



## Meriden Department of Health and Human Services

### Youth Services: 2022-2023 Mini Grant Summary Report

The Meriden Department of Health and Human Services' Youth Services office offers annual opportunities for Meriden youth to apply for mini-grants for projects to make Meriden a better place to live, work, and play. Projects must be youth-developed and youth-led, under the guidance of an adult adviser at a recognized organization that serves Meriden. This program puts youth in a leadership position to make a difference in our community. This year the Youth Services office funded 4 projects ranging from \$500 - \$1,000 each. Funding is provided through our [Youth Service Bureau grant from the Department of Children and Families](#).

#### MALONEY HIGH SCHOOL

This year Maloney High School hosted their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mental Health Awareness Day on April 28, 2023.

Over 750 students were brought together to shed light on the importance of mental health and supporting one another. Activities included learning about self-care and positive coping skills, making their own stress balls, painting gratitude rocks, writing motivational cards, and more!

Thank you to the Youth Leader for coordinating this project: Tavianna Williams-Petaway



#### BALL HEADZ, INC

Ball Headz, Inc. completed the "Make Kindness the Norm" project where youths and their adult ambassadors attended Meriden Public Schools, community, and sporting events to spread their message of making kindness the norm. Youths handed out giveaways such as t-shirts, bracelets, stickers and more with the design they created.



Fifty (50) youth participated in these activities from October – March and they hope to continue to spread their message of kindness and supporting one year-round throughout the Meriden community.

Thank you to the Youth Leader for coordinating this project: Jacqueline Gonzalez.





## PLATT HIGH SCHOOL

Students created the “Panther Den”, a mentor program, aiming to reach out to female students and creating a safe space to promote positive change within the school. Individuals who may have seen each other in the halls before but never actually spoke to one another formed friendships that carried throughout the year. Our youth leader noted, although she’s a senior she hopes the “Panther Den” can continue next year and open up to a larger group of students to create more positive change.

Thank you to the Youth Leader for working on this project: Antwanette Tann.



## SOCIAL SABBY SOCIAL GROUPS

Social Sabby is an organization committed to the development, inclusion and self-esteem building of special needs individuals in the Meriden Community. They primarily work with children K-12 by providing social recreational groups to continue to foster social skills. For their project students were able to visit the following locations:

- Bella Luna Pizza
- Les’ Dairy Bar
- Apple Valley Bowl
- On Track Carting

By visiting these locations students were able to practice interacting and socializing with others while practicing skills such as placing an order and paying for a bill in a restaurant.

Thank you to the Youth Leader for coordinating this project: Jonathan Tressel

