

LEADING A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Troy

Strengthening Families
Through Community Involvement

ANNUAL REPORT
2012-2013





On behalf of the Troy Youth Assistance Executive Committee and the Board of Directors, it is my privilege to present this Annual Report of our efforts and accomplishments in the 2012-13 school year. Please take the time to review them to appreciate how our volunteer-driven organization is committed to the prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, child neglect and abuse in the Troy community.

Leonette Ciepielowski,
Chairperson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Leonette Ciepielowski, Chairperson
Robin Beltramini, Vice-Chairperson
Donna Swiatko, Treasurer
Nancy Piotrowski, Advisor

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Cindy Stewart, Publicity
Jeff Stewart, Camp/Skillbuilding
Jeanne Stine, Youth Recognition
Bill Waggoner II, Mentors PLUS
George Zielinski, Webmaster

Karen Wonsowicz, Caseworker



Family Education Committee

In 2012-13 the Family Education Committee presented five different programs to parents. The evaluations collected after each program indicated that they met the needs of the community.

This year, we, again, offered the six-session courses, "Active Parenting Now" program for parents of children 5 - 12 years old and "Parenting with Boundaries" for parents of children of all ages, both taught by parenting expert, Pastor Larry Cranston. "Active Parenting Now" covered the proven basics for strengthening families, including communication skills, discipline techniques, and problem-solving strategies. "Parenting with Boundaries" focused on helping parents create a home environment which promotes the development of healthy boundaries. Parents were taught when to say yes and when to say no.

Two Spring programs focused on risky behaviors of "tweens" and teens. First, "Trends, Friends and Fatal Ends" was offered to parents of middle and high school youth. Thrill-seeking is a normal part of adolescent development, but can go awry. Dr. Doug Carpenter of Perspectives of Troy and Pastor Larry Cranston presented their professional observations on the trends in Troy, behaviors parents should watch for and the parenting strategies to deal with those signs if they appear. The second program, "Teenage Sex: At What Price? Costs and Consequences of Early Sexual Activity" was presented to parents and youth together. In the video presentation, recognized expert and former counselor, Pam Stenzel, speaks to a coed high school audience in a no-nonsense, straightforward tone. The video was followed by a panel of local experts from the areas of health and law enforcement who spoke from their professional experience, answered ques-

tions and encouraged enhanced discussions at home.

In June, the "How Smart is a 'Smart Phone'?" program was offered to parents. Troy Police Officer of the Year, Det. Krissy Shuler, discussed the various ways youth could find trouble, purposely or inadvertently, with a smart phone, including examples from Troy. A Verizon representative offered tips and safe-guards for parents to discuss with their own provider. A sample safety contract for parents to use with their children was distributed.



Membership

The Membership Committee focused on attracting, initiating, and retaining new member-volunteers to truly accomplish the TYA mission, ". . .through community involvement." Each potential volunteer received a packet of information including position descriptions, our brochure and annual report so, together, the best fit for their volunteer efforts could be discerned.

The TYA Executive Committee acknowledged with gratitude all volunteers who helped in any way throughout the year with a Thank You Celebration in June 2013.

We continue seeking parents and others to join our Advocate Member status to encourage them to support families and youth in Troy. Next year will have a more targeted focus for marketing TYA to attract both volunteers and donors.

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Camp/Skillbuilding

Partial scholarships were awarded to several children to participate in activities designed to develop specific skills in areas of interest to them. Other scholarships provide extra-curricular, self esteem-building opportunities for the children and financial assistance to their parents who are unable to afford the full cost of tuition. For example, six children attended the Villas Day Camp which is sponsored by the Troy Community Coalition.

Youth Recognition

The Youth Recognition Awards Program, co-sponsored by TYA and the Rotary Club of Troy, is the *signature event* of the spring season. The program, held in the THS Auditorium on April 25, 2013, was attended by local dignitaries, relatives and friends of the award recipients. This year, 48 students plus the entire AHS Student Congress were nominated by school personnel and community organizations and recognized for “making a difference” in their schools and in the Troy community .



Youth Involvement

TYA encourages youth to interact positively with one another and on behalf of those who are less fortunate. The Youth Involvement Committee provided financial support to subsidize the post-graduation All-Night Parties at Athens and Troy High Schools, as well as Spring Break: Troy Style.

After their own Halloween celebrations, students at Costello, Hamilton, Hill, Schroeder and Troy Union elementary schools collected more than 400 pounds of excess candy for redistribution to the MI Veterans Foundation/Detroit Veteran Center, North Woodward Community Foundation: Blessings in a Backpack program, The Power Company, and Michigan Military Moms for delivery to overseas troops. TYA partnered with Girl Scout Troop 42790 for sorting and repackaging. Holiday candy also was given to Troy VFW Post 4037 to use in baskets for troops in Afghanistan and FOP Lodge 130 for Webster School in Ferndale.

Mentors PLUS

(People Listening, Understanding, Sharing)

Since 1973 Mentors PLUS has matched caring adults with young people who will benefit from having positive adult figures in their lives. Volunteers choose the involvement that seems best for them: prevention, working with an at-risk youngster, or intervention, helping guide a young person with minor court involvement back onto the right track. Mentoring is fun, creates new friendships and allows adult volunteers to share their lives with children who need their attention and support. The minimum commitment is two hours/week for one year. Each mentor plans the one-on-one meetings and activities which promote a trusting relationship and determines the time that works best for them and their mentees.

TYA currently has three mentees—two girls and one boy—and has children who are waiting to be matched with adult volunteers. During the past year, volunteers and their young charges attended an annual Oakland County Mentors PLUS picnic, group outings and professional sporting events, including several Pistons games and the Bloomfield Players rendition of “Oklahoma”. If this activity appeals to you, contact the TYA office for more information.



Fundraising

After facing the reality of a sharp decline in financial support from the City of Troy in 2009 and the elimination of all funding in 2010, the Fundraising Committee was directed to organize fundraiser(s) which would generate operating revenue going forward from Fiscal Year 2010.

The third annual Dollars for Education raffle was a huge success. The winner, Consumer Insights, chose the 40% cash prize and then “donated back” a generous portion of the prize. Ultimately, TYA gained \$13,223 from the 2013 Dollars for Education raffle.

Additionally, TYA accumulated over \$4500 in donations from individuals and organizations, the TYA Advocate program and TYA’s participation in Parisian Community Days event in November . Fiscal year 2013-2014 will have a comprehensive fundraising plan.



THANK YOU SPONSORS

Working together for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child neglect and abuse through community involvement:

Family Division Judges

Honorable Mary Ellen Brennan
 Honorable Lisa Gorcyca
 Honorable Linda S. Hallmark
 Honorable Cheryl A. Matthews
 Honorable Karen D. McDonald
 Honorable Elizabeth Pezzetti
 Honorable Joan E. Young

Oakland County Court

Kevin Oeffner, Court Administrator
 Lisa Langton, Dep. Court Administrator
 Mary Schusterbauer, Chief,
 Oakland County Youth Assistance
 Pat Breen, Supervisor,
 Oakland County Youth Assistance

Oakland County Commissioners

Mike Bosnic
 Gary R. McGillivray
 Robert Gosselin

Troy School District

Dr. Barbara Fowler, Superintendent

School Board Members

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 Ida Edmunds, V.P.
 Todd Miletti, Secretary
 Paula Fleming, Gary Hauff,
 Karl Schmidt, Wendy Underwood

City of Troy

Brian Kischnick, City Manager
 Dane Slater, Mayor
 Wade Fleming, Mayor Pro Tem

Council Members

Jim Campbell, Dave Henderson,
 Maureen McGinnis, Ed Pennington,
 Doug Tietz

OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Leonette Ciepielowski
 Chairperson



Robin Beltramini
 Vice Chairperson



Nancy Piotrowski
 Advisor



Donna Swiatko
 Treasurer

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Mission Statement

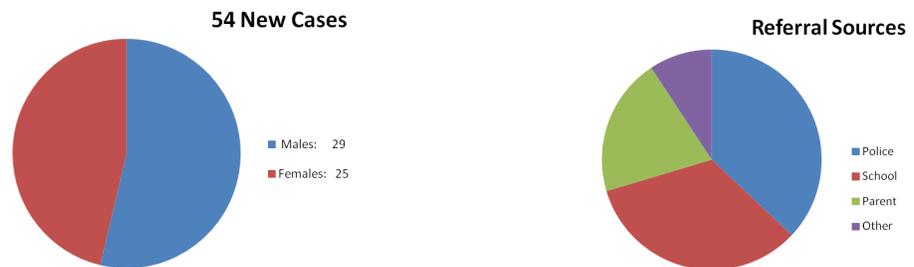
Troy Youth Assistance is committed to strengthening youth and families by preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency, child neglect and child abuse through community involvement.

Troy Youth Assistance is a volunteer-driven 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. It is one of 26 Youth Assistance programs in Oakland County. Each local Youth Assistance office is tri-sponsored by the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, the local school district and the city therein. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners provides major funding for a professional counselor in each unit. Volunteers work with the professional counselor to plan and sponsor local prevention programs for youth and their families.



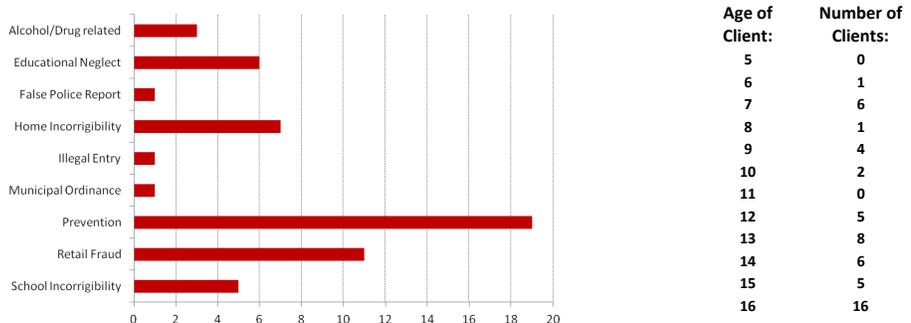
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Casework Referrals 2012-2013



With 49 additional cases reviewed and referred to other agencies for more extensive service

Referral Overview



TROY YOUTH ASSISTANCE

4420 Livernois Road Troy, MI 48098

P: 248.823.5095

F: 248.823.5240

www.troyouthassistance.org

email: troyouthassistance@troy.k12.mi.us