



Space Coast Marine Institute
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Space Coast Marine Institute

SCMI is a non-profit facility that serves as an alternative to prison for male offenders aged 14-18. We provide a cost-effective second chance for kids who would otherwise be sent to jail. Since 1988, we have served over 1,100 of Florida's youth by providing educational, behavioral and mental health services in a supportive family environment.

Our program produces measurable results—**70% of our graduates do not re-offend!** Instead of being a social burden, they become productive members of society, and better brothers, sons and fathers.

Funding for SCMI's programs comes from the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, Brevard County Public Schools, grants and personal contributions from members of the community. To find out what you can do to help SCMI continue our mission, please contact us at (321) 752-3200.

SCMI is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization serving at-risk youth.

Student Spotlight

By Jesus, SCMI Student

At the age of seventeen, a father and now a convicted felon. Not knowing the responsibilities of having a child, I dropped out of high school to work in concrete. I wasn't making enough to support my family. When I received the hospital bill from the birth of my son, Gabriel, I had no clue what to do. So one day I received a call from some old friends asking to help them out in a robbery. I knew that it wasn't right, because I was raised to do the right thing. But I had to pay this big bill. I took my father's truck and went with my friend not knowing the real consequences.

I got caught and the judge sent me to Space Coast Marine Institute to be released at the age of nineteen. He told me that I had to obtain my GED. I never thought this program could help me in so many ways. With the help of great teachers of SCMI I have been able to achieve my GED. Also with the help of the counselors of Circles of Care, I think more positive about my life and my future.

My plan is to go home and be the best father that I can be to my son and watch him grow. My education plan is to go to a technical school for two years for auto-body repair. I know that if I didn't come to Space Coast I would never have known the possibilities.

Jesus graduated from SCMI in February, just days before his 19th birthday, with his General Equivalency Diploma and a new outlook on life. Upon release, Jesus was greeted by his mother and aunt...and a surprise visitor. Jesus was reunited with his girlfriend Maria and his son Gabriel, who he had not seen in almost a year. This was a tearful reunion for all, but a proud moment for SCMI. Jesus has received the Eckerd Family Foundation scholarship for his schooling and will continue on to technical school and becoming employed to support his family.

What's New at School?

By Shawn Heflick, Director of Education

As we come into the New Year and new semester, there is much going on in education.

We have recently hired a new Social Studies/Career teacher (Welcome Jim), whose passion for History and Government will bring a much needed fervor to the courses. We hope his background and teaching style will help develop the student's interest in America's past and present, as well as, the greater World around them.

It is also time, once again, for FCAT and NRT testing. Starting in February and ending in late March, we will be testing all 8, 9 and 10th graders. These tests are vital to our student's ability to graduate and to their futures, so even though the schedules are hectic, our goal is to test 100% of the students who are in need of the test.

Our GED program continues to progress and expand here at SCMI. With 22 GEDs in 2007, we have a high bar to clear in 2008! We are confident, however, that our goal is achievable and our GED program will continue to be an outstanding component of SCMI education.

With new art classes, new teaching staff and a continued dedication to our kid's education and better futures, we look forward to a magnificent 2008 school year!

Upcoming Events

March 5:
SCMI Graduation
10:00am

March 26:
Wine Tasting
Wine Styles-Viera
5:30pm

April 10:
Board of Trustees
Meeting
5:30pm at SCMI

May 17:
19th Annual
Space Coast
Scramble:
Duran Golf Club
8:00am
Shotgun Start

June 2 - 5:
AMI Summer
Olympics
Benedict College:
Columbia, South
Carolina

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Donor Highlight: Brighthouse Networks

Jim Platman and the staff of Brighthouse Networks recently worked together to collect donations for the Space Coast Marine Institute. Mr. Platman explained that he worked together with staff right before Christmas to collect all the donations. The monies will help support our Class Ring fund, that purchases class rings for our GED recipients.

THANKS MR. PLATMAN AND BRIGHOUSE!

In the picture below:
(Back row) Wendell Watson, Scott Buehner, Jim Platman (Front row) Neal Johnson, Jason H., Roderick M., Rodney T., JaMichael H., Tommy Moore



In the picture below:
(Back row) Jason H., Roderick M., Rodney T. (Front row) Neal Johnson, Wendell Watson, Jim Platman, Scott Buehner, Tommy Moore



Team Leader, Welcomes Son

On February 7, 2008, Team Leader, Sirdarus Williams and his wife Lisa welcomed their new baby boy, Logan Maddox Williams.

At 7lbs. 12oz. and 20 inches long, Logan is a healthy, beautiful little boy!

Sirdarus has been with the SCMI Family for 5 years. As a team leader he is responsible for the supervision of our program staff and ensures the safety and effectiveness of the operations of SCMI.

Even though Sirdarus is on paternity leave, he took the time to stop by with Logan. As we all imagined he was a sight to see! All of the staff agreed Logan is one of the most beautiful babies we have ever seen.



On behalf of the SCMI Family we would like to congratulate Sirdarus and Lisa on their new bundle of joy!

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www.spacecoastmarineinstitute.org

A note from our Executive Director

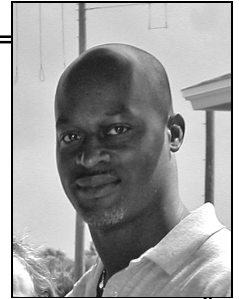
Dear Friends & Family:

This year marks our 20th Anniversary of making a difference in our community...an anniversary of changing lives one young man at a time...a year to celebrate those we have saved and those we will save in the future. This year marks a change for the better, where we hope to make what is already amazing. spectacular!

We were truly blessed to have such a great '07 and we look forward to embracing 2008 as a banner year! We have already kicked it off to a great start by welcoming on two new board members: Ms. Jean Bandish the Juvenile Court Coordinator and Juvenile Drug Court Coordinator for the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit in Brevard County and Mr. Wayne Ivey the Resident Agent in Charge of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Brevard County Office. They come aboard with great energy and ideas to contribute to our already amazing board!

2008 will bring many successes for both our youth and organization.

-Wendell Watson



AMI Winter Olympics:

Thoughts from a Coach & a Competitor

For over 20 years the AMI Olympics has brought together students from AMI programs throughout the country to compete in individual and team events that represent the various educational and training curricula at their schools. The week long, semi-annual events includes academic skills contests such as a spelling bee, academic quiz bowl, science fair experiments, speech contest and First Aid application, vocational skills contests such as Marinespike relay, manual dexterity, and home improvement and team athletic skills such as volleyball, track events, tug o'war, swimming events and lifesaving relay.

"For the students of SCMI, the 2008 AMI Winter Olympics was a magnificent opportunity for them to see what is possible when a group of diverse people commit to and work as a team. We travelled to Panama City, Florida for a week of hard work, tribulations, triumphs, and teamwork. We brought with us 10 individuals who had never truly understood the meaning or feeling of a TEAM...we brought back a team and memories for a lifetime." -Shawn Heflick, Director of Education & Olympics Coach

"My peers and I from SCMI had an amazing time at the Olympics this year. This trip was not only fun, but it also helped us learn to get along better with each other and trust one another. For example, we had a tournament to run a 440 Relay Race. I thought I could only run a short distance and didn't want to compete. But my team asked me to do it, and I thought if they think I can do it then I might have a chance. I still had doubts, but Mr. Shawn, our Director of Education, told me he had faith in me. My friend Jason handed me the baton and I ran! At first I thought about my mother who was in the hospital with sickle cell anemia. I knew doing this would make her so proud of me and help lift her spirits. So I jogged the first 100 yards and then I sprinted the rest of the race. When I was done everyone on my team congratulated me, but I was so happy that I proved to myself that I could actually compete. The feeling was so overwhelming that I broke down and started crying. Everyone was hugging me and I felt so loved like I never did before."

"It is because of this experience at the Olympics that I was able to learn the lesson: "Never give up on yourself and never say 'I can't.'" -Rodney T., Ensign Rank, Age 16