



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS**  
OF THE GULF COAST



# New Hope Program

Volume 1, Issue 3

February 2010

## Adneather Law: Working to Make a Difference in the Pascagoula School District

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Adneather Law speaks passionately about her school site and the students she intervenes with when asked what she does in a day at work. Adneather works in the Pascagoula School District at the Opportunity Center as a Behavior Consultant with the New Hope Program. She feels that she is an “Aunt, referee, and coach” to the students there because “many of these kids cannot talk to their parents about personal things.” During her time at this site, Adneather has gotten involved with many students, including the time when she threw a birthday celebration for a female student complete with cupcakes. The female student was touched by the gesture indicating that no one had ever done that for her before.

Students at the Opportunity Center need positive attention in their school lives seeing as most who currently attend have been removed from their home schools for various behavior incidents. The school’s Principal, Mr. Leake, remarks on the school website that, “the staff is united in their desire to help students gain control of their behavior and to concentrate on raising their academic achievements so that students may re-

turn to their home school on firm ground.” Adneather recognizes this and has introduced the idea of role playing to the middle and high school students on her case load to help them cope behaviorally when conflicts arise. The students are encouraged to talk about what the “old me” would do as opposed to the “new me;” the “new me” uses anger management skills and appropriate social responses to work through conflict.

Additionally, lessons from Project Wisdom are discussed weekly during character development time with the students. According to Project Wisdom’s website “Students with good character are caring, just, and responsible. They have developed an internal motivation to do their best and to contribute to the world around them. Good character education improves social and emotional competencies as well as academic performance.” Adneather reports that the students enjoy the dialogue that occurs during character development and Mr. Covington, a teacher at the OC, remarks that the students look forward to their weekly time with Ms. Law. He went on to say that the students, especially the female students, trust her and seek her out to discuss personal problems.

Her strong relationship with the students plays a pivotal role in the

reduction of out-of-school suspensions and discipline referrals resulting through Ms. Law’s intervention with the students before the situation escalates. When a student’s behavior begins to go downhill, the teacher emails Ms. Law and she “walks and talks” with the student so that he may regain his composure. The students know that anything said to Ms. Law is confidential, excluding self-harm statements and threats to others.

It seems that Adneather is actively working to change the students’ perception of school as a hostile place to a place where they are empathetically listened to and valued as individuals. The time that Adneather commits to each student and the magical way she connects with that student allows her to teach skills for becoming a rationale, appropriate adult. Correspondingly, Mr. Covington remarks that Adneather is “bringing these kids hope and teaching them how to move on to become law abiding citizens.” For more information about Adneather Law’s work at the Opportunity Center, contact [tmoore@bgcgulfcoast.org](mailto:tmoore@bgcgulfcoast.org).

### Upcoming Meetings and Holidays

February 15-17

Mardi Gras

*“Laissez les bon ton roulette!”*



February 25th

3:30pm

Staffing

Please come prepared with your case notes.



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To enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.

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**Geaux Saints!**

## 10 Questions with Dr. Carol Jones

**Clinical Director of Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast/ New Hope Program**

**1. Where did you begin your career on the MS Gulf Coast and what were you doing?**

I started my career as a ninth grade civics teacher in the Long Beach, MS School District.

**2. When did you begin working as Clinical Director for New Hope Program?**

I've always worked with New Hope since its beginning days in Ocean Springs. I first served on the Board of Directors, and this is my third year serving as the Clinical Director.

**3. What else are you currently involved with?**

I will be working with Dr. Persharon Dixon, pediatrician, at Coastal Family Health Center in the Mental Health Integration (MHI) project. This project involves several community agencies of which one is the Boys and Girls Club New Hope Program. The community agencies will all be using copyrighted mental health screening tools, and New Hope clinicians will be able to provide early identification and intervention for children and adolescents with suspected emotional problems. Our project is modeled on the successful Intermountain Healthcare in Utah, and the funding for MHI training, strategic planning, and the evaluation for this project is supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. I'm also Chair of the MS State Board of Examiners for Licensed Professional Counselors and was just elected President-Elect of the American Association of State Counseling Boards. I enjoy working with other licensed mental health professionals and providing supervision for those individuals seeking licensure.

**4. What has been the biggest challenge in your career?**

I think my current challenge is finding enough hours in the day.

**5. What is a day in the life of Dr. Carol Jones like?**

I get up around 5:00 and have started doing yoga again and a few free weights. Then I'm dressed and out the door with my new Goldendoodle that is in training to be a therapy dog. We train from before the sun comes up until it goes down! After Maggie's first training, it's off to work, and this could be meetings, grant writing, or teaching classes at William Carey University. I'll soon be spending more time at Coastal working with Dr. Dixon in our MHI project.

**6. Where do you see the future of New Hope going?**

My hope has always been for New Hope Program to become a national model program listed by SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration) as an evidence base practice program. Each of you are a big part of that, and the data that is currently being collected is the path to proving the effectiveness of the interventions provided by you.

**7. Where is your favorite place to get lunch during a day at work?**

Nezaty's on Courthouse Road - either early or late in order to beat the crowd.

**8. Where will you take your next big vacation?**

Right now, it's either the Florida Keys or the south of France.

**9. What do you do for stress relief?**

I read mystery novels.

**10. What is your favorite show on tv right now?**

I really don't watch TV, however I do watch movies on HBO or other movie channels.

\*\*\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*\*\*

As posted on the William Carey University website and as mentioned in the above interview, Dr. Carol Jones was recently elected to serve as president-elect of the American Association of State Counseling Board (AASCB). The AASCB is the national organization of state counseling boards representing the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico.

Dr. Jones will serve as president-elect in 2010 and begin her term in July 2011. The AASCB regulates and is the resource for information about counselor licensing, test development, and standards for licensing. In addition, the organization works with states in their efforts to develop common standards and nationwide portability of licenses.

We are proud to call Dr. Jones a team member at the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Gulf Coast!

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**BE GREAT**