

# THE 11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL YOUTH SUMMIT

A CONFERENCE  
FOR YOUTH  
AND EMERGING  
LEADERS



**AUGUST 3-4, 2018**  
FLORIDA HOTEL & CONVENTION CENTER  
ORLANDO FL



# WELCOME!

The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit presented by The FYC and The Family Café is finally here! The Florida Youth Council (FYC) is excited to welcome you and all youth and emerging leaders to Orlando for this special event!

The FYC is a group of young Floridians with disabilities that are focused on growing leadership and encouraging their peers to succeed in life. The Annual Youth Summit (AYS) is a two-day event that is designed by the youth and emerging leaders of The FYC to be completely by youth, for youth.

Since 2008, the year of The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Youth Summit, The FYC has hosted more than 2,000 youth and emerging leaders from across the state of Florida at The Annual Youth Summit. Every August, they have come together with their peers to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 90 presentations that have helped prepare them for various aspects of adulthood, with a range of topics, including making it on your own, adopting a healthy, active lifestyle, and participating in our democracy by voting. The Annual Youth Summit also been fortunate to host a series of excellent keynote presenters who have inspired participants while helping them to consider the challenges that come with transition to adulthood. Most of all, The FYC is proud of the way The Annual Youth Summit has given youth and emerging leaders the opportunity to make friends that will last a lifetime.

Here in 2018, The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit. The young leaders of the FYC have developed a program designed to educate, inform and entertain. The 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Summit takes its inspiration from the film, **THE GREATEST SHOWMAN**. Just like the performers in PT Barnum's circus, every young person with a disability has something unique to contribute. When each of us brings our unique talents to the performance, we can create the Greatest Show on Earth!



The Council is extremely confident that everyone will have fun and enjoy all of the activities planned this weekend, and maybe even make a few new friends. If there's anything you need while you're here, or if you have any suggestions about how we can make The Annual Youth Summit better, please let us know!

Yours,

The Florida Youth Council

Niki Germain, Youth Advisor  
Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway  
Ruben Castro  
Alexander Gonzalez

Ian Horowitz  
Dakota Smoot  
Josue Tapia  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore





# FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

## WELCOME SESSION

3:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Legacy North

## OVERCOMING THE MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Legacy North

The stigma surrounding the subject of mental health is the biggest barrier to people seeking treatment. In this keynote, Mike Veny shares his story about living with depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorder. Attendees will learn about practical tools that they can use to transform stigma into strength and empower people in their lives to get the help that they need.

It's an abundance of simple and practical steps that youth can take to transform stigma – IMMEDIATELY. This program offers HOPE for students who are struggling with mental health challenges, behavioral health challenges, and self-destructive behavior. Join us for this keynote, and learn how you can turn stigma into change.



Mike Veny, Inc.  
P.O. BOX 150252  
Kew Gardens, New York 11415-0252  
[www.mikeveny.com](http://www.mikeveny.com)



# FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

## THE GREATEST SHOWMAN IS A COTTON CANDY, TOE-TAPPING SPECTACLE: LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

5:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Legacy South 1  
Parent Only Session

Just like our own children, the young Barnum had a vision. He was going to be more than a poor street urchin. He was going to entertain. And do you know what? He did! He went on to entertain the masses, and he did it by bringing together performers of different genders, shapes, and skill sets. He saw them for what they were: skilled performers who had value. He celebrated their differences. As Barnum showed, there was more to them than met the eye.



The same can be said of the youth with disabilities that the Florida Youth Council's Annual Youth Summit brings together. The Florida Youth Summit celebrates the humanity of youth with disabilities, encourages them in their pursuits, and lets them know how appreciated they are for just being them. Barnum himself would be pleased by the sheer spectacle of it all. The colors! The music! The dancing! These unique individuals, our youth! It's quite a feast for the eyes and ears.

Of course, as parents and caregivers know, the world doesn't always appreciate the unique abilities and contributions of young people with

disabilities. Even so, it's our job to encourage the youth with disabilities in our lives, and let them know that what they have to offer the world is important and worthy.

Please join us for this conversation about how we can do just that, by creating a positive vision for the future that will help the youth in our lives to lay out the foundation, build upon it, and develop their own dreams.

Lori Fahey  
President/CEO  
The Family Café, Inc.  
820 East Park Avenue, Suite F-100  
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(850) 224-4670





FRIDAY, AUGUST 3 

A NIGHT AT THE MOVIES

7:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Legacy North



# SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

## MORNING WELCOME

9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Legacy North

## DRUMMING FOR INCLUSION

10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Legacy North

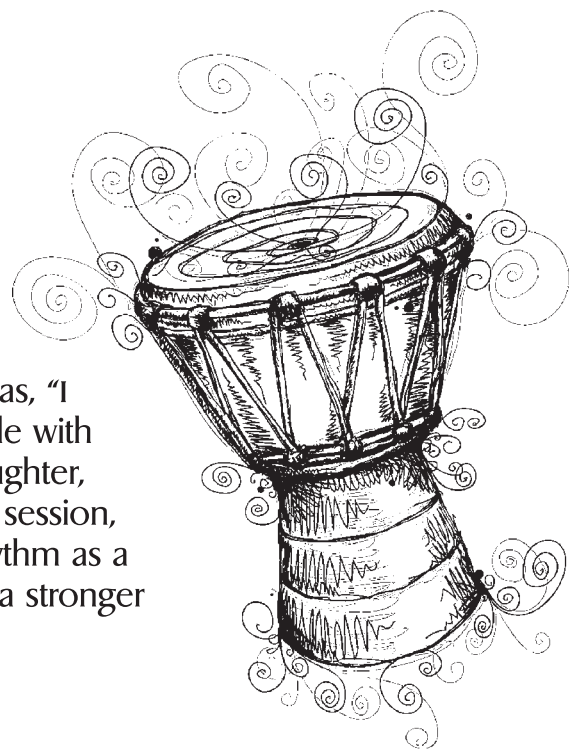
In this interactive session, participants will drum their way to togetherness. Come and learn simple music skills, rhythms, and how to work as a team. Most importantly, everyone will learn rhythms by repeating INCLUSIVE phrases out loud, such as, "I Feel Happy When I'm With Friends!" Lots of music will be made with percussion instruments. Participants will experience smiles, laughter, and excitement through interactive games. By the end of this session, participants will be able to perform a complex percussion rhythm as a group, perform an original percussion composition, and feel a stronger bond with participants.

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## LUNCH

11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Legends 2 & 3

Enjoy lunch with other Youth Summit Participants!





# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS 1:00 P.M.-2:00 P.M.

## **F.R.I.E.N.D.S 101**

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Legacy South 1



A friend is someone with whom you care to be yourself. But being yourself isn't always easy, and opening up can be difficult. In this session you will learn how to make friends without scaring people away. Many of us have been in a situations where we tried to make friends with somebody, only to have that that person end up thinking that we were weird, and running from us instead of becoming a friend. This can

be upsetting, but with practice, it's something you can avoid. In this session, we will give you some tips to help make your next attempt at making friends successful. So come on in, sit on down, and let's become friends...

Niki Germain  
Youth Advisor  
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## **WHAT IS AT?**

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Legacy South 2

Many who are unfamiliar with the term "AT" may not know that it stands for Assistive Technology. But even when one learns what AT stands for, it may still be a mystery what Assistive Technology actually is. My name is Jesse Hansen and I have a passion for technology. One of my favorite hobbies has always been taking things apart to see how they work. Join me as we discuss what Assistive Technology is, and how it enables individuals to become less reliant on others, while gaining their own independence.

Jesse Hansen  
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## EMPLOYMENT

1:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m. Legacy South 3

When young people with disabilities go looking for a job, there are a few important things they need to know. This session will help you to be prepared for your job search, by giving you information about resumes, professional office etiquette, dressing appropriately, and more. Come hear about some of the essential skills and tips you need to have to land the job you want. Additionally, we will also share information on how to find a job, and state programs that may be able to assist.

Mollie Brown-Ferrier  
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apd.myflorida.com



## EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS 2:15 P.M.-3:15 P.M.

### A GUIDE TO NAVIGATING THE “CIRCUS” OF TECHNOLOGY TO ASSIST YOU WITH THE THREE RINGS OF COMMUNICATION, FRIENDSHIP, AND INDEPENDENCE

2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Legacy South 1

In today's world, many young people with disabilities utilize some form of technology to assist them with their daily lives. Technology can improve the ability of many individuals with disabilities to communicate with others, build friendships, and develop independent living skills. In this presentation, an individual with a hidden disability will discuss how he utilizes varying forms of technology to assist himself with the “three rings” of communication, friendship, and independence, and how YOU can utilize varying forms of technology—from the Amazon Alexa, to the iPhone and iPod—to assist yourself with those “three rings,” while staying safe, and developing a Plan B in the event your modes of technology fail. A “ring-style” discussion will be included, where you will be welcome to bring the technology that helps you the most with your disability, and to share with other youth with disabilities how technology benefits you.

James Williams  
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## PREVENTION OF ABUSE, NEGLECT, OR EXPLOITATION

2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Legacy South 2

Even though we would all like to live in a world that was safe for everyone, unfortunately, we don't. The world can be a dangerous place, especially for people with disabilities, who are vulnerable to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. The good news is that there are things you can do to prevent bad things from happening. This session will provide important information on how to avoid and prevent abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Additional topics will include bullying and Human Trafficking prevention.

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## BUILDING THAT "BRIDGE," SO YOU CAN CROSS IT: THE ECONOMICS OF EMPLOYMENT, DISABILITY, AND FINANCIAL OPPORTUNITY

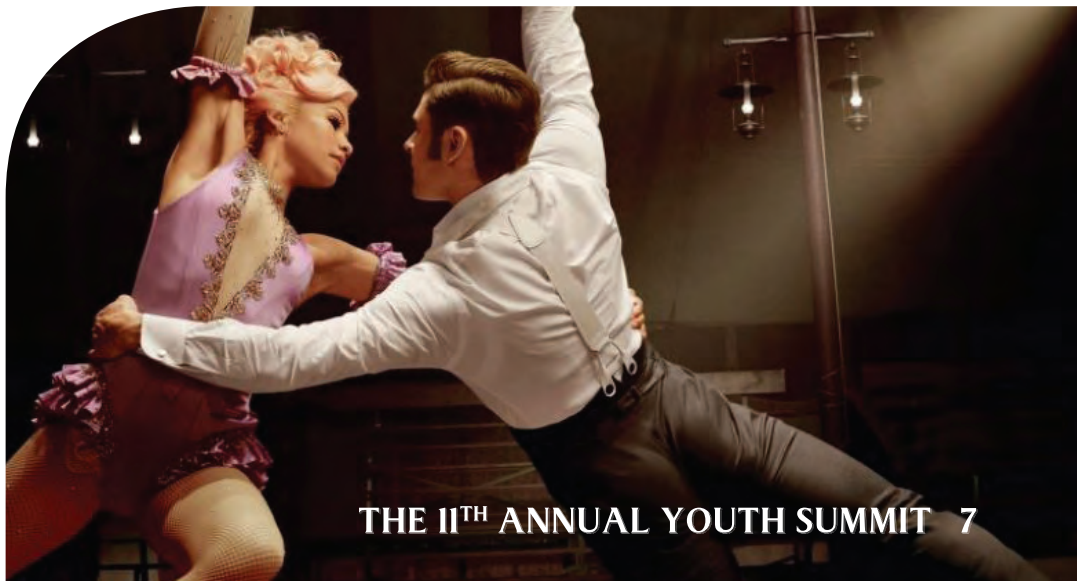
2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Legacy South 3

Life with disability can be expensive, challenging, and complicated, but opportunities to gain financial freedom do exist! Because qualifying for many of the needed disability supports is based on "being poor," while life with a disability is typically more expensive, the big challenge is finding the balance.

Perhaps you've been told "you can never work, because you'll lose your benefits," or "you can never save, or you'll lose your benefits." Well, that's a simple, generalized answer to a complex question!

In fact, the answer to the question, "What if I go to work and save, what happens?" is individualized to your unique situation and set of facts. Together, let's explore some of the current resources and options you may have to help you make informed decision about your financial future!

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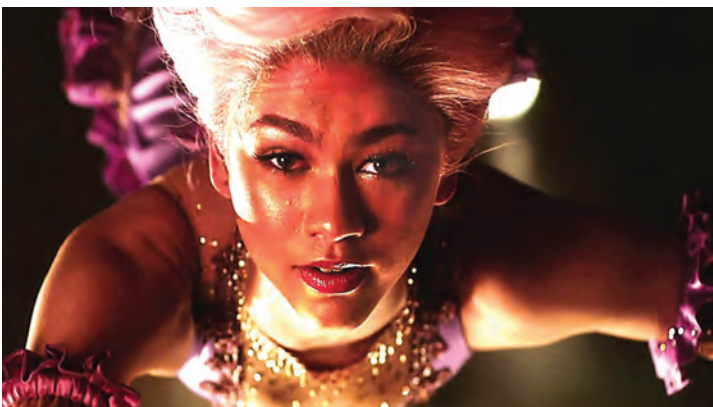
# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS 3:30 P.M.-4:30 P.M.

## JOURNEY TO INDEPENDENCE

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Legacy South 1

This session will introduce attendees to the possibilities of higher education through a discussion about the Marino Campus for students with disabilities, where students engage in a person-centered planning process to assist them in identifying their unique talents, interests, and employment goals. Led by a moderator, a panel of young adults who are Marino Campus alumni will talk about their experiences navigating the pathway from high school to postsecondary education and employment. Sharing their dreams, challenges, and successes, they will provide attendees with insight into the various stages of development a young adult experiences while tackling this difficult but exciting period in their lives.

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## THE VR MENU OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Legacy South 2

The Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) has given Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) the means to increase the menu of available programs and services offered to students with disabilities, 14-21 years of age. This presentation will walk through all of the Pre-Employment Transition Services and Transition Youth Programs available to help youth move seamlessly into training, education and employment beyond high school. New, faster and easier ways to access services will be shared. We will also deliver information on the wide variety of VR Transition Youth Programs specially designed to serve youth with the most significant disabilities.

Kirk G. Hall  
Sr. Mgmt. Analyst Supervisor  
VR Employment Programs  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
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## TRANSPORTATION CHALLENGES AND HOW TO OVERCOME THEM

3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Legacy South 3

For young people with disabilities, getting around in the community can be a challenge. In this session, Danielle McGill, Transportation Advocate for the Ann Storck Center's Mobility Management Facilitation Program, will discuss the "A Ride Away Project" she developed to help people with disabilities overcome those challenges. The A Ride Away Project has been created to help individuals with disabilities and the transportation disadvantaged on their journey to independence. Join Danielle as she educates attendees about different transportation services and promotes safe travel for all people with disabilities. The journey to independence is only a ride away!

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## SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

### DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

6:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. Legends 2 & 3







The Florida Youth Council  
is a program of  
The Family Café



**The  
Family  
Café**



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