

January/February 2023

BTYS NEWS

Beginning Today Youth Services, LLC

~~Serving Halifax & Surrounding Counties since 2021~~

Mission Statement: Beginning Today Youth Services' mission is to reunite families and to give youth every opportunity to become healthy and productive citizens upon returning to their home communities.

BTYS 1
119 Jackson Street
PO Box 1871
Halifax, Virginia 24558
434.830.2489

Tawanda Marable, CAO/ Co-owner
Daffany McDougald, Program Director/Co-owner



JANUARY – FEBRUARY

January and February seem to pick up on a food theme. January is Hot Tea Month, National Oatmeal Month and National Soup Month; while February picks up on Canned Food Month, Great American Pie Month and National Cherry Month.

Mark your calendars so you don't miss these memorable holidays:

January 01	1 st day of the NEW YEAR
January 13	1 st Friday the 13 th of the year
January 16	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 28	Fun at Work Day

February Black History Month

February 2	Ground Hog Day (shadows go away)
February 8	Kite Flying Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 20	Presidents' Day

FROM THE DESK OF THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

I would like to personally thank everyone who has donated funds or items over the Thanksgiving and Christmas time period.

All of these donations were greatly appreciated by the residents of *Beginning Today Youth Services (BTYS)*. We had some fabulous Thanksgiving & Christmas cards and canned goods that were donated and some much needed Christmas gifts. You helped make it as special as we could make it for our residents.

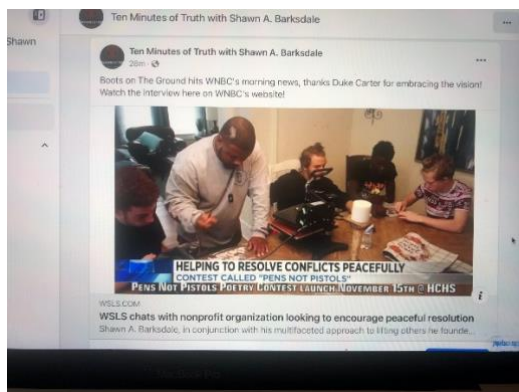
Towards the end of October 2022, *BTYS* received its annual licensure audit. We are proud to say that our audit was clean and we have obtained a clear license for a year. Thanks to our Office Manager, Mrs. Nancy Pulliam, and the rest of the child care staff for being observant and caring of our residents.

From the time our doors officially opened on November 24, 2021 through December 31, 2022, *BTYS* has served 12 of Halifax and the surrounding counties' youth in need. Of these youth, a few were short-term/crisis placements, one came to us as a runaway youth, and others have remained as long-term placements. Some of the youth have exited from our programs and have returned home, while other youth have headed to other facilities. *BTYS* staff is proud of the success we have had in working with these youth but will continue to strive to increase that percentage of youth returning home to their families.

Thanks again for everyone's commitment to helping these youth in need.

WE APPRECIATE:

The Boots on the Ground initiative for embracing our young males by showing them positive outcomes through meaningful interactions that promote teambuilding and increased self-esteem. Mr. Shawn A. Barksdale and Mr. Ernest Richardson, we thank you so much for your support.



We also wish to thank others who have made donations of cash, services and goods prior to the newsletter being published.

Rev. Shirley Woody
Queen Dixon
Nancy Arnold
Buffalo Soldiers
Thelma White
Jeter Chapel Missionary Society
Mt. Pleasant CME Church
Mr. Coleman
Union Grove CME Church
Williams Temple CME Church

RESIDENTS' CORNER

The residents were asked to work together to submit an excerpt of their choosing for the newsletter. They decided to create the following acrostic:

B Beginning Today Youth Services can help your youth be better.
T Try us out and join the crew maybe even volunteer.
Y Your kids will love it here!
S So what are you waiting for? We have so many benefits for your kids.

By: *BTYS Boys*

GROUP HOME SERVICES



Beginning Today Youth Services is a community-based program created to provide care for youth

between the ages of thirteen and seventeen who are experiencing difficulties within their families or their community. We provide crisis shelter and intervention, long-term residential care, and runaway/homeless youth programs. Referrals are made by the Department of Social Services, law enforcement, probation services, schools, and parents.

Our mission is to reunite families and to give youth every opportunity to become healthy and productive citizens upon returning to their home communities.

The program is governed by a Board of Directors made up of organization and community members. The group home employs a CAO, Program Director, Office Manager, Mentor, Child Care Supervisor, Case Manager, Volunteers, and Child Care/Relief Staff workers. Our residents also have access to a Licensed Therapist, a Certified Social worker, and Certified Mental Health Workers.

If you know of a youth or family that could benefit from the services provided, please contact our Program Director, Daffany C. McDougald at 434.830.2489.

