

LATEST NEWS

SPORTS Traditional Bank Athlete of the Week: Franklin County's Jackson wins state title in first year running hurdles
OPINION CARTOON: MLK Frankfort march
EDUCATION Franklin County's Emberton, Western Hills' Mehaffy named National Merit finalists
CRIME Franklin Circuit Court indictments (March 5)
EDUCATION Thompson honored with Betty and David Jones Sr. Legacy Award
NEWS A tribute to brave souls: Hundreds reenact March on Frankfort

Auto-enrich company data with Crunchbase
Account name:
Account ID:
Account type:
Company name:
Show me how

South Frankfort Presbyterian Church hosts Church Women United 2023 Human Rights Celebration

Special to The State Journal Sep 29, 2023



Amelia Berry, Amy Nance Snow and Britney Spicer spoke during the 2023 Human Rights Celebration of Church Women United in Franklin County at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church Sept. 16. (Photo submitted)

South Frankfort Presbyterian Church on Steele Street hosted the 2023 Human Rights Celebration of Church Women United in Franklin County on Saturday, Sept. 16. "Our Children — Love and Protect" was the theme of the program. Twenty-Seven ladies were in attendance and enjoyed fellowship with light refreshments provided by SFPC.

Beth Avent, President, CWU of Franklin County, welcomed the group and made appropriate announcements. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) boxes were on display to be taken by each member church for collection to be turned in at the November Celebration.

Carol Banks read scriptures from Psalm 103:1-6 and Luke 6:31, and offered the opening prayer.

Keynote speakers were Amelia Berry, director of "Just Say Yes" Coalition of Franklin County Health Department; Britney Spicer, counselor, Westridge Elementary School; Amy Nance Snow, director of KRUSH program (Kids Rising Up through Support and Healing) with the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation.

Snow spoke about the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation. Most youth in our community live in loving homes with supportive parents. However, any home can experience grief, loss, substance experimentation, where isolation and despair can occur.

Snow told of her previous experience in working with children. She shared that in 2018 Dale Robinson had an idea for a nonprofit foundation, in honor of his mother, the late Wanda Joyce Robinson, where the mission is to serve children and youth impacted by incarceration. Snow said that at the time they had no idea the magnitude of need in Franklin County.

More than 800 children in Franklin County are impacted by incarceration, usually a parent, usually due to drugs. The KRUSH (Kids Rising Up through Support and Healing) program has 250 kids. There are paid mentors with fifteen kids. They meet at the Franklin County Extension Office.

Their vision is that seventh through 12th grades will have needed support through high school graduation. Social workers go inside the jail where there are classes for incarcerated parents. For more information on how you can support, volunteer, follow, you may email info@wjrfoundation.org or visit the Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation Facebook page.

Britney Spicer, a counselor at Westridge Elementary School, shared that there is an increasing number of students losing their immediate care giver either through death, drug related issues or incarceration. There are also incidents of students being removed from their caregivers due to physical abuse.

Some of these resulted in one or both parents being sentenced to jail. Most incidents involved sibling sets. Some of these removals happened while the students were at school, meaning they had to be prepared for not going home to their parents/caregiver.

There are an increasing number of students who are navigating these difficult situations while working at "staying good students." Getting these students out of a bad situation is absolutely necessary for the well-being of the student, but it often takes a toll on their mental health.

Moving into a relative's home or foster home at a moment's notice is hard. To help these students cope, the guidance office puts together grief bags containing a stuffed animal, memory picture frame, inspirational coloring book and colored pencils, and a book titled "The Invisible String" (a tool for coping with all kinds of separation anxiety, loss and grief).

Spicer stated that all of our elementary schools have only one counselor, even if they have 500-plus students. She added that the way you can be of support is to advocate for the local Kentucky Department of Community Based Services (DCBS) office, the placement of school based social workers in our schools, and the continued need for 250 to one counselor ratios in schools.

You may also reach out to your area elementary school and see if they need grief bags/materials, donate clothes and shoes to the Family Resource Centers since lots of students who are rehomed need clothing and hygiene supplies from the school. You can also get involved in any organization that promotes child abuse prevention.

The children of this county need the adults to do more and do better. Last but not least, Spicer asked for prayer for the staff to have the right words to say, and the right things to notice, so that they can help children who are trapped in traumatic situations.

Amelia Berry, director of Just Say Yes Coalition of Franklin County Health Department, opened her presentation by saying that there is reconciliation for youth who have done something wrong — Just Say Yes (JSY) is all about prevention. JSY was based on an Icelandic prevention model using a common sense process by asking kids what is going on in their life then expand things that help and excite them to build normal lives.

JSY is a youth wellness and substance use prevention initiative that encourages positive support for young people in Franklin County. She spoke about the Franklin County Youth Survey. Eighty-five percent of students enrolled in seventh, eighth, ninth and 10th grade in Franklin County Schools and Frankfort Independent Schools took the anonymous survey.

There were five areas of strength and five areas of concern in the 2022-2023 Data Summary. You may email amelia.berry@ky.gov to schedule a data presentation.

Berry talked about the Parent Café program. A Parent Café is a place where parents can get together and talk about issues they are facing in a setting that is free from judgement. She told about an electronic gift card that can be used to pay for youth activities from a list of approved providers. The Yes Card provides fun, supervised activities when school is not in session.

At question and answer time, the subject of bullying was addressed and how it is handled by the school. The topic of violence in schools and how to advocate for a child that one knows is being bullied was addressed.

CWU ladies were given the opportunity to purchase Wanda Joyce Robinson Foundation raffle tickets being sold to raise funds to go toward work to help kids in stressful situations.

Jennie LeBeau led the Human Rights Advocacy Litany responsive reading. Maria Bartholomew read the poem "The Hill We Climb" by Amanda Gorman.

An offering was collected, which will be used to support the national movement of Church Women United as it moves forward in its witness and service to protect the human rights of all people.

Judy Hartley led the group singing accompanied by pianist, Fawn Pace.

Load comments

Around The Web

Grid of featured articles: This Drugstore Wrinkle Cream Sold out on Amazon (In 2 Days), Beauty Expert: "Over 40?" This is the Only Serum You Should Put on Your Face!, Crush Belly Fat Overnight With Doctor's Proven Method, A Pair of Reading Glasses That Can Look Far and Near, Smart Zoom!, Top Nutritionist: Say Goodbye to Dark Spots With This Essential Vitamin, The Wooden Hummingbird House Is Taking Kentucky By Storm!, A 60-year-old Granny Made a Bra for Elderly Ladies That is Popular All Over the World, A 70-year-old Engineer Designed This Sneakers for Elderly Women All Over the World, I Typed in My Name and the Results Had Me Speechless!

LATEST LOCAL NEWS
Franklin County's Emberton, Western Hills' Mehaffy named National Merit finalists
Franklin Circuit Court indictments (March 5)
Thompson honored with Betty and David Jones Sr. Legacy Award
A tribute to brave souls: Hundreds reenact March on Frankfort
FPD: Woman fled after officers found open alcoholic beverages in her vehicle

ONLINE POLL
Last week Sen. Mitch McConnell announced he will step down as the Senate Republican leader in November. Do you agree with his decision?
Yes
No
Don't know
Vote View Results

TODAY'S E-EDITION
The State Journal

The State Journal
The Capital City's News Source Since 1912
State Journal
The Frankfort State Journal
Follow
"There does not seem to be a desire from most of us folks here in the Frankfort and Franklin County area who would directly be affected by your..."

WHAT'S YOUR TRADE-IN WORTH?
READY SET GO!
Offers end April 1

GREENBROOKER'S RURAL KING
29.99
Greenbroker's Recent College Graduate
powered by Insticator