
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

Family Visitation Increases at DJJ

Family visitation for youth at the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has steadily increased since the opening of the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center in September 2008. The Center is the site of visitation for the boys at DJJ. Agency staff firmly believe that the increase (up 75% since 2008) in visitation means children are reconnecting with their families more than ever before. The Center exists as a gift to the State of South Carolina from the Friends of Juvenile Justice, a non-profit organization that collaborates with DJJ to work on behalf of at-risk children from throughout South Carolina.

Not only is the Center used for family visitation, it is heavily used by DJJ staff for consultations with the children and video conferencing with youth and their parents. Additionally, a number of state agencies, non-profits and professional organizations have utilized it for meetings and conferences. At the end of 2009, DJJ records show that more than 20,000 youths and adults had used the facility for various purposes.

Miss Willow Lane Pageant

The Fourth Annual Miss Willow Lane Pageant will be held on February 5, 2010 from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Bill Rogers Community Connections Center. The pageant was established not only as a fun event for the girls in DJJ's Willow Lane Girls Program, but more importantly, to help the young ladies deal with the issues of self-esteem and making good decisions. This year's pageant theme is "*I Was Not Built to Break.*"

Schedule

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| January 28 | Joint Council on Adolescents
Bill Rogers Community Connections Center |
| January 29 | Welcoming Remarks
Coalition on Juvenile Justice Southern Regional Conference
Charleston Embassy Suites |
| January 30 | Luncheon Address
Coalition on Juvenile Justice Southern Regional Conference
Charleston Embassy Suites |
| February 4 | Friends of Juvenile Justice Board Meeting
Bill Rogers Community Connections Center |
| February 5 | Miss Willow Lane Pageant
Bill Rogers Community Connections Center |