

# **Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau 2019 Annual Report**



**Celebrating 49 Years Serving  
the Children, Youth, and Families of the  
Lancaster-Depew Community**

## **2019 Annual Report**



# 2019 Annual Report

## Town Board

Johanna Coleman, *Supervisor*  
Matthew Walter, *Youth Bureau Liaison*  
Adam Dickman  
Dawn Gaczewski  
Ron Ruffino

## Youth Board

John Parker, *Chair*  
Keith Kerl, *Vice Chair*  
Eric Cornell\*      Cesar Marchioli  
Benjamin Fox\*    Anthony Marrano  
Devon George\*    Daniel Paveljack  
Korissa Gozdzia\*   Rev. David Richards  
Suzanne Jacobs    Jill Santoro  
Steven Kolbert    Rev. Richard Scheer  
Christian Kowalski\* Harbir Singh\*  
Daniel Lipke\*      Steven Smith  
Joseph Maciejewski Rev. Paul Steller  
Debra Skok Watson

*\*denotes youth member*

## Drug Abuse Prevention Council

Mark Melewski, *Chair*  
Gerald Gill (Jan.-Feb.)  
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*  
Rebecca Sivecz, *School-Community Psychologist*  
January—June  
Danielle Pittiri, *School-Community Social Worker*  
September—December  
Jacob Doyle, *PT Program Leader*  
Nina Wright, *PT Program Leader*  
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, 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.

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, and look forward to working with our new Supervisor, Ron Ruffino and Town Board members in the coming years.

I also want to thank Matt Newman, Youth Development Specialist for the NYS Office of Children and Families Services for taking time out of his busy schedule to come to WNY and to visit our Youth Bureau and meet our staff. We also appreciate the support we receive from Ben Hilligas, our Erie County Youth Bureau Director.

Everyone at the Lancaster Youth Bureau - our staff, boards, councils, and volunteers - all look forward to the 50th Anniversary of the Youth Bureau and many more years of providing a wide array of worthwhile programs & services to the children, youth and families of the Lancaster-Depew Community.

We have a wonderful group of caring, & dedicated individuals leading the way for our youth of Lancaster.

*John Trojanowsky  
Executive Director*



**Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau  
2019 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. Mentor and Me 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. Special Regents Exam Prep Session
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

# 2019 Annual Report

## Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program

### *Crimes/Infractions:*

Larceny	4
Grand Larceny	2
Trespass	4
Harassment	3
Criminal Mischief	3
Unlawful Possession/Use of Marijuana	4
Possession of Stolen Property	1
Possession of Controlled Substance	2
Possession of a Weapon/Knife in School	1
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia	1
Making a Terrorist Threat/School Related	2
Criminal Possession of a Weapon	1
Possession of Bullets on School Grounds	1
Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance While in School	1
Possession and Distribution of a Controlled Substance (Pills)	1
Purchasing and Possession of a Controlled Substance (Pills)	1
Criminal Sale of Marijuana and Falsely Reporting an Incident	1

### *Referrals Sources:*

Lancaster Police Department	6
Depew Police Department	5
Lancaster High School/Lancaster Police	10
Lancaster Middle School	1
Depew Middle School	7
Depew High School	4
Erie County Probation	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. **33 youth** were referred to Youth Court and **1 youth** was referred to the Community Sanctions part of the program, for a total of **45 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 **39 active members**, that includes **13 new members** that went through the 2019 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 **518 student participants** this past year, while **28 peer facilitators** took part in the program.



# 2019 Annual Report

## 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
- Lancaster Manor
- St. Vincent DePaul Society Soup Kitchen
- Hospice
- Terrace View
- Hull House & Farmstead
- Lancaster Library
- Food Bank of WNY / Feed More 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 418 while some 371 volunteers logged 3,400 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

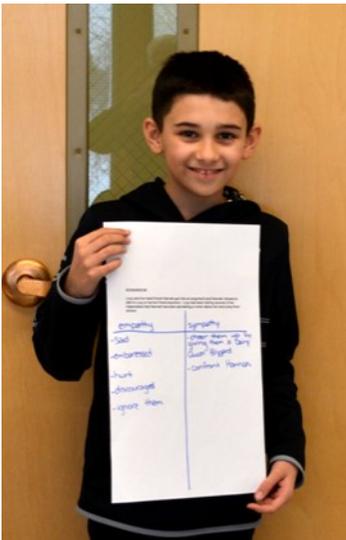
**Asset #26 - Caring** - Are You Empathetic?, Helping Others

**Asset #38 - Self-Esteem** - Passing the Hat, Trash Can & Katie's Story

**Asset #35 - Resistance Skills** - Resisting Peer Pressure

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

A total of **419 youth** participated in the program.



## 2019 Hall of Fame

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

*Anya Achtyl  
Caitlin Bish  
Kayla Bulas  
Nicole Cassel  
Devon George  
Caterina Grande  
Alexander Hartman  
Zoe Kaminski  
William Kapinos  
Christian Kowalski  
Ana Lach  
Elizabeth Maroshick*

*Samantha Maroshick  
Lauren Nawojski  
Ryan O'Hara  
Brianna Propis  
Cassandra Puglisi  
Jared Rogalski  
Sarah Rolling  
Nicholas Schielke  
Madison Schiffler  
Jillian Szeluga  
Jacob Tobolski  
Maria Wild*



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

*Jill Santoro  
Robin Zahm*

### Mentor & Me Mentoring Program

Mentor & Me 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. "Mentor & Me" 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 mentor 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 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 105 Lancaster School District Students.**

### Opportunities for Success Mentoring Program

Through this program, students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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 **5 mentors have assisted 10 Lancaster School District Students.**

### Group Mentoring Program

The goal of the this mentoring program is to promote caring relationships for youth 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 . **17 mentoring activities** took place.



# 2019 Annual Report

## Holiday Distributions to Families in Need

	Families Receiving Assistance	Children in Families
Christmas	115	210
Thanksgiving	74	137
Easter	28	42

**Day of Giving** (In Coordination with the News Neediest Fund): Economically disadvantaged families received food, new toys, gift certificates, cookies, hats, gloves, socks, scarves, and books thanks to donations from the Lancaster Schools, Lancaster Police Department, the News Neediest Fund, and countless local businesses, organizations, and community members. Families were also given the opportunity to receive a fresh-cut Christmas tree with decorations thanks to students from the Lancaster High School. Students and faculty from Lancaster High School, Lancaster Middle School, William Street School, Como Park Elementary School, and St. Mary’s Elementary School, along with Youth Bureau Teen Volunteers participated in the wrapping of gifts and sorting of food. High School and Middle School students also assisted recipients as they arrived to pick up their donations. Officers from the Lancaster Police Department donated monetary funds and hours of their time to help in the Distribution.

**Thanksgiving Distribution:** Food and turkey donations were received from Lancaster School District employees and students. Court Street School held a coat drive for children’s and adults’ winter outerwear. Along with William Street School, Court Street also organized a canned food drive to collect nonperishable food items. John A. Sciole Elementary School ran their annual “Stuffing Stockpile” to collect stovetop stuffing mixes for families’ Thanksgiving dinners. Como Park Elementary collected toiletry items to be given away. Lancaster Middle School assisted in the distribution by collecting nonperishable food items, turkeys, and juices. A monetary donation was received by Lancaster High School students and staff to help defray the costs of turkeys and other distribution expenses. Teen volunteers offered their time before the distribution to help sort and organize food donations. In the morning of the distribution, members of the Lancaster Middle School Student Council volunteered their time to prepare and distribute donation bags to participating families. Each family received two full bags of groceries, a turkey, and had access to warm coats and toiletry items for family members!

**Easter Distribution:** Easter food 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 Easter baskets, filled with chocolate, treats, and toys. Each family also received a basket full of groceries!



# Day of Giving



# 2019 Annual Report

## 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. **126 families utilized the school supply closet, with 253 children being helped.**



## Children's Clothes Closet

Families Using Closet - 78

Children in Families - 161

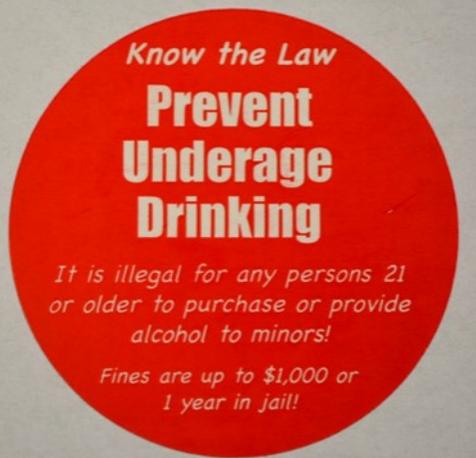
Total Visits to Closet - 377

Free clothing enables families to ensure that their children have appropriately fitting and seasonal clothing, which they could not otherwise afford, due to economic hardships. The Children's Clothes Closet is a community resource that provides free clothing to families in need, year round. The Youth Bureau accepts donations of gently used clothing of infant to teenage clothing in order to provide dignified help to families. Donations are received primarily from community residents to maintain sustainability. Clothing drives by schools and local groups also help keep our closet well-stocked. Teen volunteers assist Youth Bureau staff in sorting and folding clothes.



## 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 the 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!



## 2019 Annual Report

### 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 **13 students** this past year spanning 153 counseling sessions.



### Life Skills & Healthy Athlete Programs

Youth participating in the *Life Skills/Healthy Athlete Programs* are expected to make positive lifestyle 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.

**23 youth** participated in the two above programs.



### Community and School Social Worker & Psychologist

In an effort to improve the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic wellbeing of children and to 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. Rebeccah joined the Youth Bureau team in August 2017 after serving as a school psychology intern at Court Street Elementary School, Hillview Elementary School, and Lancaster Middle School. In the present school year, Rebeccah is assigned to John A. Sciole Elementary School, in addition to the Youth Bureau.

At the Youth Bureau, Rebeccah coordinates a monthly game night for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders, organizes the Children's Clothes Closet, and manages the holiday assistance programs for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Rebeccah also assists 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.

In the school setting, Rebeccah consults with teachers and parents to assist in managing children's learning, behavior, and emotional functioning. Rebeccah is also responsible for conducting comprehensive psychological-educational evaluations 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 the John A. Sciole Response to Intervention team, Crisis Response Team, and Committee on Special Education.

### Game Nights

Nine 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 2019, **23 children** attended at least one game night.



# 2019 Annual Report

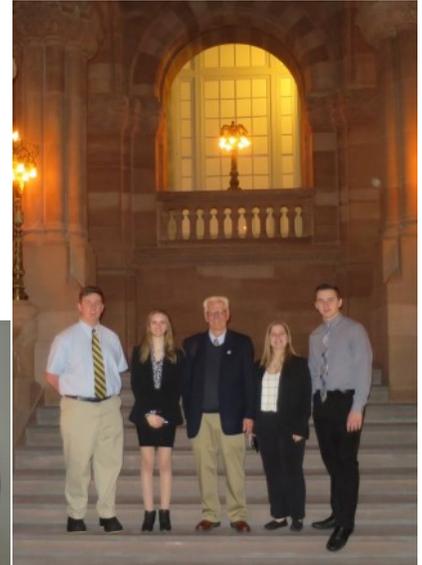
## Junior Scrabble Club

Nicole Gunsher along with Karen Overhoff supervised **36 first grade students** during the winter of 2019 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. One five week session was offered for first graders and one five week session 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.



## NYS & WNY Youth Leadership Forums

On February 4th & 5th, John Trojanowsky brought Ethan Kowalski, Sarah Rolling, Madsion Schiffler and Michael Steffens 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 to discuss the importance of Youth Bureaus.



On October 24th, John Trojanowsky and Mindy Muench brought Grace Harrington, Kaylie Jackson, Trevor Khangi, Adrianna Lorigo, Carolyn & Michael Steffens to the WNY Assoc. of Youth Bureaus Youth Leadership Forum at Daemen College.



# 2019 Annual Report

## Safe Summer Classes and Field Trips

### Safe Summer Reading and Math Skills Reinforcement Classes

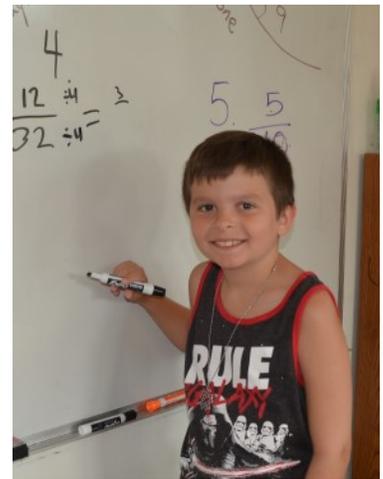
Students participating in the Reading & Math Skills Reinforcement Program helped maintain their basic reading and/or math skills, which helps them meet with success when they return to school in September.

- 86 - students attended Math Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 84 - students attended Reading Skills Reinforcement Classes

### 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:

- 116 - students attended Studio in Art Classes
- 23 - students attended the "Getting Ready for Kindergarten" Classes
- 9 - students attended the "Creative Writing" Class
- 37 - students attended the Child & Babysitting Safety Classes
- 17 - students attended the "Kid's Health & Fitness Fun" Classes
- 31 - students attended the "Fitness Fun for Pre-school" Classes
- 34 - students attended the Fairies and Fairy Gardens Workshop
- 22 - students attended the "Make Your Own Desert Dish Garden" Workshop
- 20 - students attended the Horseback Riding Field Trip
- 14 - students attended the Junior Police Academy
- 10 - students attended the Junior Fire Academy
- 318 - students were registered for the above programs (503 duplicate count)
- 129 - students participated in the Summer Performing Arts Academy



Safe Summer Program Classes and Workshops



# 2019 Annual Report

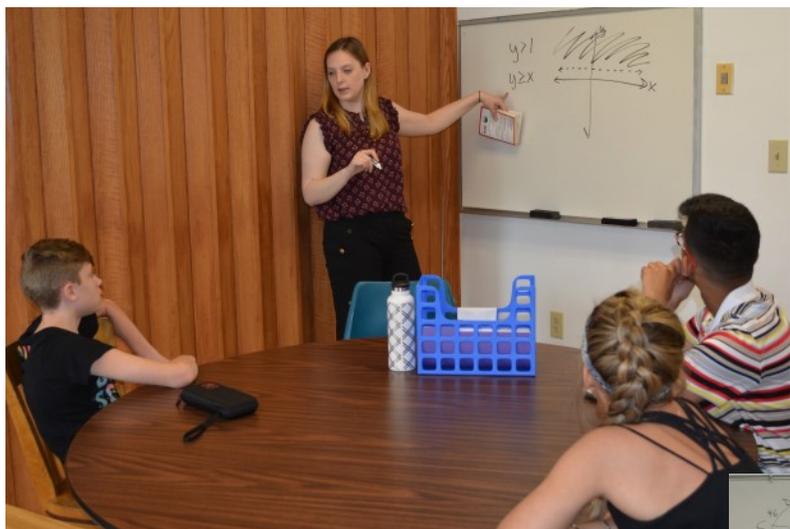
## Junior Police and Fire Academies



## 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 **93 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. **61 students** participated in the exam prep session in June.



# Summer Performing Arts Academy

## PIPPIN

*Pippin* was performed on August 8th, 9th & 10th at the Lancaster Middle School with 43 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.



# 2019 Annual Report

## Summer Performing Arts Academy

### Kamp KAOS

*Kamp KAOS* was performed on July 31st and August 1st at the Lancaster Opera House with **88** youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.



# 2019 Annual Report

## 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 **130** families, there were **53** intake sessions, with **94** follow throughs during January through June of the 2018-2019 school year, and referrals for **96** families, **41** intake sessions, with **76** follow throughs during the first part of the 2019-2020 school year. Assessments were completed, and each family was provided linkage to the appropriate service providers.

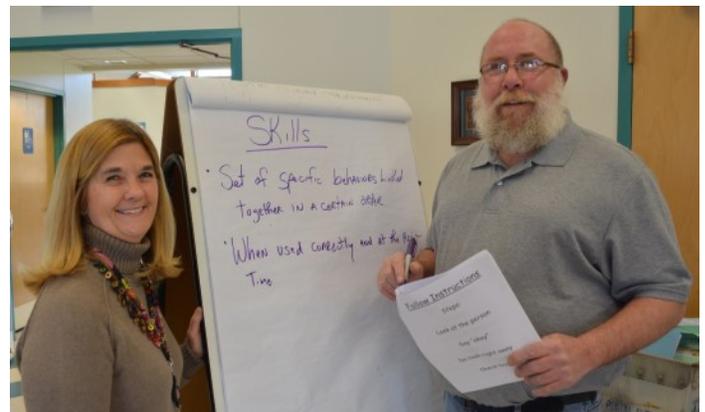
Referrals were made to twenty-six agencies, counseling centers or services.

## 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, **12 parents (with 7 children)** took part in the Common Sense Parenting Workshop.

### Other 2019 PARENT WORKSHOP SESSIONS:

Helping Your Child Handle Anxiety & Stress, In & out of School by Kimberly Morrow

Internet Safety—Parent Program by Michael Hockwater, FBI  
Kathy Gust, Missing & Exploited Children

## 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 **65 participants**.



## 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 **33 youth** participated in the program with requests totaling 36 odd jobs, part time work, babysitting, etc.



# 2019 Annual Report

## 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 Sixth Annual Trivia Night, along with Letters from Santa and Portraits with Santa to help raise funds for the grant program, along with a Comedy Night at Rob's Comedy Playhouse. During 2019 the Foundation offered grants to teachers and youth service organizations to encourage creative approaches to strengthening developmental assets among the youth in the Lancaster-Depew Community.

The members of the Youth Foundation Board of Directors during 2019 included: Nicole Gunsher, Amy Jackson, Sally Mogan, Karen Overhoff, Karen Schanne, Sharleen Gummo Scholz, John Trojanowsky, Matthew Walter & Robin Zahm.



## TRIVIA NIGHT

The Sixth Annual Trivia Night, co-sponsored with the Lancaster Youth Foundation, took place on March 22nd at St. Mary's High School. Twenty-six teams competed for prizes. The winning Adult Team was the Friends of the Lancaster Youth Bureau Team, consisting of Bob Gozdzia, Joe Adamec, Steve Lezynski & Ken Licata. The winning Student Team was the St. Mary's High School Juniors, consisting of Dan May, Becca O'Connor, Mary Owczarczak & Emma Ridolfi. Glenn Jackson and Matt Walter served as Masters of Ceremony.



# 2019 Annual Report

## 40th Anniversary Celebration of our Summer Theater



**40th Anniversary Celebration of our Summer Theater**



# 2019 Annual Report *Our Year in Review...*



Moments from our Hall of Fame Ceremony

Our Youth Board members take a moment for a group photo during our December meeting.



*Our Year in Review...*



# 2019 Annual Report

## *Our Year in Review...*

