



APRIL-JUNE 2016



Have you seen the Crossroads Youth & Family Services promotional video? If you haven't, you can now access it through our YouTube channel. Please click on the following link:

<https://youtu.be/se73WsTGnhg>

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State Budget Cuts Threaten Programs of Crossroads Youth & Family Services

Crossroads' officials report that, for Fiscal Year 2016, state budget cuts are having a drastic effect on the programs and services offered by the agency. "One such program is the Cleveland County Juvenile Intervention Center (JIC)," said Lisa Winters, Executive Director of Crossroads YFS. "We have operated the JIC since 1997. It serves over 400 juveniles and their families per year as a processing and holding center for youth who have been accused of misdemeanor or status offense such as truancy, possession of alcohol, petty theft, etc. The state contract for this fiscal year ending June 30th, on top of a 5.75% cut to Crossroads' contract for Community Based Youth Services. Many of the juveniles served by this program have significant family problems or are involved in alcohol and drug use."

"The Juvenile Intervention Center is often the first point of contact for juveniles who need comprehensive services to address behavioral and

substance abuse issues," said Terran Manning, Director of Youth Services for Crossroads YFS. "We work closely with other agencies to ensure juveniles can access the help they need. But these budget cuts have made it impossible for us to continue to operate the JIC in a separate building from the Emergency Youth Shelter, so it's rather like going back in time to pre-1997 when we had to place juveniles with more challenging behaviors in the same milieu as children who were removed from their homes because of abuse and neglect. That's not ideal, but at least we can keep JIC services open for the juveniles who need us."

"We also anticipate further cuts for the new fiscal year beginning July 1st," Winters said. "We can't sustain any more. Budget cuts over the past few years from both the state and the county have seriously eroded our Counseling Program's ability to provide services. We have had to eliminate or significantly downsize several programs

already, and now we are downsizing the JIC. Any further cuts will likely result in the closure of more programs, which would be catastrophic. If that happens, I don't know what the community would do, because, we are one of the few programs that offer free or sliding fee scale family counseling services in Cleveland County."

"Although we managed to keep the Cleveland County Emergency Youth Shelter open following the loss of county funding for that program, it was our counseling program that took the brunt of the reduction," she continued. "We were forced to cut school-based services, the Truancy Program, and the Outdoor Therapeutic Adventure Program, and we drastically reduced individual counseling services. Children and families will end up suffering because of this."

—Press Release by Marla Parish (Director of Administrative Services)



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Just go to the www.smile.amazon.com website, and you will see a box where you will enter our name as the charity you want to support. Type in **Crossroads Youth & Family Services** and our name will come up. Then, hit the "Start Shopping" button, and that's all there is to it!

Just remember to always go FIRST to www.smile.amazon.com so that your purchase will count. Every little bit helps! Thank you for making today count!

Educational Achievements of Crossroads Staff Members

- Cheryl Todd—Masters in Early Childhood Education
- Becky Johnson—Masters in Professional Counseling
- Sharon Franklin—Bachelor of Science
- Natalie Jackson—Associates Degree, Early Childhood Education
- Destiny Walker—Associates Degree, Early Childhood Education
- Sara Nash—Associates Degree, Early Childhood Education

CDA Recipients

- Ashanti Edmond
- Stefanie Loggins
- Janine Sexton
- Janine Mann
- Ashly Prieto
- Jessie Smith
- Cherish Daughtry
- Crystal Levine
- Racheal Williams
- Camie Smith
- Catherine Dickson
- Wendy McConnell
- Chasity Tackett
- Jennifer Melter (Certificate of Mastery)

Congratulations!

Counseling Program Receives CARF Accreditation

The Counseling Program recently went through the complex task of being accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities). This process must be completed every three years and definitely requires “all hands on deck.” For three days, a CARF surveyor came into our facilities and went over all of the policies, procedures and paperwork for the counseling staff and contacted community partners for their perspective.

Maintaining CARF accreditation is important. The certification shows the community, funding

sources and other agencies that we are committed to the highest level of care for the clients being served. At a time when programs throughout the state are experiencing budget cuts, including our own Youth Services department, it is still important for us to show the public that we can and will do the best we can with what we have.

Based on our results, we came through the survey with FLYING colors. In fact, we received no recommendations, an accomplishment only achieved by 3% of CARF surveys! This would not have been possible without the

help of a lot of hard-working staff members, including: **Terran Manning** (Director of Youth Services), **Marla Parish** (Director of Administrative Services), **Christabel Suthers** (Assistant Director of Counseling Services), all of our staff counselors, interns and everyone who supported the administration throughout this process. Together, we were able to truly show that we make a difference in the lives of our clients every single day.

Head Start/Early Head Start Receives Favorable Federal Monitoring Result

From 3/29/2016 to 4/1/2016, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) conducted a Comprehensive Services/School Readiness review event for the Crossroads Youth and Family Services, Inc. Head Start and Early Head Start Programs.

Based on the information gathered, no area of noncompliance was found

during the course of the review. Accordingly, no corrective action is required at this time.

Once again, Head Start and Early Head Start knocked one out of the park and completed their federal monitoring in a way that makes all of us extremely proud. Though this monitoring required the efforts of all HS/EHS staff members, special thanks must be given to

Jennifer Calvillo (Family Services Coordinator) for going above and beyond during the months of preparation for this visit. In addition, we would like to thank the parents of our Head Start and Early Head Start children who spoke so highly of our program when called upon by the monitors.

Way to go, Head Start!

Get Moving With Ronald McDonald!



This month, the iconic McDonald’s mascot stopped by the CSBI and Main Street Head Start centers to discuss physical activity. Using magic, comedy and a whole lot of fun, Ronald McDonald encouraged the children and staff to stay as active as possible, and with good reason.

Children who start being active at an early age are more likely to remain active as teenagers and adults. This small step could help stave off many illnesses, boost their self-esteem and give them plenty of good energy. Our Head Start children are off to a great start!

—Submitted by Tracey Compton (Center Director, CSBI)

Crossroads In The News



The *Lawton Constitution* recently covered an event held at Beginnings Academy in conjunction with the Agriculture program at the OSU Extension branch. Farm To You gave students a chance to experience a little bit of farm life right in their gymnasium. The children spent time at ten interactive stations where they received instructions from students in OSU's Department of Agriculture. Perhaps that day will lead some of our tiny treasures to consider a career as a farmer in the future!

HS/EHS End of the Year Celebration



At the end of May, over 280 Crossroads employees convened at the Moore-Norman Technology Center in May to celebrate the end of another school year. This year's theme was one that resonated with everyone, because it is based in truth: teachers are superheroes with super powers! As outlined by the day's presenter, **Jana Cornelius** (Quality Assurance Coordinator, Center For Early Childhood Development) here are just a few of their supernatural abilities:

- Teachers can turn a mess into a masterpiece.
- Teachers have the ability to make their students feel like they are part of a family.
- Teachers make people smarter everyday.
- To a teacher, the world is their classroom.
- Teachers are in a daily battle with enemies without a face (such as poverty, abuse and mental health issues)

As the day continued with fun games like Invisibility, Flying & Making People Freeze—which is Rock, Paper, Scissors for superheroes—the staff received powerful reminders that what they do is not in vain. Head Start and Early Head Start literally transforms lives and that is more than powerful. It is, in fact, SUPER powerful.



Youth Services Car Wash: A BIG Event!

This year's Annual Youth Services Car Wash was held in conjunction with OU's Big Event. Ten University of Oklahoma students came to assist the Crossroads staff with all of the tasks that make a car wash a success: advertising, washing, drying and even making runs for water and food.

Though the day started out slow due to a few rain droplets, the group was able to persevere and actually exceed the amount of money raised at last year's car wash. Because of everyone's efforts, the children at the Emergency Youth Shelter will be able to spend their summer going on plenty of fun and educational field trips.

Crossroads Youth & Family Services would like to thank the University of Oklahoma, all Crossroads staff members and their families who assisted with the car wash and, most importantly, the patrons who stopped by to support this event. We are already looking forward to next year!

National Volunteer Week

April 10—April 16 was designated as National Volunteer Week by the Points of Light Foundation. For more than 40 years, organizations and state, local and national officials have taken this week to honor those who give so much of themselves through their volunteer work.

This year, volunteers across the United States have contributed over 30 million hours of service. Here at Crossroads, volunteers provided over 1,500 volunteer hours in the last year. Just like everyone else, we realize the importance of good volunteers and we are grateful for them.

To our Head Start/Early Head Start volunteers, foster grandparents, Emergency Youth Shelter volunteers, Administrative volunteers and our board members: thank you. Words cannot adequately express what your presence means to Crossroads Youth & Family Services, but we always want you to know we are grateful for your support.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact [Kayla Woodberry](#) at (405) 292-6440 ext. 315.

