

## Orleans County Youth Bureau

# Annual Report 2015



### Youth Bureau Staff 2015

#### Executive Director

Jocelyn Sikorski

#### Youth Program Specialist

Kathy Frank

#### Youth Program Assistant

Chelsea Dillon

#### Youth Program Assistant

Cara Ferraro

#### AmeriCorps Member

Victoria Soper

## 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.

This year's banquet featured a keynote speaker who was born and raised in our community, Sgt. Todd Draper. Todd is the K9 Officer for the Medina Police Department. After Todd did some time in the service, he decided to come back to the community he grew up in to

start his lifelong career and raise his family.

We recognized 20 outstanding youth and three incredible adults. We are extremely grateful and appreciative of the outstanding work these adults do for our youth.

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 Heye 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 exceeds normal expectations.

There were 116 people in attendance including a representative from Senator Ort's office, teachers, award winners and their families and friends.

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### Youth Winners:

Kevin Alvarado-Rosario, Tania Arellano, Samantha Barniak, Cameron Bennage, Trevor Bentley, Adryan Cheeseboro, Jordan Deskins, Claudia Drechsel, Zachary Farruggia, Marisa Hanlon, Aracely Hernandez, Rachael Kiefer, Taylor Kingsbury, Abigail Maines, Kellie Moore, Keighlin O'Connor, Morgan Seielstad, Lucas Silvis, Jonathon Thomas & Emma Wilson

**Helen Brinsmaid Award:** Dr. Clark J. Godshall & Jeannine Larkin

**Eileen Heye Award:** Kathy Valley

## Director's Note



The evolution of our state funding and the new rules and regulations are coming to fruition. We just ended the comment period for the submitted document of our Rules & Regulations that we worked on in 2014. As you can see the state is moving at their timely pace... From what we know, there were only a few letters submitted to contribute feedback to what was developed and posted for public review. I'm hopeful that this is in our favor as we're now over two years into the new funding stream of Youth Development Program (YDP) monies and at times the "draft" version of this document applies to our work as Youth Bureaus and other times, we're advised by the state to refer to our old rules and regulations, the outdated set of rules that coincided with the alphabet soup of multiple funding streams we worked with for 40+ years.

With YDP being in place now things are more efficient with our system. The funding is streamlined to the county Youth Bureau to allocate; we have less contracts across the state and in our county for programming, **but** not less programs serving our young people or less young people being served. This saves time not only here in our office, but also with-

in our grantees offices as well as the state offices. For instance just in Orleans County, we've gone from 16 contracts to 8. The programs remain the same with collaboration and cross municipal functionality; however there is one municipality or agency that takes the lead for that program and they are the ones in contract with us – who apply for the funding, complete the necessary applications and reports.

So as OCFS unrolled an updated application for YDP funding in 2016, they are now including Performance Measures; How Much, How Well, and Better Off. The Performance Measures align with the Life Areas that have been in the applications for two years now and incorporate the program Goals, Objectives, Supports Opportunities & Services. The only thing new is the Performance Measures. Every funding source does this, they ask for your measurable results and to justify/demonstrate the need for support.

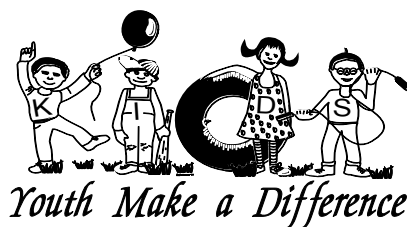
We have done this through our department for at least the last decade with other grants we have received. However it does not make it easier for those who have historically received funds through us and not had to measure specifics prior to now. To change that thought process can be daunting even though you know the service you provide has proven and positive results. For others it's an easy thing to assess in their programming as they have substantial

and measurable outcomes for the youth they are serving.

To coincide with the performance measures, we have been examining Results Based Accountability (RBA) and Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) tools, for youth bureaus to use when monitoring and evaluating the programs we fund. This would give us the means to provide measurable data back to the state on a quarterly or bi-annual basis with the programs. This is great in theory and something I would jump on board to do, if there was another "me" here at the agency. Also, not only is time a factor but there is a cost for RBA to maintain the system on an annual basis that most counties cannot afford to pick up if the support does not come through OCFS.

So, to wrap up, the point I'm actually getting to is that the state Legislature is now seeing the value in Youth Bureaus and YDP funding. They are discussing the possibility of investing more into our YDP stream as they see the equity and fairness of the formula to these monies. We still serve all youth through recreation, after-school programming, mentoring, youth employment, advocacy pro-

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## Family Game Night

On October 15<sup>th</sup> we held our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Family Game Night. The night is designed to encourage families to spend the evening together. The event is held in collaboration with the Orleans County Legislature Office. The families learn about local government and services provided to them through county departments, play games and enjoy dinner.

Upon completing their “passport” from visiting all of the informational booths, each family leaves with a new board game so that they can enjoy “Family Game Night” at their own homes. We had nineteen county departments set up infor-

mational and interactive booths. The Sheriff’s Office also provided child ID cards to parents at the event.

Several local businesses and organizations support this event through donations and contributions to keep it affordable for families to attend. They are: Orleans County STOP-DWI, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Sam’s Diner, Medina Railroad Museum, Muller Quaker Dairy, Avanti Pizza, Mark’s Pizzeria, Tops, The Village House, Ace Hardware, Upstate Milk, Crosby’s, Country Club Family Restaurant, Save A Lot, Subway, Tillman’s Historic Village Inn and Peebles.

The night was a huge success with almost 90 people in attendance and 20 games were given to families to start their own Family Game Night tradition.

Planning will begin soon for the 2016 event, keep your eyes open!

Pictured below: DSS Staff person provides face painting for all youth who attended FGN!



## STOP-DWI Education

The Orleans County STOP-DWI Education program began its journey in 2014. With the help of different community organizations and agencies in Orleans County, we were able to give a clear message to the community members on the stance pertaining to DWT’s and public safety. The aspects of the program do not only reach youth, but adults as well.

A slogan was developed for Orleans County which states, “You booze, You cruise, You lose. Don’t Drink and Drive.” To help get this message circulated, a display was created that moved around the county. The display visited all five Orleans County School Districts along with four oth-

er agencies in the county. The display also made an appearance at the Orleans County Family Game Night and at the Medina Scarecrow Festival. The display contains educational information and promotional materials for folks. We were excited to see all of the schools partake in the display to get the message out about positive decision making especially around prom and graduation season.

Partnering with the local school advisors was an important part of the STOP-DWI program. We reached out to all of the schools in the county to get information regarding numbers of students for Red Ribbon Week and prom and grad season. Once the numbers were obtained,

middle school students received red ribbon week gear and each senior at the schools were given a class pen with a STOP DWI message on it. The STOP DWI program also promoted an initiative for Prom and Grad season with a STOP-DWI Program Scholarship. This program allowed students and schools to apply for funding for safe & structured activities around prom and graduation season. Kendall High School utilized this program scholarship for their Senior Bash!

We also were able to get four Orleans County Schools to attend our Youth Education Event held annually at GCC for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The Youth Conference already has

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## Funded Programs

The following prevention and intervention program served 738 youth.

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

The following recreation programs served 1,754 youth.

ARC Camp Rainbow  
 Albion Youth Recreation  
 Holley Youth Recreation  
 Kendall Recreation  
 Medina Joint Youth Recreation

### Youth Board 2015

<b>Barb Flow</b> At Large	<b>Cindy Lonnen</b> Education Representative
<b>Marissa Hanlon</b> At Large	<b>Holli Nenni</b> Agency Representative
<b>Scott Green</b> At Large	<b>Carrie O'Neill</b> Agency Representative
<b>Cassandra Mohny</b> Youth Representative	<b>Ken Strickland</b> Law Enforcement Rep.
<b>Aliya Rayner</b> Youth Representative	<b>William Eick</b> Legislature Representative
<b>Cindy Troy</b> Agency Representative	<b>Fred Miller</b> Legislature Representative

### 2015 Orleans County Legislature

**David Callard, Chairman:** At Large-West  
**Lynne Johnson, Vice Chairman:** District 2  
**John DeFilipps:** At Large-East  
**Donald Allport:** At Large-Central  
**William Eick:** District 1  
**Fred Miller.:** District 3  
**Kenneth DeRoller:** District 4  
**Charles Nesbitt, Jr.:** Chief Administrative Officer

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

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grams, etc... The funding is distributed based on the needs of the community. There are the local strategies, decision making, local monitoring and assessment of need, promoting partnerships, evaluating, advocating and equitable distribution of funds based on youth population across the state. And we are hopeful that they will champion our system once again with the value we provide.

*"Wisdom is knowing what to do next; virtue is doing it."* David Star Jordan

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



## AmeriCorps Program

The Youth Bureau completed its 11<sup>th</sup> year as an AmeriCorps grantee in 2015. AmeriCorps is sponsored by 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-eight members served at a variety of host site agencies in 2015. This included 23 participants in our new Youth Opportunity AmeriCorps initiative. Members completed over 26,300 hours of service in the focus areas of healthy futures fitness and nutrition education, environmental stewardship and capacity building. 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, which can be used for college costs or to repay qualified student loans. Education awards earned in 2015 totaled over \$65,000. Members also engaged 307 volunteers in service to the community.

Members successfully implemented healthy futures fitness and nutrition education activities at a variety of youth programs. 618 youth participated in fitness sessions and 183 youth completed nutrition education sessions. Based upon the results of pre and post tests administered by members, 598 youth reported gains in knowledge regarding fitness strategies and 181 youth reported gains in knowledge of healthy nutrition strategies.

Three AmeriCorps members served at Orleans County Cooperative Extension. They conducted nutrition education activities with youth in Orleans County and assisted with other Cooperative Extension programming for youth, including the Orleans County Fair. Five AmeriCorps members serving at the Youth Bureau conducted summer activities with youth who attended the Lyndonville and Albion recreation programs. Activities included tennis instruction as well as fitness and nutrition education sessions.

Use the contact information on page 4 of this report to inquire 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](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

### 2015 AmeriCorps Host Sites

4-H Camp Bristol Hills	Genesee County Soil & Water
Batavia Youth Bureau	Genesee County Youth Bureau
Byron-Bergen Public Library	GO ART!
Camp Wyomoco	Gillam-Grant Community Center
City of Salamanca Youth Bureau	LeRoy Christian Community Project
Crossroads House	Olean Theatre Workshop
Dansville Community Center	Orleans Co Adult Learning Services
Fulton CYO	Orleans County Cooperative Ext
GCASA	St. Francis Cemetary
Genesee County Business Education Alliance	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Genesee County History	Wyoming County Business Education Council
Genesee County Parks	Wyoming County Cooperative Extension

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STOP-DWI as a lead sponsor in a neighboring county and a clear message about health and wellness. We look forward to having all five school districts participate in 2016!

The Orleans County STOP-DWI program also promoted an adult campaign. This took place around the Holiday Season of Christmas and New Year. A collaboration with local businesses sent out a clean and concise message to be safe during the holiday season. Ads were also placed in the newspaper and the Pennsaver reinforcing the message.

Keep your eyes open for us in 2016 and feel free to call us for STOP-DWI programming and information!

The photo to the right is from the Kendall Senior Bash 2015. STOP-DWI sponsored a portion of their event.



The photo above is a billboard that the Youth Bureau coordinated and implemented for the STOP-DWI program. The billboard was up in the fall on Route 31 .



## **Orleans County Youth Bureau**

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