

THE 15TH ANNUAL

# YOUTH SUMMIT

AUGUST 5 - 6, 2022



*A Conference For Youth And  
Emerging Leaders With Disabilities*



The Florida  
Youth Council



# WELCOME



**The 15th Annual Youth Summit presented by The Florida Youth Council (FYC) and The Family Café is finally here! The FYC is excited to welcome you and all youth and emerging leaders to this special event!**

The FYC is a group of young Floridians with disabilities that are focused on promoting 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 The 1st Annual Youth Summit in 2008, The FYC has hosted more than 3,000 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 100 presentations that have helped prepare them for various aspects of adulthood, touching on 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 connections that will last a lifetime.

Here in 2022, The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 15th Annual Youth Summit, taking their inspiration from the film *Encanto*. Just like Mirabel and her family, every young person with a disability has something unique to contribute and transitions to make. It's not just about a singular, personal relationship, but the grand web of life one finds themselves in!

The FYC is extremely confident that everyone will have fun and enjoy everything we have planned for The 15th Annual Youth Summit, and maybe even make a few new friends along the way. If there's anything we can do to help you get more out of the Summit, please let us know!

Yours,  
The Florida Youth Council

John Howard Baldino  
Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway (Lead Alumni)  
Alexander Gonzalez (Lead Member)  
Leah Gorman  
Morgan Griffin

JJ Humphrey (Co-Lead Member)  
Michelle Sandiford  
Josue Tapia  
Lilibeth Vega  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore



FRIDAY



# WELCOME SESSION

Friday  
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
Legacy North



## OPENING KEYNOTE

*Fearlessly Different:  
Our Differences Are  
Our Strengths*

**Mickey Rowe**

Friday, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
Legacy North



## *Sometimes just one small action can change a life.*

In this keynote, Mickey Rowe shares his deeply personal story from special education, to stilt walking, busking on the street as an autistic and legally blind single dad with full custody of his autistic kid, all the way to hatching a plan to get to Broadway's biggest stage.

The talk is based on his new memoir: *Fearlessly Different: An Autistic Actor's Journey to Broadway's Biggest Stage*. Rowe shows all of us that whether disabled or not, the things that make you different, or that you might even perceive as your weaknesses, actually make you unique and valuable and might even be your biggest strengths.

We all share this in common because in the end, the story of autism is the story of being human. Mickey has had to advocate for himself his whole life as an autistic and legally blind person, yet becoming better at advocating for oneself is a skill we all would benefit from. As a disabled stage actor Mickey knows that often people want so badly to fit in that they forget what makes them stand out. This keynote includes statistics and best practices on disability, inclusion, equity, and making sure that everyone we come in contact with feels, seen, heard, understood, and valued.

**THIS SESSION WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A Q&A AND DISCUSSION ABOUT THE NEXT DAY'S WORKSHOP.**



FRIDAY

**THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT  
LIFE LESSONS WE CAN LEARN  
FROM ENCANTO**

(Parent Only Session)

Friday, 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm  
Legacy South 3

Whether you've seen *Encanto* countless times or haven't seen it yet, everyone has the same question . . . why don't we talk about Bruno? We don't talk about Bruno, no, no, no! By now, it's likely you've heard or seen a few TikTok renditions of this popular song from Disney's *Encanto*. Within the lyrics of its most popular songs are strong connections to mental health awareness, generational trauma, and the power of family. So this weekend, the Florida Youth Summit will bring home many valuable takeaways. Let's begin, let's Talk about Bruno!

Please join us as we focus on five main lessons underscored by these conversations:  
Needless to say, spoilers ahead!

1. Feeling fine all the time isn't a recipe for well-being.
2. You cannot shoulder everything on your own.
3. All coins have two sides.
4. Perfection is overrated. Be inspired by being you.
5. The miracle is you!

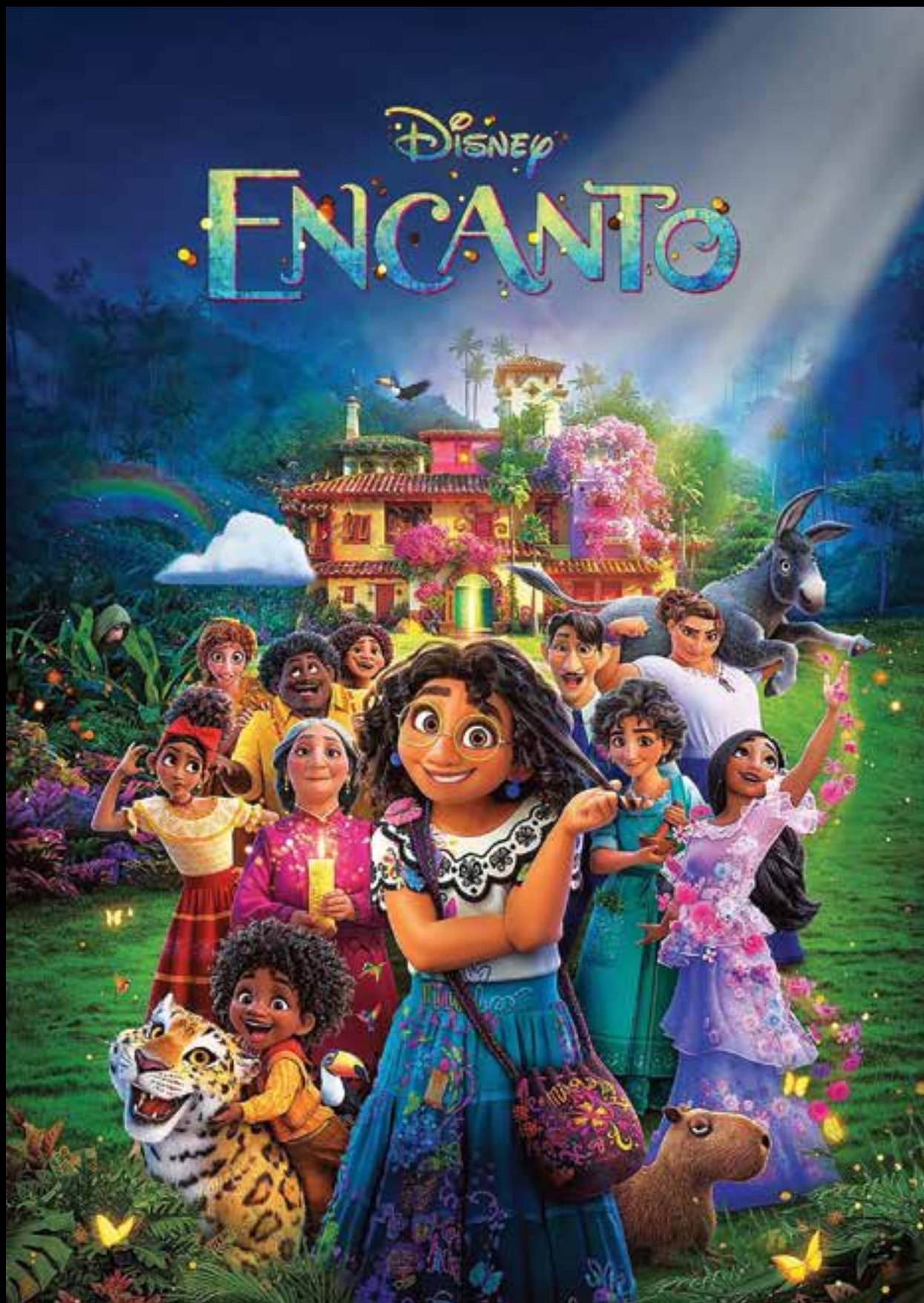
You don't always know what others are going through and many people are fighting their own battles in silence. Maybe a simple check-in could be the spark of motivation they need. Be there for your loved ones and remember that self-love is exceptionally important.

Lori Fahey  
President and CEO  
The Family Café, Inc.  
820 E Park Ave, Suite F-100  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 224-4670  
lfahey@familycafe.net

# A Night at the Movies!

FRIDAY

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm • Legacy North



**SATURDAY**

# WELCOME SESSION

*Saturday • 10:00 am – 10:30 am • Legacy North*



**Saturday Keynote**

# NOW IT'S YOUR TURN

**Mickey Rowe**

*Saturday • 10:30 am – 11:30 am • Legacy North*

Now you need to help keep this change going. Now it's time for you to tell your story. Now it's time for you to embrace your differences. In this workshop Youth Summit attendees will learn how to advocate for themselves by sharing their own stories, acknowledging both the challenges, and the strengths. (And specific accommodations that can make all the difference).

How are your differences at times your strengths?  
I want to hear your story of dynamic empowerment.

How can you use your stories, self-awareness,  
and knowledge about yourself to advocate for the  
things you need?



**Lunch**

*11:30 am – 12:30 pm*

*Salon 2*



# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

Saturday • 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

## Transition: Are You Ready for the World of Adult Health Care?! ..... Legacy South 1

In all your transition activities, are you including learning about a safe health care transition? Are you working with your doctors to prepare for adult health services? Health care transition is a focus area of Florida's Department of Health Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN) Program. We provide information to young people, their families, and professionals about this part of transition activities. Join Linda Starnes, the Statewide Family Leader for the Title V CYSHCN Program, and her son and long-time Youth Summit participant, Mac Starnes, to learn steps, strategies, and resources on moving from pediatric to adult health care services.

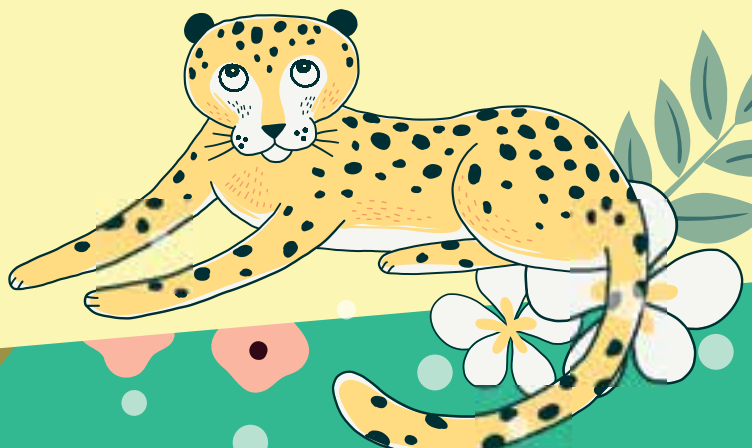
Linda Hampton Starnes  
 Statewide Family Leader - Title V CYSHCN Program  
 Office of Children's Medical Services Care Plan and Specialty Programs  
 Florida Department of Health  
 4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06  
 Tallahassee, FL 32399  
 (407) 538.7180



## I Can, I Shall, I Must - Getting Inspired to be My Own Best Advocate ..... Legacy South 2

Where there is a will there is a way. We have all come across obstacles in our life. Self-advocacy is the simple act of knowing what you want or need, why you want or need it, and taking the necessary steps to make it happen. When you believe in yourself, the possibilities are endless. Join me and find the power within yourself to obtain your personal, educational, and career goals. Learn to access valuable resources from Disability Rights Florida that can be found within your community and state and, that will help you reach your goals. Discover what laws protect your civil rights that allow you to have the same opportunity as anyone else.

Paula Roberts  
 External Affairs Coordinator  
 Disability Rights Florida  
 2473 Care Dr #200  
 Tallahassee, FL 32308  
 (850) 488-9071 x9722  
[paular@disabilityrightsflorida.org](mailto:paular@disabilityrightsflorida.org)



# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS (continued)

Saturday • 12:45 pm – 1:45 pm

## Amping up the Civic Power of Young People with Disabilities ..... Legacy South 3

Even though one in four Americans have a disability, more than 60% of America's polling places are not accessible. This has created a culture which keeps people with disabilities from accessing their civic power and suggests to young people that their voices are not important for deciding the future of our nation. There is a growing movement of young people that are taking steps to change their communities and make sure that the newest generation of Americans have the tools and resources to take leadership in their communities. In this session we will talk about some of the steps that Civic Influencers are taking to support young people to become more civically engaged in their communities, as well as opportunities for youth with disabilities and Black, Latino, and Indigenous youth, to access and exert their civic power.

Michael Norris  
Senior Special Projects Manager  
Civic Influencers  
(302) 644-5757  
civicinfluencers.org

# INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

Saturday • 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

## Helpertunity's Bot-Ball Robotics Maze ..... Legacy South 1

Helpertunity is a charity that empowers elder, disabled, and itinerant Makers with supplies and inspirations. If you like to make things, then you are already a Maker too! Join us for this session to find out about Helpertunity's newest eco-arts project, where we are turning household plastic scraps into creative carnival games & prizes and toy-robot ball-sports arenas! Attendees can also find out more about Helpertunity's virtual live MakerSpace called Maker Manor, which is hosted online in gather.town. Participants may also discover how they could earn a Certificate of Community Service from Helpertunity by taking part in our Bottle-Brick Builder's Challenge, or for designing some creative eco-tech fun in our newly formed Cooperative Bot-Ball League Competitions.

As young adults who are headed into a world with modern technology and changing work structures, the question of Self-Advocacy towards a future of Remote-Job Placement, Productivity-Based Telework, or Self-Employment Services being approvable under Vocational Rehabilitation Programs, may also be raised for a brief group discussion in this session.

Eileen Callejas, MA, MBA, MS IDT, AC, PhD (abd)  
Founder of Helpertunity, Inc.  
PO Box 1956  
Apopka, FL 32704-1956  
(407) 234-4768  
www.Helpertunity.org





# INTERACTIVE SESSIONS (continued)

Saturday • 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Legacy  
South 2

## Play with Clay!

Join Arts4All Florida Teaching Artist, Raymond Jimenez, in an art activity for all – using air-dry clay to create cheerful mushrooms to decorate gardens and homes. Once the clay has dried in 24-48hrs, you can decorate it by using acrylic paints. No experience required.

Arts4All Florida's mission is to provide, support and champion arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities. If you are an artist with a disability ages 18+, join our Artist Registry at <https://arts4allflorida.org/artist-registry.html>. All art forms are represented, including visual art, performing art, and literary work. Artist Registry members receive announcements for Calls to Art, invitations to exhibit or perform for Arts4All Florida events, and opportunities for informational webinars. The registry is a FREE service. Learn more at: <https://arts4allflorida.org/index.html>

Raymond Jimenez  
Teaching Artist  
Arts4All Florida  
University of South Florida  
4202 E. Fowler Ave EDU-105  
Tampa, FL 33620



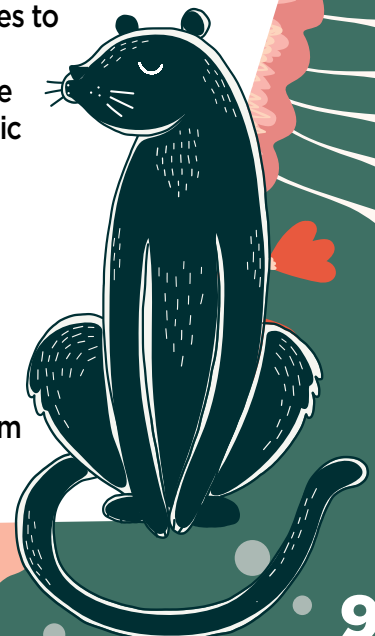
## Adaptive Cooking Demonstration

Legacy  
South 3

Cooking is a basic life skill, and our goal is to assist individuals in creating independence through teaching adaptive cooking skills. In this interactive presentation, we will demonstrate adaptive cooking techniques through safety tips for various independence levels, adapt recipes to focus on single servings with varying levels of difficulty, and discuss various kitchen tools and equipment for everyday basic recipes, to foster independence. This will be a live cooking demonstration. Resources will be provided to successfully adapt basic recipes to create independence for all abilities.

Catrina Sanchez  
Easterseals Florida  
8793 Tamiami Trail East, Unit 111  
Naples, FL 34113  
(239) 403-0366  
[csanchez@fl.easterseals.com](mailto:csanchez@fl.easterseals.com)

Jenn Siffermann  
Easterseals Florida  
2403 East Henry Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33610  
(813) 868-7191  
[jsiffermann@fl.easterseals.com](mailto:jsiffermann@fl.easterseals.com)





**SATURDAY**


# EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS

**Saturday • 3:15 pm – 4:15 pm**

## **Vocational Rehabilitation:**

### **Increasing Student Engagement with Career Exploration Services . . . . Legacy South 1**

The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Agency for Persons with Disabilities have an array of services and programs available to assist youth to prepare for, enter, engage in, or retain competitive integrated employment. This interactive session will share information about how these two programs work together and their roles in helping youth and adults reach their employment goals. Participants will learn about the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's evidence-based pre-employment transition programs and services that provide students with disabilities opportunities to develop the work behaviors and knowledge needed to seamlessly transition from the education setting into the workforce. In addition, opportunities for collaborating in the delivery of services will be presented. There will be time allotted for participants to engage with their own questions and answers as well as an opportunity to learn how to apply for and receive services.



Jesse Riddle  
Florida Department of Education, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
8112 Centralia Court, Suite 102  
Leesburg, FL 34788  
(850) 938-2518

### **Every Day in the Criminal Justice System . . . . . Legacy South 2**

Adults and children with disabilities, some as young as five years old, are discriminated against and mistreated every day in the criminal justice system. They experience higher arrest rates, higher conviction rates, stiffer penalties, and a lack of accommodations in jails. This problem is one of truly epic proportions, but it is rarely covered by the media. This seminar will give a brief overview on the current situation facing people with disabilities in the criminal justice system and some ways to safely navigate encounters with law enforcement in your home, car, or community.

Andrew Sagona  
Disability Advocate  
(407) 319-0615  
andrewsagona.advocate@gmail.com



### **FYC: Helping Youth Transition to the Next Level! . . . . . Legacy South 3**

The Florida Youth Council has done many great things over the years, from writing a book and publishing several useful guides to getting legislation benefiting individuals with disabilities passed, just to name a few. Are you interested in learning more about the projects the FYC has accomplished over the years? Would you like to learn more about their continued efforts including how to become a member? Want to know where The Florida Youth Council is headed in the future? Join us as we share information on all these things and more in this fun, interactive and entertaining session. Come learn how we welcome and teach our new members important life skills and experience the strong love the Council members have for the FYC. Join us in learning how we will continue our mission to help keep the FYC great, all while striving to support transitioning the youth we serve to the next level! We will teach you how to become a member yourself and discuss the many benefits of joining The Florida Youth Council! We look forward to interacting with you and getting to know you better!

The Florida Youth Council  
c/o The Family Café  
820 East Park Ave Suite F-100  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 224- 4670

Alex Gonzalez  
Josue Tapia  
Derek Carraway  
Christina Waldron  
Shevie Barnes



# SATURDAY NIGHT DANCE!

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
*Legends 2&3*

**FEATURING DJ NATE  
FROM AMPLIFY**

**AMPLIFY**

**AMPLIFYMYEVENT.COM**



**THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL**

**WOULD LIKE TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:**

**DISABILITY RIGHTS FLORIDA**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DIVISION OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES MANAGED CARE PLAN**

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**THE FLORIDA YOUTH COUNCIL IS A PROGRAM OF THE FAMILY CAFÉ.**



820 EAST PARK AVENUE, SUITE F-100  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32301 • PHONE (850) 224-4670  
TOLL FREE (888) 309-CAFE • FAX (805) 224-4674  
[WWW.FLORIDAYOUTHOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.FLORIDAYOUTHOUNCIL.ORG)  
[WWW.FAMILYCAFE.NET](http://WWW.FAMILYCAFE.NET)



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