



JUNE 20, 2013

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT REFERRING A YOUTH TO ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS, CONTACT YOUTH CONTINUUM'S CLINICAL DIRECTOR, GORDON NELSON AT (203) 824-4366.



GROUNDBREAKING NEWS!

On April 3, 2013, Youth Continuum's CEO Carole Shomo welcomed Governor Dannel Malloy, DCF Commissioner Joette Katz, DCF Regional Director Michael Steers, and Erik Johnson from the City of New Haven to help us break ground for the new construction of two beautiful new homes for our Forbes and Uno programs. Forbes House, 100 years old, was used as Youth Continuum's very first home for teenage boys in 1967.

Over the past 46 years it has been home to approximately 450 teenagers. Uno House, on Winchester Avenue in New Haven, will also be replaced with a brand new



home. These beautiful new structures will give our youth all the amenities they would want in a home. Forbes House will be completed by September 1st and we will be hosting an open house for DCF in the early fall. Uno is expected to be completed by the end of 2013. Thank you to all the support from our DCF partners and private donors for making this dream a reality.

Youth Continuum's New F.R.E.E. Program: Helping Juvenile Justice Youth with Successful Transitions

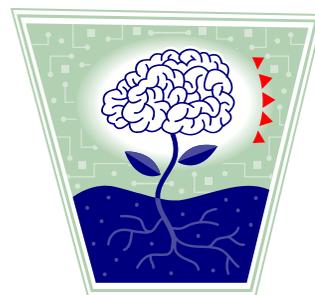
Youth Continuum recently launched F.R.E.E. (Fostering Responsibility, Education, and Employment), a program offering a holistic approach to helping justice-involved youth and their families. Through a new grant from the Department of Children and Families, Youth Continuum has created a youth-driven, family-guided, strength-based, network of supports to assist youth reentering the community. Using the youth's own motivation for change and success, the program will build educational, vocational, social, and cognitive-behavioral skills. The program's daily structure offers group and individualized activities designed to foster pro-social development and help youth reach their life goals. Our new F.R.E.E. Program Director, Patricia Jenkins-Simmons MSW, brings a myriad of experience and knowledge. If you would like more information about the F.R.E.E. program, please contact Kathy Grega CSW, Director of Community Programs at (203) 812-8775.

**Youth Continuum
24 River Street
New Haven, CT 06513**

(203) 562-3396

**Visit us at www.youthcontinuum.org or on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/youthcontinuum>**

Supporting DCF's mission to strengthen families and prepare youth for healthy transitions and self-sufficiency, our PASS group homes, Forbes and Uno offer at-risk teenage boys:



Healing and Caring Family Environment

- High staff to child ratio
- Home-like setting
- Least restrictive environment
- Celebration of diverse cultures
- Family meals
- Individualized treatment plans
- Relational model
- Strength-based
- Focus on insight development

Family Reunifications and Healthy Transitions

- Work closely with families/kin
- Build parenting skills
- Help parents or kin build structure/rules/boundaries
- Connect families to resources
- Non-judgmental, empathetic family work

Educational Success

- Full-time certified teacher and GED instructor on location
- Expertise in Special Education Needs and Rights
- Long-standing Connections with Area Schools and Teachers
- Specialized tutoring as needed
- Individualized plan – school alternatives
- Focus on Adolescent Brain Development Framework for Learning

Promoting Vocational Excellence

- Job Skills Coach and Employment Specialist
- Collaborative Relationships with Local Employers
- Internships and Summer Employment Opportunities
- Financial Literacy learning

Encouraging Independence through Practice of Life Skills

- Budgeting
- Menu planning
- Cooking and grocery shopping
- Problem-solving
- Household chores
- Managing a bank account
- Preparation for transitions
- Relationship-building skills
- Conflict Resolution

To inquire about referrals to Forbes House or Uno House, please contact our Clinical Director, Gordon Nelson at (203) 824-4366 or email gnelson@youthcontinuum.org

Focus on Adolescent Brain Development

Forbes and Uno, our two PASS group homes, have been busy this year seeking new ways to refine our programs to meet the changing demands of our kids. In the last couple of months, Program Directors Todd Kipperman (Forbes) and Dennis Tinney (Uno) and members of their staff have begun developing a new paradigm of care that shifts our focus from a “treatment” to a “teaching” model. Inspired by the work of the Upside Down Organization and the findings from the Harvard Center on the Developing Child, they are creating a culture change that includes defining new principles for youth interventions and introducing new curricula that will enhance staff knowledge and youth learning in areas such as cognitive development, community involvement and advocacy, self-identity, and job skills. In addition, new programs to enhance life-skills learning—such as Financial Avenues and a Youth Advocacy group—are beginning this year.

Upcoming Training for Staff and Community

June 21, 2013 “Cultural Competence and Disproportionate Minority Contact in Connecticut”: This training will teach strategies for incorporating cultural awareness, humility, and sensitivity into our interventions with juvenile justice youth and their families.

June 26, 2013 “Youth Gangs in New Haven” Youth Continuum F.R.E.E. program is hosting this training for community treatment workers in the New Haven area. Trainers will teach about the growing trends of gangs in the New Haven area and what we need to look for and what we can do. Trainers: Martin Shafman, Certified Gang Specialist and Juvenile Parole Officer, Scott Hartan, Juvenile Parole Officer, and Stephania Agliano, DCF Child Welfare Trainer and member of the Juvenile Parole Gang Treatment Specialist Unit.

November 1, 2013 Youth Continuum, in collaboration with Southern Connecticut State University, is hosting a conference focused on the neuroscience of the brain and vulnerable youth populations. The conference will present research-based information to a professional audience and will feature nationally renowned speakers; including Frank Kros from the Upside Down Organization and Dr. Steve Parese, author and cognitive behavioral specialist. Stay tuned for more details and information about conference registration.