



Orleans County Youth Bureau

Annual Report 2013

Youth Recognition Event

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. The Youth Bureau received an anonymous donation in 2013 of \$1,000 to support the Youth Recognition Banquet. Over the past three years, Xavier Riley had been generous to contribute to this worthwhile event. The donation received in 2013 couldn't have come at a better time. The Youth Bureau is grateful for the anonymous contribution which allowed us to continue the annual banquet and allotted each recipient a complimentary ticket for themselves and two guests.

This year's banquet featured a keynote speaker who is well known to our Youth Board, Liz Doherty. Liz is a native of Orleans County, was a Youth Board Youth Representative and also received our Youth Recognition Award, not once, but twice. This is not common with this recognition as in 30 years, Liz was the only youth to receive the award twice. That is until our event on May 9, when Joyce LaLonde received the award, for the second time.

We also recognized 21 additional 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 extraordinary 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.

Youth Bureau Staff 2013

Executive Director

Jocelyn Sikorski

Youth Program Specialist

Kathy Frank

Youth Program Coordinator

Kyla McCormick

Youth Program Assistant

Chelsea Dillon

Financial Clerk-Typist

LuAnn Henry

AmeriCorps Members

Erin Martin

Dan Bayer

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Youth Winners:

Brooke Bensley, Ashleigh Cheverie, Matt Edick, James Haight, Makaila Harmer, Tyler Hoag, Alissa Houseman, Ben Howell, Joyce LaLonde, Monica Merlau, Alison O'Hearn, Michael Patterson, Elizabeth Pickle, Emily Radford, Alyssa Scherer, Hallie Seaman, Diane Sill, Michael Silvis, Gretta Smith, Kristen Snell, Matt Stanton, Jacob Wachob

Helen Brinsmaid Award: Ocie Bennet Jr. **Eileen Heye Award:** Marie Snyder

Director's Note



“Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for, it is a thing to be achieved.”

~William Jennings Bryan

Change seems to be a theme for our agency once again in 2013. We have had some significant transformations with our staff, our system at the state level and as a result a time of learning and education.

The first change came with our staff. In March of 2013 we had two staff leave for other prospects in the community. We wished them well but the turnover was half of our full-time staffing and quite a challenge to our operation for a six week period. Everyone stepped up and played a significant role to fill in their absence until new folks were hired.

Kyla McCormick and Chelsea Dillon have added a breath of fresh air to our department. Kyla came to us from SUNY Brockport and Chelsea was a case worker at Hillside Children's Center. They started in April with overnight travel and our Genesee County Family Game Night in their first week. Talk about jumping in feet first! Their enthusiasm and drive has motivated and encouraged us as our systems continually evolve. They have excelled in their

roles with Reality Check, SADD, and Youth Court over the last 9 months of the year and it shows. I know that only good things are still to come with these two young ladies as part of our team.

With the passing of the NYS Budget in April, came a change to our statutes and regulations governing the Youth Bureau system. The amendments to the statute streamline and consolidate Youth Bureau funding into one form, Youth Development Programming, beginning January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2018. This includes funding for municipalities and youth service programs which traditionally support municipal programs such as Youth Recreation. Under these new provisions, all youth service agencies are required to apply competitively to the Youth Bureau for funding of local programs. The Youth Bureau developed and adopted a process to accommodate these changes. We also contacted all funded programs in June about the changes and how that will impact them beginning in 2014. As we enter 2014, we are preparing to do our annual allocations and feel that we are well equipped for the Board to make their recommendations to the Legislature.

Our last evolution is a great one... we had our first Annual Family Game Night! This event was something that we had done for a decade in Genesee County, and I had that ah-ha moment in April of 2013 that we could replicate it and host the same event for the children, youth and families in Orleans County. What a success for the first year! You will read more about in the report, but we are looking forward to our next Family Game Night in October 2014. And we are also taking the lead on STOP-DWI Education as of January 2014. The Youth Bureau will have a more visible presence with our young people and adults when it comes to educating the public about the dangers of drinking and driving.

In closing, 2014 is looking to be better for our young people. We are pleased with leading the new initiatives and the release of the Governor's Budget is to hold us to our 2013 funding levels, however we will continue to be proactive and look for those opportunities to best serve our youth.

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

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email: youthbureau@co.genesee.ny.us

Reality Check

Reality Check (RC) is part of the Bureau of Tobacco Control funded through the NYS D.O.H. RC works with youth in Genesee, Orleans and Wyoming counties to educate, mobilize and pass policies to protect our youth from tobacco marketing. In 2013 we had two new staff members, Kyla McCormick and Chelsea Dillon, begin working for RC. They, along with our youth have been diligently working to gain support from the local public and elected officials.

The tobacco industry spends billions of dollars each year on marketing that is designed to attract youth. RC works hard to de-normalize and deglamorize tobacco use in our tri-

county area. Studies have shown that the more tobacco marketing youth see the more likely they are to try those tobacco products. It has also been found that 90% of current smokers tried it or began prior to age 18, the legal age to buy tobacco products. Tobacco marketing works and it is our responsibility, as a community to protect our youth. In 2013 RC met with state legislators and elected officials to educate them and voice our concern. RC also hosted events for Kick Butts Day, World No Tobacco Day, the Clean Indoor Act 10 Year Anniversary, and the Great American Smoke Out. We partnered with agencies such

as Smoke-Free Now, T.F. Brown's, Partners for Prevention, YMCA, The Valley Inn and local schools.

Reality Check also completed an educational video about Point of Sale (POS) tobacco marketing. The video has been and will be used to educate the public about POS marketing and its effect on youth tobacco use. We are looking forward to another successful year in 2014 and will continue to work to improve our community. If you would like more information regarding Reality Check, please contact Kyla McCormick or Chelsea Dillon 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 2014.



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

Funded Programs

The following prevention and intervention program served 839 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 2,072 youth.

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

Youth Board 2013

Linda Haight At Large	Cindy Lonnen Education Representative
Jeanette Riley At Large	Holli Nenni Agency Representative
Barb Flow At Large	Carrie O'Neill Agency Representative
Marissa Hanlon At Large	Ken Strickland Law Enforcement Rep.
Caelan Welch Youth Representative	Don Allport Legislature Representative
Olivia Welch Youth Representative	Henry Smith Legislature Representative
Cindy Troy Agency Representative	

2013 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

2013 AmeriCorps Host Sites

4-H Camp Bristol Hills	GO Art
Batavia Youth Bureau	LeRoy Christian Community Project
Byron Bergen Central School	LIFE Program
Byron Bergen Public Library	Literacy Genesee
Camp Wyomoco	Livingston County Historical Society
Corfu Free Library	Olean Theatre Workshop
Crossroads House	Olean City School District
Genesee County BEA	Orleans Community Action
Genesee County History	Orleans Co Adult Learning Services
Genesee County Parks	Orleans County Cooperative Ext
Genesee County Sheriff's Office	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Genesee County Soil & Water	WNY Rural Area Health Education Center
Genesee County Youth Bureau	Wyoming County Business Education Center
Genesee Justice	YMCA of Genesee County
Gillam Grant Community Center	

Family Game Night

The Orleans County Youth Bureau sponsored a new event in 2013 with collaboration from the Orleans County Legislature Office. Our first annual Family Game Night took place on October 17 at the Trolley Building, Cornell Cooperative Extension. The event featured dinner, board games to play, displays and booths to visit and a FREE board game to every family. Attendees received a 'passport' to all the booths. The displays provided information on a wide array of services that Orleans County Departments provide to the constituents. We had 20 of the county departments participate in the first time event.

We could not have had the event without the great support from the community. The following helped sponsor the event: through their contributions: Avanti Pizza, Uncle Sal's, Tillman's Village Inn, Lions Club of Medina, Mark's Pizzeria, The Crooked Door, Subway, Save-A-Lot, Crosby's, & Bill's Sub Shop.

As a result of our event, we had 150 people participate at Family Game Night and 39 board games went home at the end of the night.

Planning will begin soon for the 2014 event, keep your eyes open!



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.

Forty-seven members served at a variety of host site agencies in 2013. These members completed over 23,000 hours of service in the areas of youth development/mentoring, volunteer recruitment and public safety/community outreach. 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 2013 totaled over \$70,000. Members also engaged 982 volunteers in over 3,900 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 a members' assistance to expand marketing and outreach efforts. A member placed at the LIFE program interacted with students at both Albion and Medina schools.

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

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