

Orleans County Youth Bureau

Annual Report 2011

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. 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 the cost to put on this event for the

past 2 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 25 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 147 people in attendance including representatives from Senator Maziarz's and Assemblyman Stephen Hawley's offices, teachers, award winners and their families

Inside the report:

Recognition Banquet

Director's Column 2

Funded Programs 2

Reality Check 3

Tennis 3

Youth Board 4

New Members 5

AmeriCorps 5



Youth Winners:

Lindsay Beehler, Molly Church, Brandon Comden, Mollie Daly, Joshua Escobar, Lyndzea Hamilton, Scott Knaak, Joyce Lalonde, Amir Lampe, Kristen Marciszewski, Daniel McLaren, Valerie Mostyn, Heather Mufford, Courtney Myers, Steven Papponetti, Robert Reome II, Nichole Sands, George Snell Jr, Royal Snyder III, Stacia Southcott, Michelle Squicciarini, Jeannette Trautwein
Nikita Wachob, Elizabeth Welling, Jessica Zinsmeister

Helen Brinsmaid Award: Karl Biedlingmaier **Eileen Heye Award:** Bryan Catlin



Director's Note

Optimism Remains

“Youth are the foundation for a strong and vibrant community.” These wise words came in a note committing support to the Orleans County Youth Board’s 29th annual Youth Recognition Program. It was followed by a very generous contribution that covered the cost of the event. It was one of the bright spots for 2011 as was hearing about the many accomplishments of the award recipients and witnessing the sense of pride exhibited by their family and friends. Xavier Riley, Albion native and brother of long standing youth board member Jeanette Riley, has also committed to be the event benefactor for the 30th annual banquet in 2012.

The benefits of his donation are two-fold as it allowed us to divert the grant funds normally devoted to this event to our various contract programs which were cut severely in 2011. The Youth Board had the grim task of making seemingly impossible decisions about important and needed services for Orleans County youth. In preparation for additional reductions passed in the state budget that would affect 2012, the youth board began a diligent process of deciding what could continue to be viably covered by the rapidly diminishing state aid. The results of this difficult work appear later in this report.

The harsh budget decisions make their way into local media, and once again we were blessed with

unsolicited kindness and generosity from a pillar of the Lyndonville community, Sarah Brinsmaid. Her cousin Helen is the namesake of our youth worker award. Sarah has closely followed the activities of the youth bureau as a result, providing sage advice along the way. Her contribution, for the second year in a row, made a significant difference to the local youth development programs supported by the Bureau.

Despite a year that left our hearts and conscience challenged, we remain optimistic and uplifted by the work of tireless volunteers, supporters and professionals dedicated to the welfare and protection of our young people.

Funded Programs

The following prevention and intervention program served 1,741 youth.

Orleans Juvenile Adjustment Services
 Orleans Juvenile Aid Officer
 Rochester Legal Aid – Youth Advocate
 Regional Action Phone – Youth Crisis Services
 Albion Juvenile Aid Officer
 Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern – Just Friends Program
 Swan Library Summer Reading

The following recreation programs served 2,143 youth.

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

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

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

Tennis

This year, as in years passed, the Genesee 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 continued to grow in size this year by servicing nine programs throughout the two counties, in comparison to only eight last year. Parks that participated this year that were not involved previously include Gilham-Grant and Pembroke. Returning from last year were Byron, LeRoy, Elba, Oakfield, Stafford, Lyndonville and Kendall.

The program served over 200 kids again this year over the nine programs, ranging from the ages of four to fourteen. The children were taught using the Quickstart 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 2012.



Mark Fanton, AmeriCorps member with the youth from Holley

Youth Board Faces a Daunting Year of Decisions

The Orleans County Youth Board is made up of a dedicated group of volunteers some of whom have served on the board for many, many years. The youth bureau staff was very fortunate to be able to rely on this depth of history and experience when calling on the board to deal with unimaginable budget reductions.

Funding decisions for services supported by the youth bureau were completed late in 2010 and approved by the Legislature. State aid that comes to the youth bureau is typically not immediately affected by the outcome of the state budget, as it runs on a calendar year and is re-appropriated into the next year. This would normally allow plenty of time to plan for any dramatic changes in the allocation and give fair warning to the agencies that depend on this funding.

The 2011/12 state budget included an unprecedented reduction that affected the youth bureau funds for the current calendar year, setting a frightening precedent. Board members had to return to the table to drastically reduce the level of funding that agencies had already been promised. It then became clear, that the array of services would have to be reviewed as it would be impossible to continue to sponsor all of them at any sort of reasonable level in 2012. In order to give some programs a viable chance to operate, others would have to be sacrificed. Additional meetings were held, information was gathered and the youth board put forth a tentative plan. Of course it all hinges on what the Governor and state legislature does with 2012 youth bureau funding.

If funds are available the following

agencies will be supported in 2012: Genesee Orleans Ministry of Concern Just Friends Program, ARC of Orleans Camp Rainbow, and Orleans County Probation Juvenile Adjustment Services. Recreation programs will still receive at least their minimum allocation, as will the Albion Juvenile Officer. It was the consensus that if funds were available that some support for the Swan Library would also be forthcoming. Regrettably, Regional Action Phone Information Referral and Crisis Hotline as well as the Rochester Legal Aid Society Youth Advocate Program will no longer be considered for an allocation of funds.

The Youth Board deserves commendation for their careful consideration and objectivity. The responsibility is much more than one would anticipate of serving on a board dedicated to the welfare and protection of youth.

Youth Board 2011

Linda Haight

At Large

Ellen Tuohey

At Large

Pamela Lynch

At Large

Barb Flow

At Large

Tim Kenyon

At Large

Susan Squires

At Large

Ryan Haight

Youth Representative

Stephanie Peruzzini

Agency Representative

Jeanette Riley

Agency Representative

Cindy Troy

Agency Representative

Cindy Lonnen

Education Representative

Ariel Stickland

Youth Representative

Ken Strickland

Law Enforcement Rep.

William Eick

Legislature Representative

Kenneth Rush

Legislature Representative

2011 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

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 in 2010 by Barbara Flow. She is an at large

member representing Kendall and brings with her over 20 years experience in the recreation field. Tim Kenyon was appointed and also offered an inspiring keynote address at the awards banquet. As a recipient of the award he was quite aware of the importance of this recognition. Tim returns to the board after serving as a youth representative while in high school. His work in the probation department is an important contribution.

Actively seeking representation from the Medina area brought the good fortune of Susan Squires interest in an appointment. Her background includes Medina School

Board, Medina Recreation Commission and Medina YMCA Board.

And lastly to top of a great year for board recruitment, we were joined by former youth bureau Director Stefanie Peruzzini. What better qualification than to have run the agency. Her present position at DSS also brings a unique perspective to the decision making process.

The advisory role of the Youth Bureau/Board is in very capable hands.

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.

A total of 51 AmeriCorps members served at a variety of host site agencies in 2011. These members completed over 24,500 hours of service. Assignments fall under the categories 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.

Several Orleans County agencies were AmeriCorps host sites this year. A member assisted Swan Library with a variety of programs, archived library artifacts and helped staff prepare for the move to their new building. Another site was the YMCA in Medina, where a member coordinated several different sports programs and other activities. Community Action of Orleans and Genesee utilized two AmeriCorps members to enhance services at the Holley Youth Center and summer activities in the ACT program. Orleans County Adult Learning Services benefited from a member's assistance to expand marketing and plan special events.

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.

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

Youth Bureau Staff 2011

Executive Director

Deborah Kerr-Rosenbeck

Youth Program Specialist

Kathy Frank

Youth Program Coordinators

Jocelyn Sikorski

Angela Barbeau

Youth Program Assistants

Jennifer Waldron

Financial Clerk Typist

Tracy Ranney

AmeriCorps Members

Mark Fanton

Vicky Rippel

Orleans County Youth Bureau

c/o GeneseeCounty Youth
Bureau
3837 West Main St. Rd.
Batavia, New York 14020