

Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau 2017 Annual Report



**Celebrating 47 Years Serving
the Children, Youth, and Families of the
Lancaster-Depew Community**



2017 Annual Report

Town Board

Johanna Coleman, *Supervisor*
Ronald Ruffino, *Youth Bureau Liaison*
John Abraham
Dawn Gaczewski
Matthew Walter

Youth Board

John Parker, *Chair*
Keith Kerl, *Vice Chair*

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Suzanne Jacobs	Rev. Richard Scheer
Steven Kolbert	Claire Schlum
John Kordrupel	Harbir Singh*
Christian Kowalski	Steven Smith
Alexander Loewer**	Rev. Paul Steller

Debra Skok Watson

*denotes youth member

** January –June

Drug Abuse Prevention Council

Mark Melewski, *Chair*
Gerald Gill
Linda Miller
Ann Murphy
Charles Roessler

STAFF

John Trojanowsky, *Executive Director*
Adrienne Graber, *Secretary*
Jennifer Candino, *Youth Counselor*
Mindy Muench, *Youth Court Coordinator*
Nicole Gunsher, *Program Coordinator*
Micaela Lauer, *Social Worker (1-6/17)*
Rebecca Sivecz, *School Psychologist (9-12/17)*
Jacob Doyle, *PT Program Leader*
Shannon Young, *PT Program Leader*
Nina Wright, *PT Program Leader (10-12/17)*
Patrick McDonald, *PT Program Coordinator*
Anne Monin, *Family Support Center Coordinator*
along with our Tutors & Summer Personnel



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, Good Neighbors Credit Union (Lancaster-Depew Federal Credit Union), Lancaster Opera House, and the Village of Lancaster 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, and the Erie County Youth Bureau.

We have enjoyed working with Supervisor Johanna Coleman, and the Town Board during this past year.

I also want to thank Assemblymember Monica Wallace for bringing NYS Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to visit our Youth Bureau this past summer. The generous grants we received through her efforts for technology upgrades and a new van are greatly appreciated.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Nicole Gunsher for her recognition as 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
2017 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	5
Trespass	1
Assault	1
Speeding	1
Harassment	3
Unlawful Possession of Marijuana	3
Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance	1
Being Under the Influence of Alcohol at School	1
Possession of Prescription Pills, e-cig and Displaying High Risk Behaviors in School	1
Aggravated Harassment, Communicate Threat/Physical Harm	2
Inciting Fear by Making Threats Towards a School	4

Referrals Sources:

Lancaster Police Department	5
Depew Police Department	2
Lancaster Police/Lancaster High School	4
Lancaster Police/Lancaster Middle School	2
Depew High School	5
Lancaster Town Court	2
Lancaster Village Court	1
Cheektowaga 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. Sentences offered in Youth Court provide the offender with realistic and rehabilitative consequences such as community service, letter of apology, life skills education & counseling workshops. **18 youth** were referred to Youth Court and **5 youth** were referred to the Community Sanctions part of the program, for a total of 23 open cases.

Youth Court Training:

Members of Youth Court consist of high school students who have successfully completed a 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 **25 active members**, that includes **13 new members** that went through the 2017 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 **537 student participants** this past year, while **36 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 Events

The total number of volunteer activities that were held this year numbered 450, while some 455 volunteers logged 3,778 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

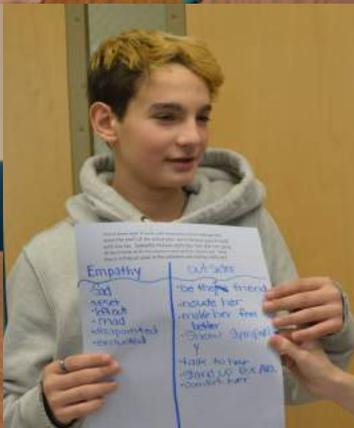
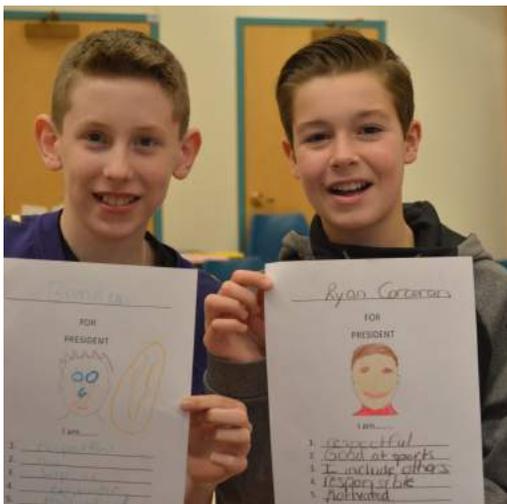
Asset #26 - Caring - Understanding Those in Need, Compassionate Craft Project

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 **405 youth** participated in the program.



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2017 Hall of Fame

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

*Brittany Bobeck
Eric Brown
Cory Cherven
David Farace
Irene Handy
Emoly Kerl
Alexander Loewer
Benjamin Mazur*

*John Meitus
Andrew Pasek
Madilyn Potter
Aaron Schaefer
Noah Steele
Timothy Steiner
Amantha Szykowny
Andrew Wargo*



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

*Patrick O'Brien
David Santoro*

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 86 Lancaster School District Students.**



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 22 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 **11 girls** from the Lancaster and Depew School Districts involved in the program. 42 mentoring activities took place.

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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. The Lancaster Lions Club also did eye screening during the distribution. **138 families utilized the school supply closet, with 282 children being helped.**



Children's Clothes Closet

Families Using Closet - 75

Children in Families - 155

Total Visits to Closet - 362

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. Volunteer Deb Jalovick maintains the Clothes Closet keeping it organized and well stocked.



Holiday Distributions to Families in Need

	Families Receiving Assistance	Children in Families
Christmas	134	283
Thanksgiving	82	139
Easter	55	106

DAY OF GIVING (in Coordination with the News Neediest Fund): Economically disadvantaged families received food, new toys, gift certificates, cookies, hats, gloves, socks, and scarves thanks to donations from the Lancaster Schools, Lancaster Police Department, the News Neediest Fund, and many local businesses and organizations. Up to 55 families also received a fresh-cut Christmas tree with decorations and lights thanks to students and staff from the Lancaster High School. With donations from the Lancaster Police, 31 children were gifted with a brand new Samsung Galaxy tablet! Students and faculty from Lancaster High School, Lancaster Middle School, William Street School, and Como Park Elementary School, along with Youth Bureau volunteers participated in the wrapping of gifts and sorting of food. High school students also assisted recipients as they arrived to pick up their donations!

THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION: Food and turkey donations were received from Lancaster School employees and students. Court Street Elementary School, William Street School, and Lancaster Middle School held a canned food drive to collect nonperishable food items. John A. Sciole Elementary School ran their annual Stuffing Stockpile to collect stovetop stuffing for families' Thanksgiving dinners, and a monetary donation was fulfilled by Lancaster High School students and teachers. Teen volunteers and the Depew Saints Hockey Team volunteered their time before the distribution to help sort, organize, and prepare donation bags for participating families. Each family received two bags full of groceries, a turkey, and had access to warm coats for family members!

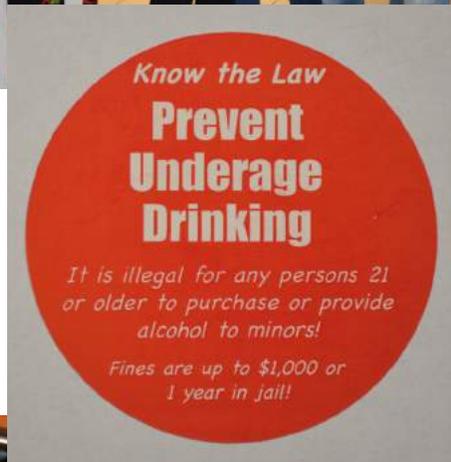
EASTER DISTRIBUTION: Easter foods baskets were made possible by donations that were provided by the Lancaster High School Math Honor Society and community residents. Youth Bureau teen volunteers donated their time by assembling the family food baskets, filled with chocolate, treats, and toys. Each family also received a basket full of groceries!



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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!



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 **16 students** this past year spanning 150 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.

21 youth participated in the two above programs.



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Community and School Psychologist

In an effort to improve the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of students and support families in the Lancaster community, Rebeccah Sivecz is assigned, by contract, to both the Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau and the Lancaster Central School District. In the 2016-2017 school year, Rebeccah worked as a school psychology intern at Lancaster Middle School, Court Street Elementary School, and Hillview Elementary School. In the present school year, Rebeccah serves children and teachers at John A. Sciole Elementary School. In the school setting, Rebeccah consults with teachers and parents to assist in managing children's learning, behavior, and emotions. Rebeccah is also responsible for conducting comprehensive evaluations of students' cognitive, academic, and social-emotional functioning in order to determine eligibility for special education services. In addition, Rebeccah works one-on-one with students to develop coping skills, understand emotions, and improve functional communication skills. Rebeccah is also an active member of John A. Sciole's Response to Intervention team, Crisis Response Team, and Committee on Special Education.

At the Youth Bureau, Rebeccah coordinates a monthly game night for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, manages the Children's Clothes Closet, and organizes the holiday assistance programs for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Rebeccah also assisted in organizing and running the annual Fall Festival and serves as a co-facilitator in the Building Blocks Day Program for sixth grade students from William Street School.

Game Nights

Seven years ago, the Lancaster Youth Bureau and Lancaster Schools offered a workshop for parents and caretakers of children diagnosed with Autism, Asperger Syndrome, and/or Pervasive Developmental Disorder. After this workshop, a group of parent volunteers, along with representatives from the Lancaster Youth Bureau and Lancaster Family Support Center, developed a program called Game Night for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). Each month, children and their parents come together at the Youth Bureau to socialize, play games, and interact in a stress-free environment. As the children practice their social skills and establish new friendships through games like Bingo, Pictionary, and Super Mario, parents are able to meet other adults who may be going through or have gone through similar challenges. Volunteers from the Lancaster Youth Bureau's Teen Volunteer Program attend game night to model appropriate social interactions & help encourage participants to have fun and play games. In 2017, **15 children** attended at least one game night.



Junior Scrabble Club

Nicole Gunsher along with Karen Overhoff supervised **44 first grade students and 41 second grade students** during the spring of 2017 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 four week sessions were offered for first graders and two four week sessions for second graders 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.



NYS Youth Leadership Forum

On February 6th & 7th, John Trojanowsky brought Irene Handy, Christian Kowalski, Jenelle Piatt and Patrick Uhteg 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 Assemblymember Monica Wallace and staff members from Senator Patrick Gallivan's office to discuss the importance of Youth Bureaus.



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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.

- 58 - students attended Math Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 56 - students attended Reading Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 7 - 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:

- 106 - students attended Studio in Art Classes
- 37 - students attended the Child & Babysitting Safety Classes
- 20 - students attended the “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” Classes
- 13 - students attended the “Kid’s Health & Fitness Fun” Classes
- 26 - students attended the “Fitness Fun for Pre-school” Classes
- 10 - students attended the “Creative Writing” Class
- 4 - students attended the Finance Class
- 22 - students attended the Fairies and Fairy Gardens Workshop
- 15 - students attended the Music from Around the World Workshop
- 44 - students attended the Animal Adventure Workshop
- 10 - students attended the Forensic Science Workshop
- 40 - students attended the Bubble Blast Workshop
- 21 - students attended the Science Magic Workshop
- 10 - students attended the Young Engineers – LEGO Challenge
- 17 - students attended the High and Low Ropes Course Field Trip
- 15 - students attended the Horseback Riding Field Trip
- 296 - students were registered for the above programs (524 duplicate count)
- 113 - students participated in the Summer Performing Arts Academy



Safe Summer Program Classes and Workshops



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Summer Performing Arts Academy

Surf's Up!

SURF'S UP! a Beach Boys-Style Musical Comedy celebrating the 1960's was performed on August 2nd and 3rd at the Lancaster Opera House with 63 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.



Summer Performing Arts Academy

OKLAHOMA!

OKLAHOMA! was performed on August 10th, 11th, & 12th, at Lancaster Middle School with 53 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.

After presenting the audience favorite GREASE last year we figured it was time to dust off the ol' saddle and bring back the "classic" *Oklahoma!*. This timeless musical has received many honors including two Academy Awards, Tony Awards, an honorary Grammy, and a special Pulitzer Prize-if that's not enough-it was recently deemed "the best musical of the century" by a New York Drama League survey. The show and score is as lovely, witty and dramatic as ever which made a the perfect choice for our young performers and a must see for every audience.

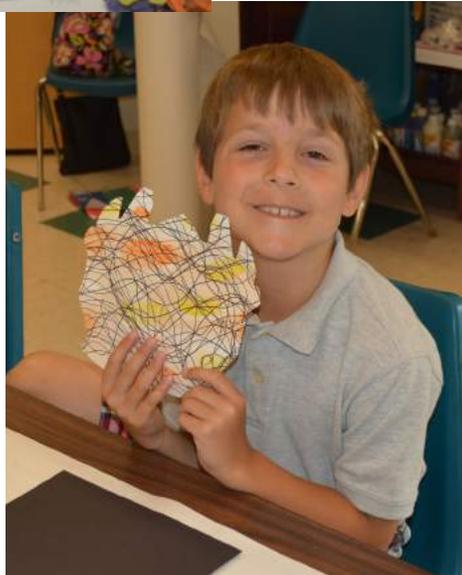


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Summer Enrichment Classes



Summer Art Program

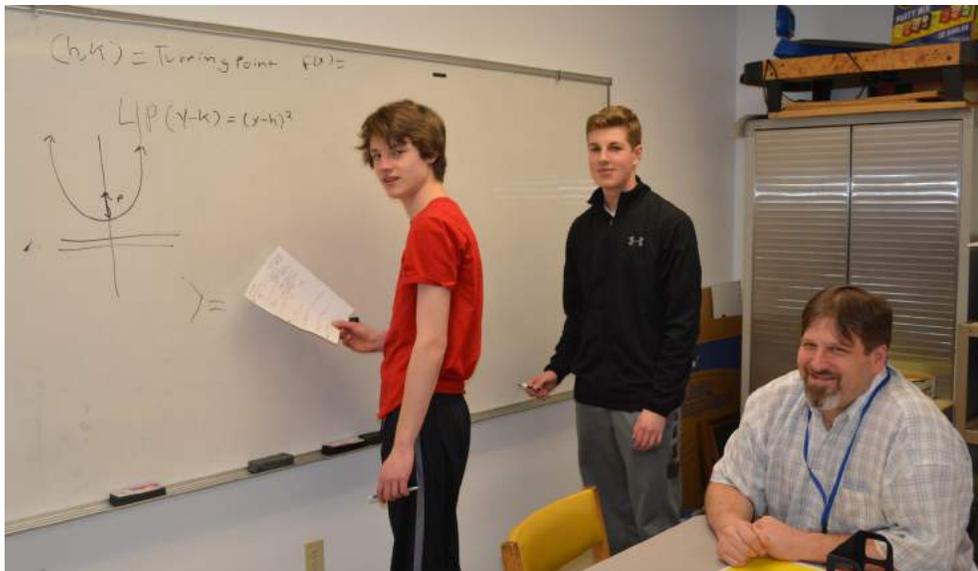


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School Year Tutorial Program & Exam Prep

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 **91 students**.

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. **50 students** participated in the exam prep session in June.



Family Support Center

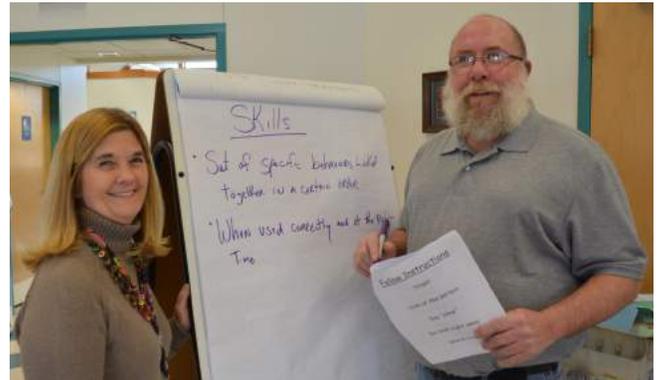
Due to a lack of knowledge regarding services that are available to families having concerns with their child, families will fail to seek the necessary services. As a result of the Family Support Center's involvement and assessment of a family, their needs can be identified and will result in the linkage 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 **107** families, there were **63** intake sessions, with **93** follow throughs during January through June of the 2016-2017 school year, and referrals for **63** families, **21** intake sessions, with **56** follow throughs during the first part of the 2017-2018 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.

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 spring, **14 parents (with 8 children)** took part in the Common Sense Parenting Workshop.

Parent Workshop Group Sessions: Nurtured Heart Approach Fall of 2017

As a result of participation in the various Parent Workshops, parents will have increased awareness and knowledge of skills to be an effective parent in raising their children.

Nurtured Heart Approach was a 4-week series that parents and children attended together. A light meal was served to the family before the sessions began. Parents and children were divided after their meal to attend their sessions. Parent worked on skill building to reinforce positive parenting.

Lancaster parents who participated: 21 parents 33 Children

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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 **66 participants** (60 females, 6 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 **36 youth** participated in the program with requests totaling 52 odd jobs, part time work, babysitting, etc.



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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 Fourth Annual Trivia Night, along with Letters from Santa and Portraits with Santa to help raise funds for the grant program.

During 2017 the Foundation offered grants (up to a total of \$3,893) to teachers and youth service organizations to encourage creative approaches to strengthening developmental assets among the youth in the Lancaster-Depew Community.

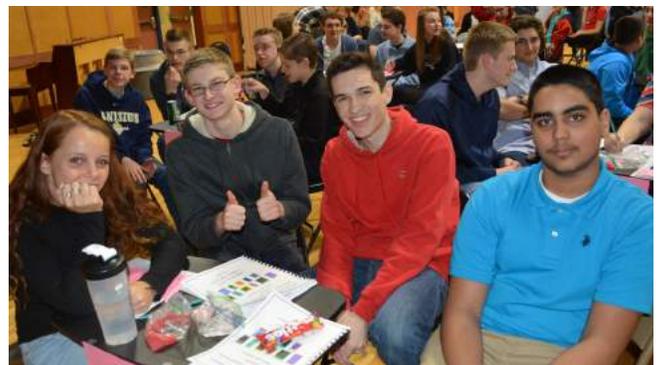
All non-profit youth service groups and agencies are invited to apply for grants each spring. The members of the Youth Foundation Board of Directors during 2017 included: Karan Hale Durkin, Nicole Gunsher, Amy Jackson, Colleen Malchow, Karen Overhoff, Dan Palumbo, Karen Schanne, Sharleen Gummo Scholz, John Trojanowsky, Patrick Uhteg, Matthew Walter.



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TRIVIA NIGHT

The Fourth Annual Trivia Night, co-sponsored with the Lancaster Youth Foundation, took place on March 29th at St. Mary's High School. Twenty-six teams competed for prizes. The winning Adult Team was the St. Mary's High School Faculty Team, consisting of Keith & Emily Junik, Matt Ard and Phil Conner. The winning Student Team was also from Sr. Mary's High School, consisting of Collin Tytka, Kathryn Vogel, Ryan Tytka and Alex Bish. Patrick Uhteg served as Masters of Ceremony.



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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, fire safety, along with Operation Safe Child and Driving & Texting simulator and lots more was provided!



LYF Youth Forum



Our Year in Review...



Our Drug Abuse Prevention Council planning the “Not Worth It.com” Public Awareness Campaign.

Assemblymember Monica Wallace came to meet with the Youth Bureau staff and learn about the Youth Bureau’s programs at the beginning of the year.



In March of 2017, The Lancaster Youth Bureau, with the help of the Lancaster Family Support Center, offered a workshop to parents and caretakers of children diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder. This workshop focused on common behavioral concerns related to Autism and taught parents and caretakers new ways to respond to problematic behaviors.



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