

Inside YCS



A NEWSLETTER
BY AND FOR ALL YCS EMPLOYEES



VOLUME 26 | October 2025

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INSIDE YCS

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President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new employees who recently transitioned into YCS and invite everyone to take a moment to see what your colleagues have been up to in this month's edition of Inside YCS.

For our new employees, this newsletter is dedicated to shining a light on the accomplishments of our staff and keeping everyone abreast of agency updates that impact both YCS and your work. It's one of the many ways we can connect, learn from each other, and take pride in what we do together.



Tara Augustine

In this October issue, you'll find highlights from our homes and schools—especially from the week of Halloween! With plenty of imagination and creativity, our participants and students enjoyed an array of festive and fun activities. When the individuals in our programs experience a sense of belonging and joy, they become better equipped to manage life's challenges and continue their healing journeys.

As we head into the holiday season, it may feel like the year is winding down—but here at YCS, we are still moving full steam ahead! Our HR, IT, IM, Training, and Facilities teams have been working tirelessly to ensure that all our new colleagues in the seven new DCF residences are onboarded, equipped, and ready to begin their new journey with us. We know that this process takes time, and we want every new team member to know: we are here for you every step of the way.

Let's all extend a helping hand to our new coworkers and make them feel part of the YCS family.

Finally, let's support our Foundation team as they pour all their efforts into the Secret Santa campaign and holiday appeal. It is an enormous task to make sure that the wishes of over 1,000 participants are fulfilled, and every program has the resources to bring holiday joy to their facility. It is a very special time of the year at YCS, and we all look forward to bringing a little bit of magic to everyone in the YCS Family.

Thank you for all you do every day to bring comfort, kindness, and understanding to the individuals in your care.

With appreciation,

Tara

Welcome New Employees

New Employees and Interns who completed 90 days by October 28, 2025

Baskin, Duquan Personal Assistant DDD-EmergCapacity Haledon	Data, Nichole Intern CBP-HMSC Essex	Hall, Demara L. Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Kilbarchan	Nicholas, Deja Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Lawnridge	Tyndale, Sandra Consultant NonEE DCF-RTC Holley
Calle, Alan Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Holley	Davis, Omysha Residential Assistant DCF-RTC Holley	Hill, Ryan Consultant NonEE Info Management Systems	Oaks, Ashley SRT Behavioral Assist SRT - N	Washington, Ashley S. Personal Assistant DDD-Apts Supvr Buffalo
Carter, Dijah Personal Assistant DDD-Hilltop	Fair, Marc S. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH Malcolm House	Kilicarslan, Giorgi L. Nurse RN HealthSvc-ResidentNurse-N	Oliver, Jalisa Shift Supervisor DDD - Davinchi	Williams, Bryan Residential Assistant DCF-IRTS Holley Muller
Castillo, Chase Consultant NonEE Info Management Systems	Fredrickson, Ryan D. Psych Doctoral Intern CBP-HMSC Essex	Kincannon, Lara Consultant NonEE Info Management Systems	Osuntokun, Modupeoluwa Intern - UnPaid CBP-HMSC Essex	Williams, Christina M. Residential Assistant DCF-PCH IDD Lawnridge
Cooper, Rashon Personal Assistant DDD-Hilltop	Gbadamosi, Fatima Consultant NonEE DCF-RTC Holley	Lew, Jessica Clinician DCF-PCH IDD Sawtelle Hall	Rizzo, Jay Consultant NonEE Info Management Systems	Williams, Shelina J. Personal Assistant DDD-Hilltop
Corbin, Latea M. SRT Behavioral Assistant SRT - S	Goluboff, Rachel Psych Doctoral Intern CBP-HMSC Essex	Maxwell, Senate Personal Assistant DDD - Cavan House	Roussetzki, Solange I. Intern CBP-HMSC Union City	Zetino, Yesenia L. Psych Doctoral Intern CBP-HMSC Union City
Crumbley-Culver, Amajanae R. Residential Assistant DCF-IRTS Holley Muller	Gongora, Nathaniel Maintenance Worker Facilities - N	McDowell, William Residential Assistant DCF-IRTS Kilbarchan	Stewart, Jason Consultant NonEE Info Management Systems	

Welcome New Employees

**Welcome To our New YCS Employees
in our Seven New Programs!**

Employee Snapshot



IT Department

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.*



Aimee Ciaravino, Regional Director, Regional Admin - South

Emily M. Miller, Program Director, DCF-PCH Sayre

Jalisa Oliver, Shift Supervisor, DDD - Davinchi

Nosakhere Clark-Mitchell, Shift Supervisor, DCF-PCH IDD Lawndridge

Sherene Bartley-Butler, Regional Director, Regional Admin - North

Thomas P. Phalen, HR Operations Coordinator, Human Resources

Tyriq B. Rease Sr., Shift Supervisor, DCF-PCH Vineland



Work Anniversaries

Congratulations!!!



15 YEARS

Susan L. Ayler, Shift Supervisor, DDD-Toledo



10 YEARS

Mark D. Scanish, Maintenance Supvr, Facilities - S



5 Years

Oloruntosin M. Adetunji, Personal Assistant, DDD-Pamela

Donna Patterson, Accts Receivable Clerk, Accounting & Finance

Brian L. Sykes, Residential Assistant, DCF-PCH Phoenix

Sheetal Parekh, HR Generalist, Human Resources

Ellen H. Williams-Lindsey, Residential Assistant, DCF-PCH Sicklerville



Shoutouts

To All Our Amazing Employees!

- ✦ **Aimee Ciaravino and Sherene Bartley**, congratulations on your promotions!
- ✦ **Brad Vetterly** is one of the most passionate social workers and leaders at the agency. He continues to strive for greatness, and provides guidance to grow all residential assistants, supervisors, case managers, clinicians, program directors, and programs into the best they can be. He is a strong role model that we all look up to. Thank you, Brad for all you do.
- ✦ **Chris Bertino** (TX Homes Clinician), thank you for always stepping in and assisting whenever needed. Your reliability doesn't go unnoticed!
- ✦ **Christinia Bell**, thank you for always making yourself available to provide ECR Trainings to QAPI staff and interns.
- ✦ **Chitima Enyart** has shown her care and compassion for the youth at Wood Haven. Her hard work ethic and care is very much appreciated.
- ✦ **Danielle DePeri**, administrative assistant at Sawtelle L.C., thank you for taking the time to always print out the newsletter for your colleagues and for highlighting all the great things they are doing at the school for our newsletter.
- ✦ **ECR team**, especially **Christina Bell**, thank you for always being helpful when Treatment Homes has questions or needs support with Evolv. Your assistance is greatly appreciated!
- ✦ **Erika, Jessica, Laura, and Yanira**, our amazing Parent Educators, thank you for the amazing work this first quarter of the fiscal year! The dedication all of you put in every day makes a difference with the mothers, children, and families we serve.
- ✦ **Frank Franceschini**, Wood Haven is so lucky to have you as their clinician. Frank goes above and beyond in his role, supporting the youth and staff. Frank is always there when we need him to help in so many ways, and we are truly so grateful to work with him!
- ✦ **Hing Shung Chan** – Thank you for having the patience of a saint!

Shoutouts

To All Our Amazing Employees!

- ✦ **Human Resources Team** – Thank you for your hard work, collaboration, and commitment to your colleagues! Your work is not always visible, but it is valued and essential to the agency's ability to function day-to-day. You all are doing so much right now, and it is truly appreciated!!
- ✦ **Isabella Festa**– A huge congrats to Isabella for passing her LCSW licensing exam! We are very proud!
- ✦ **Jada Carter** continues to pick up extra shifts throughout the Southern Region and is such a great help with the youth at Coopers! We are so grateful to have such an awesome worker on our team.
- ✦ **Jen Stratton and Nicole Ciencin** worked so hard planning our Glow Up event! The participants are going to have so much fun!
- ✦ **Jessica Smith**, along with all of SRT, has been such an incredible help at Wood Haven! We are so thankful for all of your help and support.
- ✦ **Jessica Waters** demonstrates dedication and care in her role as safety officer at Wood Haven. She takes time to ensure the house meets the requirements of licensing. Thank you Jess!
- ✦ **Katrina Watkins'** shift notes are great examples for documentation! Her documentation and details of each shift demonstrate her strong work ethic.
- ✦ **Kelly Butryn**, Unit Coordinator of the Passaic Service Coordination Unit, congratulations on celebrating one year with YCS! Your dedication, leadership, and deep knowledge of early intervention have allowed us to seamlessly serve thousands of children and families over the past ten months. Thank you for the care and consistency you bring to the team each day!
- ✦ **Drs. Leslie Lester, Maite Lasaga-Ayala, Giuliana Stillo, Samantha Spencer, Esther King, and Henessys Paulino**, a heartfelt thank you for your leadership and persistence in implementing DIRFloortime treatment and autism evaluation services across our clinics. Your commitment to learning, designing systems, and improving through trial and error has strengthened our capacity to meet the needs of young children and their families with excellence and compassion.

Shoutouts

To All Our Amazing Employees!

- ✦ **Liz Barry**, thank you for planning a really fun staff appreciation event for your staff! Our staff are so lucky to have such a strong and fun leader like you!
- ✦ **Michele Lapine**, big thanks for her ongoing consistency in providing medication reviews/monitoring for the Large and Hayes Treatment Home families. Your dedication is truly appreciated!
- ✦ **Raysa Romero and Adriana Estanislado Santos**, thank you for being the glue within our outpatient services. You are always there to support our families and clinicians whenever needed. We couldn't do this without you two!
- ✦ **SRT South**- A shoutout to the entire team for being so helpful and consistent down here. They've truly been picking us up and making a difference!
- ✦ **Tara Augustine, Christina Colon, and Jorge Montanez-Murillo** for believing in the PAT program and sending us to our first ever Parents As Teacher's Conference. We learned so much from each workshop we attended and are implementing what we learned into our daily visits with families! - PAT Hudson Team
- ✦ **Training Department** for working so hard to get the (former Mentor) new YCS staff trained before November 1st!
- ✦ **Tyanna Wilson, Cassandra Smith & Ayana Baker**, Southern Region Adult DD Managers, we would like to recognize and extend our appreciation to you for your hard work, dedication, and continued commitment to supporting one another and helping the new managers get acclimated in their role. Your collective effort keeps our programs strong and thriving.
- ✦ **Zach Cavalcante**- A huge congrats to Zach for passing his LCSW licensing exam! We're very proud!



Montclair Sawtelle Staff thank you for showing each other positive feedback, recognition & love. Way to start off the new school year on a POSITIVE NOTE 😊

Milestones



Professional Accomplishments

Zach Cavalcante, Vineland Program Manager, congratulations on passing your LCSW licensing exam.

Isabella Festa, clinician at Vineland and Wood Haven - congratulations on-passing your LCSW licensing exam.



Adoption



Ijahnaa Council, Estell Manor staff member, adopted a son. It was a long process for her but well worth it. She was his foster mother for 3 yrs and the day he came to her home, she knew that he was special and they instantly formed an unbreakable bond. Congratulations!



Happy Birthday!!



October Birthdays

Adam Sarpong	Dannelle R. Wilson	Jessica Ayala	Michael C. Woods	Sheila D. Hoggard
Angelina Okoli	Destani Brown	Jessica Herron	Michael W. Johnstone Sr.	Shelvin Corbitt
Anthony C. Raymond	Devon Tuten Jr.	Jessica L. Maye	Modupeoluwa Osuntokun	Tahj Paden
Anthony D. Baskin	Donna Patterson	Jessica Lew	Natchal Emmanuel	Tamant Maceia
Anthony Odoemelam	Ebony Diggs-Short	Jhim Charles	Nateyah Bland	Tamieka Brown
Anthony Williams	Elizabeth A. Barry	Joseph Gayle	Nicole J. Pinkney	Tanya L. Thomas
Antonietta Chiaviello-Foster	Ellenmarie Golabek	Joseph V. Calabria	Nosakhare Clark-Mitchell	Tara Augustine
Ashley Balassone	Faith A. Gabbidon	Kayla M. Murphy	Obioma Ibiam	Taylor Gatling
Barbara May	Francia Casado	Kelly Williams	Olamide Adejumo	Tina DeVico Price
Bianca Flint	Frank Franceschini Jr.	Khwmere K. Johnson	Richard Lawrence	ToriAnn Peart
Brandi McAlister	Geraldine Tait	Kim Dolan	Roberto Zapata	Yolanda Nickels
Brandi Pettiford	Giorgi L. Kilicarlan	Korey Clark	Sabrina Harris	Zaire Goodson
Brejhan Doss	Jacquilyn Dykeman	Kunle Ogunsola	Sama Kaptan	Za'meir Muckle
Brielle R. Bustamante	Jada Carter	Laura A. Gustad	Sasha M. Sylvestre	
Carlissa T. Gossop	Jakim Jackson	Lauren L. Hunt	Senica D. Rogers	
Caroline Givens	Jameece Miller	Lesly B. Heredia	Shamoya Campbell	
Chanae J. Maynard	Jamelia M. Rodriguez	Lisa Rapp	Shanai K. Hill	
Chaya Copes	James Lee	Lovens J. Joseph	Shantay Oates	
Cornelia P. Ashford	Janice Reid	Malcom L. Rease Sr.	Sharon E. Mason-Bell M.D.	
Danelle C. Cordy	Jayson C. Baptichon	Megan Daniels	Shawnta L. Blake	



Highlights

Glow Up



Everything was aglow as participants from YCS residences across the state gathered for a Glow Up extravaganza themed event. Partygoers wore neon or white clothing and had glow sticks and fluorescent decorations to create a visually spectacular, colorful environment. They mingled, danced and enjoyed a spooky feast!

Nicole Ciencin, program director at Malcolm House, organized the Glow Up party for the youth in all our behavioral health residences across the entire agency and with the support of her colleagues and YCS administration threw a rocking' party.



Highlights

Treatment Homes Thrifting Event



Treatment Homes hosted its first thrifting event, where southern region youth had the opportunity to receive free clothing, shoes, accessories, and hunt for unique treasures. Participants were very pleased with what they found. Another thrifting event is planned for the spring.

Highlights

YCS Attends the 2025 PAT International Conference



Our P.A.T. home visitor program was recently recognized at the National P.A.T. conference as a Blue-Ribbon affiliate. To earn this honor, our team of parent educators completed a comprehensive self-study and review process that exceeded the "Parents as Teachers Essential Requirements" and scored over 80 percent in Quality Standards performance.

"PAT national's recognition of our team as excellent in delivering high-quality, accountable, evidence-based services to children and families. is a major accomplishment for us because we've known we are a great team. Now it is known nationally that our team always goes above and beyond for all 70 families, whether it is helping families with resources or accompanying them to services in crisis."

~ Pia Anjelica Ababon, PAT Hudson program supervisor

Highlights

Lunch and Learn with the Southern Region DD Clinicians



Lunch and Learn with the Southern Region DD Clinicians. Twice a year we get our region together for morale boosting and to prep for upcoming licensing audits. Yesterday we added a Halloween craft portion which everyone took very seriously, as you can see. We had a great time supporting each other, laughing, and feeling very lucky to have such wonderful coworkers. It makes it easy to be a supervisor when everyone is here for all the right reasons, and it truly shows in how they show up for one-another. ~ Michelle Robbins

Photo: **Michelle Robbins, Latiesha Green, Alyssa Shaw, Sara Eisenhuth, Shayla Counts, Dominique Jones, Sabrina Harris**

Davis House Employee Appreciation Bowling Night!

"We value our team at Davis House, and acknowledge all their hard work! Thank you for your dedication to our participants, and keeping our program running every day!" **Liz Barry**



Highlights

1st Annual NFP Alumni Reunion Gala



Photo: Rachel Drayton, Tesha Bright, Karen Burton, Stephaine Bastidas, Madeline Vargas, Deborah James, Rebekah Roberts, Jorge Montanez-Murillo

The first Nurse Family Partnership Alumni Reunion Gala was held on Friday, October 24th. Former NFP families were invited to an elegant dinner where they and their nurses could enjoy catching up with each other.

Estell Manor

On movie night, **Anthony Williams** and **Ijahnaa Council**, brought youth all matching PJS.



On spa day, **Shamyra Ware**, did all the youth's nails.

Highlights

Spooky Spirit Week at the Sawtelle Learning Center



Monday - Show your Fan (Sports Team)

Tuesday - Twisted Tuesday (mix match those clothes)

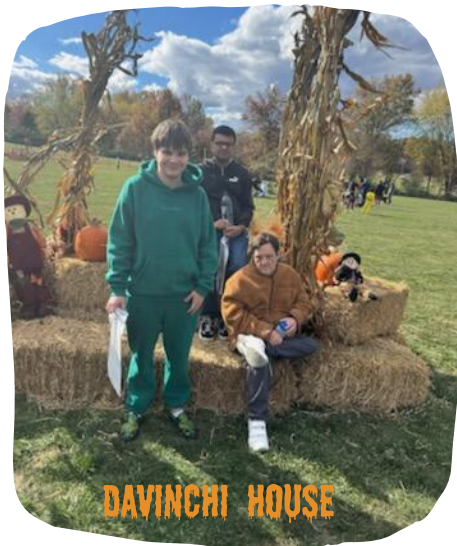
Wednesday - On Wednesdays we wear Pink (Breast Cancer Awareness)

Thursday - Fall Day! Wear your favorite plaid

Friday - Bring your Halloween Costume

Highlights

A Spooky Halloween at YCS



Highlights

DD Northern Region Halloween Party

Everyone had a great time at the YCS northern region homes holiday party. The costumes were wonderful and creative.



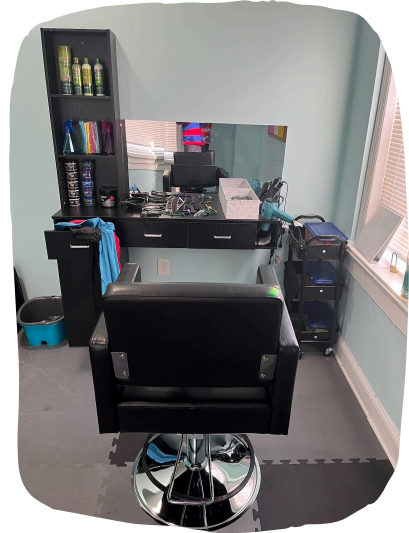
GW School Halloween



The faculty at our GW school made sure that the students enjoyed all the Halloween traditions including their outdoor colorful festive pumpkin patch shed where each child got to select a pumpkin. Special thanks to all GW staff for making Halloween a joyful memory for every student.

Highlights

Chanita Helps Girls Get a Bright Start



When **Chinita Sanders** began working as an SRT in the Bright Start program, she noticed that some of the girls didn't always take pride in their personal appearance when going into the community. Drawing on her cosmetology training, she offered to style their hair to help them feel more confident.

Chinita began bringing in her own supplies, turning her shifts into something the girls looked forward to. Before long, it became one of the most popular activities in the program whenever Chinita was on duty.

Now, the girls even save their allowance so Chinita can take them shopping to buy their own hair products. "I guide them in their purchases and teach them how to care for their own hair," she explains. "I want them to go to school and feel proud of how they look." Chinita recently proposed and received approval to create a "Growth Hair & Spa" station at the program and is now expanding her conversations with the girls to include proper skin care.

Agency Updates

Employee Feedback Survey



Survey closing soon!

Don't miss your
opportunity to shape
our workplace culture.

*Submit your feedback by:

November 17, 2025

Watch for an email from hello@invite.emprising.com with your personal survey link. If you don't see it, check your "Other" tab in Outlook.



emprising™

*All feedback is strictly confidential and collected on a proprietary survey platform (Emprising) powered by Great Place To Work®.

Agency Updates

If you missed the



YCS Town Hall

with Tara Augustine
President/CEO



Nurturing Hope.
**BUILDING
FUTURES.**

Town Hall recording available at
[YCS Town Hall October 16, 2025.mp4](#)

you can watch the video

YCS Institute Trains Doulas for VNA



YCS is partnering with the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) Health Group on their newly renewed grant from the Healthcare Foundation of New Jersey, which supports the Community Doula Learning Collaborative in Essex County.

As part of this project, the YCS Institute will provide a series of trainings and reflective consultation to support the professional development of community-based doulas and strengthen maternal and child health outcomes.

Agency Updates

QAPI Update

Congratulations for “stellar” PMMP Reports in our children and adult DD homes

Youth I/DD Homes

For the first quarter of the fiscal year (July to September), our youth IDD programs had 100% compliance for documenting a witness to each physical control.

Adult DD Homes

Adult DD Homes achieved Green Star ratings across the board for submissions of initial Unusual Incident Reports (UIRs) and submissions of UIR follow-ups in a recent DHS Licensed Provider Report Card that measures agencies on several performance factors, including initial UIR submissions and UIR follow-ups.

Department of Human Services- Office of Program Integrity and Accountability
DHS Licensed Provider Report Card
Report on Data Collected between
October 1, 2024 and September 30, 2025

Agency	Number of Homes	Number of People who Can Live in the Homes	The Agency is Compliant with Health and Safety Standards	The Agency Corrects Licensing Deficiencies in a Timely Manner	The Agency Reports Critical Events to the Department in a Timely Manner	The Agency Follows Up Timely with Protective and Corrective Actions in Response to Critical Events	People Who Live in the Homes are Free of Serious Allegations of Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation	The Agency Takes Appropriate Steps to Reduce the Occurrence of Critical Incidents for People Living in the Homes	Overall Score
THE ARC OF MONMOUTH	11	75	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
THE ARC OF SOMERSET COUNTY	12	78	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
THE ARC WARREN COUNTY CHAPTER	16	76	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★
YOUTH CONSULTATION SERVICE INC	20	85	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★	★ ★ ★

Table 1: Licensed Provider Report Card

Community Activities

Need some help finding **interesting events in the community** for the individuals in your home? There is a lot to choose from if you know where to look

Best place locally

- **Sign up for your town's electronic newsletter** for all the activities happening in the town. Many of these events are free including the town's holiday tree lighting.
- Visit your **local library** or call to ask about upcoming events for children and adults.

Looking for trips outside of your town visit these websites

1. Community Events in New Jersey

Community Events in New Jersey, United States - Local Gatherings & Activities | Eventbrite

1. The official NJ events calendar" The drop down menu for events has activities listed by category.

The Official New Jersey Events Calendar | VisitNJ.org

1. NJ Monthly magazine makes it easy to find their best picks for entertainment

Things to Do in NJ This Weekend | New Jersey Monthly

1. NJ Family Magazine Lists Fairs & Festivals

Fairs and Festivals in NJ: Our Mega-Guide - NJ Family

1. Google "county wildlife center and park activities" There are plenty of activities happening around the state.