

April 2016
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.

Contracted Programs FY 2016

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Contracted Programs FY 2016

In fiscal year 2016, **Youth Services Contracted for twenty-four external programs;** plus: The Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program (HFGB), and baseball/softball sponsorships. Of these programs: Sixteen were specific to the OP Community, two were specific to the River Forest Community, and six served both communities. While RF Township provides a fee for service model with Parenthesis Program for Teen Parents via the RF Mental Health Committee, OP Township funds Parenthesis via a Youth Services OP only contract.

Applicants and existing contractors were required to attend at least two of the three proffered training opportunities this past cycle. This included mentoring applications in each session. The topics for the training sessions were:

- ***The ACE Study*** – Adverse Childhood Experiences which addresses how childhood trauma exposure affects physical health, mental health, social problems and behavior.
- Using ***storytelling***, music, art and creativity to engage with youth.
- ***Peace Circle*** experiential training for staff and how to weave the process and techniques into existing program formats.

All of the trainings were well attended and received, and several of the programs have implemented the tools obtained in the trainings.

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Program	Contracted Amount	Billed Amount	Number of Youth Served
RIVER FOREST			
Connections (RF) RF Public Library	\$ 7,602	\$4,335.81	181 unduplicated 401 total attending
I-Search (RF) RF Police	\$ 8,000	\$8,000	Approx. 900 students
Total RF ONLY	\$15,602	\$12,335.81	1,081
JOINT (OP 80%, RF 20%)			
Snowball (JT) 3 Area High Schools	\$ 6,000	\$6,000 (\$4,800 OP) (\$1,200 RF)	190 students, 110 OP residents 80 RF residents
OPRFHS- Intramurals (JT)	\$12,000	\$7,271 (\$ 5,816.80 OP) (\$1,454.20 RF)	52 students, 47 OP residents 5 RF residents
IMPACT (JT)	\$5,000	\$2,635.38 (\$ 2,108.30 OP) (\$527.08 RF)	Made Information available to 3,300 students at D200
Concordia Robotics (JT)	\$8,136 (OP 50%, RF 50%)	\$7,990.01 (\$3,995 OP) \$3,995 RF)	12 Total 5 RF, 7 OP
Total JOINT	\$25,136	\$17,896.39 (\$ 11,920.11) \$ 5,976.28 RF)	254 (w/o IMPACT) 164 OP 90 RF
OAK PARK			
JiM Concordia	\$11,120	\$11,120	19
EXCELerated Concordia	\$ 8,400	\$ 8,400	13
Friday Night Place Fellowship CS	\$47,200	\$47,199.46	102 to date
Steckman-Out Loud	\$18,400	\$16,914.50	8
OP Park District Scholarships	\$8,000	\$8,000	13
PONY Baseball	\$1,000	\$1,000	15
Parenthesis Parenteen	\$12,000	\$12,000	16

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Program	Contracted Amount	Billed Amount	Number of Youth Served
Together We Can District 97:			
Brooks LAB	\$8,000	8,000	32
School Daze/Band Camp D97	\$4,000	\$4,000	312
Mann Homework Helper (HH)	\$4,000	\$3,946.50	51
Holmes Power of Partnership & STARS	\$16,400	\$13,933.37	20
Longfellow Rainbows	\$1,200	\$1,999	24
Longfellow HH	\$3,500	\$3,500	47
Beye BOOST	\$4,500	\$4,126.68	13
Hatch HH	\$7,000	\$5,750	24
Whittier ACES	\$2,500	\$2,500	36
Irving SLAM	\$8,000	\$6,851.52	29
Lincoln Media	\$5,500	\$1,906.25	Not reported
Whittier HH	\$7,000	\$5,750	24
Total OP Only	\$187,440	\$166,724.68	798

Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program (HFGB)

This sponsored program is 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 just over **2,000** people living in our community. Each household referred to the HFGB received a Jewel gift card prior to Thanksgiving and holiday presents delivered to their door in early December.

All referrals came through the Oak Park and River Forest Townships, the local public schools, local churches and social service organizations, including Parenthesis Family Center, Hephzibah Children's Association, and Thrive Counseling Center, among others.

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Donor/Sponsor Support for HFGB Program

The program was funded, in part, by grants from Oak Park River Forest Township Youth Services, River Forest Township, and the Oak Park Women’s Guild. The annual spring fund appeal and additional donations, ranging from \$5 to \$5,000, from congregations, businesses, and individuals, received through year-end, generated about \$46,000.

In addition to the financial donations, nearly **300** individuals signed up to fulfill the wish lists of program participants. The actual number of sponsors is greater when you include the hundreds of individuals who sponsored through their congregations, their businesses, their children’s’ school, or other organizations.

Youth Development and Advocacy

Financial Assistance Scholarships (FAS):

In fiscal year 2016, **Ninety children received FAS funding in Oak Park.** OP Children were funded to participate in fifteen programs (see below).

Organization	Program	Dollar Amount	Number of Youth
Brooks	Bravo	\$1,500.00	6
	D.C. Trip	\$1,000.00	4
	St. Louis Music Tour	\$7,710.00	32
Chicago Edge	Soccer	\$250.00	1
Club Fusion Volleyball	Volleyball Club	\$250.00	1
Girls All Star	Tri Star Gymnastics	\$626.75	3
Irving	Hephzibah - After School	\$250.00	1
	Hephzibah - Summer Camp	\$250.00	1
Longfellow	Snake Road / Outdoor Ed	\$1,713.84	13
Oak Park Art League	Acrylic Painting Class	\$100.00	1
OPRFHS	Musical Theatre	\$250.00	1
	Summer School	\$3,859.00	18
	Basketball Camp	\$250.00	1
	Boys Football	\$377.00	2
West Suburban Special Recreation Association	Day Camp	\$1,150.00	5
TOTAL		\$19,536.59	90

Youth Conference March 8th, 2016 “We’re All in This Together”

Over 150 youth participated in this annual conference that has taken place since 1918. Youth Services provides a stipend for the Keynote Speakers who this year were Pat Doyle of “Vision For Change” and her colleague Henry Tyler. Pat spoke on Mental Health Issues, challenges, and stigma from the perspective of having family members with diagnosed Mental Illness and Henry spoke from his personal ongoing journey with his own diagnoses, treatment and recovery as well as mentoring, providing group support, and education. Both have long ties to NAMI and speak to numerous groups including law enforcement, schools, libraries, general public etc. and emphasized the importance of community. Youth Services provides for printing 175 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 six sessions offered included:

- 1. Bullying/isms:** Social Media; Racism/Sexism/Ageism/Size-ism
- 2. Healthy Vs. Non-healthy Relationships:** Friends/Family/Romance; Knowing yourself; Narcissism; Peer Pressure; Better communication
- 3. Time Management, Organization, and Stress:** Minimizing Stress; Managing Money/Budget/Savings/Investing
- 4. Current Events:** How Governments function; Environmental Issues; Cultural Awareness
- 5. Transitions and Dealing with Change;** Far away vs. close to home; High school to College; Into real world (speakers included graduates from each High School)
- 6. Self Defense**

Direct Services FY 2016

Youth Services provided direct services through the following programs:

- Youth Interventionist Program
- Mentoring: Motivational Mentoring and YES
- Restorative Justice Programs: FACE-IT, T.I.M.E., and Peace Circles

The Youth Interventionist Program

Eleven local tax bodies provide funding via an Intergovernmental Agreement to support the Youth Interventionist Program. Supervisor Bert Patania, and Interventionists Rob Simmons and Melissa Potrawski provide Intensive Case Management helping youth and

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families involved or at risk of involvement in potentially harmful behavior. Rob Simmons took a newly created position at Oak Park Public Library in February and we are currently interviewing to hire for that position.

In calendar year 2016, the interventionists had a **caseload of 55** clients. Clients were referred for multiple reasons including:

- Violence (23)
- Drugs (19)
- Gang involvement (1)
- Mental Health (12) *

** We added this category this past cycle as it is more descriptive of the primary issue/cause for referral. This includes co-occurring disorders involving symptoms resulting from childhood exposure to trauma and substance abuse.*

Of those clients: **Forty-two were Oak Park families** and thirteen were River Forest families. One of these families was classified as Homeless. Thirty-eight were male and seventeen female. Youths attended the following schools: OPRFHS (35), District 97 (07), District 90 (03), Alternative Schools (09), Private Schools (01) Dropouts (02) ** Expulsions (01). ** NOTE: Bert has successfully re-engaged a student who had dropped out the previous semester.

Youth Director provided detailed annual report and presentation to the RF Council of Governments (COG) January 8, 2016 and the OP COG on February 3, 2016, and to RF Government representatives for further discussion and Q&A on February 17, 2016. This agreement is scheduled for renewal July 1, 2016.

Presentations are offered to all tax bodies and collaborating agencies. This past quarter, Bert Patania has been engaging with staff at OPRFHS including: School Social Workers, School Psychologists, School Librarian, Art Department, Adventure Education Program staff, Psychology Club, Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, and Teachers to expand group work. Staff provided training locally for OPRFHS Social Workers, Park District Staff in OP (year prior provided for RF Park Staff).

Group work: YS Director, John Williams, YSC member Dr. George Bailey, as well as other staff, and trained volunteers co-led Peace Circles in River Forest, St. Luke's School, OPRFHS, District 97, OP Township. Life Skills groups for 7th and 8th grade transitions, and Mentorship with High School Students were also provided.

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Dr. Bailey, John, Bert, and other professionals have been working on a Pilot Program with Beye School 5th grade teachers and staff to good effect holding weekly Circles in style of Peace Circles and what we've begun calling Cargo Circles.

Bert and Melissa assisted in staffing the RF Park Districts Lock-In at Roosevelt Middle School serving 60 plus students. Melissa and Bert provided after school support as per request at RF Public Library. Bert provides presence at OP Public Library weekly; all staff provides services on street, parks, and throughout community in spring/summer/fall months. The Youth Services team also provided support and presence at the Rotary Rally in August 2015 at the Keystone Park.

Staff Training: Bert received 3 day training for Substance Abuse Professionals and is maintaining his CADC credentials. Melissa has achieved her LPC and is preparing for her LCPC licensure exam. She attended training on Ethics; Art Therapy and Anxiety; and ACT – Acceptance Commitment Therapy.

Outcomes: The **majority of the caseload matriculating (48)** with 2 dropping out of school (one completing GED and the other now re-enrolled). In this cycle, **five Graduated HS, six graduated Middle School**, 14 opened, and 11 Closed. 2 moved out of town.

Motivational Mentoring and YES:

YS had a staff change in the fall and OPRFHS continued the MM program on site at D200. YS has been staging up to retool, staff, and create a more sustainable model by piloting a program in an OP elementary school and developing partnerships with several universities to expand to provide circle/group work at the transition points from elementary to middle school and middle school to high school.

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Restorative Justice:

The **FACE-IT Program**, administered through a contract with Jenifer Roth served **thirty-two families** from April 1, 2015 through early March 2016. Twenty-five were Oak Park families, five River Forest, and two were non-residents who paid fee for service.

	B	W	A	H	2+	Male	Female	OPRF	Trinity	Brooks	Total
Oak Park	9	9	0	5	2	19	6	24		1	25
River Forest		5				3	2	5			5
Other/Paid		1		1			2		2		2
Total	9	15	0	6	2	22	10	29	2	1	32

(B = Black/African American, W = White/Caucasian; A = Asian; H = Hispanic/Latino; 2+ = 2 or more races)

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, few repeat offenders. When they complete their community service, their record remains clean. If they do not complete the service, they are referred back to the judge. Susan, along with Jenifer Roth, has developed a positive relationship with the RF adjudication system and attends hearings monthly.

Seventy-two youths were referred to the TIME program through OP adjudication. Of those sixty-nine completed their community service obligations – a 95.8% success rate. Two have been fined by the adjudication court.

Five youth referred to TIME program from RF in the period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016 and are still working to complete their combined ninety-eight assigned hours. Five other youth who came to RF Adjudication Court were referred to the FACE-IT program which fit the offense designations.

The program manager met with Adjudication personnel once each month to provide help with determination for hours to be assigned, attended court session each month, and work collaboratively with the FACE-IT program manager to place youth in most appropriate program. Youth served a wide variety of local agencies, organizations, and local events.

OP Adjudication experimented with adding a requirement for a drug/alcohol screening for related offenses. This delayed entry into FACE-IT for months. They have since retooled and referrals have become timelier the past quarter.

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Peace Circles

Through partnership with Rotary Club of Oak Park-River Forest, Director along with Township staff and community volunteers continue to lead and co-lead Peace Circles in the community including: RF Public Library, St. Luke's School in RF, OPRFHS including faculty, staff, administration, students in Academic Enrichment, Mainstream Courses, Advanced Placement and Honors at Oak Park and River Forest High School, Beye elementary school, Brooks middle school, Julian Middle school etc.. Volunteers and staff are holding Circles in several ongoing situations in OP for 5th and 8th grade youth as part of a pilot program to expand this fall of 2016.

Partnerships

The YS Director continues to represent YS and provide leadership, consultation, support in several arenas including: Chairing the monthly Youth Network Council, Concordia Counseling Program Committee, President of Rotary Club of OP and RF, Community Justice Center Steering Committee, AMENS Group, Local Peace Circle Keepers Group, Interact Club, Salvation Army Ann's House Advisory Board, emceeding events including Roosevelt Schools Hunger Banquet, 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.