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May 2000



Bonnie St. John Deane

Keynote speaker for the Youth Awards
Program and Luncheon, November 1, 2000
Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

Bonnie St. John Deane thrives on situations where the path is not clearly marked and the competition is intense. An amputee at age five, she has used determination and imagination to become an Olympic Silver Medalist, a Rhodes Scholar, a White House official, and an award-winning author.

This woman of remarkable strength and courage will be the featured speaker at the Youth Awards

Program and Luncheon at the opening of the Annual Conference on Juvenile Justice to be held November 1-3, 2000, at the Harrisburg Hilton and Towers.

Bonnie St. John Deane easily might have given up when disease forced removal of her leg as a young child. Instead, she turned disadvantage into an opportunity for personal growth. By the time she was 16, she was a young African-American woman with one leg and very big dreams. Within five years she became an Olympic Ski Medalist, a Harvard honors graduate, and a Rhodes Scholar. Since then she has worked on Wall Street, in Europe and Asia, and as an award-winning representative for IBM.

In 1998, St. John Deane wrote *Succeeding Sane*, describing her personal obstacles and how she overcame them. She has been profiled on the front page of *The New York Times*, featured on CNN, The Today Show, Good Morning America, and in other national media. In 1999, NBC Nightly News featured Bonnie St. John Deane as one of "Five Most Inspiring Women in America."

Registration information for the 2000 Youth Awards Program and Luncheon and the Annual Conference on Juvenile Justice will be available late in the summer.

Bucks County chosen as site of national delinquency prevention pilot program

Governor Tom Ridge has named Bucks County as the site for a national pilot program linking Communities That Care with America's Promise—The Alliance for Youth. The county accepted a \$91,590 grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) during a kickoff for the project held April 26 in Doylestown. The project includes 13 Communities That Care sites, one from each school district in the county. It will encompass efforts of various county, municipal, school district and organization personnel, as well as community volunteers.

Bucks County has also begun the process of becoming a "Community of Promise" through the America's Promise project. The initiative is the first nationally to link both Communities that Care and America's Promise from the beginning. Realizing that they had a common vision, Gov. Ridge and Gen. Powell, Chairman of America's Promise—the Alliance for Youth, teamed up in Hershey in October 1999 to announce a new partnership between Communities That Care and America's Promise.

"This unique partnership between Communities that Care and America's Promise is the culmination

of what we started at the national Communities that Care conference last October, when we were honored to host Gen. Colin Powell," Gov. Ridge said through a written statement. "I'm thrilled that the leaders in Bucks County have heeded our call to unite resources and work together as communities with a common vision, which is to reduce youth violence and delinquency."

Rosemary Adiletto, Program Coordinator for Prevention and Training Services at Today, Inc.,

said the grant money will be used to train community members to create a cohesive effort to stop adolescent behavior problems, including violence and drug and alcohol abuse. Today, Inc., based in Bensalem, has provided treatment

and prevention services for youth for more than 20 years. The organization will act as a facilitator for the countywide effort. "The focus is on all of the communities, not just the school districts," Adiletto said. "We are going to have representatives from each of the communities and nonvoting members from existing coalitions form a consortium that will decide how the grant money is spent."

To guide the process, the Bucks County Consortium for Healthy Youth and Communities was formed. The consortium will foster cooperation among the various communities and agencies and will determine how county, state, and federal funds, as well as America's Promise assets, will be distributed. Each of the 13 communities will be represented in the consortium. The individual communities will develop a local risk and resource assessment, as well as a delinquency prevention plan. The consortium will work with each of the community strategies to develop a countywide plan using the Communities That Care model.

Clay Yeager, Executive Director of the Governor's Community Partnership, called the endeavor an "exciting undertaking" that has never been done

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...Gov. Tom Ridge

This publication is produced monthly at the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University.

Guest articles are always welcome; please submit them by email or on a disk. We particularly enjoy your photographs, but we ask that these be mailed - we will be happy to return them to you.

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before in the country. "Whether the interest is in saving lives or saving money, prevention works," he said. "We can't expect the power of law and government to define the behavior of children. That has to come from community leaders."

Communities That Care is the centerpiece of the Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children (Children's Partnership), an anti-violence initiative begun by Gov. Ridge in 1995. First Lady Michelle Ridge chairs the Partnership. It is a national delinquency and violence prevention process in which communities identify the factors that place their youth at risk, then develop strategies to diminish those risks. The goal is to reduce substance abuse, teen pregnancy, delinquency, violence, and school dropout.

Through the Children's Partnership, PCCD, and the Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research at Shippensburg University, young people across the state are participating in programs including substance abuse prevention, anti-smoking education, bullying prevention, life-skills development, parenting education, home visitation by nurses to at-risk families, and mentoring. Currently, there are 99 communities in 52 counties across Pennsylvania that have made a commitment to their young people through Communities That Care.

Like CTC, America's Promise enlists communities and corporations to invest in the healthy development of young people. At the core of America's Promise are five "promises" that must be fulfilled in every child's life if they are to grow up strong and ready to take their place as successful adults. They are: an ongoing relationship with a caring adult; a safe place with structured activities during non-school hours; a healthy start; a marketable skill through effective education; and a chance to give back through community service. There are nine America's Promise communities, also known as "Communities of Promise" throughout the state.

For more information about Communities That Care, contact Amy Zarefoss at 717-477-1149, Mike Kovacevic at 717-477-1237, or Dan Romage at 800-692-7292 ext. 3123, or visit



Steve Custer is new Montgomery Co. Chief

Steven B. Custer was appointed the new Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for Montgomery County Juvenile Court on March 20, 2000. He replaces Tony Guarna, who retired from that position after 37 years.

Custer began his career in Montgomery County Juvenile Court as a probation officer in November 1971. He has held numerous positions in the Montgomery County juvenile probation department, each with increasing responsibility and task assignment. His background includes supervisory experience spanning 25 years.

Custer received his undergraduate degree from Ursinus College in 1971 and his M.A. in counseling from Villanova University in 1975. He is active in many professional organizations, including PAPPC and the Juvenile Advisory Association of Montgomery County. He sits on the Youth Services Advisory Board for Montgomery County Task Force and has been involved with the Middle States Conference on Corrections. Also actively involved with both his family and the community, he serves as a PIAA official and is involved with many high school sports.

Chiefs' council appoints BARJ consultant



The PA Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers announces the appointment of Robin Mayberry to the grant funded position of Administrative Consultant. She will work with the balanced and restorative justice training initiative grant, which is funded by the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Mayberry brings more than 10 years of office experience to the job, and comes to the position highly recommended. Her background includes work with the Milton Hershey School and the Arthritis Foundation. She is enrolled at Harrisburg Area Community College as an international studies major. Her interest in the position includes not only the contracted duties and responsibilities but also the opportunity to contribute to the positive evolution of the BARJ initiative.

Mayberry is a volunteer for many community organizations, including the Coalition of Families of Korean & Cold War POW/MIAs, The Central Pennsylvania Arthritis Foundation, Pennsylvania Concerned Citizens for POW/MIAs, and the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Operation Night Light

Since January, 1999, the Luzerne County Juvenile Probation Office has used a collaborative, community-based approach to monitor youth under supervision. In a joint effort, during weekend evening hours, police and probation officers target selected geographic areas of the county, visiting the homes of juveniles under supervision and popular youth hangouts, such as community-labeled trouble areas, shopping malls, minute markets, and school functions.

Operation Night Light allows the 58 police departments within Luzerne County and members of the juvenile probation office to work together in an effort to keep the community protected and to hold youth accountable. The curfew sweeps are scheduled and organized by the Community Liaison Probation Officer, John Cookus, in different areas of the county two weekend evenings a month. After each sweep occurs, a press release is sent to the local news media to keep the community informed of the happenings within the Luzerne County Juvenile Court System.

According to Cookus, this operation provides a good example of the BARJ model in action and has been extremely successful among the community, victims, police, and probation. Sgt. Keith Keiper of the Kingston Police Department says "this operation provides a good working relationship between probation and police, it should occur in each community as often as possible," and Sgt. Dave Cerski, Ashley Police, says "the sweeps allow an additional measure to keep the community protected during the weekend and evening peak hours."

FYI...

effective April 17, 2000

The Juvenile Law Center, the Education Law Center, and the Disabilities Law Center have new addresses. Address all correspondence to The Philadelphia Building, 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 400, Philadelphia, PA 19107-4798. Phone number is 215-238-6970; fax 215-625-9589.

effective May 5, 2000

Lebanon County Juvenile Probation has moved. The new address is 508 Oak Street, Lebanon, PA 17042. Their new phone number is 717-273-1557.



JJC Class of 2000 weekend Masters program graduates at Shippensburg University

Congratulations go out to the class of 2000 in the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission-sponsored Weekend Masters Degree Program at Shippensburg University. The class of 2000 graduated on May 6. The 18 members of this year's graduating class include: Michelle Benninghove of Lancaster County, Susan Bowman of Lebanon County, John Cookus of Luzerne County, Ronald Crone of York County, Christopher Daniels of Lancaster County, Ethan Davis of Cumberland County, Donald Fennimore of Adams County, Michelle Geib of Perry County, Robert Kuzmick of Montgomery County, Karen Marchese of Delaware County, Joseph Pacetti of Philadelphia County, Rustie Schwiderske of Clearfield County, Venus Smith of Mifflin County, Robert St. Pierre of the Schaffner Detention Center, Stephanie Towles of Berks County, Nicole Vucetic of Lebanon County, Rebecca Wagner of Mifflin County, and Susan Weihermuller of the Bucks County

Intermediate Unit.

Our current graduates have completed a very demanding academic program while achieving outstanding grades. It has been a pleasure working with them. On behalf of the Commission and Shippensburg University faculty we offer them congratulations on a terrific achievement and wish them the very best in their future endeavors. The road to earning their Masters degree was not an easy one, and giving up every third weekend to attend classes was just one hurdle they all managed to clear. Thomas Paine said, "What we achieve too easily we esteem too lightly." We know that no member of the class of 2000 will take this accomplishment lightly.

The Shippensburg Class of 2000 is the 17th to complete the weekend program, bringing the total number of graduates from the Commission-sponsored program to 346.

Congratulations, Class of 2000!

Seated, left to right -

Michelle Benninghove
Karen Marchese
Rebecca Wagner
Christopher Daniels
Stephanie Towles
Donald Fennimore
Susan Bowman

Standing, left to right -

Rubert Kuzmick
Michelle Geib
Robert St. Pierre
Rustie Schwiderske
Venus Smith
Ronald Crone
Ethan Davis
Nicole Vucetic
Susan Weihermuller
Joseph Pacetti
John Cookus

The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission
The Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers
The Juvenile Court Section of the Pennsylvania Conference of State Trial Judges
The Center for Juvenile Justice Training and Research
and
The Governor's Community Partnership for Safe Children

present

The Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice

November 1-3, 2000, Harrisburg Hilton and Towers

Wednesday, November 1

10 a.m.		Registration desk opens
noon	<i>Youth Awards Luncheon</i> Bonnie St. John Deane	
3 – 4:30 p.m.		Professional caucuses
8 – 11 p.m.		Chief's opening night reception

Thursday, November 2

7:30 a. m.		Registration desk opens
8 – 8:45 a.m.		Continental breakfast
9 – 10:30 a.m.		Keynote address/Plenary
10:30 – noon		Workshops
noon		Luncheon
1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.		Workshops
3:15 p.m. – 5 p.m.		Workshops
6 – 6:45 p.m.		Reception
7 p.m.	<i>Awards Dinner and Program</i>	

Friday, November 3

6:30 a.m.		Registration desk opens
7:30 – 9:30 a.m.		Continental breakfast
8 – noon		<i>Resource Day</i>
noon		Close

Registration information will be mailed the first week in September. *Resource Day* exhibitor questions may be directed to Arlene L. Prentice at 717-783-7836, email alpren@state.pa.us