

SAYS Talks



Spring 2020
Celebrating 31 Years of Service



Sponsor a SAYS Event

Consider sponsoring a SAYS event this year and make a difference in the lives of community youth and families.

Check out the enclosed brochure for more info.

SAYS 2020 EVENTS
ST. AUGUSTINE YOUTH SERVICES

MCRT Celebrates 5th Anniversary

SAYS CEO, Schuyler Siefker, takes a look back on 5 years of the Mobile Crisis Response Team.

In 2014, the St. Johns County Behavioral Health Consortium identified having a Mobile Crisis Response Team as the #1 priority for children in our community.

SAYS, in collaboration with the St. Johns County School District, law enforcement, and child serving partner agencies developed one of the few Mobile Crisis Response Teams in the State.

Thanks to Child Guidance Center advisement and LSF Health Systems funding, the program

launched on March 23, 2015.

MCRT began with Emma Hayes as Supervisor, two additional licensed clinicians, and a case manager working Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.



1,600
Assessments Conducted

83%
of Assessments Diverted from Involuntary Hospitalization
(2015 - 2020)

If you know of someone under the age of 25 in St. Johns County that needs our Mobile Crisis Team please call **911**.

Our law enforcement partners will contact the team.
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: **1-800-273-8255**

In 2019, additional state funding and support from St. Johns County Health and Human Services allowed SAYS to provide the service 24/7 for those 25 and under.

To provide youth with access to a psychiatrist, Dr. Truog, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist was also added to the team.

In addition to assessments, MCRT provides counseling and case management utilizing High Fidelity Wraparound, an evidence-based model.

Ambria Page, one of our first MCRT clinicians, also provides DBT (Dialectical Behavioral Therapy) and LGBTQ support groups to aide in prevention.



April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

SAYS invites you to join us for the 7th Annual Party for Prevention

In 2017 there were 4.1 Million reports of child abuse involving 7.5 Million children (American SPCC).

By working together as a community, we all can play a part in promoting children's emotional well-being and strengthening families.

During the month of April and throughout the year, SAYS is dedicated to supporting families and reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Our 7th Annual Child Abuse Prevention event 'Party for Prevention' will return Thursday, April 23, on our SAYS campus.

Dozens of community organizations and entities will be present to host activities and games (corn hole tournaments, giant chess, face painting, and more) and share prevention materials.

Tour our current group homes, stop by our snack bar, and enjoy

live entertainment! (Music and performances TBA).

The event will also celebrate the opening of our Hardy Family Playground and THE PLAYERS Recreation Area! The event is completely FREE.

To volunteer, sponsor, or learn more about the event please contact us at **904-829-1770**





Staff Spotlight

Ra'Shonda Love

Meet SAYS Community Peer Support Specialist, Ra'Shonda Love!

Ra'Shonda was recently featured in Pahokee Excellence for the incredible impact she makes in her community. In addition to her work at SAYS, Ra'Shonda created the foundation Heavenly Gifts in which she has served hundreds of youth through various drives (Christmas, Shoes, Dorm Supplies, etc.).

Way to Go, Ra'Shonda!

Robin Burchfield: Ambassador of the Year

Congratulations to SAYS Board Member Robin Burchfield on once again being named Ambassador of the Year by St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce!



Client Spotlight

Meet Derek

Derek was referred to the SAYS COACHES program at 17 years old

Prior to being adopted by his mother, Carrie, Derek experienced multiple placements in the foster care system which often left him feeling isolated from his classmates and community.

Since joining the COACHES Program, Derek has experienced an increase in confidence and a willingness to take on new challenges. He is excelling at his new high school in Flagler County where he participates in after school clubs and regularly attends social groups to advocate for the LGBTQ+ Community.

Recently, the COACHES Program connected Derek with the University of Florida Leadership Conference. "The conference gave me an opportunity to be completely comfortable with who I am and I made so many new friends. I have more confidence about myself and feel stronger about taking on other new situations."

Derek's mother was thrilled to see the positive impact the conference had on him "Derek came back so upbeat, and feeling so positive about life".

After high school, he plans to return to the University of Florida to pursue a career as a Veterinarian Assistant through the University of Florida's Veterinary Program.



Thank You
to everyone who voted Santa Suits on the Loose 5k as St. Augustine's Best 5k in Folio Weekly.



The 9th Annual Santa Suits on the Loose 5k will take place December 12th at the St. Augustine Beach Pier.

Registration is now open! Head to Racesmith.com today to register.

Building Hope on our Hutson Family Campus

Ameris Bailey House: First Year Housing Children



Last spring, we opened our 4th group home, Ameris Bailey House, thanks to the support of many donors and volunteers who dedicated their time, talents, and resources.

With these 10 new beds, Ameris Bailey House has provided therapeutic care and shelter to 10 youth in the past year.

Each of our residents have transformed since making Ameris Bailey House their home. From starting new schools to learning healthy coping habits, we have seen these young men open up and take on new challenges.

In addition to making improvements in their school work and participating in extracurricular activities, some have even maintained part-time jobs which will have an incredible impact on their lives as they begin their transition into adulthood.

Independent Living Village: Home for Aged Out Youth

In 2019, we launched our campaign to build an Independent Living Village on our Hutson Family Campus.

With more than 40,000 children aging out of foster care in the United States each year, 20% will instantly become homeless on their 18th birthday. Most youth will also not have completed their high school diploma or GED.

By allowing youth to remain on our campus and continue receiving our services, they have the opportunity to build a foundation for the rest of their lives. This would include achieving important milestones such as earning their high school diploma or GED, entering the workforce, and/or pursuing higher education.

The IL Village will also create space for our community programs, which now serve more than 500 children a year in Northeast Florida.

Hire Our Youth

Help Provide SAYS Youth with Valuable Job Experiences
We can help prepare our youth for the right opportunity that fits your business' needs. Contact us for more details.



SAYS Holiday Snapshots

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, talents, and resources to ensure that our SAYS kids had a fantastic Holiday season. Because of you, our kids (residential and community) had Thanksgiving & Christmas Dinners, Christmas presents, Christmas Trees, Caroling, and Parties. Most importantly, they felt loved!

“ Thank you for the things you do to make us know that there's people out there that care and help us, besides the staff, so we don't feed unwanted. The things you do are so generous. Thank you. -Lavarian ”



Clays for a Cause



The 7th Annual Clays for a Cause by MasterCraft raised an incredible \$150,000, \$62,500 of which benefits SAYS

Independent Living Village. Thank you to MasterCraft and the Shee Family for their longtime dedication to improving the lives of our children. Because of you, we are another step closer to making our IL Village dream a reality!



Generation WORKS

Thank you to Generation W and the generous volunteers who joined us for Generation WORKS 2020. Five campus projects were completed including bike shelter painting, gardening, and re-painting bedrooms!

St. Augustine Lions Club

Thank you to the St. Augustine Lions Club for their tremendous support of our campus gate project which will provide additional security to our residential campus and the kids who call it home.



Clay Day

Thank you to Davidson Cares for another successful Clay Day! The 4th Annual Event raised more than \$50,000 for SAYS, INK!, and Builders Care. Thank you to the Davidson Family for believing in our mission and supporting our Independent Living Village campaign!



Old City Pirate Fest

Not only did the St. Augustine Swashbucklers partner with Dick's Wings to bring our residential kids an awesome Holiday party, but they also chose SAYS as a beneficiary of this year's Old City Pirate Fest! Thank you Captain Mayhem and everyone who helped make the weekend long event truly memorable.



Holiday Auction Recap

The 28th Annual Holiday Auction hosted by Trade Winds Lounge raised a massive \$32,000 for SAYS programs! Our undefeated auctioneer champion? The incredible, Letti Bozard of Bozard Ford Lincoln!



Don't forget to join us at this year's auction which takes place November 22nd from 1pm-1am.

EVENT SPOTLIGHT



The 21st Wildwood Inshore Fishing Tournament will take place on June 12th & 13th at the St. Augustine Boating Club.

Registration (\$30 per Angler) will take place at the mandatory Captain's Meeting: June 12th @ 5pm.

Checkout our sponsorship brochure for opportunities starting at \$250. Learn more at sayskids.org/events

MY LIFE

FOF & MY LIFE

Did you know? Our SAYS community programs (CAT & COACHES) host bi-weekly MY LIFE groups for youth in St. Johns County who have experience with systems such as mental health, foster care, and substance

abuse. MY LIFE provides a safe space for these youth to practice leadership and discuss the issues that matter to them. Huge thank you to James Taylor of #FOF who continues to coordinate meals for each group! Thank you to the restaurants who have so generously donated their food to support our youth.

Current Needs

New Twin Bedding

Non-Perishable Foods

Gas Cards

Gift Cards (Amazon, Target, Fast Food, etc.)

Track Phones & Minutes

Summer Supplies (Swim Trunks, Sunscreen, Pool Toys, etc.)

Kitchenware (Pots, Pans, Silverware, etc.)

Activity Tickets (Movies, Local Attractions, etc.)



For more info please contact
SAYS Director of Development, Chelsea Reppin
(ChelseaR@sayskids.org | 904-829-1770)