Rachel Marie Duch began with RCJA on June 16, 2018 as the Drug Court Probation Officer. She was raised in Nashville where she ran a full working farm! She also worked with a Drug Court in that area. Rachel and her husband have three children and a lab mix, named Lady. Her favorite color is green, her personality is an INFP, and she wants to retire on a beach in turquoise waters somewhere (one day). She loves to go hiking and used to even be a race car driver! She is currently working on her Master's degree in Criminal Justice with a focus on Criminal Behavior Analysis and Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention. She graduates August 3rd from University of Cincinnati! We are super happy to have Rachel working with our Drug Court team!

Spotlight: Misty Cobb

Misty Cobb started her employment with Prince George County in 2008 with the Animal Shelter. In 2012, she transferred to the Police Department. On July 1, 2018, Misty came to RCJA to begin work as a Probation Officer. We are more than excited to have her! Misty has one daughter, and in her spare time, she likes to take road trips and travel. Misty likes watching baseball games, reading crime novels, relaxing at the beach and also hopes to one day live by the water somewhere. Misty loves to learn new things and is eager to learn her new job! We are excited to have her as part of our team!
Fourth Annual Job & Resource Fair

On May 18, 2018, Riverside Criminal Justice Agency held its Fourth Annual Job and Resource Fair at the Hopewell Community Center. After the past successes of previous Job Fairs, we decided to expand this year and also invite local agencies to share the resources they offer to the community. Many of the clients we serve in the criminal justice system have struggles attempting to enter or reenter the workforce. However, we recognize that they are not alone. In the current job market, many people in our local area still toil at finding vocational and educational opportunities as a whole.

Staff members, Vern Phelps and Tracy Adams contacted many companies and agencies as well as the Virginia Employment Commission in order to secure vendors for the event. We are also always appreciative for the City of Hopewell and the Hopewell Community Center for having us each year; they set up and break down the event for us and are very accommodating.

With the following employers and educational institutions willing to participate, the event was a success: Primerica Financial Services, Prince George Community Policing, Senior Health Care, John Tyler Community College, Saint Leo University, Hopewell Department of Social Services, People Ready, Hopewell Fire and EMS, Hopewell Sheriff’s Department, ALSCO, VCU Office of Continuing Studies, Sussex II, Central Virginia Health Services, Teleperformance, Direct Mail Solutions, Goodwill, Shamin Hotels, SPACE, Aspen Home Improvements, District 19 CSB, Lowe’s, Food Lion Distribution, Mary Baldwin University, and WestRock. The vendors were impressed with the professionalism, resumes, and number of individuals in attendance. They voiced the desire to partner with RCJA again to repeat the event next year.

It felt amazing to assist in fostering potential opportunities for those in our community. We are looking forward to an even more successful event next year.
Drug Court Bowl-A-Thon

The Hopewell, Prince George, Surry Drug Court held their first ever Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser on June 7, 2018. We had 18 bowlers that included 10 current Drug Court clients, their families, RCJA staff, and other Drug Court supporters. Prizes were given to participants for the first strike of the game, highest overall score, and to those that raised the most money. It was such a good time to get together in a social setting with the Drug Court participants we spend the most time with in our office. It was also an eye-opening experience for them to be clean and sober at an event while enjoying it! Many of them had never been bowling before but have since been since the bowl-a-thon. While our participants learn many things form the Drug Court Program, we also learn from them as well.

2nd Annual PGPD Appreciation Breakfast and Car Wash

By engaging in community service work, clients and staff have an opportunity to learn and mature within many aspects of the community. These experiences allow client and staff to make more informed choices about community involvement and career options as well as instilling a lifelong interest in giving back. To show appreciation for those who serve and protect the community, Riverside Criminal Justice Agency hosted the Second Annual Prince George County Police Appreciation Breakfast and Car Wash on May 4, 2018. While clients and staff washed police cars, officers were able to enjoy breakfast sandwiches, fruit juice, and water. We, as an agency, wanted to serve those who serve us. Police Officers and their work are usually taken for granted, and we wanted to show our officers that we are a team and that they are often thought of. Many people do not bother to acknowledge police officers until they are in need of their assistance. We thought it would be great to recognize them for their efforts and for putting their lives on the line to help the community in which we serve. RCJA recognizes the importance of the police officers who serve Prince George County and wanted to take this opportunity to show their department our appreciation and gratitude for their support of us everyday!
I destroy homes, tear families apart - take your children, and that's just the start. I'm more costly than diamonds, more costly than gold - the sorrow I bring is a sight to behold. And if you need me, remember I'm easily found. I live all around you, in schools and in town. I live with the rich, I live with the poor, I live down the street, and maybe next door. My power is awesome - try me you'll see. But if you do, you may never break free. Just try me once and I might let you go, but try me twice, and I'll own your soul. When I possess you, you'll steal and you'll lie. You'll do what you have to just to get high. The crimes you'll commit, for my narcotic charms, will be worth the pleasure you'll feel in your arms. You'll lie to your mother; you'll steal from your dad. When you see their tears, you should feel sad. But you'll forget your morals and how you were raised. I'll be your conscience, I'll teach you my ways. I take kids from parents, and parents from kids, I turn people from God, and separate from friends. I'll take everything from you, your looks and your pride, I'll be with you always, right by your side. You'll give up everything - your family, your home, your friends, your money, then you'll be alone. I'll take and I'll take, till you have nothing more to give. When I'm finished with you you'll be lucky to live. If you try me be warned this is no game. If given the chance, I'll drive you insane. I'll ravish your body, I'll control your mind. I'll own you completely; your soul will be mine. The night mares I'll give you while lying in bed. The voices you'll hear from inside your head. The sweats, the shakes, the visions you'll see. I want you to know, these are all gifts from me. But then it's too late, and you'll know in your heart, that you are mine, and we shall not part. You'll regret that you tried me, they always do. But you came to me, not I to you. You knew this would happen. Many times you were told, but you challenged my power, and chose to be bold. You could have said no, and just walked away. If you could live that day over, now what would you say? I'll be your master; you will be my slave. I'll even go with you, when you go to your grave. Now that you have met me, what will you do? Will you try me or not? Its all up to you. I can bring you more misery than words can tell. Come take my hand, let me lead you to hell.

Signed,

DRUGS