

# MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM BEYOND THE BELL

R3 DEKALB/ROCKDALE

R6 UPSON

R5 CITY OF SAVANNAH



## HIGHLIGHTS



### UPSON

Upson County Youth Leadership Cabinet traveled to Alabama for a blast into the past. Learn about their adventures / Featured Coalition Member Rev. Morris Myrick / Yatesville, Ga. recruitment outreach



### DEKALB/ROCKDALE

Beyond The Bell, in collaboration with City Councilwoman Connie Alsobrook, celebrated the holidays with a Festival of Trees and evening of Christmas caroling. During the celebration food bags, coats, and holiday goodies were distributed to the community.



### CITY OF SAVANNAH

Beyond The Bell's partners through our Savannah Prevention Coalition planned a packed Red Ribbon Week celebration and promotion with the area's school district to reach students during virtual and in-person learning.

## MOVIN' ON UP IN UPSON COUNTY

### Blast From the Past as Youth Travel to Selma, Al

The Youth Leadership Cabinet of Beyond The Bell in Upson County enjoyed an educational trip to Selma, Alabama in October to learn about the civil rights movement and the Edmund Pettis Bridge. In memory of civil rights leader John Lewis, the group crossed the bridge and visited several key historical landmarks. Hotel staff commented on the maturity and respectfulness that the youth demonstrated and, of course, a shopping trip was in order while in Selma.



### *Movin' On Out*

Beyond The Bell Upson is actively seeking recruitment for new Botvin LifeSkills classes for parents and youth that will begin in February 2021. Yatesville, Ga., a rural community in Upson County, will be the organization's target area for outward growth (12 miles from Thomaston) and will be a perfect opportunity for Beyond The Bell to put into use the new bus that was generously donated by Coalition member Rev. Morris Myrick.



## FEATURED COALITION MEMBER

Rev. Morris Myrick is a native of Atlanta, Ga. But has been in Upson County since 1992. A retired cement finisher, Rev. Myrick now owns M&M Cleaning Service. The pastor of Ephesians Deliverance Center for the past 8 years, Rev. Myrick met Beyond The Bell Executive Director Sandra Dean at The Pie restaurant in Thomaston three years ago. Since that time, Rev. Myrick has been fully committed to the growth and development as well as the health and welfare of Beyond The Bell's youth. Thank you, Rev. Myrick!



# FESTIVAL OF TREES & AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS CAROLING

A collaborative event between Conyers City  
Councilwoman Connie Alsobrook and  
Beyond The Bell



**OH WHAT FUN WE HAD!!!**

Beyond The Bell believes in community and giving back to the community through our tireless efforts to educate youth and their parents. The mission to keep underage youth from using and abusing substances is always forefront in the mind of our Executive Director, Ms. Sandra Dean. Sponsoring events that provide cheer and much needed relief during the holiday season is one way Beyond The Bell gives back to its communities!



# RED RIBBON WEEK

The Savannah Prevention Coalition partnered with Savannah Chatham County Public School System to celebrate Red Ribbon Week October 23-31 with all of the district's students and parents. They hosted two "curbside celebrations" at schools where they gave out goodie bags and talked with students about the importance of a drug-free life and healthy decisions. Parents drove through to sign a pledge and receive a donated gift card. The Mayor of Savannah came to one of the events to celebrate with us. In addition, we had the opportunity to provide resources for teachers to use in class, send daily email blasts with relevant topics to all parents in SCCPSS's district, and give a virtual or social-distanced presentation to 103 students.



STUDENTS DRESSED UP IN COSTUMES TO RECEIVE GOODIE BAGS ON THE FINALE "CURBSIDE CELEBRATION" OCTOBER 31ST AT GODLEY STATION.



WINNER OF THE RED RIBBON CONTEST AT FROM SAVANNAH CLASSICAL ACADEMY



COALITION MEMBERS GREETED PARENTS ON THE KICKOFF EVENT OCTOBER 23RD AND THE MAYOR ADDRESSES PRE-K STUDENTS AT THE EARLY LEARNING CENTER.



8TH GRADE STUDENTS WERE ADDRESSED BY COALITION MEMBERS BRIEFLY AT GODLY STATION AND COALITION MEMBERS POSED FOR A PICTURE WITH THE MAYOR..

# COALITION RETREAT

A new tradition

October 13, 2020



Coalition members from all three of our communities gathered for a day of collaborative learning and planning. (Plus a lot of fun!) Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, only a limited amount of members from each coalition were in attendance, but we still had a great time. Agency staff gave presentations on the Importance of Data, Cultural Competency, Sustainability, and reviewed the coalition's responsibilities and roles. As special guests, officers from the Savannah Police Department came to share their experiences in the area and gave their perspectives on how to engage the community, especially at-risk youth. Our retreat was a strategic and engaging way to evaluate our work and start Year Five of our Alcohol and Substance Abuse Prevention Project grants.



## SWOT Analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working in Community</li> <li>Passion</li> <li>Coalition</li> <li>Experts in Subject</li> <li>data</li> <li>training</li> <li>Purpose</li> <li>Partnership</li> <li>law enforcement</li> <li>education</li> <li>diversity</li> <li>Marketing/messaging</li> <li>Youth Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fundraising</li> <li>Youth Participation</li> <li>Parent involvement</li> <li>Recruits</li> <li>resistor involvement</li> <li>insistent location</li> <li>Perception of weed</li> <li>Silents/duplicate efforts</li> <li>reactive / responding to interventions</li> </ul>
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online - can get more info/edu out</li> <li>Centralize info online</li> <li>New doors / more recognition</li> <li>Use retreat / sharing region resources</li> <li>New partnerships, work together</li> <li>Expansion</li> <li>Mineral / norm change by Covid</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Online - lack of access</li> <li>perception of weed</li> <li>Local access - schools / youth orgs close</li> <li>all out of budget info to reach target pop.</li> <li>Limited size of funding</li> <li>Negative publicity</li> <li>Silents / not wanting to work w/ us</li> </ul>



**BEYOND THE BELL'S FOCUS IS ON THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 9-20 AND THEIR PARENTS.  
BEYOND THE BELL PROVIDES LIFESKILLS TRAINING AND OTHER PROGRAMS TO ENSURE YOUTH LIVE HAPPY AND SAFE LIVES AND USE THE TOOLS WE PROVIDE TO ENJOY ACTIVITIES THAT EXCLUDE ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUGS.  
WE USE EVIDENCE-BASED STRATEGIES TO BUILD SKILLS AND SUPPORT THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THUS REDUCE BARRIERS TO THEIR SUCCESS.**

## **Director's Corner**

It is with profound gratitude and humility that I can share with you in this wonderful agency newsletter a few words of thanks and hope. I thank each of our staff members for their dedication and passion for the work we are entrusted for youth and parents in all three communities we serve. The passion is exuded in each member of our one team as we embark on the goals and objectives of the agency. Yes, we have objectives and strategies we must meet in order to receive public funds, but our passion goes so much further than that. It is our hope and desire that we are making a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

I am proud to be a member of a team where there is so much care and concern for members of our communities. Our team cares so much for the health and safety of those we serve, and this is evident in the services we provide and the accomplishments we have realized this year as we were faced with the challenges of COVID-19. Throughout all of the obstacles, we realized a positive reduction in the use of underage alcohol and marijuana use in each of our communities. We continued to get our positive messages out in each community through television, billboards, radio, newsletters, brochures, Facebook, Twitter, forums, and debates with the use of Zoom and Talk Fusion. We continue to remain relevant in each community while practicing CDC guidelines for the health and safety of staff, youth, partners, and other stakeholders that have aligned with Beyond The Bell for services to the community in our pursuit of community improvement, youth achievements and a healthy and safe environment.

We are most grateful to our wonderful Board of Directors for the faith and trust they place in us each day to ensure that our programs and services are delivered with integrity and fidelity.

Remember, the day you plant the seed is not the day you eat the fruit. It takes time and patience for cultivation.

Sandra L. Dean



**DeKalb County  
Rockdale County  
1500 Klondike Rd SW, Ste A106  
Conyers, GA 30094  
(770) 285-6037**

**Upson County  
310 N. Church St. Ste C  
Thomaston, GA 30286  
(706) 938-6100**

**City of Savannah  
5618 White Bluff Rd. Ste B,  
Savannah, GA 31405  
(912) 335-8332**

**Executive Director  
Sandra L. Dean**

**Board of Directors  
Shannon Warren,  
Chairman  
Valencia Paul,  
Vice-Chair  
Kimberly Huston  
Mary Salaam  
Evelyn Johnson  
Dana Johnson  
Tosha Warren  
Caroline Richburg**