

Please consider the nomination of Anthony DeThomas (Youth Counselor, Bucks County Youth Center) for the *2018 JDCAP Staff Person of the Year Award*.

Anthony has been employed as a Youth Counselor at the Bucks County Youth Center (BCYC) for 15 years. Anthony holds an undergraduate degree in Criminal Justice from Temple University after beginning college at Delaware Valley University where he was a collegiate soccer player. Anthony was voted the "2017 Bucks County Youth Center Staff Person of the Year in Secure Detention" by his peers.

Anthony's dominant trait that defines his work style is his easy-going personality and calm demeanor. These traits contribute to his success in building rapport with not only his co-workers, but our most difficult behavioral residents in the secure detention program. He excels in working with our mostly mentally ill residents because he engages them in a very genuine and uncondescending manner. Anthony also likes to be active with our residents. He volunteered to be in our initial complement of staff persons trained and certified in Adventure Based Counseling (ABC). We utilize a low elements ropes course on the facility property for use with our residential and weekend consequence populations.

After being trained and certified in Adventure Based Counseling Anthony has played a key role in helping deliver this program to our Child Accountability Program (weekend consequence population). With Anthony's high energy and charisma he continues to facilitate team building activities on the low ropes course and he inspires the residents to push themselves outside of their comfort zone. Anthony does this by challenging the residents on the low rope elements and pushing them to think outside the box to complete the element. The residents are then able to apply these skills and thinking to real life situations through the debriefing process.

Outside of BCYC Anthony is a married father of two daughters and a son. He is an avid reader with an interest in American History. Anthony has been employed part-time as a caretaker at the David Library of the American Revolution for over a decade. The David Library of the American Revolution is the nation's pre-eminent research library dedicated to the study of American history from 1750-1800. It is located on a 118-acre farm in Washington Crossing, PA.