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PASSAIC VICINAGE

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Passaic Vicinage Holds Aging-Out Program

The Passaic Vicinage will host a daylong conference for adolescents ages 14 to 21 who are transitioning away from the supervision of the New Jersey Division of Child Protection and Permanency (CP&P, formerly DYFS.)

The event will take place Tuesday, May 24 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at City Green, 171 Grove St., Clifton. The vicinage's family division is sponsoring the conference along with CP&P and the Passaic County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

This year's theme is "SEEDS (Self-sufficient, Educated, Employed, Determined, Survivors) to success."

Author and motivational speaker Yvonne Harvey-Williams will serve as keynote speaker during the lunch hour. For more than two decades, Harvey-Williams has traveled the country to speak about how she overcame dependency, poverty, depression, abandonment and homelessness. She uses those life experiences in her speaking events to encourage others to reach their full potential. Born and raised in Paterson, Harvey-Williams attended Eastside High School and Passaic County Community College. She now resides in Georgia with her family

Conference participants also will have the opportunity to work and cook with Chef Vaughn Crenshaw who will teach them how to make healthy meals. There also will be workshops that address how to budget for a healthier diet and the potential harms caused by eating too much fast food.

Approximately 60 youth and 25 to 30 vendors are expected to attend the event. Additional attendees include judges, family court staff, CP&P caseworkers, law guardians and CASA volunteers. For further information, contact Kathryn A. Pierce, assistant family division manager, at 973 247-8519 or Erica Fischer-Kaslander, executive director of CASA, at 973 832-4002.

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