



2022 VJJA Meritorious Award in the Area of Residential Services

Name: SHAUN PARKER

Each year the association presents a Meritorious Award in the Area of Residential Service. The residential services honor is bestowed upon a worker who has demonstrated a high degree of skill and professionalism, who embraces the philosophies upon which VJJA was founded, who embodies exceptional dedication and who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to positively and significantly contribute to the juvenile justice field and the children it serves (particularly children in residential environments). This year is no exception.

Our 2022 award winner graduated from Hampton University with a bachelor's degree in physical education and recreation. After graduating from Hampton University, he taught health and physical education at Newport News Juvenile Detention Center for 2 years. Our recipient coached 11 years of college football.

After coaching football, he returned to teaching as the lead teacher in health and physical education and recreation at Denbigh High School in Newport News and Norview High School in Norfolk.

In 2006, our recipient began his career with the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice as a correctional institution rehabilitation counselor at Bon Air Juvenile Correctional Center. He was responsible for case management services and teaching for success within his assigned unit. He co-facilitated Dialectical Behavior Therapy when it was introduced at Bon Air. During his tenure as a counselor, he received several employee recognition awards for exemplary performance.

In 2009, he established, owned, and operated a therapeutic after-school and day treatment program in the Tri-city area. As the CEO he was responsible for administrative oversight, daily operations and program development. This program was extremely successful until it closed in 2016. As he advanced at DJJ, he decided to focus all of his attention on leadership with the Department and discontinued operating his other businesses.

During DJJ's transformation to the Community Treatment Model, our recipient was promoted to Community Coordinator. He has served on numerous committees and workgroups that assisted in leading the transformation. He is a graduate of the Justice Transformation Institute (JTI) and later promoted to Community Manager and is currently the Residential Program Manager (at Bon Air) where he has continued to use his coaching skills to build cohesive, effective teams. Our recipient believes that nothing in life can be accomplished without having faith and working together as a team. He is an example of leadership and putting practices in place that will help make the lives of the youth we serve better.

For all of these reasons and more, please join me in congratulating our

**2022 VJJA Meritorious Award Winner in the Area of Residential Services:
SHAUN PARKER**