



PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

MAYOR RANDALL L. WOODFIN

“PUTTING YOUTH FIRST IN BIRMINGHAM”

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
MAYOR'S OFFICE
DIVISION OF
YOUTH SERVICES
YOUTH FIRST

SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

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December/2019

Randall L. Woodfin, Mayor
Galvin Billups, Executive Director

1608 7TH AVENUE N | BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203 | PH: (205) 320-0879 | www.bhamyouthfirst.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7, 2019

THE BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER

Dorothy Jemison Day
Theater
7:00 p.m.

For more info:

[http://www.djdtheater.org/
event/
e9739599b0b954adec4930
e69ae0bb4d](http://www.djdtheater.org/event/e9739599b0b954adec4930e69ae0bb4d)

December 8, 2019

Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting

Linn Park
4:30 p.m.

For more info:

[https://
www.birminghamal.gov/
xmas2019](https://www.birminghamal.gov/xmas2019)

December 14, 2019

JINGLE BELL Run

Railroad Park
8:45 a.m.

For more info:

[https://runsignup.com/
Race/AL/Birmingham/
JingleBell5KRunWalkforA
rthritis3](https://runsignup.com/Race/AL/Birmingham/JingleBell5KRunWalkforArthritis3)

December 17, 2019

GRUBDOWN AT CHRISTMAS

North Birmingham
Regional Branch Library

For more info:

(205) 226-4025

December 18, 2019

CHICK-FIL-A BIRMINGHAM CLASSIC: ALABAMA CRIMSON TIDE VS SAMFORD BULLDOGS

Legacy Arena at the BJCC
6:30 p.m.

For more info:

<https://www.bjcc.org/>

Help Make the Holidays Brighter for Some Birmingham Youth

The City of Birmingham Mayor's Office Division of Youth Services (DYS) in partnership with CBS 42 and America's First Credit Union is pleased to announce its 2019 Holiday Campaign.

The act of giving is important throughout the year, but giving peaks in significance during the holiday season. For years DYS and its partners have helped create holiday memories for hundreds of less fortunate Birmingham youth. You can help make this holiday season a *little brighter* for many more!

Donations of new, unwrapped toys are currently being collected at the DYS office located at 1608 7th

Avenue North in downtown Birmingham through Friday, December 13th.

Donations can also be made at the following locations:

- ⇒ any **America's First Credit Union**
- ⇒ any **Birmingham Fire Station**

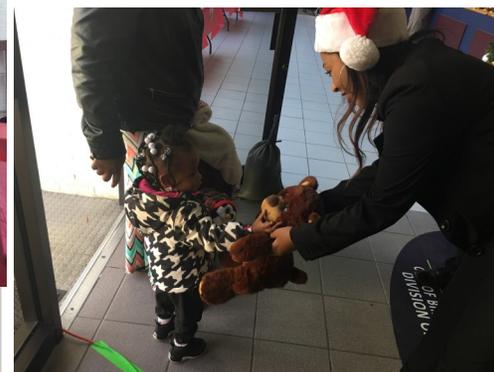
For more info, contact DYS at (205) 320-0879.



2018: DYS Staff receive donations from Nathan Marcus of The Marcus Agency.



2018 Donations from partners America's First Credit Union & Tropical Smoothie Cafe





Green Career Options

Written by Jacqueline Gray Miller

“Do you travel to find birds?”
 “Does the art of taxidermy hinder or help your efforts?”
 “Do you like your job?”

At Wenonah High School, National Audubon Fund II Apprentices received several questions from students. The Apprentices visited four different types of science classes and engaged the Advanced Placement (AP) Science scholars.



(l to r) Fund II Apprentices Dominic Arenas and Ray Sessley © Luke Franke/Audubon

YWCA Seeks Elves to Help in Santa’s Workshop

December 7, 2019

Each year, YWCA Central Alabama hosts Santa’s Workshop to help families who are living in area homeless/transitional shelters or those otherwise in need to have a happy holiday season. On the day of the event, children get to meet Santa and make gifts and crafts that they can give to parents, teachers, friends and other loved ones.



(L to R) Robert Harris, Apprenticeship Program Manager, Tania Romero, Fund II Apprentice, and Deeehn Ferris, Vice President for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, National Audubon Society © Luke Franke/Audubon

Meanwhile, caregivers get to "shop" (everything is free) for toys and other gifts to give to their precious babies.

To find out how you can help, visit:
<http://www.ywcabham.org/santas-workshop>

“Learn as much as you can about birds, conservation, and science now. Then, share it with your family so it’s not foreign to future generations,” Tania Romero said. The California native is the only woman in the inaugural 2019-2020 Apprenticeship class. “That should change next year as the program grows and the field continues to expand.”

Employment of environmental scientists and specialists is projected to grow 8% from 2018 to 2028, faster than the average for all occupations. Heightened public interest in the hazards facing the environment, as well as increasing demands placed on the environment, are expected to spur demand for environmental scientists and specialists, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Cont'd on page 5.....

Another Caring Example Gives Back

Mentoring Participants Lend Helping Hand for the Holidays

Another Caring Example participants spent November’s session giving back to the community. The young students along with their families volunteered at the Community Care Development Network (CCDN) on November 13th. The group spent the night helping to fill boxes with food and organizing clothing items to help serve some 218 families. Some Another Caring Example participants even brought along extra friends to assist.

Another Caring Example is DYS’ direct-serve mentoring afterschool program that focuses on character development for young people 8-17 years of age. The program also seeks to help students develop 21st century skills.

CCDN is a faith-based non-profit 501c3 Organization that specializes in healing and helping the whole family.

For more information about Another Caring Example, contact DYS at (205) 320-0879.

YOUTH FIRST MENTORING



Phillips Academy student raising funds to deliver 100 sleeping bags to Birmingham's homeless

By: Chanda Temple

Ethan Hill, a 9-year-old from the east Birmingham area, has launched a campaign to raise money to buy 100 sleeping bags and care packages for the homeless this holiday season.

"So many people are sleeping on the ground or they are on mattresses with nothing to cover them up. They just have the clothes on their backs," said Ethan. "So, (my parents and I) tried to figure out something that could help them stay warm and that they could take with them."

"I'm excited that people care enough to donate."

This is the third year the Phillips Academy fourth grader has worked to help the homeless during the holidays. When he was 7 years old, he asked his parents if they could buy orange Home Depot buckets and supplies for the homeless. And in 2018 when he was 8 years old, Ethan bought 50 sleeping bags for the homeless in Birmingham. They barely had time to get out of the car when they pulled up to Linn Park before the bags were snapped up in 2 minutes. Ethan cried because so many were in need, pushing his parents to seek donations from friends to buy a few more sleeping bags that year.

This year, Ethan said he wants to make sure more people get help, which is why he has set his goal of buying 100, \$10 sleeping bags from Academy Sports. His uncle set up a fundraiser on Facebook for him in October, and Ethan said the response has been good. He said he's close to reaching his sleeping bag goal but is still in need of items for his care packages. He plans to distribute them on Sunday, Dec. 22 in Linn Park.

"The first time I helped, it made me feel pretty excited," Ethan said. "This time, I have the chance to help people again and not be selfish."

Ethan said he got the idea to help the homeless during his morning rides to school. Every day, he noticed a man living under a bridge. He asked his parents if there was anything they could do to help the man. Once the family discussed the man and his situation, Ethan got to work, at the age of 7, doing online research on what the homeless community needed.

His parents, Ebony and David Hill Jr., used their own money to buy 10 buckets and fill them with tarps, an emergency blanket, snacks, and a blanket that doubled as a tent. "I than Googled everything," said his mother. "And he had us driving all over the place looking for things. When we were done, I think each bucket weighed about 5 or 10 pounds."

Ethan said that helping the man under the bridge and others like him gave him a sense of accomplishment. He was shocked to find so many people, including young people and veterans, without a home. "I had been looking at him for the past year, and I just got a chance to help him," he said.

When asked what he felt he was put on this Earth to do, Ethan said: "Play golf, play video games and help people."

Ethan's efforts have not only impressed those at his church and on social media but also those in the Mayor's Office.

"Servant leadership has long been a guiding principle of my administration," Mayor Randall Woodfin said. "When I look at Ethan, the great work he's already done and his willing spirit to do even more, I can truly say that he's the epitome of servant leadership. In this season of giving, it's a model example for all of us. I'm so proud of what he's accomplished."

Don Lupo, city operations manager and organizer of the city's warming and cooling stations, said he's also proud of Ethan.

"It's hopeful when you see a child, 9 years old, doing what this young man is doing," Lupo said. "He's showing his heart. He's showing just the true meaning of giving."

Ethan and his parents said the deadline for donations for the sleeping bags is Sunday, Dec. 1. The deadline for items and donations for the care packages is Friday, Dec. 13.

Ethan said he is still in need of the following for the care packages: Hats, Gloves, Socks, Gallon-sized Ziploc bags Snacks, Toiletries

For more information call his mother, Ebony Hill, at 205-240-9004.



spotlight
on youth

MILLERS NAMED FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Family Guidance Center Honors Recipients at Dinner

The Miller family is an exceptionally special family. They are always a unified team in every capacity and they are always seeking out ways to build upon their families' strengths together. DYS first became acquainted with the Millers (Edmond, LaShunda, Robert, and Joshua) when they began attending sessions for Another Caring Example, our afterschool mentoring program. This year, it is our pleasure to congratulate them on being named one of the Jefferson County Family Guidance Center's, Families of the Year.

"It was such an honor to be recognized for just being ourselves and living our lives. We did not even know that we were being noticed for being us," said Lashunda Miller, matriarch of the family.

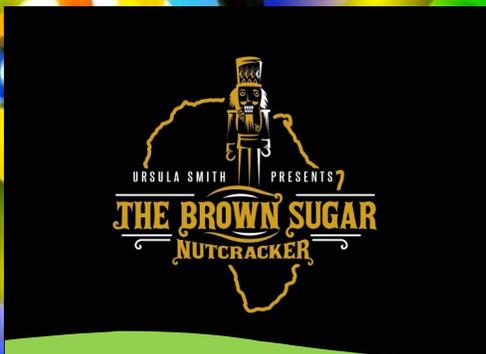
Each year, the Family Guidance Center sponsors the Families of the Year Awards. Families chosen by the selection committee are then recognized at an awards ceremony. Some of the criteria include working together, helping to support each other's personal goals and family involvement. This year's ceremony was held in October at the Birmingham Crossplex.



The Miller Family
(Edmond, LaShunda, Robert, and Joshua)

Mrs. Miller says, "It is important to have a strong family unit because we are raising the next generation, and they are our legacy." She adds, "The success of future generations depends on what they are taught today."

We certainly agree and congratulate the Millers on this honor!



**URSULA SMITH PRESENTS THE
BROWN SUGAR NUTCRACKER**

Dorothy Jemison Day Theatre
December 7th @ 7:00 p.m.

Enjoy music, outstanding dances and vibrant costumes as you follow Marissa who inherits the Brown family nutcracker during a party. Prepare yourselves to go on a journey that will uplift your spirits and leave you with joy that only the holiday season brings.

For More Info:
[CLICK HERE](#)



HOLIDAYS AT MCWANE

McWane Science Center
Now—January

The Magic of Model Trains is back to delight families throughout the holiday season. Climb aboard the McWane Train and go for a ride before checking out the Magic of Model Trains exhibit.

For More Info:
[CLICK HERE](#)



**ICE SKATING AT RAILROAD
PARK**

Railroad Park
Now—January

An ice skating rink AND an ice slide? A winter adventure is on its way to Railroad Park! Open through January 6, 2020, this year's rink will bring a magical, wintry atmosphere to the heart of Birmingham.

For More Info:
[CLICK HERE](#)

Latest news and Events

01

Holiday Spectacular December 6– 22nd @RMTC CABARET THEATRE

Celebrate the holidays with a *spectacular* display of all your favorite music of the season! RMTC Conservatory students perform alongside Birmingham's best local artists to warm your heart and set the stage for a magical *holiday* season!

For More Info: [CLICK HERE](#)

02

Cirque Dreams Holidaze

December 6th & 7th @BJCC
Concert Hall

Cirque Dreams lights up the 2019 holiday season with its critically acclaimed holiday stage extravaganza...Cirque Dreams Holidaze...a cirque show... Broadway musical... and family Christmas spectacular all in one!

For More Info:
[CLICK HERE](#)

03

Breakfast With Santa December 14th @The Birmingham Zoo

Santa is coming to the Birmingham Zoo to join you for breakfast! Enjoy a scrumptious scrambled egg, pancakes and sausage breakfast with orange juice and coffee at the Nourish205 followed by a visit from Ole Saint Nick himself. All children receive a special holiday gift upon arrival.

For More Info:
[CLICK HERE](#)

Green Career Opportunities cont'd...

The opportunity for a half-day of service at Wenonah High School coincided with the first -annual National Audubon Fund II Apprentice Summit. The National Audubon Society and Alabama Audubon hosted the summit at Ruffner Mountain Nature Preserve in November.

The Fund II Apprenticeship program—made possible through a grant from the Fund II Foundation—provides a year-long opportunity for early-career people of color to find a pathway into conservation careers. The inaugural 2019-2020 Apprenticeship class is hosted across the Audubon network by nature centers, the Washington, DC Office, New York Headquarters, and Chapters.



(center) Dr. Willie Goldsmith Jr., Wenonah High School Principal, Fund II Foundation Apprentices, and National Audubon staff © Luke Franke/Audubon

DYS Celebrates One Year as Mentors with Big Brothers and Big Sisters Workplace Mentoring Program

Members of DYS staff held an early Holiday Celebration in December with some special guests. Staff members celebrated their one-year anniversary as “Bigs” to their “Littles” as part of the Gear Up Birmingham workplace mentoring program.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters facilitates the program. For a year, during school hours, students from P.D. Jackson-Olin High School spent a few hours every other week in the DYS office. The Bigs and Littles enjoyed group activities including sessions on financial literacy, character and career development but also had one on one time.

DYS is looking forward to another year of fun and support to our Littles at P.D. Jackson Olin High!

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation.

Do you want to mentor a young person? Hundreds of Littles are looking for mentors, to learn how you can volunteer visit:

<http://www.bbbsbhm.org/>



DYS Celebrates the Holidays with their “Littles”

Students Explore Career Opportunities at KidSpark

Middle school students across the Birmingham area came together to learn more about career opportunities during the KidSpark conference. The event was held October 12th at W.J. Christian school in Birmingham. Students along with their parents, got a chance to learn about different careers from area professionals who



serve in those roles. DYS' Deputy Director, David Dada spoke at the event about city government and how it works.

KidSpark is a great opportunity for middle school students to explore the future and plan for success!



The Birmingham Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting will kick off at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 8 with Birmingham's Purple Heart awarded veteran Noah Galloway serving as the Grand Marshal alongside Mayor Randall Woodfin. Noah Galloway is a double amputee military veteran and motivational speaker that most recently competed on FOX's *American Grit* and ABC's *Dancing with the Stars*.

"This is my favorite time of the year because it allows us to reconnect with friends and family. And that's what this holiday parade is all about – giving people the opportunity to come together in the spirit of celebration and fellowship," said Mayor Randall L. Woodfin. "I'm glad that Noah Galloway, one of Birmingham's favorite sons and warriors, has agreed to serve as grand marshal of our event. I'm looking forward to the parade and tree lighting, and I'm sure the public is, too."

The Parade will begin at 4:30 p.m. at Fifth Avenue South and 15th Street and proceed to Linn Park for the tree lighting. To guide you to your perfect viewing location, the full parade route is below:

Christmas Parade Route 2019

- Starting point: Fifth Avenue South and 15th Street South
- Proceed southeast to 17th Street South
- Turn left onto 17th Street South
- Turn right onto First Avenue South
- Turn left onto 20th Street South
- Continue down 20th Street to Park Place
- Turn right onto Short 20th Street North

Join the Birmingham Zoo for Zoolight Safari

Watch as the Birmingham Zoo comes alive for a jubilant holiday celebration at its 26th annual ZooLight Safari presented by Wells Fargo! Be amazed by enchanting illuminations and sparkling lights. Enjoy the sounds of seasonal songs and holiday classics as you delight in delicious treats and decadent desserts at the S'mores & More station!

Get creative making crafts, decorating ornaments, and writing letters to Santa. Take a merry ride on the Candy Cane Train, go for a spin on the Jingle Bell Carousel, dash down the Polar Plunge Slide and enjoy fun holiday themed games!

Guests will be captivated by the festive décor and a nearly 30 ft. tall tree of lights on our dazzling new Welcome Plaza. Dance and sing the night away under the stars with spectacular live entertainment.

For More Information about Zoolight Safari visit:

<https://www.birminghamzoo.com/2019/11/06/26th-annual-zoolight-safari-2019/>



December is National Safe Toy and Gift Month

Keep your child's holiday toy time safe!

When it comes to toys and gifts, the excitement and desire to get your children their favorite toys may cause shoppers to forget about safety factors associated with them. Before you make these purchases, it is critical to remember to consider the safety and age range of the toys. Prevent Blindness America has declared December as Safe Toys and Gifts Awareness Month. The group encourages everyone to consider if the toy they wish to give suits the age and individual skills and abilities of the child who will receive it, especially for infants and children under age three.

This holiday season, please consider the following guidelines for choosing safe toys for all ages:

- Inspect all toys before purchasing.
- Be diligent about inspecting toys your child has received. Check them for age, skill level, and developmental appropriateness before allowing them to be played with.

- Look for labels that assure you the toys have passed a safety inspection – “ATSM” means the toy has met the American Society for Testing and Materials standards.

- Gifts of sports equipment should always be accompanied by protective gear (give a helmet with the skateboard)

- Keep kids safe from lead in toys.

- Do NOT give toys with small parts (including magnets and “button” batteries which can cause serious injury or death if ingested) to young children as they tend to put things in their mouths.

- Do NOT give toys with ropes and cords or heating elements.

- Do NOT give crayons and markers unless they are labeled “nontoxic”.

For tips on how to select the safest toys for your little one visit: <https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/apha-calendar/2019/safe-toys-and-gifts-month-2019>

Family Time For the Holidays

- ✓ Cook Together
- ✓ Make Holiday Cards
- ✓ Explore the City
- ✓ Play Games
- ✓ Enjoy the Great Outdoors
- ✓ Read Each Day
- ✓ Create Cherished Memories



FOR KIDS

Numbers 1 to 6

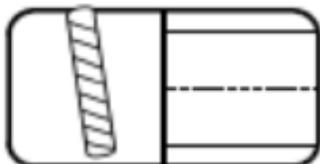
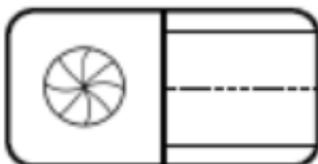
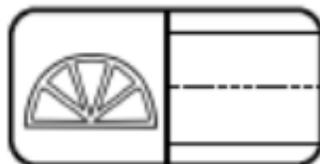
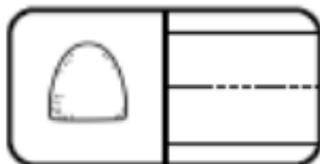
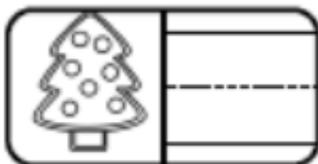
Name _____

Gingerbread House

Count and color the pictures.



How many? Write the number.



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WWW.BHAMYOUTHFIRST.ORG

WWW.BIRMINGHAMAL.GOV



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