

Inside YCS

A NEWSLETTER
BY AND FOR ALL YCS EMPLOYEES



VOLUME 37 | October 2026

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PRESIDENT/CEO

TARA AUGUSTINE

EDITOR

BARBARA MAY

INSIDE YCS

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NEWSLETTER. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

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Anthony, Kent Getter, Shantell Williams.

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President's Message

Dear YCS Team,

October has already given us a great deal to celebrate at YCS.

We began the month with national recognition for our Treatment Homes team in Washington, D.C. (page 5), as well as statewide recognition for one of our outstanding DSPs, Chartel Bush (page 8). These honors are well deserved, but they also represent something much bigger: the extraordinary work happening across YCS every day—often quietly, without an audience or an award.



Tara Augustine

And the people who make a difference at YCS extend well beyond our programs. This month, I am also pleased to welcome Jim Gibney to the YCS Board of Trustees. Jim and his wonderful community of “elves” have been part of the YCS family for many years, helping fulfill hundreds of holiday wishes for the children and individuals we serve. We are grateful that he has chosen to deepen that commitment through this new leadership role.

Later this month, we will come together for our Town Hall (page 4). I look forward to talking with you about where YCS is today, where we are headed, and the role each of us plays in getting there. Most importantly, I look forward to hearing from you and answering your questions.

You will also have another opportunity to make your voice heard through our Great Place to Work® survey. I hope you will participate and be candid. Your feedback matters. It helps us understand what we are doing well, where we need to improve, and what we need to do to make YCS a place where talented, compassionate people want to build their careers.

That same spirit of connection is behind Real Talk (page 4), our quarterly opportunity to step outside of our day-to-day roles, connect with one another, and have open and meaningful conversations.

At our Annual Meeting, I spoke about the power of being there. That is what I see reflected throughout this newsletter. Being there for a child who needs someone to believe in them. Being there for a student who needs patience, encouragement, and another chance to succeed. Being there for an adult working toward greater independence. Being there for a family that needs support. And being there for one another.

Thank you for continuing to show up—for the people we serve, for your colleagues, and for YCS. The recognition we receive is wonderful, but the work behind it is what truly matters.

Tara Augustine, LCSW
President & CEO
YCS

Upcoming Events

YCS Town Hall

Save The Date!



YCS Town Hall
with Tara Augustine
President/CEO



Thursday, October 15th at 10:00 AM
This event will take place on Teams. 
Limited seats are available for in-person attendance at the Newark Headquarters. More information to follow.

Your Voice Matters!

REAL TALK **by the Culture Connect Committee**



October 22
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Check your calendar
for the Teams Meeting invite

Teams Meeting
Meeting ID: 220 541 766 915 784
Passcode: AH9Cm6fA

Youth Consultation Service 2026 Angels in Adoption Honoree



YCS was named a 2026 Angels in Adoption® Honoree by the @Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute (CCAI), recognizing the work of our Specialized Treatment Homes program and its commitment to children and families.

Yesterday, YCS representatives, Tracie Bass and Anthony Raymond, traveled to Washington, D.C. for the Angels in Adoption® Celebration, joining honorees from across the country who are making a difference in adoption, foster care, permanency and child welfare.



Youth Consultation Service 2026 Angels in Adoption Honoree

It was truly an honor to attend the 2026 CCAI Angels in Adoption Leadership Conference and to represent the YCS Specialized Treatment Homes Program as an honoree.

The first day began with a tour of the U.S. Capitol, followed by an Advocacy Fair where we had the opportunity to meet and connect with fellow honorees (83) from across the country. Throughout the day, we participated in federal initiative spotlights, policy sessions, expert lightning talks, and breakout discussions focused on policy changes and sharing our perspectives. The day concluded with a live synthesis and expert reflections on the ideas and conversations shared throughout the conference. We also learned more about current bipartisan legislative priorities, including the Adopt Act (H.R. 6170/S. 3285) and the Fostering the Future Act (H.R. 7432).

The second day focused on Advocacy on the Hill, giving us the opportunity to share our experiences, concerns, and perspectives directly with members of Congress and their staff. We were part of a group of five, led by our team leader/ tour guide, Vince Brown, an Associate at Arnold & Porter.



Our group members (left to right: 1-6)

Charlene Platter (1):

Nominated by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)

Tracy Swain (6) and her adopted daughter Olivia (3):

Nominated by Congressman Tom Kean (R-NJ)

Senator Angela Alsobrooks (5) (D-MD)

Tracie Bass (2) and Anthony Raymond (4):

Nominated by Senator Corey Booker (D-NJ)

During our time on Capitol Hill, we met with a member of Congresswoman April McClain Delaney's team, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Senator Angela Alsobrooks, a member of Senator Andy Kim's team, Senator Cory Booker, and a member of Congressman Tom Kean's team.

One of the most meaningful parts of the Hill experience was having the opportunity to tell our stories and advocate for children, families, and the child welfare system. Many of our meetings were limited to approximately 15 minutes, which made the opportunity to speak directly with congressional offices and share what we see through our work especially meaningful.

My personal highlight was meeting with Senator Cory Booker, who nominated us for the Angels in Adoption honor. While our scheduled meetings with other congressional offices were generally brief, Senator Booker spent nearly an hour with our group.



Youth Consultation Service 2026 Angels in Adoption Honoree

He was personable and relatable, and I truly appreciated the time he took to genuinely engage with us—especially a young adoptee who was part of our group. His willingness to listen, have a meaningful conversation, and hear directly about our experiences made the meeting particularly memorable.

Another memorable moment was when one of Senator Booker's staff members took us on the underground Capitol transportation system from the Senate building to the Cannon House Office Building. It was an unexpected and exciting part of the experience and gave us a unique behind-the-scenes glimpse of Capitol Hill.

The conference concluded with the 28th Angels in Adoption Celebration that evening, which focused on strengthening community, building connections, and creating momentum for positive change within the child welfare system.

I am honored to have been part of such an inspiring experience and grateful to have represented YCS alongside so many dedicated advocates from across the country. I look forward to carrying these conversations, connections, and lessons back into my work and continuing to advocate for the children and families we serve.

~ **Tracie D. Bass**, LCSW,
Assistant Vice President,
Specialized Treatment Homes Program Statewide



Tracie Bass, Senator Corey Booker,
Tracy Swain



Charlene Platter, Senator Chris Van Hollen,
Tracie Bass, Anthony Raymond

We are humbled whenever we receive recognition for the outstanding work that we perform on a daily basis here within our program and agency. It reminds all of us of the dire importance of our work, our mission, and who it impacts. As a leader, it's awesome to see your team grow and have experiences that afford them the ability to connect the dots between the halls where policy is shaped and the public square where those policies live and breathe.

~ **Bill Waller**, Vice President of Specialized Treatment Homes.

Accolades

Chartel Bush 2026 NJACP DSP Hero



The YCS family is proud to announce that Chartel Bush, Residential Assistant, has been named a 2026 NJACP DSP Hero.

For nearly 25 years, Chartel has demonstrated what it means to be a dedicated YCS professional. Whether she is preparing a favorite meal, helping a youth navigate a challenging moment, creating a dependable routine, or simply taking the time to listen, Chartel brings compassion, patience, and love to everything she does.

Letter of Appreciation

The Beach Bash in Belmar, NJ



Andrew Vaccarelli at the Beach Bash in Belmar holding his trophy.

Yesenia, I want to express to you my deepest gratitude for arranging to have Andy brought to the "Beach Bash" held in Belmar today, sponsored by Autism NJ and Surfers Healing.

George and Kunle, for coordinating and providing transportation and support to Belmar for this event was an enormous help to me and truly means the world to our family. Experiences like this are so important to Andy, and knowing he had the support of your dedicated staff made the day seamless and enjoyable.

Thank you for your thoughtful coordination, leadership, and continuous dedication to creating rich, meaningful opportunities for Andy and all the residents. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and I am truly thankful for everything you and your team do.

Best,

Patty

Parent of Andrew Vaccarelli, Burning Bush resident.

PPS Podcast



The Second Episode of the Promising Pathways to Success Podcast is Live!



YCS is excited to launch the first episode of the Promising Pathways to Success Podcast, hosted by Lorenzo Brown, YCS Clinical Training Director.

In this episode, host Lorenzo Brown speaks with clinician Molly Holt, who co-founded and facilitates an LGBTQ plus youth support group, shares her expertise and insights on working with LGBTQ+ youth.

Through authentic conversations, the PPS Podcast explores evidence-based practices that help create safer, more compassionate environments for youth in residential care. We hope you'll join us for this meaningful conversation and stay tuned for future episodes featuring voices from across the agency.

You can view the podcast on our YouTube Channel.

 **YouTube** : Youth Consultation Service

SUBSCRIBE

Welcome New Employees

New Employees and Interns who completed 90 days by August 30 - September 28, 2026

Allen, Krista Nurse LPN DDD-Buena Vista	Denmark, Tamara Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Laurie Haven	Johnson III, Jay Cee Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Coopers Crossing	Ott, Alexandria Board Cert BehavAnalyst-S HealthSvc-Behaviorists-S
Amao, Nathaniel Personal Assistant DDD-Hilltop	Diaz, Jayla Intern - UnPaid DCF-PCH IDD Estell Manor	Kates, Paul Music Teacher DOE-George Washington	Perkins, Yanique Elementary Teacher DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr
Aperin, Sanya J. Personal Assistant DDD - Davinchi	Dudley, Aleisha J. Personal Assistant DDD-Pearl	Kea Jr., Kevin Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan	Saunders, Geneva Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Holley
Berry, Maranda Intern - UnPaid DCF-PCH Malcolm House	Findlay, Kimberly Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan	Kovatch, Jessica Clinician-S DCF-SPEC Townsbury	Thompson, Steven P. Residential Assistant DCF-SPEC Kilbarchan
Carter, Gina Intern - UnPaid DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	Flood, Al-Nisa Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Laurie Haven	McMillan, Nasir K. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Cedarbrook	Vail, Rose Clinician-S DCF-IRTS Holley Muller
Corbin, Chante Bookkeeper Accounting & Finance	Hayes-Bartee, Kenaya Residential Assistant DCF-GH1 IDD Wood Haven	Mouzakes, Alethea Clinician-S DCF-PCH Fisher Hall	Wright, Tyheisha Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Sayre
Darby, George Residential Assistant DCF-SPEC Pinewood Valley	Hernandez, Gesselle HR Assistant Human Resources	NEAL, Ishea S. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Bright Start	
Dean-Bailey, Jahmani Personal Assistant DDD-Echohill	Hunt, Tameka Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Sayre	Onadipe, Oluwafunmilola Intern - UnPaid DOE-Sawtelle Learning Ctr	

Shoutouts

To All Our Amazing Employees!

✦ **Carlos Acosta:** I'm giving him kudos because he is always so helpful! He really does go above and beyond to help us as much as he can. He has even researched very rare genetic conditions that require special diets because he wants to have an informed understanding of the client's full diagnosis and needs, and not only their diet. We have had some really challenging cases this past year, and I can always count on Carlos.

✦ **Danielle Woolley:** I would like to commend Danielle Wooley and her team for the work they are doing at Townsbury. I know the population can be very challenging at times, and I appreciate the continued effort you and your team are putting forth.

The meeting held with the youth and staff that I was in attendance appeared to be very effective and provided a great deal of transparency. I am hopeful that, moving forward, we will begin to see positive changes in both the youth and staff dynamics.

Thank you for your continued hard work and leadership. Please keep up the good work.

✦ **Haven Court:** The program looks great upon my arrival, and the success report I received regarding the youth progress was wonderful to hear. It is clear that the hard work and dedication of you and your team are making a positive impact.

Keep up the great work, Phara at Haven Court! I truly appreciate your continued efforts and commitment to the youth. Thank you!

✦ **Jenna Howley:** Thank you for volunteering to create Evacuation Diagrams for Programs.

✦ **Lawnridge Team:** I would like to take a moment to acknowledge and recognize the great work you all have been doing with our new youth, JS.

John has been in and out of the hospital over the past five months due to suicidal ideation, elopement, and other significant challenges. I recognize that he has only been at 332 for a short period of time, but I want to acknowledge the positive work and effort the Lawnridge team has already put into supporting him.

Your patience, dedication, teamwork, and commitment to keeping JS safe and providing him with the support he needs are greatly appreciated.

Please keep up the great work and continue to support JS as a team. Your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for all that you do!

Shoutouts

To All Our Amazing Employees!

✦ **Mark Robinson:** I would like to take a moment to acknowledge you and the entire Lawnridge team for the teamwork, dedication, and commitment you continue to demonstrate.

Thank you all for working together to make Lawnridge a safe, welcoming, and family-like environment for both our youth and staff. Your commitment to creating a positive program environment does not go unnoticed.

I would also like to commend the entire team for your continued efforts to keep the program beds filled and your focus on maintaining a strong and successful program.

Great job, Mark! Please continue to keep up the good work, and thank you to the entire Lawnridge team for all that you do. Keep up the great work!

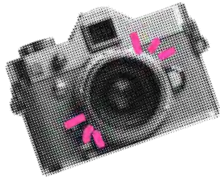
✦ **Omar Hawkins:** Affectionately known by the Pinewood youth as Mr. O! Mr. O, you bring an infectious positive energy to Pinewood Valley each time you walk through our doors. The youth look forward to your presence and identify you as such a positive person in their lives. We THANK YOU for being the center of the party and, more importantly, pouring hope, accountability, and love into our young men.

✦ **Philip Ledig:** Mr. Phil, we know you do not like the spotlight, but we will keep it quick lol! We appreciate ALL that you do and have done with our Pinewood Youth. You are truly the heart of the house and have inspired the youth more than you will ever know. Your patience, knowledge, and hands-on approach to therapy are unmatched. You are soaring, Mr. Phil! Pinewood is happy to be a part of your journey! Good Luck at Vineland:)

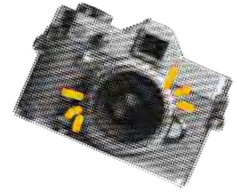
✦ **Robert Boyce** is an AMAZING Residential Aide that puts the capital T in TEAM. Mr. Boyce is always willing to lend a helping hand and to support the Pinewood team without hesitation. Mr. Boyce is a GEM to our program. Our youth respect his wisdom and simply adore his consistent presence in the home. We THANK YOU, Mr. Boyce, for showing up with passion for our youth nightly and being a source of grounding and support to our team.

✦ **Yesenia Fulgencio:** Thank you sooooo much for going above and beyond by driving from Newark to Camden to deliver Chartel Bush's DSP Hero certificate!

Shoutouts



To All Our Amazing Employees!

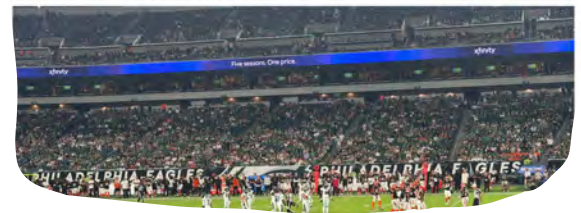
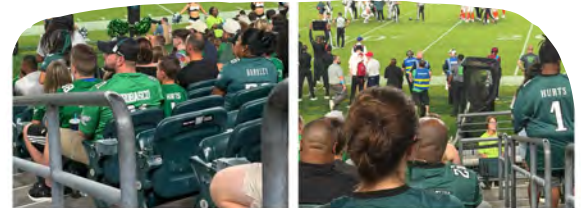
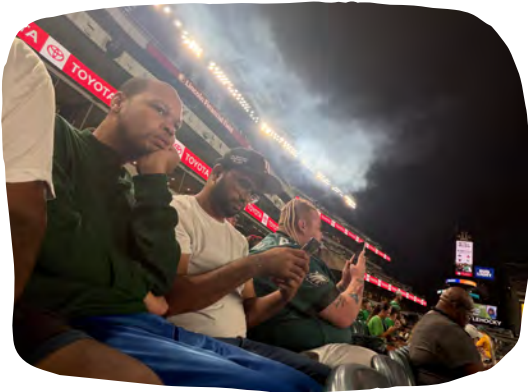


✦ **Foundation:** We at Sawtelle Toledo would like to sincerely thank the Foundation for funding the Eagles game experience for our participants! 🦅🏈 They had an amazing time and truly enjoyed the opportunity to attend the game and be part of such a memorable experience.

Your generosity and continued support help create meaningful opportunities and unforgettable experiences for the individuals we serve. We greatly appreciate your commitment to our participants and all that you do to support them.

Thank you again for making this experience possible! ❤️

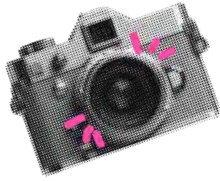
Bianca Dumas



✦ **Tara Augustine:**
Our (Sawtelle Learning Center) 1st in-service day with a sweet treat surprise from the wonderful Tara Augustine- many Thanks!



Shoutouts



To All Our Amazing Employees!



Sawtelle Toledo:

Rep your NFL Team Staff Appreciation.

A BIG shoutout to our amazing Adult DD staff at Sawtelle Toledo!

Thank you for the dedication, patience, compassion, and hard work you demonstrate every day. Your commitment to supporting our participants, promoting independence, maintaining safe and welcoming homes, and ensuring quality services does not go unnoticed.

From completing documentation and Treatment Links to supporting community inclusion, following individual service plans, preparing meals, maintaining the homes, and simply being there when our participants need you, your work matters!

Thank you for everything you do each day!

We appreciate you. We value you. And most importantly, the participants we serve benefit from your dedication.

Keep up the great work, Sawtelle Toledo Team!





Work Anniversaries



September - Congratulations!

YEARS	Name	YEARS	Name
37	Blass, Genoveva	13	Pressley, Pamela C.
37	Leacock, Mary	13	Wright, Nijasha Z.
37	Brown, Susie	12	Fajardo, Juan C.
30	Edwards, Esther-Shama T.	12	Pierre, Jacqueder
29	Jones, Dawn M.	10	Palmer, Lenward L.
27	Mason-Bell M.D., Sharon E.	10	Wright, Gary S.
26	Wade, Jennifer J.	10	Givens, Denisha
25	Nickels, Yolanda	10	Guariglia, Lisa B.
25	Fuller, Annette	9	Lyde Jr. Jr., Ray
24	Alston, Falana	8	Quintana-Beyra, Grethel
23	Roberts, Rebekah	8	Ruiz, Yamaira
22	Giles, Rasheed	7	Loray, Laura E.
22	Donovan, Erica L.	7	Little, Shona
21	Halsey, Judith	7	Omini, Emmanuel
19	Bright, Tesha	7	Dunlap, Sheena
17	Gledhill, Ashley	7	Lapine, Michele
17	Baskin, Anthony D.	7	Reynolds, Jeffrey N.
16	Carranza Escobar, Elsa M.	6	Lawrence, Richard
16	Joyce Jr., Lorenzo	5	Brown, DaNaisha
15	Franklin, Sheryll M.	5	Huger, Naaja
15	McMillan, Tameka	4	McCants, Tyrone
14	Goree Jr., Sherman D.	3	Williams, Shelinda
14	Burton, Karen	3	Davis, Yasmin
14	Litchfield, Samantha	3	Witherspoon, Shekera
13	Little, Lea A.	2	Ojugo, Eromosele S.
13	Knighton, Ronda S.	2	Fortenberry, Shaneika S.

Work Anniversaries

September - Congratulations!

YEARS	Name	YEARS	Name
2	Ochieng, Chris	1	Fogel, Gabriella
2	Dumas, Mylyn	1	Aderibigbe, Temitope
2	Moore, Cheryl	1	Chiappa, Amy L.
2	Sewell, Brandi	1	Ciapanna Jr., Joseph
2	Simpson, Asharah	1	Clark, Chanika N.
2	Wecksell, Beth	1	Dunkins, Jermaine
2	Raymond, Courtney	1	Ledbetter, Darlene
2	Hardnett, Tyson	1	Oyebade, Adekunle J.
2	Muse, Jesse	1	Pereyra, Jasmine
2	Perry, Dionne D.	1	Goodwater, Danasha A.
2	Rodriguez, Keanah		
2	Williamson, Michelle		
1	Adejumo, Olamide		
1	Calabria, Joseph V.		
1	Daniels Jr., William		
1	Johnson, Jehizkiah		
1	Sinclair, Meka M.		
1	Warrington, Latia R.		
1	Donaghy, Cassidy M.		
1	Gude, Alexandra		
1	Quintana, Jennesis J.		
1	Turner, Zaire		
1	Abdul-Jaami I, Taahirah S.		
1	McCray, JiAsia D.		
1	Mico, Sofia Lorainne		
1	Woolaston, Christopher N.		



Work Anniversaries



October - Congratulations!

YEARS	Name	YEARS	Name
33	Ross, Gloria	7	Usifoh, Paul C.
32	Ryan, Theresa A.	6	Adetunji, Oloruntosin M.
30	Gustad, Laura A.	6	Patterson, Donna
25	Tighe, Rachelle L.	6	Sykes, Brian L.
22	Captain, Lissa	6	Parekh, Sheetal
19	Baguidy, Patrick M.	6	Williams-Lindsey, Ellen H.
16	Ayler, Susan L.	5	Andersen, Jonathan
15	Reed, Nalesha D.	5	Nathans, Diane
14	Matthews, Keasha	5	DiFilippo, Michele A.
14	Ashford, Cornelia P.	5	Phalen, Thomas P.
14	Granston, Leighton	5	Alvarado, Kassandra
13	Williams, Shamaine L.	5	Ware, Shamyra S.
12	Afolabi, Babatunde A.	5	Reese, Alissa
12	Gasque, Jihadah M.	4	Mayfield, Anita K.
12	Bass, Tracie D.	4	McNeill, Marcus
11	Scanish, Mark D.	4	Bragg, Jacqueline
10	Cherry, Seanta	4	Tabb, Charda T.
9	Dawson, Jashon	4	Burgess, Generia
9	Del Orbe, Willy	3	Acosta, Carlos
9	Richards I, Patrick D.	3	Deroche, Keimora
8	Lastra, Michael J.	3	Simpson, Ebony A.
8	Roefaro, Diane	3	Fasoro, Titilayo
8	Montalvo, Taina	3	Jordan, Timothy L.
7	Hawkins, Marquita	3	Robinson Jr., Rogers D.
7	Comer, Sarita	3	Isley-Robinson, Tania
7	Robinson, Donte	3	Carter, Printayzha



Work Anniversaries

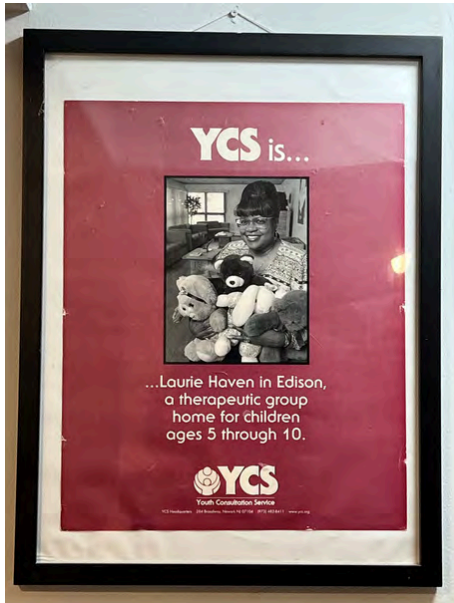


October - Congratulations!

YEARS	Name	YEARS	Name
3	Herald, Imany R.		
3	Miller, Emily M.		
2	Onwunali, Uchey E.		
2	Champagne, Sharajhen		
2	Herbert, Christian A.		
2	Vargas, Madeline		
2	Joseph, Lovens J.		
2	Butryn, Kelly		
2	Marquez Nicdao, Charisse		
2	Roman, Krystal		
2	Stephan, Robert		
1	Doyle, John		
1	Herald, Urshala D.		
1	Loor Gomez, Shirley P.		
1	Tann, Dacheimia		
1	LaBarbera, Roberta		
1	Floyd, Michelle		
1	McCain, Takeyah		
1	Thomas, Shamoneke D.		
1	Doe, Felix		
1	Hall Jr., Robert A.		
1	Kopack, Kathryn M.		
1	Rosencranz, Julianna		
1	Hutchinson III, Berkeley E.		
1	Roberts, Nadia		

Highlights

Laurie Haven 30th Year Pearl Anniversary



Thirty years ago, a photographer came to Laurie Haven and took Etta's picture. Just like that picture, Etta Sample, Program Manager, has been at Laurie Haven for thirty years, and with her staff, have been providing loving care to all the participants who have come to them for help.

To commemorate this milestone, Laurie Haven celebrated its Pearl anniversary with colleagues and participants from around the agency. Everyone ate delicious food, prepared in-house, and was treated to playing video games on a mobile video game trailer!



Highlights

Laurie Haven 30th Year Pearl Anniversary



Laurie Haven staff all had special T-shirts, and those with more than 10 years of service had their names and years of service printed on them. "Veteran staff want to show newer employees that they can stay and make a big impact on the lives of their residents," said **Gloria Ross**.

Toni Daley, Residential Assistant Supervisor, spoke about what she loves about Laurie Haven.

"This is my 18th year. I am currently a residential assistant supervisor on the overnight shift. What I really love about my job is that it's really a place where we love the kids. Whether it's waking them up in the morning for school, whether it's bringing them to a doctor's appointment, whether while they're sitting at the table having lunch, dinner, or even breakfast, and just having a genuine conversation. We are dedicated to the safety and the well-being of the children. Laurie Haven is a safe place. It's a comfortable place."



Etta Sample, summed it all up, "On behalf of Laurie and Staff and myself. Thank you for coming for our celebration. This is not about us. This is for the kids. And this is why we're here 30 years later. There's a lot of veteran staff here with me, 30-some years, and I just want to thank you because those two words mean a lot for your dedication, love, and compassion for the children here. And we want to celebrate everybody today."

Highlights

Spirituality Mindfulness Graduation



The Spiritual Mindfulness graduation was hosted in Somerdale for our southern region residents. Everyone who attended was very happy, ate a delicious meal, and received a certificate from YCS Chaplain Bill Waller and Rayletta Garrison, COO, commemorating their achievement. Then, something unexpected happened. The graduates started singing and dancing and putting on their own mini talent show! It was great!

Congratulations to all the 2026 Spiritual Mindfulness graduates!

Highlights

Morris House at Great Adventure



Morris House residents visit Great Adventure.



Taco Tuesday



Jose works on his cooking skills, adding spices to the ground beef on Taco Tuesday at Hilltop.

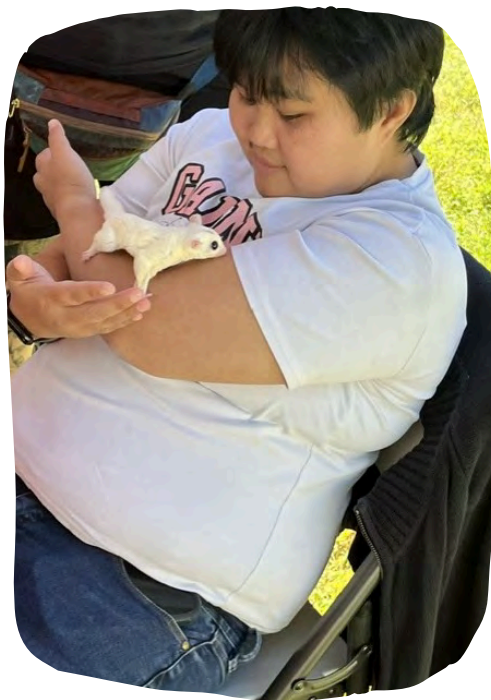
Happy Birthday Sarita!



The Barua's came to celebrate Sarita Barua's birthday at Buffalo House. Happy birthday, Sarita!

Highlights

Labor Day Cookout at Haledon



Haledon House celebrated Labor Day with a cookout. Residents came from Greenbrook, Thomas House, Walnut, Townsbury, Pamela House, Buffalo House, and Cavan House. Attendees enjoyed the food and the camaraderie. Participants from Buffalo House loved petting the animals.

Highlights

Cheese Burgers and Batman at GW School



GW School kicked off the school year by observing National Cheeseburger Day and Batman Day!

Highlights

Pinewood Valley Activities



Pinewood Valley has been in action! Our youth expressed interest in AVIATION. We had the opportunity to take them to AIRFEST where they had the opportunity to not only see planes but go inside and tour them and other cool rides.

To celebrate the close of Summer and HELLO FALL, our youth had a blast at SIX FLAGS! Our youth earned this awesome outing for demonstrating positive coping skills and respect for each other and the TEAM! I think Mr. O had more fun than the kids!

We've been on the move! We toured ACUA as well and learned about waste recycle and management while having fun!

~ **Sontay Spence**, MS, CAD, Program Director and **April Wright**, CRS

Agency Updates

Foundation Update

THANK YOU!

Hi everyone,

I wanted to take a moment to recognize our YCS team members who went above and beyond to support this year's event. Whether you attended, volunteered, participated in the auction or 50/50, helped coordinate a program basket, or contributed behind the scenes, thank you.

You already show up every day for the children, adults and families we serve. The fact that so many of you chose to support YCS in another way — by giving your time, contributing something special or simply joining us to celebrate the work — means a great deal.

We shared a short video during Monday night's program that captures just a small piece of the impact happening across YCS. If you haven't seen it yet, I hope you'll take a few minutes to watch and share it with your teams: [WATCH & SHARE THE VIDEO](#)

More than anything, I hope you feel proud of what you helped make possible — at the Golf Classic and in the work you do every day.

Thank you for continuing to show the power of being there.

Warmly,

Keri Diamond

Director of Development

YCS Foundation

Gordan Family Trust Employee Scholarship

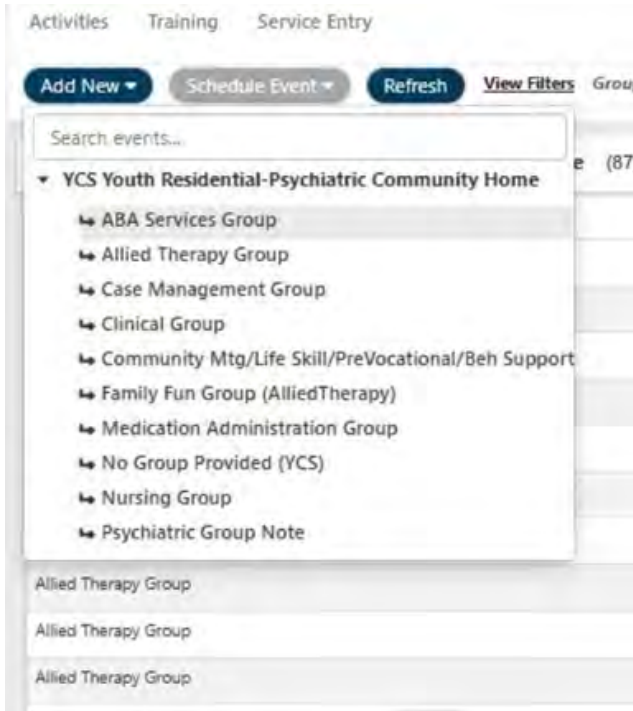


YCS is accepting applications for the next round of scholarships.

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

Agency Updates

IMS Update



We have a positive change coming to the Group Notes module that we're excited to share!

Moving forward, you will no longer see the unit dropdown when completing group notes. That workflow was duplicative and prone to user error, so we've removed the requirement. You'll still select the group you're running from the "Add New" option, just as you do today.

This update came directly from user feedback (a big thank you to Lissa for flagging it!)

We want to keep hearing from you so we can continuously improve Evolv and your overall experience.

Please let us know if you have any questions or other ideas for improvement!

IMS Team

IMS Tip of the Month: The Scariest Thing This Halloween? Your Unsubmitted Notes



Unsubmitted notes don't count towards compliance metrics, meaning all that documentation you did might as well not exist.

Now that's scary.

Don't let your hard work disappear into the void.

When you're finished,

HIT SUBMIT

and send it to your supervisor, not the graveyard!



Agency Updates

Training Update

Congratulations on ZERO citations!

The Gold Standard: Impeccable Regulatory Performance

 Zero Citations Haddon Heights Inspected 7.16.26	 Zero Citations Sicklerville Inspected 7.16.26	 Zero Citations Fisher Hall Inspected 8.3.26
 Zero Citations Davis House Inspected 9.8.26	 Zero Citations Malcolm House Inspected 8.12.26	 Zero Citations Vineland Inspected 8.17.26

© Gemini Notebook

September HIPAA Tip



Never share any private health information over the phone unless you are certain of two things: 1. Who you are talking to; and, 2. That this person is authorized to have such information.

October HIPAA Tip



Our sites are busy places. People enter and leave throughout the day. It is the responsibility of all staff to keep private health information secure from others. Ensure all visitors sign in, have a legitimate reason for being on grounds, and are not left alone where they may access information. Visitors should never be allowed to use YCS computers.

Agency Updates

Food Services Update

This Menu is a Pre-Diabetic menu and is located on the YCS community site, Program Resources > Documents > Food Service.

Visit YCS community for more meal plans.

Day	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	3pm Snack	8Pm Snack
Sunday	Whole-wheat pancakes, sugar-free syrup, turkey sausage, strawberries, low-fat milk	Roast beef, brown rice, green beans, side salad, apple	Baked fish, roasted potatoes, broccoli, carrots, whole-wheat roll	Greek yogurt + berries	Apple + peanut butter
Monday	Scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, whole-wheat toast, strawberries, low-fat milk	Grilled chicken sandwich, lettuce & tomato, side salad, apple	Baked chicken, brown rice, broccoli, carrots, whole-wheat roll	Greek yogurt	½ oz almonds
Tuesday	Oatmeal with blueberries & cinnamon, boiled egg, low-fat milk	Turkey & cheese wrap, cucumber salad, orange	Lean beef meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, side salad	Apple + peanut butter	Low-fat cheese
Wednesday	Vegetable omelet, whole-wheat toast, melon, low-fat milk	Tuna salad sandwich, carrot sticks, pear	Baked tilapia, brown rice, zucchini, mixed salad, whole-wheat roll	Cottage cheese + berries	Walnuts
Thursday	Whole-grain cereal, low-fat milk, banana, boiled egg	Grilled chicken Caesar salad, whole-wheat roll, apple	Turkey meatballs, whole-wheat pasta with marinara, broccoli	Greek yogurt	Berries
Friday	Scrambled eggs, turkey sausage, whole-wheat toast, strawberries	Turkey burger, lettuce & tomato, roasted vegetables, orange	Chicken Parmesan, whole-wheat pasta, green beans, side salad	Pear + peanut butter	Low-fat yogurt
Saturday	Oatmeal with apples & cinnamon, boiled egg, low-fat milk	Turkey & Swiss sandwich, cucumber slices, apple	Roast beef, roasted potatoes, broccoli, carrots, whole-wheat roll	Cottage cheese + fruit	½ oz almonds

Pre-Diabetic Menu

Agency Updates

IT UPDATE

Cybersecurity Tip of the Month: Understanding Phishing Risks

Phishing is one of the most common and effective cyberattacks because it targets people rather than technology. Attackers use convincing emails, text messages, phone calls, or fake websites to trick individuals into revealing passwords, financial information, or other sensitive data.

Cybercriminals often disguise themselves as:

- Managers or executives requesting urgent action.
- Vendors asking for payment changes.
- IT support teams requesting password verification.
- Banks, shipping companies, or other trusted organizations.

These messages frequently create a sense of urgency, fear, or curiosity to pressure recipients into acting quickly without verifying the request.

Common Phishing Tactics

- Emails claiming your account will be suspended unless you log in immediately.
- Fake invoices or payment requests with malicious attachments.
- Messages containing links to counterfeit login pages designed to steal credentials.
- Requests to purchase gift cards or transfer funds on behalf of an executive.
- Text messages (smishing) that direct you to fraudulent websites.
- Phone calls (vishing) from individuals pretending to be technical support or company representatives.

Potential Consequences

A successful phishing attack can result in:

- Stolen usernames and passwords.
- Unauthorized access to email and business systems.
- Financial fraud and wire transfer scams.
- Exposure of confidential employee, client, or organizational data.
- Malware or ransomware infections that disrupt operations.

How to Protect Yourself

- Carefully inspect the sender's email address, not just the display name.
- Hover over links before clicking to verify the destination.
- Be cautious of unexpected attachments, especially those asking you to enable macros or open compressed files.
- Use saved bookmarks or manually type website addresses instead of clicking login links in emails or text messages.
- Verify unusual requests through a known phone number or separate communication channel.
- Report suspicious messages immediately to Helpdesk@ycs.org.

Agency Updates

IT UPDATE

Why This Matters

A single click on a phishing email can compromise an individual's account and potentially expose the entire organization to cyber threats. By taking a few moments to verify messages before responding, employees serve as the first line of defense against cybercriminals and help protect YCS's systems, data, staff, and the individuals we serve.

Real-World Phishing Examples

The following are examples of phishing attacks that employees commonly encounter:

- Fake Microsoft 365 Password Expiration Notice
- An email claims that your Microsoft 365 password will expire within 24 hours and prompts you to click a link to keep your account active. The link leads to a counterfeit login page designed to steal your credentials.
- Executive Gift Card Scam
- An email or text message appearing to come from a supervisor or executive asks you to urgently purchase gift cards for employees, clients, or a special event. The attacker pressures you to act quickly and keep the request confidential.
- Payroll or Direct Deposit Change Request
- An employee receives an email that appears to be from Human Resources asking them to verify payroll information or update their direct deposit details. The link directs them to a fake website that captures personal and banking information.
- Package Delivery Notification
- A text message claims a package delivery has been delayed and asks you to click a link to confirm your address or pay a small delivery fee. The link directs you to a fraudulent website designed to steal credit card information.
- Fake Invoice or Vendor Payment Request
- An attacker impersonates a vendor and sends an invoice with updated banking instructions. If the payment is processed, funds are transferred directly to the attacker instead of the legitimate vendor.
- Technical Support Impersonation Call (Vishing)
- Someone claiming to be from the IT Help Desk calls and advises that your computer has been compromised. They ask for your password or request that you install remote-access software, giving them control of your device.

Remember: Stop, Verify, Report

If a message creates a sense of urgency, requests sensitive information, asks for money, or seems unusual in any way:

1. Stop before taking action.
2. Verify the request through a trusted communication channel.
3. Report suspicious emails, texts, or calls to Helpdesk@ycs.org immediately.

By staying vigilant and following these simple steps, you can help protect both your personal information and YCS from cyber threats.

Thank you for helping keep YCS secure!

Managers Meeting Highlights

Cabinet Meeting Highlights 9.17.26

Finance and Accounting

Reminder of Requisition Process

- Submit a requisition first — approval is required before making purchases, committing funds, or having YCS pay for goods or services.
- Ensure all required documentation is included, and the requisition is completed correctly. Finance reviews submissions for completeness and accuracy; a rejection generally means information or documentation is missing or incorrect.
- Obtain required approvals from managers and VPs. Once fully approved, a Purchase Order (PO) is generated.
- Receive goods/services in Oracle after they are received. The receipt must be processed in Oracle before Finance can issue payment to the vendor.

Important: All invoices should just be going to APNR@ycs.org or getting sent to YCS, 284 Broadway, Newark, NJ 07104.

New Vendor Process

1. Access the New Supplier Request: In Oracle, go to Requisitions → More Tasks → Request New Supplier.
2. Complete Required Information: Fill in all fields marked with an asterisk (*). If you are unsure about a required field, select an appropriate option to complete the request so the process can be initiated.
3. Submit the Request: The new vendor process does not begin until the request is submitted.
4. Supplier Packet: Complete the required supplier packet, which is available on the YCS website.

Human Resources/Training

Employee Engagement Survey

- The Great Place to Work employee engagement survey will launch October 19, following a town hall on October 15th.
- Employees are encouraged to participate because the survey provides an opportunity for 100% anonymous and candid feedback to leadership.

Managers Meeting Highlights

- Strong participation is important to identify employee concerns and inform efforts to make meaningful improvements across YCS.

Please note for the town hall scheduled for Thursday, October 15th, everyone in YCS will receive an email from our Communications Department with more information and provided an opportunity to submit questions.

Training

There were five external training audits in the month of July, August and one for the month of September which resulted in ZERO citations! Shout Outs to Haddon Heights, Sicklerville, Fisher Hall, Vineland, Malcolm House and Davis House for a GREAT JOB keeping up with their training!

Relias Training

July Trainings Due for All Staff: Corporate Compliance and Workplace Safety

August Trainings Due for DCF & DDD Staff: Workplace Violence & Overview of Person First Language

September Trainings Due for All Staff: Preventing, Identifying and Responding to Abuse and Neglect

September Training Due for Nursing & Clinical Staff: Psychopharmacology

October Training Due for DCF Staff: Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, Overview of Substance Abuse Disorder, Addressing Tobacco Use

Facilities & Food Service

Facilities Highlights

- Winter Preparedness: Facilities is securing snow-removal contracts for all locations, with several sites handled internally and the remaining locations covered by subcontractors. Programs are encouraged to prepare homes and consider using available garages to store YCS vehicles during winter weather.
- Facility Staffing: Facilities is currently short-staffed and recruiting for approximately four open positions. Programs should continue submitting tickets, while urgent issues should be communicated directly to Facilities leadership.
- Water Systems: YCS is exploring the installation of plumbed-in water coolers at residential homes to reduce costs, eliminate the need to handle heavy water bottles, and simplify water delivery.

Managers Meeting Highlights

Food Service

- Menu Planning: Programs needing specialized or additional menus are encouraged to contact Carlos Acosta, Food Services Director, carlos.acosta@ycs.org who is available to collaborate with programs and Nursing to develop appropriate meal plans.

Transportation

- Emergency Vehicle Cards: All YCS vehicles should have the "Just in Case of Emergency" cards readily available to provide drivers with guidance for roadside, medical, and other emergency situations. Please contact Barbara Franklin-Winsor, Fleet Manager, Barbara.franklin-winsor@ycs.org if you don't them.
- Required Documentation: Fleet is working toward making vehicle registration, insurance, and emergency documents accessible through a shared community site to simplify inspections and ensure documentation remains current and complete.
- Please note every vehicle will have a cargo net in the back, and the back should be clear of unnecessary items so the cargo net can store safety triangles, battery cables and other supplies to stay in compliance State and YCS standards.

Information Management

- Cyber Contact Update: If cyber user password resets are needed, please include Meghan Branca in the request at Meghan.branca@ycs.org to ensure your request is addressed in the event if the current administrators are out of office.
- 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.
- Good News! YCS is up to 95% compliance in Microsoft Office 365 usage! We have to maintain 85% usage to continue receiving grants for the product. Keep up the good work and engagement!

Managers Meeting Highlights

Quality Assurance & Program Integrity

- Inspections & Fire Drills: DCF inspections coming up September 21st to 24th at Phoenix.
- CARF Recommendations
- Disaster Plan: The updated disaster plan, including emergency procedures for non-YCS service locations, was distributed September 10 and will be used moving forward.
- Policies and Handbooks: Updated search and seizure and participant rights policies, along with revised Family Guardian and Participant Handbooks, were distributed; programs must add program-specific information and obtain required acknowledgements/receipts.
- Evacuation maps and routes should be clear, legible, accessible, and understandable to the individuals served, particularly when displayed as diagrams.

Reminder: Matthew Hopkins is the privacy officer, so all record requests go to him. Jaime Fox is the compliance officer, and so compliance issues, UIRs, DD investigation, and report reviews should be addressed to her.

Practice Integration

Clinical Care Rounds Upcoming Virtual Trainings (all trainings below have 2 CEUs attached):

- 10/1/26—Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents
- 11/5/26—Clinical Work with LGBTQ+ Individuals (Part II)

YCS Communications

- Staff News & Recognition: Chartel Bush from Sawtelle Camden was honored as a DSP Healthcare Hero by NJACP.
- Inside YCS. Newsletter can't happen without you! Please send ideas, stories, upcoming program events, participant success stories, thank-you letters and letters of appreciation for staff including Shout-Outs by September the 25th to info@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.
- Spirituality Ceremony-- You're welcome to join us!
- When: Wednesday 9/23rd

Managers Meeting Highlights

- Time: 5:30pm
- Place Somerdale Office, 20 East Evergreen Ave, Somerdale, NJ

Sayre, Estelle Manor, Iron Crest, and Whispering Mills graduates will be celebrated. Food and refreshments will be served.

YCS Foundation Update

Thanks to all who supported the golf outing with good vibes and thoughts or raffle tickets, and those of you who put the baskets together. It was a great event. The video that we showed the night of the event can be seen below. We are really grateful for the collaborative process that we've developed with all the programs and all of the allied services you have connected with YCS.

https://ycsorg.sharepoint.com/:v:/s/Community/IQCRbPwH4fq3QYtVnPHhgpdAb4qRunmfK0LSM5gh6sU_Do?e=TRWNRk&referrer=Outlook.Web&referrerScenario=email-linkwithembed

