



# Splash Into Summer with Beyond The Bell

## Summer Newsletter

### ONE MISSION

THE MISSION OF BEYOND THE BELL IS TO PROVIDE RESOURCES IN THE FOCUS COMMUNITIES, TO EFFECTIVELY PROVIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS, EFFECTIVE INTERVENTIONS AND/OR RESOURCES WHEN APPROPRIATE AND TO REDUCE SUBSTANCE USE IN YOUTH.

### Three Locations

R5 City of Savannah R3 DeKalb/Rockdale R6 Upson County

### Highlights

#### City of Savannah

Summer classes and campaign



#### DeKalb/Rockdale

Lights, Camera, Action



#### Upson County

Upson County on the move with numerous events



# Summer Camp Botvin Training Lifeskills Classes



The City of Savannah has started back at summer camps for in-person sessions! We have missed hanging out with the students since camps were closed last year. We've had a great time so far.

We are running classes at Frank Callen Boys & Girls Club and Urban Hope.



# Positive Culture Framework Summer Campaign



The City of Savannah is running a geofencing and geocontextualizing campaign that allows us to target specific areas in the city and target users who are searching the internet for drug-related information.

Our message promotes that **MOST** kids choose not to drink alcohol this summer!

# A Summer of Health, Fitness, Life Skills and Fun in DeKalb & Rockdale



Beyond The Bell, in conjunction with Councilwoman Alsobrook, initiated a summer filled with Health and Fitness classes and camps for the youth. Coach Carl Morgan instructs youth in the necessary skills for basketball.



f t e +

**Kids whip up tasty brunch in cooking class with Conyers Councilwoman Connie Alsobrook**



From aerobics classes to healthy cooking and eating classes, to pop-up popsicle days, Beyond The Bell and Councilwoman Alsobrook have been busy ensuring that our youth stay active, healthy, and fit during summer break.

# Botvin Summer Classes in Full Effect



**Our Executive Director Having Fun at Our Latest PSA Commercial Shoot in Conyers, GA!**



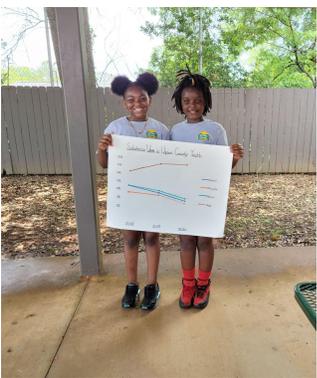
Captain Ozzie Ross, retired airline pilot, visited the Upson County Alternative School for a series of classes on aerodynamics and the benefits of a career in the flight industry. The youth particularly loved learning about drones and how they fly. Here, a young man learns how drones are built and how they fly as well as future applications such as Amazon shipping possibilities. Capt. Ross presented the drone to him as a gift.

**Beyond The Bell Coalition Retreat and Training**

Beyond The Bell held its annual Coalition Retreat and Training on June 22-23, 2021 at the City Center Marriott in Macon, GA. Coalition members from Regions 3 and 6 were given training in the SPF (Strategic Prevention Framework) model of prevention; sustainability; and data gathering and evaluation. Presenters included Ted Mulherin of Prospectus Group (SPF) and Patryce Curtis (agency evaluations). The group enjoyed dinner Tuesday evening at The Rookery in downtown Macon.

**Town Hall Event a Success**

On 6/11/2021, Beyond The Bell held a Communities Talk town hall event, sponsored by SAMHSA. This event provided a forum for community members to talk about alcohol and substance use prevention in youth in Upson County and an opportunity to make our parents, grandparents and youth aware that Beyond The Bell has succeeded in lowering alcohol, marijuana and tobacco use each year for the past three years. Approximately 75 individuals passed through and grabbed some refreshments and information and some conversation about the prevention work BTB has done the past 5 years; several parents signed their children up for the Summer Botvin LifeSkills classes beginning on June 29th. Covered by The Upson Beacon newspaper, the day was a big success!



**We Miss You Betty! ❤️**

**Summer Botvin Classes Began June 29th!**

Upson County Project Coordinator Amanda Smith manned a table at the Thomaston City/County Fun day on June 4th. Gatherers at the table were provided with substance use and LifeSkills classes info, statistics for Upson youth, and free bracelets and ink pens



Beyond The Bell's focus is on the health and safety of young people ages 9-20 and their parents. Beyond The Bell provides life skills training and other programs to ensure that 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

HELLO EVERYONE!

AGAIN, WE ARE BLESSED TO CELEBRATE OUR CONTINUED WORK IN EACH OF OUR COMMUNITIES PROVIDING PREVENTION PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE. WE STRIVE TO PREVENT THE ONSET OF ALCOHOL, MARIJUANA, TOBACCO, AND OTHER DRUG USE SO OUR YOUTH CAN LIVE STRONG, HEALTHY, SAFE, AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES. WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT WE HAVE MADE A MEASURABLE IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE. THIS WOULD NOT BE REMOTELY POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE TIRELESS WORK OF OUR COALITION MEMBERS IN ROCKDALE, DEKALB AND UPSON COUNTIES, AND THE CITY OF SAVANNAH. WE ARE FOREVER GRATEFUL TO ALL OF THEM AS WE NEAR THE END OF THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

ALTHOUGH WE ARE MAKING AN IMPACT IN EACH COMMUNITY, WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS AS WE HAVE LOST A LONG-TIME STAFF MEMBER IN OUR UPSON COUNTY OFFICE, AND A DEAR PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE. BETTY DIZARD, IMPLEMENTATION SPECIALIST FOR OUR UPSON COUNTY OFFICE, SUCCUMBED TO HER ILLNESS AND WILL BE LAID TO REST ON THURSDAY JULY 1, 2021, AT 12:00 NOON. OUR ENTIRE STAFF IS SADDENED BY THE DEATH OF BETTY AS SHE DID SO MUCH FOR THE CHILDREN IN OUR PROGRAM AS WELL AS THE PARENTS AND SHE CONTINUED TO WORK UNTIL I HAD TO FORCE HER TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF TO HEAL. SHE WAS ONE OF THE MOST DEDICATED STAFF MEMBERS OF BEYOND THE BELL AND A LOYAL FRIEND TO ME FOR MANY YEARS. FOREMOST, BETTY WAS A TRUE SERVANT OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST AND A WONDERFUL MOTHER TO HER ONLY SON. PLEASE KEEP HER FAMILY AND THE BEYOND THE BELL FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS.

WE ARE ALSO INCREDIBLY GRATEFUL FOR OUR COALITION MEMBERS WHO ATTENDED OUR ANNUAL COALITION RETREAT JUNE 22-23, 2021, IN MACON, GEORGIA. MEMBERS ATTENDED TRAINING MEETINGS TO ENSURE THEY ARE UP TO DATE ON THE ISSUES FACING OUR CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES AND LEARNED TOOLS TO HELP THEM PLAN AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES AS LOCAL PROBLEMS REQUIRE LOCAL SOLUTIONS.

WE CONTINUE TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT AS WE WORK TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR YOUTH.

PLEASE REMEMBER NOT TO WAIT FOR THINGS TO GET EASIER, SIMPLER, OR BETTER. LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE COMPLICATED. LEARN TO BE HAPPY RIGHT NOW. OTHERWISE, YOU WILL SURELY RUN OUT OF TIME.

SANDRA L. DEAN



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