

CABINET REPORT

Department of Juvenile Justice

DJJ Education Report Card Improves

The recent release of education report cards by the State Department of Education brought good news for the Department of Juvenile Justice's School District. The district's performance trends over a four-year period from 2001 to 2004 show tremendous improvements in district schools.

The district received excellent ratings, both in the absolute rating and improvement rating, making it one of the top performing school districts statewide. This compares to an absolute rating of below average in 2001. Among other gains under the leadership of DJJ Superintendent of Education Meda Cobb, the district has experienced a substantial increase in students receiving diplomas and GEDs.

Family Focus Program

The Department of Juvenile Justice in partnership with the Youth Hope Foundation, a non-profit organization, recently held a Family Focus Program and schools' open house for parents of incarcerated juveniles on the Broad River Road Campus. A large number of parents attended and participated in daylong activities on a Sunday that included workshops to inform them about programs and services at DJJ. DJJ employees from across disciplines teamed together to assist with activities and workshops.

Rotarians Donate \$2,900 for DJJ Greenhouse

DJJ's Willow Lane School has received a \$2,900 donation from the Rotary Club of St. Andrews-Columbia to build a greenhouse for the school's horticulture program. Construction has already begun on the greenhouse, with completion scheduled by the end of the month. Horticulture students at the school will begin using it in January.

The greenhouse construction is part of an overall effort to upgrade DJJ facilities at Willow Lane to accommodate the population of girls that have come to the facility following closure of DJJ's Greenwood campus.

The Christmas Carol "Ebony Scrooge"

After only a few weeks of practice, DJJ girls at the Broad River Road Complex brought to life the Christmas Carol "Ebony Scrooge" on the stage of the Willow Lane gymnasium on December 14. For the girls, preparing for the play was a lesson in self-esteem building, teamwork, respect, and accepting responsibility.

Schedule

January 5	Meeting with Representatives Govan and Mack (Tentative) Regarding Disproportionate Minority Contact Orangeburg, SC
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January 6

DJJ/Clemson Steering Committee
Youth Detention Center, Aiken, SC

January 7

Deliver Closing Remarks
Performance Measures/Report Card Training
National Advocacy Center, Columbia, SC