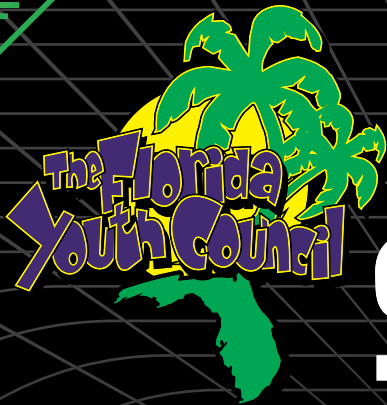


THE 17<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNUAL

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# YOUTH SUMMIT

A CONFERENCE FOR YOUTH AND  
EMERGING LEADERS WITH DISABILITIES

AUGUST  
2-3, 2024  
ORLANDO, FL

PLAYER READY



# WELCOME

**The 17th 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 3,700 youth and emerging leaders from across the state of Florida at The Annual Youth Summit. Every August, they come together with their peers to learn, network, and expand their leadership skills. The Annual Youth Summit has exposed attendees to more than 160 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.

The Florida Youth Council has once again come together to create another terrific event in The 17th Annual Youth Summit, taking their inspiration from the sci-fi movie *Ready Player One*. Much like the characters in the movie use virtual reality avatars to create new identities that allow them to be different people than they are in real life, young people have the opportunity to decide who they are going to be in the world. Ask yourself, who do you want to be? What is it that makes you, you? This year's Annual Youth Summit gives you a chance to think about the answers to these questions, and all of the possibilities for your future that come with them!

The FYC is extremely confident that everyone will have fun and enjoy everything we have planned for The 17th Annual Youth Summit!

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

Jakel Baker  
Viv Banks  
Shevie Barnes

Derek Carraway  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Leah Gorman  
Morgan Griffin

JJ Humphrey  
Tamara Koren  
James Kuhlman  
Sydney Lanier

Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer  
Chelle Sandiford  
Josue Tapia

Lilibeth Vega  
Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore



# OPENING KEYNOTE

**WELCOME SESSION**  
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm  
Legacy North

**FRIDAY • AUGUST 2ND**  
**4:30 PM - 5:30 PM**  
**LEGACY NORTH**

## Can You Guess Who?

Teamwork and cooperation are key to winning at the life-size version of the game “Guess Who?” Council members and participants alike will compete to be the “King of Guess Who” across multiple rounds in which they work together to identify a specific character by eliminating choices until they are confident in a guess. That confidence will be pushed to the limit as rounds become more difficult and the choices grow wilder and stranger. The only question is, will your team choose correctly? Come and find out!



*Join us as we welcome Alex Brown as our keynote presenter! Alex is an alumnus of The Florida Youth Council and served as the Youth Advisor from 2009-2014. He has over 20 years of experience advocating for all persons with disabilities and has recently used his experience to advocate for affordable housing for all people in his new home of Pensacola. Alex has both a master's and bachelor's degree from Florida State University.*





# FRIDAY

## What's Your Character?

*(Parent-Only Session)*  
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Legacy South 3

The 17th Annual Youth Summit is set for 2024; we are fixated on the possibilities of the weekend! This year's Summit is all about character, knowing who you are, and being your authentic self.

What about the character of The Annual Youth Summit itself? We think you'll agree that it's both welcoming and aspirational.

Here's how we can break it down:

- **Inclusive and Empowering:** The Summit encourages attendees to “be yourself” and “go and do the things you never do.” It fosters a space where individuality is celebrated.
- **Transformative:** The focus is on growth and change. Attendees come to learn and grow, and leave feeling empowered to take control of their futures.
- **Hopeful and Open-Minded:** There's an emphasis on the vast possibilities of the future and the potential for attendees to find their place in it. No matter how it works out, there's beauty in the unexpected journeys and discoveries. As the saying goes, “No one in the world ever gets what they want, and that is beautiful.”
- **Supportive:** The Summit fosters a sense of belonging and community for attendees who might feel like they don't quite fit in elsewhere. It offers a space to connect with like-minded individuals.

Overall, the Annual Youth Summit's character is one of encouragement, self-discovery, and taking charge of one's future. It's a place where attendees can be themselves, explore their passions, and feel like they belong!

As the Summit gets underway, join us for this parent-only session to talk about helping youth figure out who they are, who they want to be, and how to become their best selves.

Lori Fahey  
President and CEO  
The Family Café  
713 East Park Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(850) 224-4670  
lfahey@familycafe.net

### Share Your Voice!

*Immediately following the parent-only session, stick around to share your thoughts and opinions with the Florida Department of Health, as Linda Starnes, Statewide Family Leader with the Florida Department of Health's Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program, briefly talks about sharing your experiences in accessing health care and ideas for improvement.*



# A Night at the Movies!

Friday • 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm • Legacy North





# SATURDAY KEYNOTE

SATURDAY • AUGUST 3RD  
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM  
LEGACY NORTH

**WELCOME  
SESSION**  
10:00 am - 10:30 am  
Legacy North

## Being Yourself

Being your authentic self can be difficult. Between trying to fit in with your friends and growing into who you will eventually be, it is hard to be yourself - to be comfortable, like what you like, and express yourself in ways that make you happy.

Many times, we, like the character Art3mis from *Ready Player One*, choose to hide our authentic self to fit in with others. Doing this can leave you feeling like you are playing a character in your own story instead of living your life.

Join this interactive session where you will learn how to be encouraged to embrace and celebrate all aspects of who you really are!



# SATURDAY SESSIONS

**LUNCH** 11:30 am - 12:30 pm • Salon 2

12:45 PM - 1:45 PM

## Shape-Cut Your Way to an Everlasting Storyboard Adventure! (Part 1)

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm • Legacy North

*Please note, if you want to create photos or videos in Part 2, you MUST attend Part 1.*

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

Helpertunity is a local charity that empowers elderly, divergent, and itinerant Makers with supplies, skills, and inspirations. If you like to make things, then you're already a Maker too, and it can be one fun way to 'work-from-home' at your own pace! Make along with Helpertunity as we show you an easy way to cut shapes with your friends and create your own convenient and portable "Everlasting Storyboards" from fabric, fleece, and felt. Participants can then combine their soft-shape cutouts to depict character-stories or pet-adventures, and may even discover their advocacy-voice by making photos or videos of their ongoing visual storytelling characters and scenes in Part 2 of this session.





# SATURDAY

## Accessing Health Care Services: A Community Forum for Youth and Young Adults

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm • Legacy South 1

Please join staff from the Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program and share your experiences in accessing health care and ideas for improvement. Your voice will be heard, and the information will be used to help support future activities related to accessing patient- and family-centered health care services.

*Please note, this session will be facilitated conversation with a maximum of 15 participants. If participants are under the age of 18, their parent/guardian must complete a permission form before they can participate.*

Linda Starnes  
Title V Children and Youth with  
Special Health Care Needs Program  
Children's Medical Services  
Florida Department of Health  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-06  
Tallahassee, FL 32399  
(407) 858-5550  
[Linda.Starnes@flhealth.gov](mailto:Linda.Starnes@flhealth.gov)



# SATURDAY



## To Visibility and Beyond 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm • Legacy South 2

Get pumped to unleash the power of creativity in your advocacy adventures! In order to advocate, we need to educate. But how do we get people that aren't part of the disability community to understand? A key is content that captures the attention of the general public. Representation is essential. How do we show ourselves as multidimensional individuals, representing the good, the bad, and what needs to get done? How do we have fun and show our unique personalities when we do it? Come learn ways to move, not just to visibility, but beyond! Follow @HeartCharged to see our examples.

Hannah Keime  
Co-Founder & President  
HeartCharged  
@heartcharged  
hannah@getheartcharged.org

Stephanie Keime  
HeartCharged  
@heartcharged  
thejolt@getheartcharged.org

## Adaptive Cooking Interactive Session

12:45 pm - 1:45 pm • 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 session, individuals of all ages will be able to create their own culinary creation using adaptive cooking techniques. Resources will be provided to successfully adapt basic recipes to create independence for all abilities.



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Center Director Naples  
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csanchez@fl.easterseals.com

Jenn Siffermann  
Vice President of Programs  
Easterseals Florida  
2010 Crosby Way  
Winter Park, FL 32792  
(561) 725-4444  
jsiffermann@fl.easterseals.com



# SATURDAY SESSIONS 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

## Shape-cut Your Way to an Everlasting Storyboard Adventure! (Part 2)

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm • Legacy North

Helpertunity is a local charity that empowers elderly, divergent, and itinerant Makers with supplies, skills, and inspirations. If you like to make things, then you're already a Maker too, and it can be one fun way to 'work-from-home' at your own pace! If you attended Part 1 of this session where you created your own convenient and portable "Everlasting Storyboards" from fabric, fleece, and felt, this session is your chance to use your shape cutouts and some easy software tools/apps to take your characters to the next level - making digital stop-motion animation videos! Bring your character-stories or pet-adventures to life and discover your advocacy voice!

*Please note, if you want to create photos or videos in Part 2, you MUST have attended Part 1.*

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



## K-Pop Fun with Alex!

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm • Legacy South 1

Join us for a fun time dancing to K-pop!! You will be taught fun, accessible choreography that goes with K-pop songs and have fun dancing with your friends! You also will be given the opportunity to decorate a photo card holder to put a picture of your favorite K-pop idol in as a fun take-home!

Alex Dotson  
mackdot331@gmail.com



# SATURDAY



## Design Your Player!

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm • Legacy South 2

OK Player 1 . . . are you ready? This is your chance to design a unique avatar that incorporates all the strengths and talents that make YOU the HERO that

you are. What is it about yourself that makes you most proud? Think about what others appreciate the most about you. Your avatar should reflect that.

Beth Sanczel has many years of experience in design, illustration, and cartooning. She will provide the tools to help you choose what you want to say about yourself through your personal avatar. At the end of the session, you will have a framed image that you can take with you.

Beth Sanczel  
Sanczel Designs  
Spring Hill, FL 34608  
[beth@sanczeldesigns.com](mailto:beth@sanczeldesigns.com)



## Supports and Strategies Offered through Vocational Rehabilitation

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm • Legacy South 3

This session will provide a comprehensive overview of the Vocational Rehabilitation programs and services available to assist individuals with disabilities in achieving successful employment. We will explore the program's structure, eligibility criteria, and available services, including Pre-Employment Transition Services. Participants will learn about how to access these services and have the opportunity to ask questions. Join us to discover the supports and strategies offered through Vocational Rehabilitation to help individuals with disabilities achieve their employment goals.

Jesse Riddle, M.S.  
Transition Program Administrator  
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Florida Department of Education  
8112 Centralia Court, Suite 102  
Leesburg, FL 34788  
[RehabWorks.org](http://RehabWorks.org)  
(352) 630-6197





# SATURDAY SESSIONS

3:15 PM - 4:15 PM

## The Animal in You

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm • Legacy South 1

Explore how you see yourself, aspire to be, how others see you, and who you are in a couple of fun personality games. Learn how the behavior and skills of certain animals are associated with different leadership skills and your development as leaders.

Charlotte Day  
Director, Athlete & Family Engagement/Services  
Special Olympics Florida  
1915 Don Wickham Drive  
Clermont, FL 34711  
[specialolympicsflorida.org](http://specialolympicsflorida.org)  
(352) 978-4027  
[charlotteday@sofl.org](mailto:charlotteday@sofl.org)







# SATURDAY

## Creative Drama for All

**3:15 pm - 4:15 pm · Legacy South 2**

Central Florida Community Arts (CFCArts) is known nationally for creating arts-accessible models for drama, music, creative writing, and fine arts programs. Join the CFCArts Team and members of the UpBeat! Theater Troupe in an interactive workshop where performers of all ages and abilities will learn some of the techniques of Creative Drama in a safe and welcoming environment. This workshop will focus on four components of creative drama: Body Awareness, Space, Interactions, & Character Building, utilizing modified improv games and drama techniques. Come prepared to laugh and learn!

William Tayek  
UpBeat! Associate Artistic Director  
Central Florida Community Arts  
PO Box 720517  
Orlando, FL 32872  
(407) 937-1800  
school@cfcarts.com

Sara Breitfelder  
Member Experience Manger, Arts & Wellness  
Central Florida Community Arts  
PO Box 720517  
Orlando, FL 32872  
(407) 937-1800 x707  
sara@cfcarts.com



# SATURDAY



## Lights . . . Camera . . . FYC!

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm • Legacy South 3

Have you ever wanted to be the star in your own movie? Do you imagine seeing your name in lights? Join the FYC in figuring out your main character. Learn what it takes to

fulfill the starting role. Find out where some of our inspiration comes from. Maybe the new star FYC member we are looking for is you!

Viv Banks  
Jakel Baker  
Shevie Barnes  
Derek Carraway  
Alexander Gonzalez  
Leah Gorman  
Morgan Griffin  
JJ Humphrey

Tamara Koren  
James Kuhlman  
Sydney Lanier  
Vanessa Muniz-Pellicer  
Chelle Sandiford  
Josue Tapia  
Lilibeth Vega

Christina Waldron  
Serena Wetmore

The Florida Youth Council  
c/o The Family Café  
713 E Park Ave.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
[floridayouthcouncil.org](http://floridayouthcouncil.org)





**SEE YOU  
THERE!**

**SATURDAY NIGHT  
DANCE**

**6:00PM - 8:00PM ■ SALON 2**





*Join us!*

**AT THE 27TH ANNUAL**

**FAMILY,  
CAFÉ**

**JUNE 13-15, 2025**

**HYATT REGENCY ORLANDO  
9801 INTERNATIONAL DRIVE  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA**



**VISIT [FAMILYCAFE.NET/ANNUAL-FAMILY-CAFE/](http://FAMILYCAFE.NET/ANNUAL-FAMILY-CAFE/)  
FOR THE LATEST INFO AND UPDATES!**



*SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!*  
**THE 18TH ANNUAL  
YOUTH SUMMIT  
AUGUST 8-9, 2025**



**The Florida Youth Council is a program of The Family Café**



713 E Park Ave.  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
(888) 309-CAFÉ (2233)  
[FloridaYouthCouncil.org](http://FloridaYouthCouncil.org)  
[FamilyCafe.net](http://FamilyCafe.net)



The Family Café is funded in part by  
the Florida Department of Education,  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and  
Student Services