



LAGRANGE
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Media Release
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LaGrange Youth Council Members Learn About Mental Health Court, Upcoming Event to Raise Mental Health Awareness

LaGrange, Ga. February 5, 2019 – Members of the LaGrange Youth Council recently visited the Troup County Mental Health Court to learn



Pictured from left to right: Court Coordinator Tiffany Hutchinson, LaGrange Youth Council Member Libby Criswell, Judge A. Quillian Baldwin, Jr.-presiding Judge, LaGrange Youth Council Member Emma Strickland, Case Manager LaNisha Rivers, & LaGrange Youth

more about mental health in the community.

The LaGrange Youth Council is an advisory board composed of local youth, twenty-four junior and senior high school students from surrounding schools, who provide advice and counsel to the local governing body. The Youth Council gives our local youth a more

formal role in the local decision making process.

The LaGrange Youth Council will be hosting a ***FREE*** Teen Movie Night at Sweetland Amphitheatre February 14th. The event, “Bring Your

Sweetheart to Sweetland”, starts at 5 p.m. with teenage musical acts performing. The movie “The Proposal” will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The goal of this event is to provide an event for young people hosted by our Youth Council.

This group of young leaders voted to adopt the issue of mental health awareness and continues to learn more about local programs including the Troup County Mental Health Court.

The event will also feature speakers from NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) of West Georgia. Proceeds from concessions will be donated to NAMI of West Georgia. \$2 from every ice skating rental will be donated courtesy of Sweetland Amphitheatre.



"Bring Your Sweetheart to Sweetland" image created by LaGrange Youth Council member Emma Strickland

"I've seen first-hand the stress many teenagers are dealing with from overwhelming school pressure to more serious mental health issues like depression and suicide," said Youth Council member Emma Strickland. "Encouraging mental health awareness and general kindness to others is something I feel strongly about addressing in our community."

Strickland and Libby Criswell, a fellow LYC member, approached city leaders about the importance of understanding mental health awareness and the urgency of addressing this issue in young adults.

Both Strickland and Criswell met with Mental Health Court representatives and recently attended a Mental Health Court session. Mental Health Court Judge Quillian Baldwin spent time with the two

after the session to explain the court's beginning and applauded their efforts.

The two are so passionate about making positive change in our community, the young leaders plan to serve as Pages for Georgia State Representative Randy Nix in this year's legislative session.

"As I've gotten older, I have become more aware of the mental health struggles of those in my community and around the world. I think this is an issue that really needs to be addressed and that, as citizens of LaGrange, we all have a responsibility to become more educated about this topic," said Criswell. "It is very important to me. I hope that I will be able to encourage others to show support and kindness to everyone around them and that the stigma surrounding mental illness can ultimately be lifted."

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