

Annual Report
July 2019 – June 2020

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Mission

Our mission is to offer and promote program service opportunities to the youth of Clayton County designed to create positive learning experiences that will give rise to promising, contributing members of our community.

We Are...

...a vessel of support for Clayton County's youth age 14-24.

The office provides and extends available leadership opportunities, creativity, independence, and workforce readiness. Our youth will have access to resources that will help them achieve personal and career goals.

We look forward to serving the youth of Clayton County through enriching programs to produce model citizens ready to be the change they want to see.

#ClaytonStrong

GOAL I: Serve as the functioning body in the development of plans in the areas of policy development and civic engagement for youth related issues.

2019 IMPACT Student Leadership Retreat

IMPACT was launched in 2017 as an in-depth weekend to train Youth Assembly Officials on upcoming roles for the new school year's events. At IMPACT, the students elected at the previous Youth Assembly program in the fall converged July 19th – 21st at the FFA/FCCLA Camp in Covington, GA to learn all aspects of Georgia's parliamentary procedure. The retreat trained students in their roles and responsibilities, as well as casted leadership vision for the new school year. Youth Commissioner Jai Shy was elected as Chief Justice during the 2018 Youth Assembly-Oglethorpe Conference. Youth Commissioner Shy served as Chief Justice during the 2019 Youth Assembly-Oglethorpe Conference which took place November 3rd – 5th, 2019.

2019-20 Candidacy Process

In April 2019, the 2018-19 Clayton County Youth Commission conducted interviews for prospective candidates into the 2019-20 Clayton County Youth Commission. Sixteen candidates successfully completed Phase I of the candidacy process and entered into Phase II. Alongside returning Youth Commissioners, the sixteen became acclimated with County operations and departments.

During summer orientation, the Youth Commissioners and candidates were visited by Senior Services, Community Development, Transportation and Development, Central Services to include Risk Management, IT, Building and Maintenance, Parks and Recreation, Finance and Library Services. As a result of the Board of Elections and Registration tour, Youth Commissioners were deputized as deputy registrars for voter registration. Youth commission candidates also received professional development training from the Office of Youth Services' staff, Chief Operating Officer Detrick Stanford and Dr. Tawanda Braswell.



Swearing-In Ceremony

On August 20th, five Youth Commissioners and thirteen Youth Commission candidates were sworn in by Commissioner Sonna Singleton Gregory bringing the 2019-20 Clayton County Youth Commission to eighteen Youth Commissioners.



2019-20 Student Ambassador Kick-Off

On September 12th, the Clayton County Youth Commission attended the Secretary of State's Student Ambassador Kick-Off event at the Georgia World Congress Center. This year's program brings new activities and new competitors. We look forward to a successful year with our sights set on being 1st in the State and reclaiming Region 13 for the 3rd time!

(Pictured from left to right: Youth Commissioner Gabrielle Welch-Dulaney, Youth Commissioner Aleya Lyons, Youth Commissioner Princess Windsor, Madame Chair Jai Shy, Youth Commissioner Ayleen Tello, Youth Commissioner Tiffany Pham, and Youth Commissioner Jared Reese).



Youth Assembly

The purpose of this three-day learning opportunity is to bring the workings of the Georgia state government alive to students in grades 9 - 12. Students are given an opportunity to discuss current state issues with state administrators, elected officials, and students from high schools throughout the state.

Each conference is led by teens elected to office by their fellow delegates. Held annually at the State Capitol in Atlanta, volunteers from various state departments act as resources for the students while they debate the issues. These volunteers, along with State YMCA staff, help guide the students through mock committee meetings and procedures. Students debate and vote on the bills that their fellow delegates have written and presented. Bills that pass in committee are then taken to the floor of the House or Senate for full debate and vote.

Youth hold the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House. Participants also engage in campaigns and elections for officers who will serve during the following year."

This is the 2nd year the Youth Commission has attended this conference. We had the honor of our Youth Commission Chair Jai Shy serve as Chief Justice and our Vice Chair Fatime Niane win the Best Orator Award. The Youth Commission was also provided the privilege to witness arguments given to the Georgia Supreme Court.

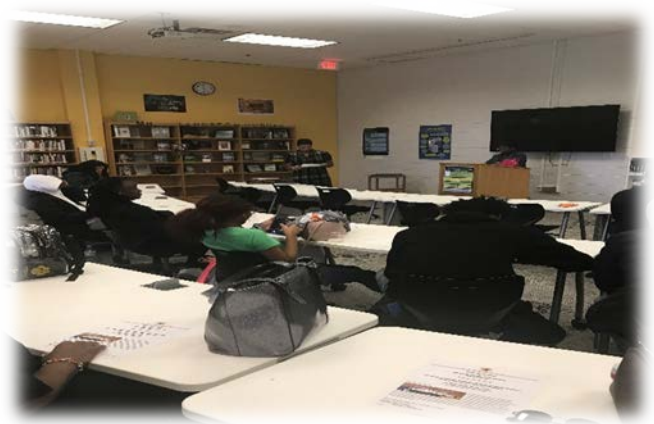


Community Service

As an organization that believes in service, Youth Commissioners were tasked to find a non-profit organization to work with in an effort to give back to the community.

Teen Life Choices

Teen Life Choices a nonprofit operating exclusively to provide programs to young adults that gives them tools to make better life choices, invited Madame Chair Shy to speak to high school students at Langston Hughes High School. Here she spoke with the students about the impact of vaping on youth and how she manages her busy schedule between school and the Youth Commission.



Trees Atlanta

Trees Atlanta founded in 1985, works tirelessly to address Atlanta's tree loss, protect its forests, and create new green space. The Youth Commission volunteered their time to assist in a project where they learned to identify the invasive plant English Ivy and remove it from the area near tree roots. They also fed goats, hiked the nature trails in Connally Nature Park in East Point and saw some of the oldest oak trees in metro Atlanta.



Canned Food Drive

For the 3rd year, the Youth Commission conducted their annual canned food drive from November 11th – December 13th. Residents and employees of Clayton County donated goods at the recreation centers and libraries. 971 canned goods were donated to Hearts to Nourish Hope, a 10% decrease from last year due to expired food being discarded. The formula used to feed a family is 1.2 pounds of food = 1 meal. The cans varied in size ranging from 1 – 7 pounds.



Vision Board Workshop

In preparation for the New Year, the Youth Commissioners participated in Teen Vision Board Workshop hosted by Professionals Assisting Youth Inc. The teens were able to create posters that motivated, inspired and encouraged them to focus on their 2020 goals.



National Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day is a national holiday celebrated on the fourth Tuesday of September. It was first observed in 2012 and is endorsed as well as supported by the National Association of Secretaries of State, National Association of State Election Directors, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, and National Association of Elected Officials.

On September 24, 2019, the Clayton County Youth Commission and the Clayton County Police Explorers hosted a Voter Registration Day Rally in response to the holiday. The event was held at the Clayton County Police Department and was supported by the Clayton County Board of Elections & Registration and B-Rob Lights & Sounds. Three citizens registered vote; one more from last year's program held at Lee Street Park.



Superintendent's Critical Conversation

Over the past 3 years, youth have had concerns or inquired about things that were happening in their respective schools. This year, we thought it would be a good idea for the Youth Commissioners to attend Critical Conversations, hosted by Dr. Morcease Beasley, Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools. During Critical Conversations, Dr. Beasley provides information regarding Clayton County Public Schools performance, as well as provides opportunities for open dialogue. During the October meeting, Youth Commissioners were able to address executive level staff and high school principals about concerns they or their peers may have.



Zumba for Clayton County Youth

This year's Youth Commission is committed to addressing mental health in their community. In an effort to better stimulate the minds of their peers through physical activity, they facilitated a youth commission led Zumba class. The class provided an opportunity for the Youth Commissioners to interact with their peers in a non-restrictive environment as well as obtain one of their health and wellness goals. There were 23 participants enrolled in the program with an average of 6 participants per class.



2019-2020 CCYC Survey Monkey Results

Youth Commission Responses:

1. What did you like most about the Clayton County Youth Commission?
 - a. The involvement in the community.
 - b. The multiple experiences with the branches of Clayton County.
 - c. Soft skill development along with how it connected you to a wide variety of people.
 - d. I liked the opportunities to work in my community and work with other youth.
 - e. The fact that everyone has an opportunity to share their ideas and execute them.
 - f. The advisors.
2. What did you like least about the Clayton County Youth Commission?
 - a. The coordinators and the way they handled issues.
 - b. The state competition.
 - c. Strictness
 - d. I did not like the change of events on short notice.
 - e. Not getting first place in the State for the Student Ambassadors Program.
 - f. The Student Ambassadors Program.
3. Did the Clayton County Youth Commission met your expectations?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Yes
 - c. Yes
 - d. Yes
 - e. Yes
 - f. Yes

4. If no, then why not?
 - a. All respondents skipped this question.
5. Were there enough activities?
 - a. Yes
 - b. Yes
 - c. Yes
 - d. Yes
 - e. Yes
 - f. Yes
6. What would you suggest for improvement in the future?
 - a. More adults involved in programming and dealing with issues among the commissioners, besides the coordinators.
 - b. More activities with the emergency operators.
 - c. A more forgiving environment.
 - d. I would suggest more youth lead initiatives.
 - e. Nothing.
 - f. Not doing the student ambassador program and focus on more events for our community.
7. Would you recommend the Clayton County Youth Commission to your peers?
 - a. No
 - b. Yes
 - c. Yes
 - d. Yes
 - e. Yes
 - f. Yes

Parent's Responses:

1. What did you like most about your child being part of the Clayton County Youth Commission?
 - a. Their involvement in City affairs and administration and their civic involvement.
 - b. Community involvement and leadership opportunities.
 - c. What I liked most about CCYC was my granddaughter being surrounded by great female role models.
2. What did you like least about your child being part of the Clayton County Youth Commission?
 - a. I didn't like the leadership and they make the program look better on paper. The leaders put lots of stress on the children which is very unfortunate.
 - b. I have no issues with the program. I believe it's a great program for young adults that foresees social responsibility, community involvement and civic engagement during their formidable years that will follow them into adulthood.
 - c. The Ambassador program dropped.
3. Would you recommend the Clayton County Youth Commission to other parents?
 - a. No
 - b. Yes.

- c. Yes
- 4. Please provide suggestions for improvement.
 - a. Respondent skipped this question.
 - b. Respondent skipped this question.
 - c. Incorporate college scholarship.

GOAL II: Identify service gaps and prioritize countywide resources for efficient coordination of services.

ACTION Community Network

Agencies Collaborating to Increase Opportunities for our Youth Now (ACTION) was formed to bring youth service providers and partners together on a quarterly basis to

create strategies to address the service delivery gaps for the youth of Clayton County, share information and create networking opportunities. This year we were excited to welcome six (6) new agencies to the network: Destiny Inc., Necco, The Progress Place, One Talent Inc., Make Music Count, Kaiser Permanente, and Securus House.

ACTION met on August 28, 2019 at South Clayton Recreation Center. The meeting was hosted by Melerick Harris from The Progress Place. Partners and youth services providers representing thirteen organizations received a wealth of information about programs and services offered by the Progress Place. Services include but are not limited to: an intensive family intervention program, outpatient therapy and psychiatric and medication management.

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at Starbucks in Jonesboro, Marcus Blackwell, CEO of Make Music Count hosted our quarterly meeting. He introduced the Make Music County app to our partners and gave them an opportunity to have a hands-on session. We are excited to partner with Mr. Blackwell on future projects.

On May 27, 2020 ACTION was held via a Zoom Conference Meeting to allow partners to discuss ways to move forward in the pandemic, share best practices and showcase upcoming events. Partners enjoyed the opportunity to share resources in the community during COVID-19.

Youth Service Institute (YSI)

The Institute is a three-day training (**August 13-15, 2019**) focusing on capacity building to facilitate meaningful service projects, personal leadership development, and train-the-trainer type sessions. When Lead Agency representatives return home, all attendees must train at least 60 other people in their community (coalition members, project organizers, teachers in partner schools, etc.) on the project planning skills that will be covered at the Institute.



Janée Morris, Program Coordinator, represented the Clayton County Youth Commission at the 2019 YSI, completing 16 professional development hours in Washington, D.C. Ms. Morris targeted 60 students attending Clayton County Public Schools.

Youth Service America- Leadership Training

As a condition of the Youth Service America Grant, Janee Morris, Program Coordinator was responsible for training 60 youth in the community the importance of community service. Ms. Morris established a partnership with Elite Scholars Academy to provide the training to their students. 46 students learned the components of starting a community service project and each student was tasked with identifying a potential project in their school or community. 14 Youth Commissioners also received training through the program.



Back to School Replenish



The Beverly Cunningham Outreach Program, Clayton County Board of Commissioners and Clayton County Board of Health hosted a Back to School Supplies Replenish Bash on Monday, December 30, 2019 from 12pm - 3pm at South Clayton Recreation Center. Nicole Horne, Office of Youth Services Administrator and Roderick Cunningham, founder of the

Beverly Cunningham Outreach Center were featured on the Dr. Rashad Richey show with WAKK 1380 radio to talk about the program.



42 students received school supplies to help them prepare for the second semester. Thank you to the Clayton County community for donating supplies to our Back to School Supplies Bash.

Teen Maze



In February, we partnered with the Board of Health to host Teen Maze. Participants ages 12-19 entered a life-size interactive "game board" through which they advance by "chance" to various stations. The various stations included Work Experience, the STD Wheel, Pregnancy, Jail, Courts, a Crash Scene and much more. 197 youth participated in this great opportunity. Thank you to all Departments and volunteers who made this event a huge success!

Teens Coping with COVID -19

On June 5, 2020 teens were invited to participate in an open discussion via Zoom Conference Meeting with our Health and Wellness Advisor, Dr. DeAnn Bing, MD. Teens were able to express their true feelings about the impacts of COVID-19 and get questions answered by a licensed professional in a private setting. There was not a set target for the program, 38 teens registered and 20 participated on the day of the event.

GOAL III: Increase the number of youth who have access to and complete a post-secondary pathway to obtain a job.

Work Experience Program

We continue to work with Eckerd Connects, Hearts to Nourish Hope and The Bridge Academy in providing a Work Experience program, where we help assist young adults with intern opportunities in county departments. In this fiscal year, no students were placed as they are still working on GED requirements and employment skills in their organizations.

As an initiative to get more participation, we set a goal to meet each work experience partner quarterly to introduce Clayton County jobs to young adults newly enrolled in the individual organizations. We were able to visit Hearts to Nourish Hope and interview some potential candidates. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the program was temporarily suspended. We look to place students in the near future.

GOAL IV: Identify Funding Sources

Youth Service America (YSA)

Youth Service America (YSA) is a resource center that partners with thousands of organizations committed to increasing the quality and quantity of volunteer opportunities for young people, age 5-25, to serve locally, nationally and globally.

On July 3, 2019, Youth Service America selected the Clayton County Youth Commission to serve as a 2019-20 Lead Agency receiving \$3000 in grant money. Monies are to be used to fulfill the following grant requirements:

- Host a program for 9/11 to pay homage to veterans.
- Host a program for MLK Day to address financial literacy needs in the community.
- Host a program for Global Youth Service Day.
- Activate 500 youth volunteers at each program.
- Partner with at least 10 organizations.

9/11 Day Program

Valor is a program open to Veterans, First Responders and Military Families in remembrance of 9/11. Clayton County Office of Youth Services hosted a fitness boot camp, line dancing, billiards tournament, and other fun activities on September 14, 2019 at the Frank Bailey Senior Center. 59 veterans and first responders participated in the festivities. There was no change in program participation numbers from last year's program. Additionally, there were 191 youth volunteers to help with planning, decorating and executing the event. We would like to thank Kaiser Permanente, Clayton County Water Authority, Senior Services, Parks & Recreation, Youth Service America,

Charles Mott Foundation, and Corporation for National and Community Service for partnering with us to host this event.

Letters to Troops was our secondary program to meet the 500 youth volunteers to satisfy the grant. We had 309 students participate. Collectively, we were able to send 364 letters to active troops, new recruits, veterans, and first responders. We would like to thank Operation Gratitude for partnering with us to distribute the letters on our behalf. With our donation, Operation Gratitude was able to deliver over 2.3 million care packages!



Make Music Count

The Youth Commission also hosted the Make Music Count program as a call to service from Youth Service America in honor of the Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday! Geared toward ages 4-18, Make Music Count is an app that teaches children math while playing the piano. 22 of the 38 registered participants attended the program. Each participant received 1 on 1 instruction from the Youth Commissioners with the assistance of the app's creator Marcus Blackwell. At the end of the program, each participant received a one year subscription to utilize the Make Music Count App paid through grants funds received from Youth Service America.

On June 8th and 12th participants had a chance to have a hands-on session with the Make Music Count CEO via Zoom Conference. Participants received a one-year paid subscription upon completion of the session. A total of 50 students received the one year subscription.



Book Drive



The Youth Commission hosted a book drive for their MLK Service Project. With the help of Elite Scholars Academy, they were able to collect 1,532 books during the book drive. 515 books were donated to Books for Africa, 509 books were donated to the Bloom Closet and 508 were donated to Goodwill. Thank you for everyone who donated to this great cause.



End of Annual Report
