

Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau 2016 Annual Report



**Celebrating 46 Years Serving
the Children, Youth, and Families of the
Lancaster-Depew Community**



2016 Annual Report

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**denotes youth member*

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Jennifer Candino, Youth Counselor
Mindy Muench, Youth Court Coordinator
Nicole Gunsher, Program Coordinator
Micaela Lauer, Social Worker
Andrew Gruber, PT Program Coord. (1-9/16)
Jacob Doyle, PT Program Leader (11-12/16)
Shannon Young, PT Program Leader (11-12/16)
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 38 of the 46 years of the Youth Bureau's existence.

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

Our collaborations with the Lancaster & Depew School Districts, along with the Lancaster & Depew Police Departments, Lancaster Town Court, Lancaster-Depew Federal Credit Union, Lancaster

Opera House, and the Twin District Fire Company 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 Bureau, and the entire 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 have enjoyed working with our new Town Supervisor, Johanna Coleman, and the Town Board during this past year.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Nicole Gunsher for her recognition as a finalist for Internship Supervisor of the Year by Buffalo State College for her outstanding supervision of undergraduate student interns in our Special Friends and Opportunities for Success Mentoring Programs.

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
2016 Program Priorities**

I. CITIZENSHIP / CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

1. Teen Volunteer Program
2. Health & Wellness Program
3. Building Blocks Days (Asset Awareness)
4. Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program
5. Life Skills Program (Court & Probation Referrals)
6. Youth Court Member Training
7. Hall of Fame

II. COMMUNITY

1. Special Friends Mentoring Program
2. Opportunities for Success Mentoring Program
3. Group Mentoring Program
4. Children's Clothes Closet
5. "Day of Giving" and Holiday Help to Families in Need
6. School Supply Closet
7. Project Sticker Shock
8. Fall Festival

III. PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

1. Youth & Family Counseling (*Also fits under Family*)
2. Social Worker (*Also fits under Family*)
3. Substance Education Program (Life Skills/Healthy Athletes)
4. Monthly Family Gatherings (Game Nights) for Learning Disabled Children

IV. 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

V. FAMILY

1. Family Support Center
2. Parenting Education Classes & Workshops

VI. ECONOMIC SECURITY

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

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Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program

Crimes/Infractions:

Petit Larceny	2
Petty Larceny & Criminal Mischief	1
Assault 3rd Degree	2
Falsely Reporting a Crime	1
Criminal Trespass	1
Aggravated Harassment	1
Harassment	1
Unlawful Possession of Marijuana	1
Possession of Marijuana & Being Under the Influence at School	1
Driving without a License, Leaving Scene Of an Accident, Property Damage	1
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle by an Unlicensed Driver	1
Unreported	1

Referrals Sources:

Lancaster Police Department	2
Depew Police Department	4
Lancaster Police/Lancaster High School	1
Lancaster Police/Lancaster Middle School	1
Depew High School	2
Lancaster Town Court	1
Lancaster Village Court	1
Orchard Park Court	1
Town of Boston Court	1

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. **9 youth** were referred to Youth Court and **5 youth** were referred to the Community Sanctions part of the program., for a total of 21 open cases.

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 mock hearings to prepare members for participation in Youth Court proceedings. There are a total of **20 active members**, that includes **5 new members** that went through the 2016 Youth Court training.



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 **564 student participants** this past year, while **44 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
- Hull House & Farmstead
- Lancaster Library
- 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,
- Lancaster Youth Foundation's Trivia Night & Elvis Concert



The total number of volunteer activities that were held this year numbered 406, while some 495 volunteers logged 3,766.5 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

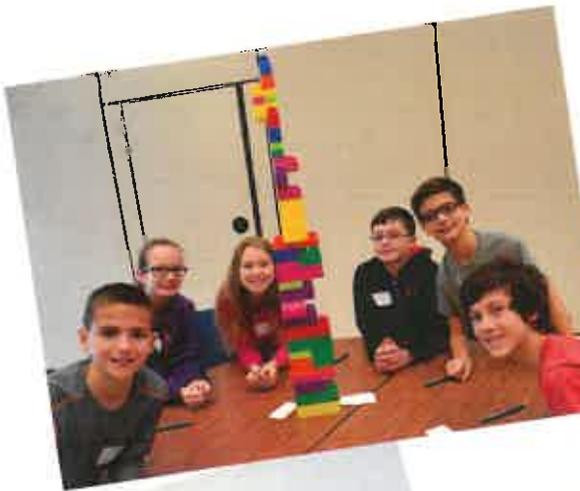
Asset #26 - Caring - Understanding Those in Need, Compassionate Craft Project

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

A total of 443 youth participated in the program.



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2016 Hall of Fame

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

*Haley Brunstad
Daniel Buscaglia
Emily Cassel
Carly Chomen
Joelle Ciancesa
Brian Cornell
Daniel Cress
Salvatore Giangreco-Marotta
Andrew Helenbrook
Walter "Cal" Hoag*

*Angel Krempa
Bridget O'Leary
Joseph Paolini
David Pieta
Dana Porzio
Kayla Stuber
Taylor Szczepanskiewicz
Patrick Uhteg, Jr.
Molly Wittig
Madeline Wnuk*



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

*Karen Overhoff
Karen Schanne*

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 **12 mentors have assisted 70 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 29 Lancaster School District Students.**

Group Mentoring Program

The goal of the this mentoring program is to promote caring relationships for you who are in need of guidance, support and nurturing and would benefit from a positive connection with an adult and peers. The program offers youth structured weekly activities in an encouraging environment.

The children in the program come from difficult/disadvantaged circumstances and that without this program, they would most likely not be involved in any outside positive or constructive activities.

There are currently **10 girls** from the Lancaster and Depew School Districts involved in the program.

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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.

78 families utilized the school supply closet, and of those families, 175 children were helped.



Children's Clothes Closet

Families Using Closet - 170

Children in Families - 404

Total Visits to Closet - 185

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 groups also help to stock the clothes closet. Volunteers Deb Jalovick & Charlie Papke maintain the Clothes Closet keeping it organized and well stocked.



Holiday Distributions to Families in Need

	Families Receiving Assistance	Children in Families
Christmas	143	301
Thanksgiving	74	147
Easter	55	101

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

Families were given food, new toys, gift certificates, cookies, hats and gloves, 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.*

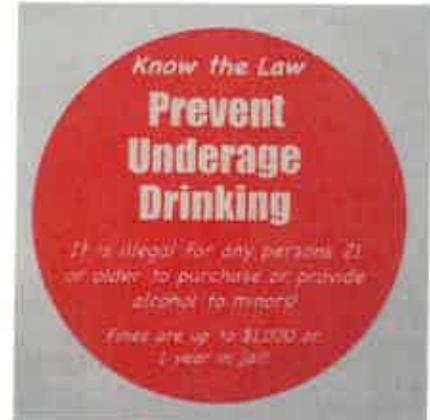
Thanksgiving Distribution - Food and turkey donations were received from employees from William St. School Good Citizens Club, Lancaster Middle School Student Council, and local citizens. Students from Lancaster Middle School and the Depew Saints Hockey Team assembled the *family food baskets.*



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Project Sticker Shock

The Lancaster Youth Bureau staff, Teen Volunteers and the Depew High School SADD Chapter 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!



Albany and WNY Youth Leadership Forums

On February 9th & 10th, John Trojanowsky brought Daniel Buscaglia, Alexander Lower, Marissa Maggiore and Korissa Gozdziaik to Albany, NY to participate in the NYS Assoc. of Youth Bureaus Annual Youth Leadership Forum. Students participated in goal setting, resiliency and community involvement workshops, and met with Senator Patrick Gallivan to discuss the importance of Youth Bureaus.

On November 17th, John Trojanowsky brought Peyton Buleara, Jake Lis and Andrea Tiboni to the WNY Assoc. of Youth Bureaus Youth Leadership Forum at the Millenium Hotel Buffalo. Dan Buscaglia made a excellent presentation during the Forum on the importance of leadership and his involvement with the Lancaster Youth Bureau.



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 **14 students** this past year spanning 101 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.

11 youth participated in the two above programs.



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Social Worker

Community and Social Work Programs

In an effort to improve the social, emotional well being of students and support the parents of the Lancaster Community, Micaela Lauer is assigned by contract, to both the Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau as well as the Lancaster Central School District. During the 2015-2016 school year, Micaela was assigned to both John A. Sciole Elementary and Court St. Elementary Schools. For the current 2016-2017 school year, Micaela is assigned to Como Park Elementary School. Micaela's social work services within the schools incorporates individual, group and family work as well as staff and faculty support. Through her work, she seeks to improve students' ability to improve relationships within their families, school and community, while managing their emotions and behaviors to meet their highest potential both inside and outside the classroom.

In addition to direct social work services, Micaela serves on the district-wide Bullyproof Partnership committee, is an advisor to the Leaders of Tomorrow at Como Park School, is a member of the Response to Intervention Team, a member of the Como Park School Crisis Intervention Team, and is a site supervisor to the Special Friends Mentoring Program. Micaela also serves as a regional representative for the New York State Social Workers Association.

Through the year at the Youth Bureau, Micaela coordinates the Game Night Program, the Children's Clothes Closet, and the Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas Distributions for families in need. In addition Micaela participated in the Trivia Night and Fall Festival,, along with being a co-facilitator for the Building Blocks Days Program for sixth grade students from the William St. Elementary School.

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.

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

Junior Scrabble Club

Jennifer Candino along with Karen Overhoff supervised 31 first grade students during the spring of 2016 in order to help improve their language and social skills. The club is educational, builds team work, and is a fun way to make new friends. Two five week sessions were offered during this after school program. 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.



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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 **22 three-year olds** took part in the program.



A Few Highlights from 2016



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.. 20 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.

- 92 - students attended Math Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 66 - students attended Reading Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 18 - 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:

- 94 - students attended Studio in Art Classes
- 57 - students attended the Child & Babysitting Safety Classes
- 10 - students attended the CPR/AED Training
- 13 - students attended the "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" Classes
- 18 - students attended the "Kid's Health & Fitness Fun" Classes
- 13 - students attended the "Fitness Fun for Pre-school" Classes
- 16 - students attended the "Creative Writing" Class
- 6 - students attended the "Cursive Writing" Class
- 10 - students attended the Finance Class
- 28 - students attended the Fairies and Fairy Gardens Workshop
- 17 - students attended the Music from Around the World Workshop
- 9 - students attended the Nature in Our Neighborhoods Workshop
- 11 - students attended the Forensic Science Workshop
- 13 - students attended the Young Engineers – LEGO Challenge
- 19 - students attended the High and Low Ropes Course Field Trip
- 18 - students attended the Horseback Riding Field Trip
- 8 - students attended the Arcade and Attica Railroad Field Trip
- 10 - students attended the Pillowcase Project
- 20 - students attended the Junior POLICE Academy
- 9 - students attended the Junior FIRE Academy
- 329 - students were registered for the above programs (557 duplicate count)
- 130 - students participated in the Summer Performing Arts Academy



Safe Summer Programs



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Summer Performing Arts Academy

Flapper! A Madcap Musical Comedy Tribute to the 1920's

Flapper! was performed on July 27th & 28th at the Lancaster Opera House with 73 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.



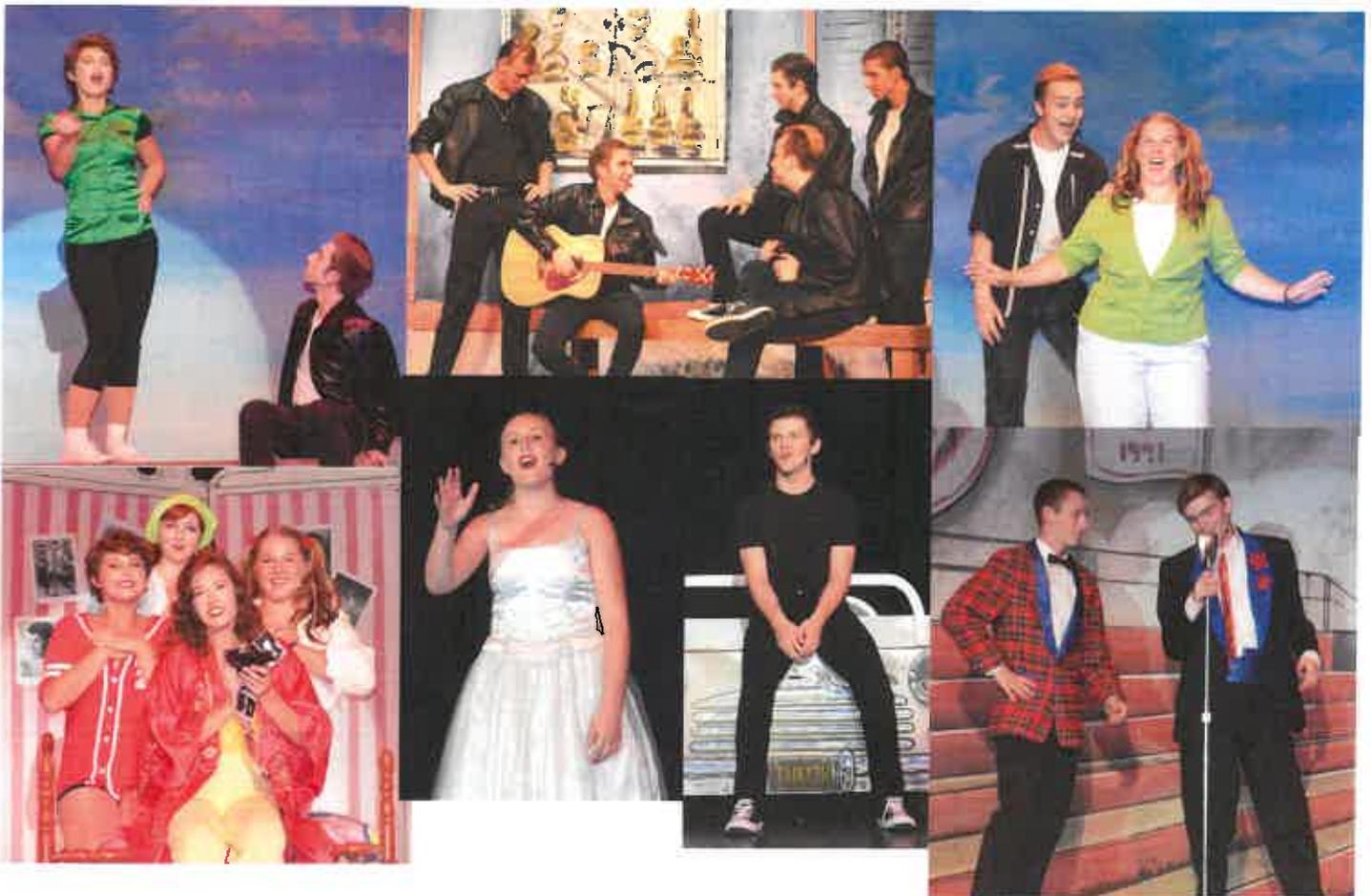
Summer Performing Arts Academy

GREASE

GREASE was performed on August 11th, 12th, & 13th, at Depew High School with 58 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.

Who would of thought so many, many, many years ago when I was in high school and the LYB production of the BOYFRIEND that it would be the start of my professional career in the arts—let alone who would have thought that all these many years later I would have the honor to return to the LYB as a director!? Well it has indeed happened! Thank you to John, Lynn and Rob for bringing me on to their team! GREASE is one of those shows—so many of us know it and love it! It brings back the first time we saw the movie or maybe memories of our own experiences in high school. We visit all too familiar themes of young love, jealousy, insecurity but most importantly FRIENDSHIP. People have argued over the recent years that GREASE can sometimes come off as –you need to CHANGE to be liked—I feel the story is more about finding yourself and gaining confidence to be who you are while finding a group of friends who will always be there for you. During the rehearsal process it is wonderful to watch the students have so much fun while finding new friendships along the way—they gain their own self confidence as each day goes by --- learning a new dance or singing the perfect note or just plain working TOGETHER on a common goal---to put on the best production possible. It is a thrill to be here working with all these talented and dedicated students AND the phenomenal adult production staff and crew. I have always believed that theatre is the ultimate team sport that working “together” is the ONLY way to put on a successful production. From the leads to the ensemble to the stage crew to the ushers to the audience—without each other there is NO show.

We have all worked diligently on the production and now that YOU the audience are here ---we have the final piece of the puzzle—as we say in GREASE—*We Go Together!* Thank you for supporting these wonderful young adults and allowing me to come back and relive some of my own fondest high school memories with the LANCASTER YOUTH BUREAU.—Lisa Ludwig



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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 Performing Arts Academy



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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School Year Tutorial Program & Exam Prep

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**.

23 students in 4th, 5th & 6th grade from the William St. School also received 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. **59 students** participated in the exam prep session in June.



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 90 families, there were 75 intake sessions, with 58 follow throughs during January through June of the 2015-2016 school year, and referrals for 735 families, 52 intake sessions, with 51 follow throughs during the first part of the 2016-2017 school year. Assessments were completed, and each family was provided linkage to the appropriate service providers.

Referrals were made to twenty-eight agencies, counseling centers or services.

Summer Art Show



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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 **84 participants** (73 females, 11 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 **34 youth** participated in the program with requests totaling 50 odd jobs, part time work, babysitting, etc.



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 Third Annual Trivia Night, Elvis Concert/Food Truck Night, along with Letters from Santa and Portraits with Santa to help raise funds for the grant program.

During 2016 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 Family Support Center - Common Sense Parenting, Lancaster Opera House - Musical Workshop, Our Lady of Blessed Sacrament - STREAM Academy, 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 members 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, Karen Schanne, Patrick Uhteg.



2016 Annual Report

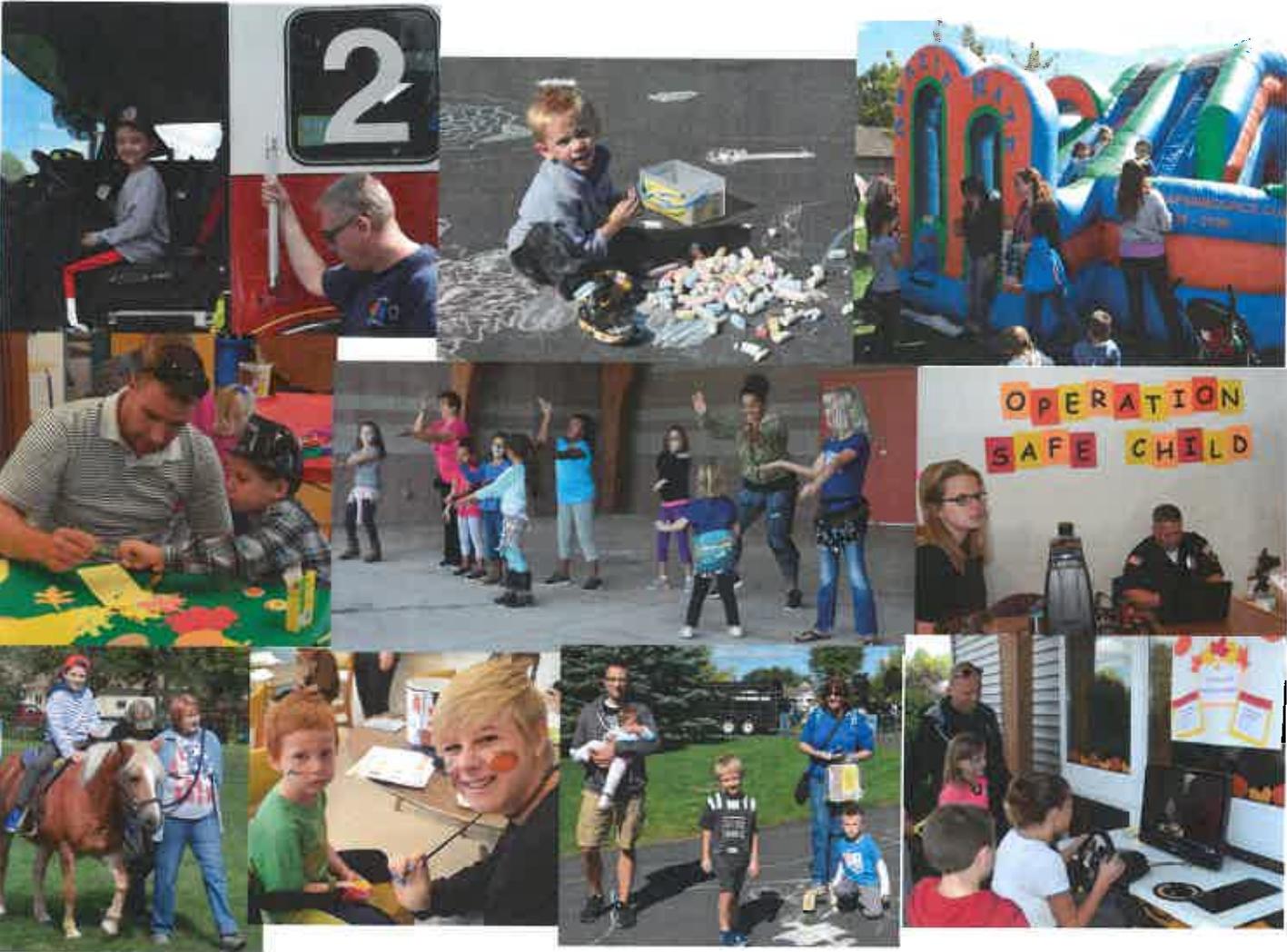
TRIVIA NIGHT

The Third Annual Trivia Night, co-sponsored with the Lancaster Youth Foundation, took place on April 7th at St. Mary's High School. Twenty-three teams competed for the grand prize going to the St. Mary's High School Faculty Team consisting of Keith & Emily Junik, Matt Ard and Phil Conner. Matt Walter served as Masters of Ceremony, with Youth Bureau staff members Patrick McDonald & Nicole Gunsher, along with LYF member Patrick Uhteg tallying the results throughout the evening.



Fall Festival

On Saturday, September 24th, the Youth Bureau held its 6th Annual Family Fall Festival. Pony rides, petting zoo, kids' crafts, face painting, games, bounce house, Zumba lessons, fire safety, along with Operation Safe Child and Driving & Texting simulator and lots more was provided!



Kodak Moments



Our Year in Review...



Our Year in Review...



2016 Annual Report

Our Year in Review...

