

Upcoming Speakers

5/10 - **Nichole Farley**, Executive Director, Hope Unlimited Family Care Center **NOTE: Meeting on Carson Center Stage this week.**

5/17 - **Ellen Walsh**, Director of the Regional Prevention Center, Four Rivers Behavioral Health

5/24 - *SURPRISE GUEST SPEAKER*

5/31 - **Betsy Burkeen**, Resource Development Manager, United Way of Paducah-McCracken County

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GearTeeth

The Rotary Club of Paducah



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Breaking Down Education Barriers

May 3, 2017



Speaker: Stacey Thomas, Director, Mustangs Youth Services Center. Thomas was introduced by Rotarian Monique Zuber.

Topic: How the Youth Services Center seeks to eliminate non-academic barriers for students in the McCracken County School District.

Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:

-The Department of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers was initiated as part of the Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990. School-based centers

were created to address the needs of children to enhance their ability to succeed in school.

-Their mission also seeks to develop and sustain partnerships that promote academic achievement, physical and mental well-being, and graduation. The ultimate goal is to help prepare students for transition into career or college readiness.

-The program's funding is based on the number of free and reduced lunch program participants within the schools. The program also relies on community partnerships for financial support and other resources.

-Thomas said quite often, the Center services as a "broker" for student support services, in lieu of actual financial support. She says that's accomplished through relationships the Center has with various health and social service providers such as doctors, mental health, and family crisis counselors.

-The center's staff, Thomas says, strives to be cognizant of delivering programs discreetly to avoid placing social stigma on students who receive the services. High school students, she said, seem to be the most vulnerable to the "have's and have nots" social tags. She used the example of their "backpack program" where disadvantaged students can discreetly bring their backpacks into a private room and be given food to take home for the weekends.

-The Center provides on-site therapists in schools from the Four Rivers Behavioral Center for various types of counseling, including drug and alcohol dependency, family counseling and mental health counseling.

-Partnerships with the Paducah Police Department and the CenterPoint Treatment Facility were also formed to help students with various personal problems.

-As part of their job-readiness initiative, the Center coordinates job shadowing programs at local businesses, and holds mock job interview programs with volunteers from local

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May 07

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May 20

Robert L. Alexander

May 21

Andrew Carloss

May 24

Wally Montgomery

May 24

Jim Dudley

May 28

at local businesses, and holds mock job interview programs with volunteers from local businesses.

-Several local businesses work with the Center for summer and part-time job opportunities for students served by the program.

-For more information, visit www.mustangsysc.com

Announcements

May 3, 2017

-President Glen recognized Quilt Show Chair Dee Dee Whitaker for her leadership of the 29th Annual Rotary Antique Quilt Show last week. He also thanked the Quilt Show Committee Members, and all the volunteers who helped with the show, especially those working multiple shifts.

-Rotarian Bill Robertson sought volunteers for last week's Second Grade Summer Backpack Program.

-A reminder that this week's meeting will be on the Carson Center Stage, rather than our usual meeting room.

Guests

May 3, 2017

Catherine Sivills – guest of Mike Muscarella

Kaki Shadoan and Isaac Humphrey – student guests from Paducah Tilghman

Alexis Cochran, Boston Hicks and Will Sivills– student guests from McCracken County

Maddy Brown and Ethan Miller – student guests from Community Christian Academy