

LEADING A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Troy

Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

ANNUAL REPORT  
2013-2014





On behalf of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, volunteers and staff, it is my privilege to present the 2013-2014 TYA Annual Report. I am proud to say that everyone involved worked hard to embody and model our commitment to prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, child neglect and abuse through community involvement. Please take time to review this synopsis of our efforts and accomplishments.

**Robin Beltramini**  
Chairperson

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- Robin Beltramini, Chairperson
- Det. Krissy Shuler, Vice-Chairperson
- Donna Swiatko, Treasurer
- Leonette Ciepielowski, Advisor
- Nancy Piotrowski, Advisor
- Karen Purrenhage, Secretary

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Nancy Piotrowski, Family Education
- Elliot Gold, Fundraising
- Sandy Macknis, Youth Involvement
- Nancy Piotrowski, Membership
- Bethany Chung, Troy High Rep
- Rachel Renou, Athens High Rep
- Cindy Stewart, Publicity
- Jeff Stewart, Camp/Skillbuilding
- Leonette Ciepielowski, Youth Rec
- Anil Shrivastava, Mentors PLUS
- George Zielinski, Webmaster
- Karen Wonsowicz, Caseworker



**Family Education Committee**

The Family Education Committee had a productive year providing six different programs to educate parents and youth. Programs were selected based on previous success and identified community needs. Our post-program evaluations indicated that participants were not only satisfied but enthusiastic about the information received.

First, a new (grant-funded) workshop for parents of pre-school children, **Parent Café**, offered an opportunity to learn about and share parenting challenges and solutions. Our **How Smart is a Smart Phone?** program for parents was offered both in the fall and spring. In the fall, Troy Police Detective Kristine Shuler discussed the various ways youth have gotten into trouble in Troy with a smart phone and a representative from the Geek Squad at Best Buy gave advice from a provider’s perspective, offering tips and safeguards for parents to discuss with their child and their own provider. In the spring, additional information came from Dr. Doug Carpenter of Insight Counseling Services as he addressed the topic of “computer addiction,” a growing technology related issue.

Pastor Larry Cranston taught the six-session **Active Parenting Now** program for parents of children 5-12 years old. The course covered the proven basics that strengthen families: communication skills, discipline techniques and problem-solving strategies. This was followed two months later with the six-session **Parenting with Boundaries** for parents of children of all ages. “Boundaries” focused on helping parents create home environments which promote development of healthy boundaries—knowing when to say, “Yes” and when to say, “No.”

**Trends, Friends and Fatal Ends** was offered to parents of middle and high school youth and focused on “tweens” and teens thrill-seeking. While this is a normal part of adolescent development, it needs to be properly channeled. Dr. Carpenter and Pastor Cranston

presented their professional observations on the trends in Troy, teen behaviors which could signal trouble and the parenting strategies to address them. **Teenage Sex: At What Price? Costs and Consequences of Early Sexual Activity** again was offered as an opportunity for parents and youth together to attend the program and begin a discussion to continue at home. In the video presentation by national speaker and former counselor, Pam Stenzel, a coed high school audience is addressed in a no-nonsense, straightforward tone. The video was followed by a panel of experts who spoke briefly from their particular professional perspective and, then, answered questions. After attending, no one can say, “No one ever told me.”



**Membership**

Attracting, initiating and retaining new member-volunteers to truly accomplish the TYA mission, “. . .through community involvement” was the Membership Committee focus for the year. Several volunteer information packets were distributed, job descriptions discussed with potential volunteers and every effort was made to secure the best fit for each individual’s skills. We secured new chairs for Mentors PLUS and Fundraising and a new Board Secretary, as well as several task volunteers. We continue seeking community members to enhance our membership.

The Executive Committee acknowledged, with gratitude, all volunteers who helped in any way throughout the year with a “Garden Party” celebration in June 2014.

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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. This year we assisted a number of children in attending summer camps through Troy Parks and Rec and the Troy Community Coalition.

## Mentors PLUS

(People Listening, Understanding, Sharing)

Mentors PLUS matches 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 - connecting with an identified youth within the community, OR intervention - helping guide a young person with minor court involvement back onto the right track. Mentoring is rewarding, builds relationships and allows adult volunteers to share their lives with children who need their attention and support. The minimum commitment is two hours per 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. There are opportunities provided to attend various outings and activities with other mentors and mentees throughout Oakland County. If your heart and schedule are open, this is an opportunity that will benefit you as much as a child. Contact the TYA office for more information.



## Fundraising

The fourth annual *Dollars for Education* raffle was a success and major source of revenue. TYA sold 500 raffle tickets, resulting in a \$6,000 net profit. The winning tickets were drawn at the TYA Youth Recognition Awards Program at Troy High School. This year, the event generated even more excitement as three prizes were awarded: two \$1,000 winners plus a \$4,000 Grand Prize winner.

TYA participated in Carson's Community Days. We sold Carson's coupon booklets to family, friends and TYA supporters as well as at the Rochester Carson's store. For our efforts, we raised \$635 and saved people hundreds of dollars on their Carson's purchases.

TYA was a very fortunate beneficiary of the Troy Police Charity Golf Outing in August 2013, which resulted in a donation of \$7,900. In return for their sponsorship, TYA participated as the fiscal agent and we volunteered on the golf course that day.

In addition to our fundraising activities, we received \$4,427 from TYA Advocates and donors. Thank you to our supporters for your generous contributions and for participating in our fundraisers.

## Youth Recognition

The annual Youth Recognition Awards Program, co-sponsored by TYA and the Rotary Club of Troy, was held on April 16, 2014, in the Troy High School Auditorium. Eighty-three students were individually recognized by their nominators for their contributions within the Troy community and then personally presented with certificates of achievement from TYA and the Rotary Club of Troy. The honorees and their guests; local dignitaries, and TYA supporters were treated to a



light dinner before the formal presentation of awards. Once again, the program lived up to its reputation as the *signature event* of the spring season.

## Youth Involvement

TYA encourages youth to interact positively with one another and on behalf of all those who are less fortunate. The Youth Involvement Committee provided financial support to subsidize the cost of the post-graduation, All-Night parties at Athens and Troy High Schools. We also supported *Spring Break: Troy Style*, safe alternatives to unsupervised times during Spring Break, sponsored by Troy Community Coalition.

TYA initiated the annual collection of excess Halloween candy from Troy elementary schools: Costello, Hamilton, Hill, Schroeder, and Troy Union. Elementary students donated 300+ lbs. of candy for redistribution to the MI Veterans Foundation/Detroit Veteran Center and the North Woodward Community Foundation: *Blessings in a Backpack* program. TYA partnered with Ambassador Girl Scout Troop 42790 to sort and prepare the candy for redistribution.

TYA entertained 27 Morse Elementary School students at three after-school parties during the 2013-14 school year. AHS/THS student volunteers were paired with the children. They decorated (and ate) cupcakes; enjoyed pizza, salad, and ice cream; worked on craft projects together, and participated in games and relays until they were transported home by their parents. TYA members and volunteers from the First Presbyterian Church in Troy provided adult supervision.



## 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  
 Paul Scobie, Supervisor,  
 Oakland County Youth Assistance

### Oakland County Commissioners

Mike Bosnic  
 Robert Gosselin  
 Gary R. McGillivray

### Troy School District

Dr. Barbara Fowler, Superintendent

### School Board Members

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

### City of Troy

Brian Kischnick, City Manager  
 Dane Slater, Mayor  
 Dave Henderson, Mayor Pro Tem

### Council Members

Jim Campbell, Wade Fleming,  
 Ellen Hodorek, Ed Pennington,  
 Doug Tietz



## TYA ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

### Mission Statement

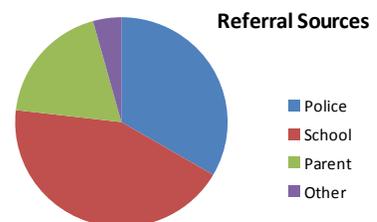
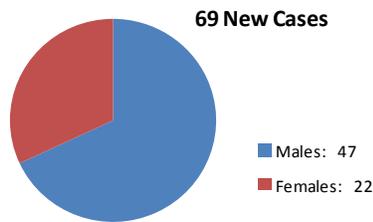
**Troy Youth Assistance is committed to strengthening youth and families by preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency, child neglect and child abuse through community involvement.**

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.



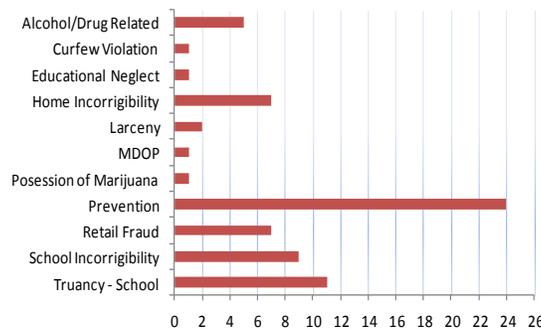
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### Casework Referrals 2013-2014



With 68 additional cases reviewed and referred to other agencies for more extensive service

### Referral Overview



Age of Client:	Number of Clients:
5	1
6	0
7	0
8	2
9	2
10	3
11	5
12	5
13	13
14	9
15	12
16	16
17	1

### OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Robin Beltramini  
Chairperson



Det. Krissy Schuler  
Vice—Chairperson



Leonette Ciepielowski  
Advisor



Nancy Piotrowski  
Advisor



Donna Swiatko  
Treasurer

## TROY YOUTH ASSISTANCE

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