

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
YOUTH BUREAU



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



**Celebrating 45 Years Serving the Children,
Youth, and Families of the Lancaster Community**

2015 Annual Report

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Youth Board

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Jill Santoro	Christopher J. Wild*

**denotes youth member*

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Karen Schanne, *Social Work Counselor (1/1-7/6)*
Jennifer Candino, *Youth Counselor*
Mindy Muench, *Youth Court Coordinator*
Nicole Gunsher, *Program Coordinator*
Micaela Lauer, *Social Worker (11/1-12/31)*
Andrew Gruber, *PT Program Coordinator*
Patrick McDonald, *PT Program Coordinator*
along with our Tutors & Summer Personnel

Anne Monin, *Family Support Center Coordinator*

It is fun to reflect on how far we have come over the years. It's sometimes hard to believe that I have been around for 37 of the 45 years of the Youth Bureau's existence.

It's also hard to believe that Karen Schanne retired effective July 6, 2015! I certainly enjoyed working with Karen during the 33 years she was with us.

Our dedicated staff continues to provide a wide variety of programming, serving all facets of the community.

Our collaborations with the Lancaster Central School District and Depew Public Schools, along with the Lancaster and Depew Police Departments, Lancaster Town Court, Lancaster-Depew Federal Credit Union, Lancaster Opera House, and the Twin District Fire Company, along with the Lancaster-Depew Substance Prevention Coalition continue to benefit the entire community. We are so lucky to have such a great community that supports our efforts.

I want to give special thanks to the Lancaster Youth Foundation for all of their fundraising efforts to benefit the youth of the Lancaster-Depew Community.

We also appreciate the financial support we have received from our Town Board, along with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services, NYS Office of Alcohol and Substance Abuse and the Erie County Youth Bureau.

We look forward to working with our new Town Supervisor, Johanna Coleman, and the Town Board in the coming years.

Everyone at the Lancaster Youth Bureau - our staff, boards, councils, and volunteers - all look forward to many more years of providing a wide array of worthwhile programs & services to the children, youth and families of the Lancaster-Depew Community.

John Trojanowsky
Executive Director



Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau 2015 Program Priorities

I. PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

1. Youth & Family Counseling
2. Social Work Counselor
3. Substance Education Program (Life Skills/Healthy Athletes)
4. Life Skills Program (Court & Probation Referrals)
5. Health & Wellness Day Program

II. EDUCATION

1. Tutorial Assistance - School Year
2. Play Group for Three Year Olds
3. Summer Reading & Math Skills Reinforcement Program
4. Summer Skills Building Program for Middle School Students
5. Summer Enrichment Programs
6. Junior Scrabble Club
7. Story Book Theater

III. FAMILY

1. Family Support Center
2. Parenting Education Classes & Workshops
3. Children's Clothes Closet
4. Holiday Help to Families in Need
5. School Supply Closet
6. Fall Festival

IV. CITIZENSHIP

1. Teen Volunteer Program
2. Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program
3. Youth Court Member Training
4. Building Blocks Days (Asset Awareness)
5. "Kids Helping Kids" Club
6. Summer Performing Arts Academy
7. Hall of Fame

V. COMMUNITY

1. Special Friends Mentoring Program
2. Opportunities for Success Mentoring Program
3. Group Mentoring Program
4. Monthly Family Gatherings (Game Nights) for Learning Disabled Children
5. Project Sticker Shock

VI. ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. Youth Employment (Work Referral Program)
2. Red Cross Baby-sitter Training
3. Career Exploration Internship Program

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Youth & Family Counseling Services

Youth participating in the counseling program are expected to show positive changes in attitude, communication, decision making, and self-discipline. Without participation in the Youth and Family Counseling Program, the youth would continue in a pattern of negative behaviors resulting in poor school performance and problematic relationships. The Youth Counselor offers support in health and well being. She helps to sort out feelings and problems and to set and help achieve goals through positively changing negative behaviors.

The expected outcomes include: youth and families involved in counseling will show insight into the direct correlation of how the choices they make have consequences; and they will develop positive interactions with other youth, family members, school personnel and within the community; and will also develop a better understanding of how to resolve conflict and discipline problems through better communication, self control, decision making and problem solving skills.

Jennifer Candino counseled **17 students** this past year spanning 149 counseling sessions.



Life Skills & Healthy Athlete Programs

Youth participating in the *Life Skills/Healthy Athlete Programs* are expected to make positive life-style choices, have a better understanding of themselves and be able to adequately develop appropriate coping mechanisms.

The *Life Skills Education Workshops* are part of the sentences youth court participants are involved in and include: Theft Deterrence Workshops, Vandalism Workshops, Counseling Sessions for Anger Management/Aggression Control, Conflict Resolution, Decision Making Skills, Dealing with Peer Pressure, Developing a Positive Self-identity, and Sexual Harassment, along with Substance Abuse Awareness and Education, and Smoking Education/Tobacco Education Programs.

Student athletes are referred to the *Healthy Athlete Program* by the Lancaster High School Athletic Department. The program aims to deter student athletes from engaging in health compromising behaviors through an educationally based program specifically designed to meet the individual needs of each student. Participation in a minimum of three sessions is required for each student. During the sessions students examine their own identities and role model status and learn about the many aspects of being healthy from nutrition and self-esteem to living a drug free life. Students take an in-depth look at the most current information regarding teens and drug use. A focus is placed on the negative social, physical and legal aspects of using alcohol and other drugs.

15 youth participated in the two above programs.



Special Friends Mentoring Program

Special Friends is designed to assist in the early detection and prevention of school adjustment problems. The program identifies children at risk for school difficulties early in their school careers and uses trained paraprofessionals to assist with school adjustment.

Children in grades K-6 are given the opportunity to express themselves through play activities. “Special Friends” mentors learn to engage children in weekly play activities. As the relationship progresses, the child may also act-out frustrations, fears, anxieties, anger or other emotions that may create stress and interfere with concentration on school tasks. The “Special Friend” can offer support and encouragement to assist the child in experiencing success in areas such as coping skills, and practicing social behaviors.

Supervision Sessions are held on a bi-weekly basis, at which time the site supervisors (school psychologists and social workers) & program coordinator meet with the mentors (college psychology/social work interns and volunteers) individually to review the program and each child’s progress and goals in the program.

Annual conferences are held in February to go over each child’s progress with the child’s parents, the child’s teacher, the program coordinator, site supervisors and mentors.

Over the past calendar year **11 mentors have assisted 67 Lancaster School District Students.**

Mentoring Program Participants:



Opportunities for Success Mentoring Program

Through this program, students in 7th and 8th grade are paired with a trained mentor and meet periodically in individual and group settings.

The goal of the program is to help students become more involved in school related activities and become more academically successful, preventing them from dropping out of school.

Also, the students have the opportunity to explore future career opportunities with their mentors.

First and foremost, the mentor builds a trusting and caring relationship with each student in the program. As the relationship progresses, students will be introduced to a variety of activities to build developmental assets. The mentors serve as consistent and positive role models to lend support and encouragement to the students.

Over the past calendar year **6 mentors have assisted 35 Lancaster School District Students.**

Students who participate in the Opportunities for Success in-school mentoring program are invited to attend weekly group activities as well as monthly field trips. The mentors who meet with the students during the school day also consistently attend these groups activities as well as the Youth Bureau Program Coordinator, Family Support Center Coordinator and the Student Resource Officer from Lancaster Middle School.

These group activities help the students with socialization and the chance to connect with adults as well as their peers in a group setting.

There were **10 youth** involved in these group activities.

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Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program

Crimes/Infractions:

Petit Larceny	5
Theft	1
Criminal Mischief	1
Criminal Trespass	3
Aggravated Harassment	1
Harassment	2
Unlawful Possession of Marijuana	5
ABC Law—Underage Drinking	2
Theft and Possession of Marijuana	1
Intoxication at a School Function	1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in School	1

Referrals Sources:

Lancaster Police Department	5
Depew Police Department	3
Lancaster Police/Lancaster High School	4
Lancaster Police/Lancaster Middle School	1
Depew High School	3
Lancaster Town Court	1
Erie County Probation	3
Depew Court	2
Cheektowaga Drug Court	2

Young people involved in the Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program are expected to make more thoughtful and responsible decisions regarding their actions. The program accepts referrals for first time offenders from municipal police departments and courts, probation, and schools throughout the year.

A Youth Court hearing is scheduled in order to sentence the youth to appropriate consequences for their offenses. Community service activities are planned monthly for the community service clients. Once the client has fulfilled their Youth Court sentence, a closing letter is sent back to the original referral agency. Youth Court Members act as judge, bailiff, prosecutor, defense attorney, and jury members. Sentences offered in Youth Court provide the offender with realistic and rehabilitative consequences such as community service, letter of apology, life skills education and counseling workshops. **16 youth** were referred to Youth Court and **8 youth** were referred to the Community Sanctions part of the program.

Youth Court Training:

Members of Youth Court consist of high school students who have successfully completed a six week training program. Areas of instruction include an overview of the criminal justice system, NYS Penal Law, sentencing issues, & consequences of crime, etc.

The training program also includes professional guest speakers and concludes with mock hearings to prepare members for participation in Youth Court proceedings.

There are a total of **20 active members**, that includes **9 new members** that went through the 2015 Youth Court



Health and Wellness Program

Lancaster and Depew Middle School students attended one of several days where they received information to increase their knowledge of HIV/AIDS, STD's and teen pregnancy/relationship issues.

The Health & Wellness Day Program strives to educate and provide young people with accurate information so they can make informed and responsible decisions.

Program objectives include: promoting sexual abstinence as the best choice young people can make at this time in their lives, educating students about the transmission, symptoms, and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases, having students explore hypothetical dating and relationship situations, their feelings, and the harsh realities of intended/unintended teen pregnancy, and to enhance self-esteem, build communication and decision making skills, and prepare students so they can make informed, healthy lifestyle choices.

Health & Wellness Days were held for Lancaster Middle School & Depew Middle School Students. There were **596 student participants** this past year, while **52 peer facilitators** took part in the program.



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Teen Volunteer Program

The goals of the Teen Volunteer Program are to provide volunteer opportunities for youth, in order that they may become caring, responsible, healthy and contributing members of the community, and to provide local agencies and organizations with responsible, caring and able young people who are willing to dedicate their time and energy to make a positive difference in the community through service activities.

Young people involved in the Teen Volunteer Program become more caring in their attitudes, more responsible, and will demonstrate a healthier outlook on life, while becoming contributing members of the community. Organizations receiving assistance from our volunteers include:

- Lancaster Opera House
- Buffalo Museum of Science
- St. Vincent DePaul Society Soup Kitchen
- St. Elizabeth's Home , Terrace View, Hospice
- Linwood Health Care
- Lancaster Library, Lancaster YMCA
- Food Bank of WNY
- Kids Escaping Drugs, CHC Learning Center
- Child Care for school meetings
- Lancaster Youth Bureau's Children's Clothes Closet, School Supply Closet, Summer Performing Arts Academy & Safe Summer Programs, Child Care for Common Sense Parenting Workshops, Junior Spelling Bee
- Lancaster Youth Foundation's Trivia Night



The total number of volunteer activities that were held this year numbered 415, while some 314 volunteers logged 3,386.5 volunteer hours.



Building Blocks Days

Sixth Grade students from William St. School were engaged in activities designed to introduce, teach and build the *40 Developmental Assets identified by The Search Institute* as building blocks kids need within themselves and around them to become **healthy, caring and responsible** young adults. Simply put, the more assets a young person has the better equipped they will be to deal with life's challenges and the greater likelihood of their having a successful future.

Students were able to identify important features of the Developmental Asset Framework and have an understanding of the assets dealing with positive peer influences, caring and self-esteem.

Building Blocks Day Program activities included:

Explanation of Asset Framework - Tower Building & Asset Auction

Asset #15 - Positive Peer Influence - Bully Proof Yourself & Asset Jeopardy

Asset #26 - Caring - Understanding Those in Need, Compassionate Craft Project

Asset #38 - Self-Esteem - Fishing for Compliments & Katie's Story

Asset #35 - Resistance Skills - Resisting Peer Pressure

Asset #33- Interpersonal Competence - Being in Someone else's Shoes



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Social Work Counselor Programs

Individual and Group Counseling (Jan. - June)

As a result of youth being involved with the Social Work Counselor, they are expected to improve their relationships with parents and school personnel and make positive, responsible decisions. Karen Schanne was assigned to work with Town of Lancaster youth and their families, and through a contract with the Lancaster Central Schools, students from the Court St. Elem. School and Lancaster High School. The young people Karen worked with are expected to become more aware of their behavior and to accept the consequences for their actions, with the goal of improving their behavior, improving relationships within their families, schools and community. Counseling is done individually and in small groups.

Karen individually counseled **41 students** during the past year, and also was involved in facilitating social skills, banana splits, and friendship groups at Court St. School, & job skills groups at LHS involving a total of **27 students**. She conducted a total of 229 individual and group counseling sessions.

Karen also coordinated the Children's Clothes Closet, School Supply Closet and Holiday Distributions. Before her retirement. Karen was a member of the Lancaster High School, & Court St. School Response to Intervention Teams, and the Family Support Center Collaboration Core Team. She was also a site supervisor for the Special Friends Program at Court St. Elem. School.

Micaela Lauer was hired in the fall to replace Karen, as a School Social Worker for the Lancaster School District, sharing half of her time with the Youth Bureau as our Social Worker.

Kids Helping Kids Club (Jan. - June)

Karen supervised **87 2nd & 3rd grade students** who planned various school/community projects. The club fostered leadership skills, cooperation & team building skills. Several parents also assisted in this program. The club met 2-3 times per month for one hour after school throughout the school year. Kids Helping Kids Club promoted civic responsibility and involvement in positive activities that help build character. Members were provided with opportunities to develop and organize projects that benefit the community. School wide projects build assets by promoting school pride, positive behavior and caring for others.



Social Work Counselor Programs

Junior Scrabble Club (Jan. - June)

Karen supervised first grade students at Court School in order to help improve language and social skills. **35 students** participated in the club. The club is educational, builds team work, and is a fun way to make new friends. During the 2014-2015 school year three separate 5 week sessions were offered. Students utilize their vocabulary words for each game. Each time a team completes their word they write it into their vocabulary journal. Each week the students are on a different team.



Game Nights

The Lancaster Youth Bureau, along with the Lancaster School District, offered a workshop to parents who have children with Aspergers and/or Pervasive Development Disorder. After the workshop, a group of parent volunteers along with a representative from the Youth Bureau and School District developed a program called Game Nights for children on the Autism Spectrum.

It is held once a month at the Youth Bureau to provide a stress-free environment to play games and interact with other children who have similar needs. The program allows their parents to meet other parents and the adults assist with helping the children practice their social skills and establish new friendships. The children enjoy playing board games, video games, bingo, arts and crafts and watch movies together.

22 students attended at least one game night during the year.



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Social Work Counselor Programs

School Supply Closet

The School Supply Closet exists to provide assistance to families in financial need so that all children are prepared with supplies and are ready to learn. School supplies are provided at no charge to Lancaster School District families who are eligible for the free lunch program. Materials and donations have been received through the generosity of area merchants, businesses, civic organizations, community residents and Lancaster School District personnel, PTO's and Student Organizations.

206 families utilized the school supply closet, and of those families, 401 children were helped.



Children's Clothes Closet

Families Using Closet - 111

Children in Families - 253

Total Visits to Closet - 292

Free clothing enables families to ensure that their children have appropriately fitting and seasonal clothing which they could not afford otherwise due to economic conditions. The Children's Clothes Closet is available year round for local families in need to provide them with free used clothing for their children. The Youth Bureau accepts donations of infant to high school age clothes primarily from community residents to help sustain it. Clothing drives by schools, and local Scout troops also help to stock the clothes closet. Volunteers Deb & Peter Jalovick maintain the Clothes Closet keeping it organized and well stocked.



Social Work Counselor Programs

Holiday Distributions to Families in Need

	Families Receiving Assistance	Children in Families
Christmas	145	275
Thanksgiving	69	123
Easter	52	101

“DAY OF GIVING” in Coordination with the News Neediest Fund

Families were given food, new toys, gift certificates, cookies, hats and gloves, wreaths and many received a tree with decorations. Donations from the News Neediest Fund, local businesses, schools, churches, community groups and residents help to insure the success of this program. Students and faculty from Lancaster High School, Lancaster Middle School, & William Street School along with the Youth Bureau’s teen volunteers participated with the wrapping of gifts, sorting food and assisted the recipients as they arrived to pick up their donations.

Easter Distribution - The Easter food baskets were made possible by donations that were provided by Lancaster High School Math Honor Society and community residents. The Youth Bureau’s teen volunteers assembled the *family food baskets and Easter baskets filled with chocolate, treats and toys.*

Thanksgiving Distribution - Food and turkey donations were received from employees from William St. School Good Citizens Club, Lancaster Middle School Student Council, and local citizens. Students from Lancaster Middle School assembled the *family food baskets.*



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Child and Babysitting Safety

Youth participating in the This Western New York Emergency Medical Institute course were taught the skills necessary to care for young children. This program is designed for youth ages 11 and up. Course highlights include first aid, safety and injury prevention, care giving, leadership skills, and constructive play time activities. Workshops were held during February, April, July and August involving a total of **109 participants** (93 females, 16 males).

Youth Employment Program

This program recruits youth who are seeking employment. It also provides youth with pre-employment skills such as interviewing skills and resume writing, filling out applications and forms, through employment counseling. The program also recruits employers and serves as a referral source for both employers and youth, especially for odd jobs such as; baby-sitting, yard work, etc. The program is free to all participants. This year **60 youth** participated in the program with requests totaling 65 odd jobs, part time work, babysitting, etc.



Three-Year Old Playgroup

The Three Year Old Play Group is a structured program that provides preschool age children with the opportunity to develop and increase their social skills, enhance verbal and motor skills, improve listening skills and foster imagination and creativity in a nurturing environment.

Children participating in the play groups show an increase in social abilities, improved listening skills, and enhanced verbal and motor skills.

There were four sessions held this year, which included for the second time, a summer session. This session included three classes. The winter, spring, summer and fall sessions consisted of ten hourly classes. Each class consisted of open play, arts and crafts, circle time, group play, story time and snack time. The program focuses on teaching social skills such as taking turns and being cooperative. This year **17 three-year olds** took part in the program.



Summer Activities



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Family Support Center

Due to a lack of knowledge regarding services that are available to families having concerns with their child, families will fail to seek the necessary services. As a result of the Family Support Center's involvement and assessment of a family, their needs can be identified and will result in the linkage to the appropriate service providers. Many of these families involved with the Family Support Center, will follow through and receive the necessary services, which helps the family address the issues as a family to help the child.

When a concern for a child has been identified, families are referred to Anne Monin, the Family Support Center Coordinator, from various school support staff, psychologists, social workers, school counselors, school administrators, along with self-referrals from parents and referrals from community agencies.

After receiving referrals for **84** families, there were **69** intake sessions, with **69** follow throughs during January through June of the 2014-2015 school year, and referrals for **73** families, **65** intake sessions, with **65** follow throughs during the first part of the 2015-2016 school year. Assessments were completed, and each family was provided linkage to the appropriate service providers.

Common Sense Parenting

Through their participation in the *Common Sense Parenting Program*, parents improve their ability to effectively deal with their children's behaviors and have better communication skills. The program focuses on the every day issues of being a parent, and addresses topics like: preventing misbehaviors, encouraging positive behaviors, teaching children self-control, and handling emotional situations. Childcare is provided free of charge to families. The six week workshop series of interactive sessions were facilitated by Mr. Jan Krull.

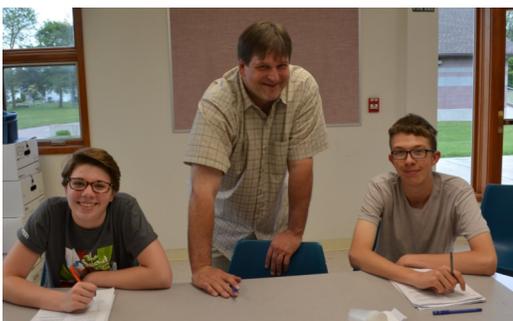


This past fall, **18 parents (with 24 children)** took part in the Common Sense Parenting Workshop.

School Year Tutorial Program & Exam Prep Sessions

Students participating in the Tutorial program showed improvement in at least three of the following areas: report card marks, test grades, homework assignments, work habits and attitudes towards school. The after school tutorial program offered reading and math tutoring on the elementary, middle and high school levels to **82 students**.

63 students in 4th, 5th & 6th grade from the William St. School also received reading and math tutorial assistance during the school year.



Students participating in the Special Exam Prep Session were better prepared to take the major Regents Exams in Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2/Trigonometry, Biology, Earth Science and Chemistry.

57 students participated in the exam prep session in June.

Junior POLICE Academy

Have you ever wanted to learn about the Justice System? Students were able to hone their detective skills, learn about what the local authorities are doing to fight the war on drugs & gangs, learn how real world forensics work, learn about the federal side of law enforcement, learn about the SWAT team, along with having a “Physical Fitness” day learning about the training that officers have to do to pass the academy. They also had a tour of the Lancaster Police Station and jail. This program is presented in collaboration with the Lancaster Police Department.. **13 youth** participated in the Police Academy.



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Safe Summer Classes and Field Trips

Safe Summer Reading and Math Skills Reinforcement Classes

Students participating in the Reading & Math Skills Reinforcement Program helped maintain their basic reading and/or math skills, which helped them to meet with success when they return to school in September.

- 68 - students attended Math Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 79 - students attended Reading Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 8 - students attended the Skills Building Program for Middle School Students

Safe Summer Enrichment Classes, Workshops & Field Trips

Students had the opportunity to participate in enrichment classes or activities that increased their knowledge about specific subjects or topics.

Students took part in the following areas:

- 98 - students attended Studio in Art Classes
 - 63 - students attended the Child & Babysitting Safety Classes
 - 7 - students attended the CPR/AED Training
 - 22 - students attended the “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” Class
 - 25 - students attended the “Kid’s Health & Fitness Fun” Classes
 - 12 - students attended the “Fitness Fun for Preschoolers” Classes
 - 8 - students attended the “Creative Writing” Classes
 - 9 - students attended the Survivor U Finance Class
 - 9 - students attended the *Rock n Roll Music Party* Workshop
 - 11 - students attended the *Music from Around the World* Workshop
 - 19 - students attended the *Nature in Our Neighborhoods* Workshop
 - 17 - students attended the *Forensic Science* Workshop
 - 17 - students attended the High & Low Ropes Field Trip
 - 17 - students attended the Horseback Riding Field Trip
 - 12 - students attended the Hidden Valley Animal Adventure Field Trip
 - 12 - students attended the Junior FIRE Academy
 - 13 - students attended the Junior POLICE Academy
- 311 - students were registered for the above programs (518 duplicate count)
- 131- students participated in the Summer Performing Arts Academy



Safe Summer Programs



Summer Performing Arts Academy

The Nifty Fifties



The Nifty Fifties was performed on July 29th & 30th at the Lancaster Opera House with **81** youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.

*The Nifty Fifties - A Musical Comedy Tribute to the 1950's...*The story goes like this: Gracie Stanley has gotten herself in hot water by promising to deliver her distant cousin, rock star Ziggy Springer, for the high school Hippity Hop at Louise's Luncheonette. Ziggy's manager doesn't want his client performing anywhere without pay, so Gracie and her friends have to produce a double - and fast! They use a singing soda jerk and plan to have him perform in the dark! It won't be easy for Gracie to get away with this one with her rival, snooty Muffin Mansfield, waiting for her to flop. Meanwhile, Louise has her own problems. The building's owner forbids the dance and plans to turn the eatery into a dry cleaner. With all of this happening, Gracie's brother is living in terror because he's smashed up a Harley belonging to Sinbad Gallucci, a bad dude. Everything turns out well in the end!

Summer Performing Arts Academy

The Music Man

The Music Man was performed on August 6th, 7th, & 8th, at the Depew High School with 49 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.

Meredith Willson's *The Music Man* plot concerns con man Harold Hill, who poses as a boys' band organizer and leader and sells band instruments and uniforms to the naïve Iowa townsfolk, promising to train the members of the new band. But Harold is no musician and plans to skip town without giving any music lessons. Prim librarian and piano teacher Marian sees through him, but when Harold helps her younger brother overcome his lisp and social awkwardness, Marian begins to fall in love. Harold risks being caught to win her.



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Summer Enrichment Academies

Junior FINANCE Academy

Students in the program participated in a cause and effect interactive money game where students were asked to make financial choices that will led to different paths. For instance, a student might have to decide whether he should save the allowance he has earned this week or spend it on a new video game that just came out. Students were able to see the impact of their financial behavior on their health, wealth and overall well being. The game was intended to teach children how to make financial choices that will be most beneficial to them. The ultimate survivor won a prize. Classes were instructed by staff from the Lancaster-Depew Federal Credit Union, assisted by students from the LHS Academy of Finance.



Summer Enrichment Academies

Junior FIRE Academy

Our Academy participants know that the role of a fire department is to save lives and protect property. They were given the opportunity to learn the basics that are needed to become part of this tradition - The basic understanding of fire, proper use of fire extinguishers, use of the fire hoses, and fire safety/prevention, how a fire truck works and what equipment is in an Engine, type of equipment that fire fighters wear and how it protects them. They were also trained in basic First Aid and what equipment is needed to assist friends and family.

The program also taught basic understanding of fire and how to control its effect and to keep you safe. It is also designed to show what to do to help family and friends during an emergency. This program is presented in collaboration with the Twin District Fire Company.



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2015 Hall of Fame

The following youth are honored for their noted achievements in personal growth and service to the people of our community.

***Tyler Ball
Jacob Bleasdale
Kristen Bull
Gabriella Castricone
Kendra Ciezki
Jacob Doyle
Claire Emerson
Daniel Emerson
Sarah Gaczewski
Evan Helenbrook
Colton Johnson***

***Hanna Josker
Sara Keller
Emily Law
Sean Loftus
Kendall Owczarzak
Jamie Paelak
Amanda Pepe
Jordan Smith
Emma Turcotte
Kaitlyn Tytko
Christopher Wild***



The following adults were honored for their dedicated service to the youth and families of our community.

***Rev. Tom LeBeau
Rev. Paul Steller***

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Lancaster Youth Foundation

The Lancaster Youth Foundation, Inc. (LYF) is a 501c3 public charity organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York and is located in the Town of Lancaster, NY. The purpose of the Foundation is to help raise funds to support programs and activities which will provide opportunities for youth development and delinquency prevention. These funds will be used to enhance programs provided through the Lancaster Youth Bureau as well as other youth service agencies within the Town of Lancaster.

The Foundation co-sponsored the Second Annual Trivia Night, along with Letters from Santa and Portraits with Santa to help raise funds for the grant program.

During 2015 the Foundation provided grants to various school groups and organizations to encourage creative approaches to strengthening developmental assets among the youth in the Lancaster Community.

The recipients of this year's grant program included: Lancaster Schools - Developmental Assets, Lancaster Family Support Center - Common Sense Parenting, Lancaster Opera House - Musical Workshop, Lancaster Police Department - Teen Mentoring Program, Lancaster-Depew Substance Abuse Coalition - Healthy Choices = Healthy Life, Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament - STREAM Academy, Plymouth Crossroads - Youth Wilderness Project, St. Mary's Elem. School - Ropes Adventure/Leadership Building Program, Lancaster Youth Bureau - NYS Youth Leadership Forum, Christmas "Day of Giving" & Mentoring Programs.

All non-profit youth service groups and agencies are invited to apply for grants each spring. The current members (as of July 1st) of the Youth Foundation Board of Directors include: Karan Hale Durkin, Chair; Colleen Malchow, Vice-Chair; Treasurer, Dan Palumbo; Secretary, John Trojanowsky; Bonnie Marlor, Karen Overhoff, Sharleen Gummo Scholz, Patrick Uhteg.



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TRIVIA NIGHT

The Second Annual Trivia Night, co-sponsored with the Lancaster Youth Foundation, took place on March 26th at St. Mary's High School. Nineteen teams competed for the grand prize, with the Depew Teachers Organization-Team #2 consisting of George Bushey, Paul Endres, Paul Parinello, and Michael Parks. Matt Walter served as Masters of Ceremony, with Youth Bureau staff members Patrick McDonald, Mindy Muench & Nicole Gunsher tallying the results throughout the evening.



Project Sticker Shock

The Lancaster Youth Bureau staff and the Teen Volunteers placed stickers on alcoholic beverages in the three local TOPS stores in Lancaster during prom/graduation season, along with holiday season. The stickers read: Know the Law - PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING - It is illegal for any persons 21 and older to purchase or provide alcohol to minors! Fines are up to \$1,000 or 1 year in jail!



WNY Youth Leadership Forum

On September 29th, John Trojanowsky brought Haley Brunstad, Ben Mazur, Kaitlyn Schnitzer, and Hannah Schurkus to participate in the WNY Assoc. of Youth Bureaus Youth Leadership Forum at the Millenium Hotel Buffalo.



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Junior Spelling Bee



Karen Schanne's Retirement

On Monday, July 6th, Karen Schanne walked out of the Youth Bureau for the last time after 33 years of dedicated service to the Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau as our Social Work Counselor.



Our Year in Review...



2015 Annual Report

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