

MERIDEN YOUTH SERVICES NEWS

The official newsletter of the Department of Health and Human Services, Youth Services Office

WE HIRED A YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Written by Jazmynn Jakubczyk

Jazmynn recently graduated in May 2019 with her Masters Degree in Public Health from Southern CT State University. She was hired in September 2019 as our Youth and Family Program Assistant. She is responsible for coordinating programs for youth and families and helping to develop the youth community through health education and outreach. She is excited to help build up Meriden Youth Services and already has so many great ideas. Stay tuned!



ADVICE FROM THE YOUTH AND FAMILY PROGRAM ASSISTANT

Always chase your dreams.

Don't hold back for anyone or anything.

You will always be enough.

Never settle for less.

Everything happens for a reason.

Respect your parents/caregivers.

Try your hardest to succeed.

Stay out of trouble.

Be kind to others.

Don't be so hard on yourself.

Reach for the stars.

Love is above all things; give it and receive it freely.

PROGRAMMING



SNOW SLIME & HANDWASHING

Our Youth Services & Public Health Education offices collaborated with the Meriden Public Library on a slime making event. The children learned how to make slime with Meg and Lauren from the library and then learned proper hand-washing techniques with Jazmynn and Elizabeth from our office.

JUVENILE ASSISTANCE DIVERSION BOARD (JAD)

Meriden's Juvenile Assistance and Diversion (J.A.D.) program has been providing a diversionary alternative for first time youth offenders in Meriden for over 25 years. The JAD program offers a community-based alternative for youth who would otherwise be referred to juvenile court or would be facing a possible expulsion from school. The Board accepts referrals from the Meriden Police Department and the Meriden Board of Education. The board consists of representatives from the Meriden school system, Department of Children and Families, Juvenile Court, Meriden Police Department, and other social service agencies. The Board hears all cases individually and determines appropriate referrals, resources and consequences as deemed appropriate. This program offers an opportunity for youth to learn from their past behaviors and make better, more informed decisions moving forward.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Meriden Youth - We know you have great ideas. Let us fund them! Mini-grants will be awarded to youth-developed, youth-led projects that will benefit the Meriden community. The application will be available mid-January on our website and in our youth services office.
- January 13, 2020: Kindness Chain Event with the Meriden Public Library (3-5pm)
- January 28, 2020: Mobile Food Pantry (4-5 PM) - The pantry will be in the parking lot on the corner of Miller & Center St. next to our office. Please bring your own reusable grocery bag.
- February 18, 2020: American Safe Sitter Class for youth
- We will be building a volunteer database for youth needing community service hours - stay tuned!

For program registration, please call our office or download registration forms on our website.



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Trust your instincts and don't be afraid to be yourself.

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For more information about our events, please visit our website: www.meridenhealth.com or our facebook page: City of Meriden Department of Health & Human Services (link is on our website)