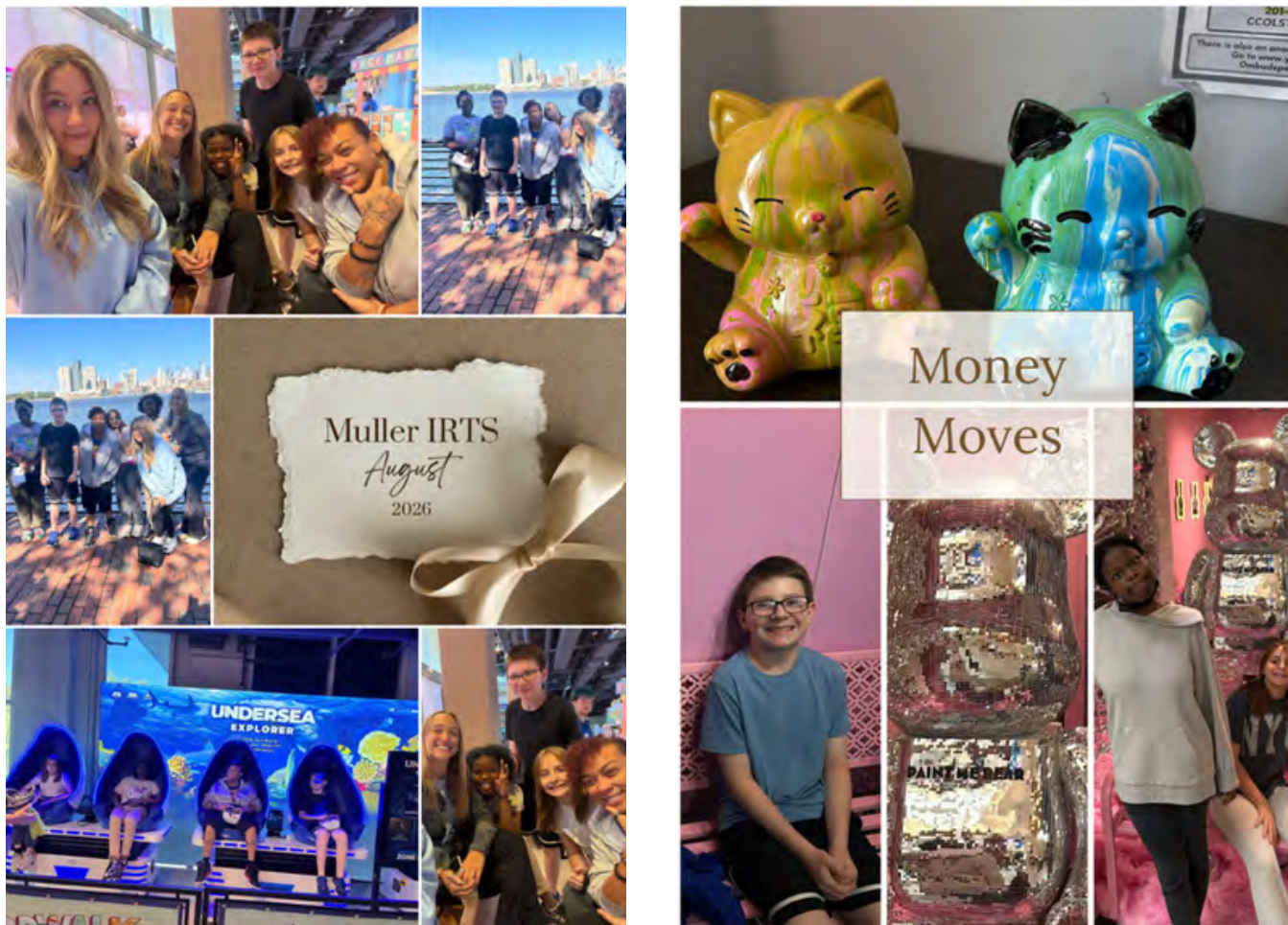
APPLY NOW

YCS is accepting applications for the next round of scholarships.

[To apply for a scholarship, click here.](#)

Highlights

August at Muller IRTS

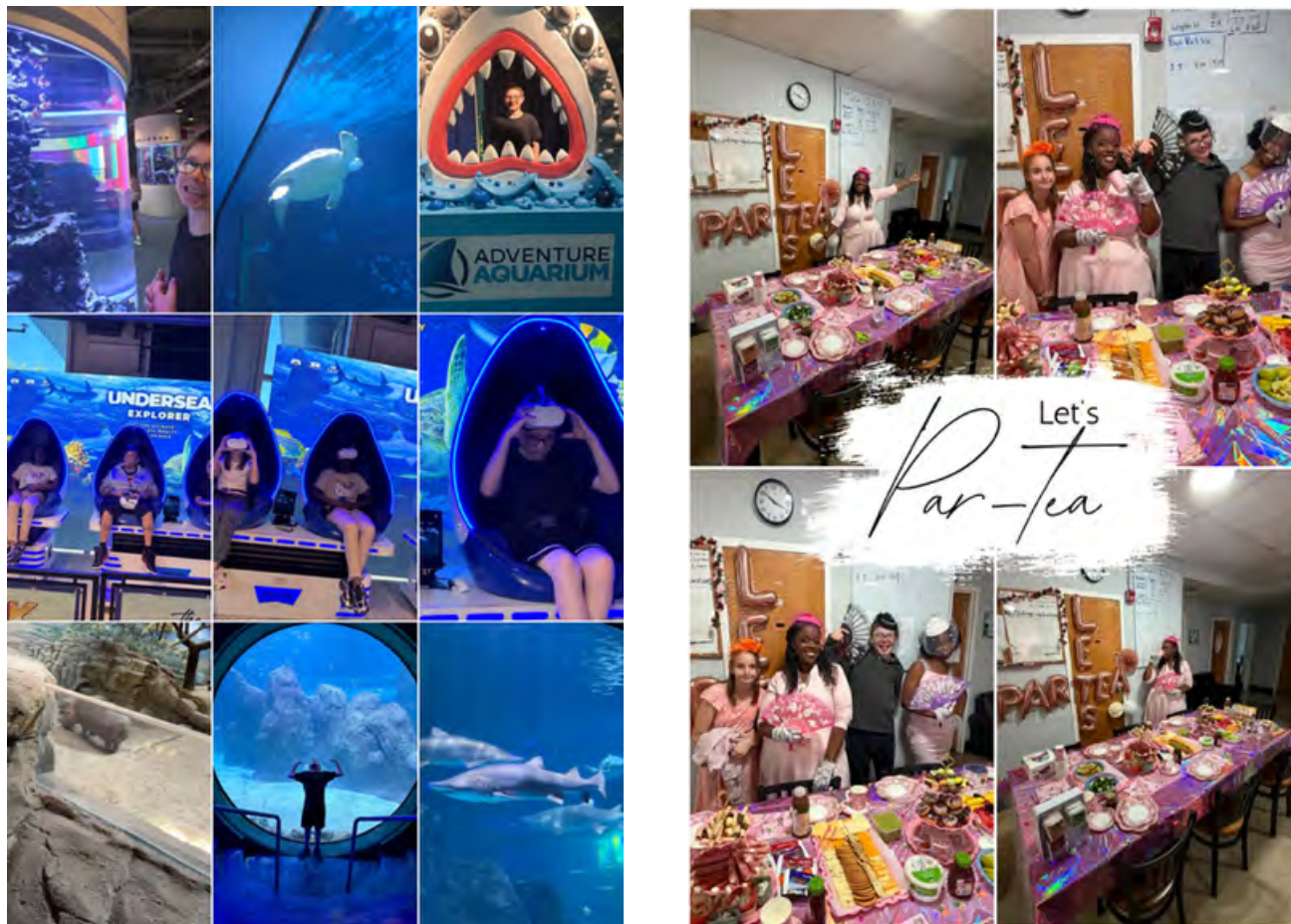


August for Muller IRTS was quite eventful! The youth enjoyed community outings where they were able to explore many different opportunities.

They created Paint Me Bears at the mall. This demonstrated their ability to follow step-by-step instructions during the painting process. It also will help them save money as the animals they painted are also piggy banks. They had an opportunity to build their communication/social skills, build positive interactions with peers and staff, and express themselves creatively all in one activity!

Highlights

August at Muller IRTS



They went to the Adventure Aquarium in Camden, NJ, where they experienced adventures through virtual reality from Sharks, to Whales, to Mermaids! They pet stingrays and sharks and walked over a large body of water that had some friendly water animals in it.

Finally, they participated in a Self-Care Tea Party where they came ready to Par-tea and were dressed to impress! At this event, youth participated in Afternoon Tea as well as a discussion on the connection between hygiene and self-care. Youth explored self-motivation during this time. After the food, youth wore kid-friendly eye masks while we made lip scrubs and tested them out!

Now they are ready for a new school year!

~ Regina I. Rodriguez, MA, Program Director, Muller IRTS

Highlights

Gerry Cooney and KB Residents meet Mike Tyson



Not only is Gerry a champion in the ring, but he is also a champion for the youth at YCS! Gerry accompanied Kilbarchan residents to Cus D'Amato's KO Boxing Gym in Catskill, NY, where they met and hung out with legendary boxer Mike Tyson along with other veteran boxers.

Highlights

CREW's FUNDAY!



The YCS C.R.E.W. team—who work closely with youth in our homes through Creative Educational Recreation—wanted to make sure every child had the opportunity to enjoy a summer filled with fun, friendship and unforgettable memories.

With the support of the YCS Foundation and our wonderful donors, the C.R.E.W. team organized a fun-filled sports day for the children. From smiles and laughter to teamwork and friendly competition, it was a day to remember!

Highlights

Davinchi and Cavan House Cookout!

Aloha! It was all fun, good vibes, and good food at the Davinchi and Cavan house cookout. The participants enjoyed themselves, ate, and danced the night away! It was a wonderful time for everyone.
~ Ebony Simpson, PD



Highlights

Northern Region Managers Appreciation Outing



Left to right: Ebony Simpson, Goerge Opoku, LaShayna Malone, Uzoamaka Njoku



We are proud to recognize our outstanding House Managers for their dedication, leadership, and commitment to maintaining high standards within their programs.

A special congratulations goes to **George Opoku (Burning Bush)**, **LaShayna Malone (Pamela)**, and **Ebony Simpson (Cavan)** whose homes successfully completed their state Inspections with Zero Citations . These House Managers were recognized with plaques in honor of this outstanding achievement.

We would also like to recognize two (2) House Managers whose programs received only one (1) citation during their inspections. Their strong performance and dedication to continuous improvement were acknowledged with certificates of recognition to **Uzoamaka Njoku (Walnut)** and **Ebony Simpson (Davinci)**.

We are incredibly proud of their efforts and thank them for continuing to set the standard for excellence.

Congratulations to all of our recognized House Managers on a job well done.

~ Yesenia Fulgencio
Regional Director DD Services NR

Highlights

Kilbarchan Funday



The weather was perfect for Family Fun Day on the Kilbarchan Campus! Everyone was treated to delicious food from the Brooklyn Burger food truck, while KB participants and their young guests enjoyed giant water slides, face painting, and plenty of other fun activities.

Most importantly, families had the opportunity to relax, have fun, and enjoy a special afternoon together.

Innovations

Turning Dreams into Business Plans

Northern Region DCF programs have launched an exciting new job-readiness initiative spearheaded by Anthony Cav Harris, dance therapist at Townsbury, Bright Start and Malcolm House.

Anthony, an entrepreneur himself, shared his journey toward becoming an independent business owner and then challenged the youth to imagine businesses of their own. One young man dreamed of becoming a barber, while another envisioned starting a landscaping business.

With Anthony's encouragement, the young entrepreneurs gave their businesses names and designed their own T-shirts. Anthony brought their ideas to life by creating the shirts himself.

"The youth wear their shirts every day. They are so proud of them," says Korey Clark, VP, NR DCF homes.

Anthony then took the initiative a step further, asking each young person to develop a business plan. They presented their ideas on stage at a summer dance festival hosted by Solo Expressions, Anthony's company. The experience gave the young entrepreneurs an opportunity to see their ideas taken seriously—and reinforced the belief that their dreams are within reach.

That message was strengthened at last week's NR Carnival, when Korey invited Karter, a young entrepreneur on the autism spectrum and his mentor, to share his own success story. Karter designs and sells sports caps, and his story immediately resonated with the young men. Several were even eager to purchase one of his hats.

Through these experiences, the young men are learning that with creativity, determination and support, their dreams of building successful careers can become a reality.



At the NR Teen Carnival, Korey Clark and the youth celebrated Karter, an autistic youth from the community who styles his own hats and has written his own book. Karter is the boy wearing yellow.



Aiden McPherson from Townsbury wants to own his own barber shop and his business name is A Plus Cuts.



James from Townsbury designed his business t-shirt.

Agency Updates

Human Resources Update

The administration of YCS's medical program is transitioning from Marpai to Crumdale Claims Solutions ("CCS"), effective tomorrow, September 1. As a reminder, we are remaining with the Aetna network.

We encourage you to review the instructions for accessing the new CCS member portal and set up your portal access so you are prepared to manage your benefits and claims with CCS.

Please note the following regarding claim submissions:

Claims for services incurred **prior to September 1, 2026**, will continue to be administered by **Marpai** and should be directed to Marpai.

Claims for services incurred on or **after September 1, 2026**, will be administered by **Crumdale Claims Solutions (CCS)** and should be directed to CCS.

Cards for new enrollees will be mailed out.

If you have questions or concerns about the medical program or claims, please contact the Crumdale Advocates for assistance:

Call or Text: **844-242-0040**

Email: advocates@crumdalespecialty.com

Thank you.

Steve Kessler, Chief Human Resources Officer

August HIPAA Tip



Before any private health information is shared with outside providers, we need a signed consent providing authorization. The Authorization to Release Medical Information should be completed in its entirety, specifying exactly what to share and with whom. Send the completed form to the YCS Privacy Officer for review.

Managers Meeting Highlights

Cabinet Meeting Highlights 8.20.26

Human Resources:

- Open Enrollment: Open enrollment ends Monday, August 24, with benefit elections effective September 1; employees must complete their enrollment by the deadline to avoid losing coverage.

Training Update:

- Five recent program inspections were completed successfully with no training citations! Congratulations to Haddon Heights, Sicklerville, Fisher Hall, Malcolm House and Vineland!
- Staff are reminded to stay current on required training throughout the year rather than waiting until an audit.
- Davis House and Phoenix House will be inspected in September. Employees should complete any outstanding training and be mindful of upcoming September requirements, including Abuse & Neglect and applicable medication/competency and clinical trainings.

Business Affairs:

- Fleet Cleanliness & Safe Driving: Staff are reminded to keep fleet vehicles clean by not eating food in the vehicle, removing trash after each use, and properly securing items with cargo nets; fleet safety scores will also be monitored regularly for speeding, hard braking, and rapid acceleration to promote safer driving practices.

Information Management System

- Electronic Signatures: Staff must always be logged into Evolve and other systems under their own username when completing electronic signatures to ensure documents are properly attributed to the correct individual and staff receive appropriate credit for their work.

Information Technology

- Cybersecurity: Employees play a critical role in protecting YCS by recognizing, preventing, and reporting potential cybersecurity threats; monthly cybersecurity tips are available on the YCS Community homepage under the "Cybersecurity Tip" section.

Managers Meeting Highlights

Cabinet Meeting Highlights 8.20.26

Quality Assurance & Program Integrity

- Inspections & Fire Drills: Staff should continue completing monthly EOCs and addressing any maintenance issues to ensure programs are prepared for DCF inspections. Fire drills must be completed and entered into ECR by the 10th of the following month, and staff should reach out early if assistance is needed.
- Life Safety Trends: Recent DCF Life Safety inspections identified common issues including chipped/peeling paint, soiled walls and general cleaning, missing emergency floor plans, open/expired food, and missing or outdated safety documentation. Staff should conduct thorough routine walkthroughs and address small maintenance and cleanliness issues proactively to reduce citations during inspections. These issues can be addressed by submitting a maintenance ticket to maintenance@ycs.org

ABA Update

- Three new BCBA's have been hired for Winslow, Estelle Manor and Adult DD
- Please contact the Training Department for future ABA training dates. TrainingDept@ycs.org

Practice Integration

- Clinical Care Rounds Upcoming Virtual Trainings (all trainings below have 2 CEUs attached):
- 9/3/26—Play Therapy Techniques for Adolescents with Anxiety
- 10/1/26—Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents
- 11/5/26—Clinical Work with LGBTQ+ Individuals (Part II)

Managers Meeting Highlights

Cabinet Meeting Highlights 8.20.26

YCS Communications

- Staff News & Recognition: Staff are encouraged to submit program updates, milestones, and personal achievements by August 28 so they can be shared with colleagues and the public to celebrate staff accomplishments, highlight YCS's impact, and support fundraising efforts.
- Janis NicolosiEndo, Chief Communications Officer, is leaving YCS after 25 years! Her last day is Friday, 8/28/26. Please feel free to reach out to her with your well wishes at JNEndo@ycs.org.

YCS Chaplain Update:

- Chaplain & Spiritual Support: Staff are reminded of the upcoming corporate prayer calls that are held live weekly on Tuesdays at 12:00pm. To participate, please call 605-313-4162, and then enter the passcode, 853485. This is not a Teams meeting.
- Staff are also encouraged to contact the chaplain whenever a consumer or staff member may benefit from chaplain support; email chaplain@ycs.org.

YCS Foundation Update:

- Staff are encouraged to send photos and personal thank-you messages from activities funded by donors to help demonstrate the impact of their support.
- Employees are also encouraged to participate in the upcoming golf event through ticket purchases, volunteering, and program baskets, as proceeds support allied services and home improvements.
- Please email heart@ycs.org with thank you messages for donors and if you have any questions regarding participating in the golf event happening Monday, 9/14/2026.

