

April 2018
Oak Park Township Annual Report
Youth Services At A Glance

Youth Services supports programs and services that work for the prevention of juvenile delinquency and which address youth who are at risk of becoming involved in inappropriate or illegal activities. Youth Services also advocates for programs and services which enhance the social and emotional development of youth and their families. Youth Services is committed to promoting opportunities for youth and their families to obtain needed services.

Youth Services activities are in 4 areas as detailed in the Budget document including: Contracts and Program Development, Restorative Justice, Youth Development and Advocacy, and the Youth Interventionist Program.

In the past Fiscal Year, Youth Services provided a variety of services both directly and indirectly including but not limited to:

- 19 Contracts with agencies/organizations
 - 2 River Forest
 - 3 Joint OP and RF
 - 14 Oak Park

2,058 people (746 households). Families, Adults, and Seniors received Holiday Food and Gift Basket deliveries of Gift Certificates for Food and Gifts purchased and delivered by volunteers.

44 Youths Completed Community Service through the TIME Program

708 Hours of Community Service assigned through TIME Program
RF 21 Youth assigned 372.5 hours community service
OP 23 Youth assigned 335.5 hours community service

27 Families Successfully Completed Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention/Early intervention classes through the FACE-IT Program

82 Youth and Families received Intensive Case Management through the Youth Interventionist Program

158 Interventionist *Home Visits* to client families

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- 284+ Youth and Families received other services through the Interventionists including: groups (3 groups, 26 youths), Cargo Circles (207 5th graders), referrals, consultations etc.

- 83 Youths from OPRF, Trinity and Fenwick High schools participated in the annual Youth Conference - held since 1918 - at Concordia University in RF. Theme: Centennial Celebration “Heart of the Matter”

- 195 Cargo Peace Circles

- 79 Financial Assistance Scholarships for Youth in OP
Totaling \$13,010.20

- 26 Financial Assistance Scholarships for Youth in RF
Totaling \$2,345.96

Contracted Programs FY 2018

In fiscal year 2018, Youth Services Contracted for 19 Programs. Of these programs, 14 were specific to the OP Community, 2 were specific to the River Forest Community, and 3 serve both communities.

Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program (HFGB)

This sponsored program is an excellent example of a productive public/private/community partnership where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts. YS sponsorship and Township Support serve as a force multiplier generating tens of thousands of dollars in financial donations and far more in donated gifts.

Youth Services provided \$10,000 funds and RF Township provided \$1,500, office space and support for the program staffing.

The Holiday Food and Gift Basket (HFGB) recorded another successful year, serving **2,058** people living in **746 households** in our communities. Each household referred to the HFGB received a Jewel gift card prior to Thanksgiving and holiday presents delivered to their door in early December.

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Youth Development and Advocacy

Financial Assistance Scholarships (FAS):

In fiscal year 2018, **79 children received FAS funding in Oak Park.** OP Children were funded to participate in 14 programs in both school districts, summer camps, and sports programs.

Youth Conference March 6th, 2018 Centennial Celebration “Heart of the Matter”

83 youth participated in this annual conference that has taken place since 1918. Youth Services provides a stipend for the Keynote Speakers who this year was Jim Bloch, a featured speaker at many coaches’ seminars, leadership workshops, business functions and he is often invited to speak to groups of parents and athletes at high schools, park districts and parent symposiums talking about the role of sport and the influence of coaches and parents as we all try to “Make a Positive Difference.” Jim currently works for the CEO of Illinois Special Olympics on a consulting basis and as an adjunct teacher at Aurora University.

YS provides for printing of folders with original artwork by students from the planning committee which includes students from OPRF, Fenwick and Trinity High Schools and their Faculty Sponsors. Students participated in 3 of 6 possible seminars throughout the day. Immediate feedback regarding the Keynote was overwhelming positive. The 6 sessions offered included:

Leadership
Identity
Opinion
Connections
Convenience
Balance

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Restorative Justice:

The **FACE-IT Program** served **27 families** from April 1, 2017 through early March 2018. 13 River Forest families, 13 Oak Park families , and 1 non-resident family who paid fee for service.

TIME Program

The TIME Program, Managed by Susan Stearns is a Youth First Offenders Program that gives local adjudication judges the option of allowing local youths to perform community service to work off their infractions. The recidivism rate remains low; that is, VERY few repeat offenders! When they complete their community service, their record remains clean. If not, they are referred back to the judge. Susan, along with Jenifer Roth, has developed a positive relationship with the OP and RF adjudication system and attending monthly.

A total of 34 youths (29 through OP and 5 through RF) were referred to the TIME program through local adjudication and 30 have completed their community service hours.

OP

Total:	23
Total completions:	11
In Process:	12
Failed to complete:	0

Program manager met with Adjudication personnel 1x each month to provide help with determination for hours to be assigned, attended court session each month, work collaboratively with FACE-IT program manager to place youth in most appropriate program

Youth served a wide variety of local agencies, organizations, and local events.

Cargo Peace Circles

Through partnership with Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest, District 97, River Forest Public Library, Riveredge Hospital, the Director along with Township staff and community volunteers continue to lead and co-lead Cargo Circles in the community including:

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Expanded this year to serve all 5th grade classrooms in D97:

10 sessions per classroom, 15 teachers for all 5th grade classes at
Irving, Whittier, Longfellow, Holmes

Total of 150 sessions serving over 350 youths

Starting up all the remaining 14 teachers and their 5th grade classes at:
Beye, Hatch, Lincoln, and Mann which will include another 10 sessions
per classroom 140 sessions

Weekly for 45 minute sessions with all the 5th grade classes, ongoing with
one third grade classroom at Beye, 30 Teachers at Brooks Middle school,
SSEP/SMART Program during the summer 72 middle and elementary
school youths, RF Girl Scouts troop, and others as requested to address
specific needs including race relations, bullying, and other conflicts.

Due to successes and extremely positive feedback from Teachers, Special
Education teachers, students, staff, administration, have proposed
expanding Cargo Circles to all elementary schools and awaiting MOU with
District 97 completion for fall of 2017. Offered to D90 and in discussion.
Cargo Circles ongoing.

Over 110 sessions in FY 2017

The Youth Interventionist Program

11 local tax bodies provide funding via an Intergovernmental Agreement.

We upgraded and updated our Data Base enabling our Interventionists to
begin tracking data on Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Scores and
other indicators of risk for youth and families.

The Interventionists Provide Intensive Case Management helping youth
and families involved in Gangs, Drugs, and/or Violence.

Calendar year 2017 had a caseload of 82 clients. Clients were referred
for multiple reasons including: Violence (34), Drugs (31), Gang
involvement (5), Mental Health (25), and Trauma (6).

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Trauma exposure and substance abuse issues have been increasing in the caseload the past several years with more families experiencing financial issues and chronic homelessness.

Of those clients: 37 were Oak Park families 15 were River Forest families and 4 other. 3 of these families were classified as Homeless. 53 were male and 29 female. 10 were enrolled in Grade School, 28 Middle School, and 44 High School.

Youths attended the following schools: OPRFHS District 200; District 97 Julian, Brooks, Holmes, Hatch; District 90 Roosevelt, Willard, and 14 attended Alternative Schools in and out of the communities.

Interventionists provided group work in several formats this past cycle, including Cargo Circles during summer school for 72 youths, Cargo Circles for 7 classes of 5th grade students for 10 sessions each, Cargo Circles for RF Based Girl Scouts group, ongoing Middle school Group “Girls on the Rise” at Brooks serving 22 youths the first semester and a new group of 12 for the second, a boys group at Julian serving 5 students, and ongoing group at RF Library serving 42 different youths in this Fiscal Year at request of schools to engage with youths.

Youth Director provided detailed annual report and presentation to the Council of Governments. The IGA is being discussed for renewal.

Presentations are offered to all tax bodies and collaborating agencies.

Interventionists provide presence in all three school districts, meet weekly with clients at school and alternative school sites, frequent home visits, and boots on the ground in and around libraries, parks and public spaces weekly and all throughout the summer months.

Team provided support and presence at the Rotary Rally in August 2017 at the Keystone Park.

Trainings: Staff receiving additional training on Substance Abuse, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma, Mental Health First Aid, Working with Girls, DSM 5 updates, etc.

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Partnerships

The YS Director continues to represent the Township and provide leadership, consultation, support in several arenas including: Chairing the monthly Youth Network Council, Concordia Counseling Program Committee, Past President, of Rotary Club of OP and RF, Community Justice Center Steering Committee, AMENS Group, Interact Club, Salvation Army Ann's House Advisory Board (which sadly disbanded this year as that agency closed), trainings and presentations to incoming students and parents at Fenwick, Seniors and Juniors at Trinity, Presentations at Middle Schools, Elementary Schools public and private on variety of topics.

YS maintains good relationships and collaborations with local governments, Police, Schools Public and Private, Social Service Agencies/Non for Profits, Parent Groups, Student/Youth Groups and public at large. We maintain good relationships with our surrounding villages, towns, cities and State contacts.

We look forward to continued growth in restorative justice, mentoring, collaborations, and good work with our partners, volunteers, youth and families.