



Orleans County Youth Bureau

Annual Report 2012

Youth Recognition Event

Youth Bureau Staff 2012

Executive Director

Deborah Kerr-Rosenbeck/
Jocelyn Sikorski

Youth Program Specialist

Kathy Frank

Youth Program Coordinator

Angela DiRosa

Youth Program Assistant

Jennifer Waldron

Financial Clerk-Typist

Tracy Ranney/LuAnn Henry

AmeriCorps Members

Katie Stack
Katherine Rudman

The Orleans County Youth Awards Program has become an institution in the county, providing a forum whereby young people can be recognized for selfless devotion to their community and/or family. Past Youth Board member, Xavier Riley, exemplifies how many individuals carry this commitment to service throughout their lives.

After delivering the keynote address in 2009 and then listening to the award presentations, Mr. Riley wanted an ongoing and important role in the future of this program. He and his wife have personally underwritten part the cost to put on this event

for the past 3 years. This act of generosity not only ensures that the awards program continues during very difficult fiscal time but allows the County to divert the funds that would normally be spent on the banquet to the many agencies supported by the Youth Bureau. It also allowed each recipient complimentary ticket for themselves and two guests.

At this year's banquet we were able to recognize 21 outstanding youth and two incredible adults.

Awards are given out in three categories. A call for nominations seeks youth who have performed outstanding community service or taken on an ex-

traordinary role in support of their family. We seek to provide recognition to individuals who would not otherwise receive it.

The Eileen Hey Adult Volunteer Award is given to an adult volunteer who is a positive role model for youth and the Helen Brinsmaid Professional Award is given to a youth serving professional in a paid position, whose work exceed normal expectations.

There were 135 people in attendance including representatives from Senator Maziarz's and Assemblyman Stephen Hawley's offices, teachers, award winners and their families and friends.

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Youth Winners:

Sabir Aajan, Kelly Bates, Bethany Beiersdorf, Zachary Blackburn, Nicole Cassett, Allison Christensen, Amanda Cortez, Zachary DeLuca, Melissa Dibley, Ashlee Dow, Cole Heideman, Devona Jock, Samuel Mauro, Alex McLaren, Anna Mergler, Patrick Murray, Charles Ricci, John Tanis IV, Stephanie Turney, Joshua Wells, Cabel Witt
Helen Brinsmaid Award: Ocie Bennet Jr. **Eileen Heye Award:** Marie Snyder



Director's Note

Year of Change

“Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for changes.”

~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

The Genesee-Orleans County Youth Bureau went through significant transition in 2012. Our long-time leader and Director, Deb Kerr-Rosenbeck, retired in February. She was known as our *Empress of Youth* and worked hard for the children and youth of Genesee & Orleans Counties for 25 years. Her passion, drive and determination got us through some very trying fiscal years as the state and municipal governments have evolved. She was a mentor and a true friend to all of the staff here at the Youth Bureau, and her presence has been missed.

To continue with the evolution of change, we moved our offices in with the Office for the Aging & Senior Center on Bank Street in Batavia. We had been proactive with changes that were upon us, sat down with other county offices and determined where our department would best fit. The Youth Bureau and Office for the Aging both provide similar direct services and oppor-

tunities, although our populations are different. Our move in March assisted us in closing the door to our change. The evolution for our staff was not an easy one; however, I'm proud of how we handled it together as a team. Together we can persevere.

One thing that has not changed in 2012 is our dedication and value of our youth. Orleans County served 3,077 youth in 2012 through youth bureau funded programs. This number does not include the direct service programs that we operate here at the Youth Bureau through Reality Check, or AmeriCorps, all of which you'll hear about throughout this report. My hat goes off to our youth-serving agencies and programs who over the last five years are still achieving success with less and less financial support.

The Orleans County Youth Board evolved in this past year with great turn over. We lost a long time member, Ellen Tuohey,

due to other pressing obligations. Her tenure with the board surpassed 20 years. A piece of our history and knowledge is gone. Another great member with as much history is Jeanette Riley. Jeanette retired in the fall but has decided to stay on as a community member as we enter 2013. This was music to my ears. We had several more new members who joined us that you will meet in another part of this report.

As we enter 2013 my outlook is optimistic. Our stance with the release of the Governor's Budget is to hold us to the 2012 funding levels. Youth bureaus will remain proactive and seek those additional opportunities that will best suit our communities. We will also be at the table and involved in the discussion as our system evolves in the years to come. Change is a constant and upon us again...

Best Regards,

Jocelyn Sikorski

The Orleans County Youth Bureau is a department of county government, responsible to the Chief Executive and funded in part by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The Youth Bureau's resource allocation process is unique and equitable, designed to provide services to all youth.

The Orleans County Youth Bureau was established in 1977.

Orleans County Youth Bureau

585-344-3960

email: youthbureau@co.genesee.ny.us

Reality Check

Reality Check (RC) is funded through the NYS Dept. of Health. Tobacco companies research teens and find the best ways to lure them to become the “replacement smokers” for those who’ve died from tobacco-related illnesses. RC youth encourage their peers to make educated decisions about smoking and tobacco use.

Over 90% of the industry’s marketing budget is spent at the “point of sale” in places like grocery and convenience stores. RC has ramped up its education about the effect of this type of advertising on youth smoking. As a result

of the new FDA law, localities now have the capability to design and enforce ordinances that would allow stores to continue selling tobacco products but keep them from being prominently displayed for young people to see. Several other counties have already implemented such laws which have dramatically decreased their youth smoking rates.

RC’s partnership with the University of California on the Smoke Free Movies initiative has proven successful with Disney eliminating smoking from its youth-rated movies and other companies

looking to follow suit. Organizations including RC continue to petition the Motion Picture Association of America to treat smoking as they would drug use, cursing, and nudity by rating all new movies with smoking “R.” Additionally, the program has begun researching the effects of tobacco imagery on television and YouTube and is working to reduce youth exposure through these media outlets as well.

If you would like more information on Reality Check, please contact Jen Waldron or Angela Barbeau at our office.

The Orleans County Youth Board is looking for new members, especially young people!

Tennis

This year, as in years passed, the Genesee-Orleans County Youth Bureau received funding from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to aid in providing fun, free and active tennis activities for children in both Genesee and Orleans Counties.

The tennis program served seven programs throughout the two counties: *Byron, LeRoy, Oakfield, Pembroke, Stafford, Kendall, and Lyndonville.*

The program served over 250 kids again this year over the seven programs, ranging from the ages of four to fourteen. The children were taught using the 10 and Under method which is an exciting new method for teaching youth the game of tennis while accenting fun and success. The grant provided children with all of the necessary equipment to learn the basics of tennis while also giving them a fun environment in which to do it.

The Youth Bureau enjoys offering this program to our local municipal park programs. We look forward to increasing our service to even more children in 2013.



Youth lining up to practice their volleys over the net during a session.

Funded Programs

The following prevention and intervention program served 982 youth.

Orleans Juvenile Adjustment Services
 Albion Juvenile Aid Officer
 Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern – Just Friends Program
 Hoag/Swan Library Summer Reading

The following recreation programs served 2,095 youth.

ARC Camp Rainbow
 Albion Youth Recreation
 Carlton Youth Recreation
 Holley Youth Recreation
 Kendal Recreation
 Medina Joint Youth Recreation

Youth Board 2012

Linda Haight

At Large

Ellen Tuohey

At Large

Barb Flow

At Large

Tim Kenyon

At Large

Ryan Haight

Youth Representative

Stephanie Peruzzini

Agency Representative

Jeanette Riley

Agency Representative

Cindy Troy

Agency Representative

Cindy Lonnen

Education Representative

Ariel Strickland

Youth Representative

Ken Strickland

Law Enforcement Rep.

Don Allport

Legislature Representative

Henry Smith

Legislature Representative

2012 Orleans County Legislature

David Callard, Chairman: At Large-West

George Bower, Vice Chairman: At Large-East

Donald Allport: At Large-Central

William Eick: District 1

Lynn Johnson: District 2

Henry Smith, Jr.: District 3

Kenneth Rush: District 4

Charles Nesbitt, Jr.: Chief Administrative Officer

2012 AmeriCorps Host Sites

4-H Camp Bristol Hills

Batavia Players

Batavia Youth Bureau

Byron Bergen Central School

Byron Bergen Public Library

Camp Wyomoco

Corfu Free Library

Crossroads House

Genesee County Highway

Genesee County History

Genesee County OFA

Genesee County Parks

Genesee County Sheriff's Office

Genesee County Youth Bureau

Genesee Justice

Gillam Grant Community Center

Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley

GLOW YMCA

GO Art

LeRoy Christian Community Project

Literacy Genesee

Livingston County Historical Society

Olean Theatre Workshop

Olean City School District

Orleans Community Action

Orleans Co Adult Learning Services

Orleans County Cooperative Ext

Richmond Memorial Library

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

WNY Rural Area Health Education Center

Youth Board Welcomes New Members

The Orleans County Youth Board operates according to state regulation and advises the youth bureau staff and the Orleans County Legislature. Many members of the board have volunteered in this capacity for literally decades and bring a rich knowledge and valuable expertise to the table. This year several new members were recruited and officially appointed. Although it didn't seem possible, the collective background and vocations of the new and standing members make the Orleans County Board quite a formidable body.

We were joined late by the following individuals. Margo Bower-

man is an Educator for our Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension. She represents Albion. Holli Nenni and Carrie O'Neill were also recruited as by statute we have government agency seats on the board. Both of these women have a vast knowledge on the youth and families in the community. Their expertise and contributions will be important to the board. And lastly we were joined by three young adults; Caelan Welch, Olivia Welch and Marisa Hanlon. We are looking forward to working with these young people and having them participate in decision making that impacts their peers. I was lucky to

meet Marisa early in the year with a youth leadership opportunity. I feel that these three young adults will serve our community well. As mentioned earlier, Jeanette Riley will be rejoining us now as a community member in early 2013.

We are still actively seeking representation from Holley/Clarendon, Yates/Lyndonville, and Medina/Ridgeway areas. The goal is to fill these open seats in 2013. If anyone is interested in becoming a youth board member, please contact our office at 344-3960.

AmeriCorps Program

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Corporation's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Throughout the country, Americans of all backgrounds are engaged in service to meet community needs. Genesee County AmeriCorps members bring this dedication and commitment to our area.

Fifty members served at a variety of host site agencies in 2012. These members completed over 24,400 hours of service. Members agree to complete 900, 450 or 300 service hours over a specific time period that cannot exceed one year. In return, they earn a modest living allowance, and at the end of their term of service are eligible to receive an education award. The education award can be used for college costs or to repay qualified student loans. Education awards earned in 2012 totaled over \$79,000. Members also engaged 820 volunteers in over 4,500 hours of service to the community.

Several Orleans County agencies were AmeriCorps host sites this year. A member assisted Cooperative Extension with summer programming, focusing on promotion and coordination of some activities for the Fair. Community Action utilized a member to enhance services at the Holley Youth Center. This member also spent time coordinating events for the TGIF program in Albion. Orleans County Adult Learning Services benefited from two members' assistance to expand marketing and outreach efforts.

Use the contact information on the back of this report to inquire further about becoming a host site or a member of the Genesee County AmeriCorps program. You can learn more about AmeriCorps in general or other national service opportunities by visiting www.nationalservice.gov.

Orleans County Youth Bureau

c/o GeneseeCounty Youth Bureau
2 Bank Street
Batavia, New York 14020