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## **DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

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### **Initiatives Promote Team Building and Cross Training Among DJJ Staff**

The Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) has recently incorporated initiatives in team building and cross training of staff to better carry out the Department's restorative justice mission. The objective is to bring staff together with different work experiences to put into place the best approaches and practices and to offer employees the opportunity to effectively support each other and develop a "can-do" attitude.

The underlying goals are for staff to improve their ability to improve services and care to the troubled youth of South Carolina, to better understand their colleagues' contribution to the Department's overall goals, and to enhance teamwork.

One innovative initiative is a 3-hour training module that has been integrated into the Orientation for New Employees (ONE). This initiative has seasoned staff interacting and engaged in training with new colleagues in a way the Department has not attempted before.

### **University of Florida Students on Spring Break Helped DJJ Youth**

While many of their fellow students were headed to the beach for their spring break in late March, 11 students from the University of Florida were volunteering at DJJ group homes in Columbia. Part of a new trend toward collegiate "civic-minded spring breaks," these students mentored and tutored children in Hope House Girls' Home and the Gateway Boys' and Girls' Homes.

The students also participated in group discussions on the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse, sat in on juvenile treatment groups, and even engaged in sports and recreational activities with the boys and girls.

### **Schedule**

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| April 18 | Friends of Juvenile Justice Educators Luncheon<br>DJJ's Willow Lane Chapel  |
| April 20 | Breaking Barriers, Building Dreams Initiative Directors' Panel<br>Ramada Plaza Hotel                              |
| April 20 | Deliver Keynote Address<br>Jr. Leadership Kershaw County Graduation Banquet<br>Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce |
| April 22 | Address Statewide Volunteer Appreciation Conference<br>Midlands Technical College, Airport Campus                 |
| April 25 | DJJ Volunteer Appreciation Dinner<br>Willow Lane Chapel   |