

APRIL 2017
OAK PARK TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REPORT
YOUTH SERVICES AT A GLANCE

Submitted by: John Williams, Youth Services Director

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:

- 25** Contracts with agencies/organizations
 - 2** River Forest
 - 5** Joint OP and RF
 - 18** Oak Park
- 4,726** + Youth and Families served (data as of January 2017, final reports pending.)
- 2,000+** Families, Adults, and Seniors received Holiday Food and Gift Basket deliveries of Gift Certificates for Food and Gifts purchased and delivered by volunteers.
- 25** Youth Completed Community Service through the TIME Program
- 377** Hours of Community Service provided through TIME Program
- 20** Families Completed Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention/Early intervention classes through the FACE-IT Program
- 56** Youth and Families received Intensive Case Management through the Youth Interventionist Program
- 27** UnRegistered Youth received services.
- 28** Interventionist *Home Visits* to client families January, 2017- March 2017
- 200+** Youth and Families received other services through the Interventionists including groups, referrals, consultations etc.
- 120** 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 "Answering the Call"
- 110** Cargo Peace Circles
- 80** Financial Assistance Scholarships for Youth in OP
- 22** Financial Assistance Scholarships for Youth in RF

HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2017

Contracted Programs

In fiscal year 2017, Youth Services Contracted for 25 Programs, in addition to the Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program, and Pony Baseball Sponsorships. Of these programs: 18 were specific to the OP Community, 2 were specific to the River Forest Community, 5 serve both communities (4 were joint programs, the HFGB Program, and Parenthesis Program funded by RFMHC, not RFTYS). RF Township provides fee for service model with Parenthesis Program for Teen Parents via RF MHC. YSC, OP funds Parenthesis via an OP only contract.

Program	Contracted Amount	Billed Amount	Number of Youth Served(as of Jan. 2016)
RIVER FOREST			
Connections (RF) RF Public Library	\$ 7,260	\$5,909.76	269
I-Search (RF) RF Police	\$ 8,150	\$8,150	1325
Total RF ONLY	\$15,410	\$14,059	1594
JOINT	(OP 80%, RF 20%)		
Snowball (JT) 3 Area High Schools	\$ 9,000	\$9,000	241 participants 18 leaders 106 Scholarships
OPRFHS- Intramurals (JT)	\$12,000	\$12,000	Total 126 110 OP 16 RF
Concordia Robotics (JT)	\$7,726.85 (OP 50%, RF 50%)	\$5,828.18	51 Total OP 24 RF 13 Other 14
PaperHeart (JT)	\$9,849	\$9,848.84	25 14 OP 6 RF 5 Other
Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program	\$10,000	\$10,000	2,000 Plus
Total JOINT RF 20%	\$48,575.85	\$ 46,677.02	2,461

- *Final numbers on youth served via contracted programs due June, 2017
- The Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program is an OP only line item, RF Contributes space, utilities, computer, phone etc. valued at approx. \$1,500

OAK PARK			
Program	Contracted Amount	Billed Amount	Number of Youth Served(as of Jan. 2016)
JiM Concordia	\$14,467.65	\$6,616.89	pending
EXCELerated Concordia	\$ 9,038	\$ 3,455.59	32
Friday Night Place Fellowship CS	\$52,114	\$52,114	Avg 34 attending each session. (Unduplicated at least 41)
Steckman-Out Loud	\$11,644.50	\$7,864	8
OP Park District Scholarships	\$8,000	\$8,000	102
PONY Baseball	\$1,000	\$1,000	30 est.
New Moms?Parenthesis Parenteen	\$18,260	\$18,260	9 OP
Together We Can District 97:			
Brooks LAB	\$7,000	\$7,000	20
Mann Homework Helper (HH)	\$4,000	\$4,000	33
Holmes Power of Partnership & STARS	\$14,000	\$13,500	164 POP & 43 STARS
Longfellow Rainbows	\$2,000	\$1,867.64	20
Longfellow HH	\$5,000	\$5,000	43
Beye BOOST	\$5,000	\$4,757.75	15
Hatch HH	\$7,000	\$7,000	27
Whittier HH	\$5,500	\$5,500	22
Irving SLAM	\$8,000	\$7,617	30
Lincoln Media	\$6,400	\$5,000	32
Julian 10 th Hour	\$4,000	\$4,000	pending
Total Oak Park	182,424.15	\$162,552.87	671

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 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.

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, The annual spring fund appeal and additional donations from congregations, businesses, and individuals, received through year-end. Awaiting final figure on total amount of financial donations. They totaled over \$46,000 the prior FY.

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 2017, 80 children received FAS funding in Oak Park. OP Children were funded to participate in 13 programs (see below).

OAK PARK FAS

Organization	Program	Dollar Amount	Number of Youth
Bravo Performing Arts	Summer Bravo Academy	\$2,500.00	10
OPRFHS	Sports Camp	\$2,210.00	15
	Summer School	\$2,710.00	19
	Ireland Enrichment Trip	\$250.00	1
	Spring Break Tour - Gospel Choir	\$1,750.00	7
	Summer Musical	\$267.00	2
Brooks Middle School	St. Louis Music Trip	\$905.00	4
UIC	Engineering Camp	\$250.00	1
Tri-Star Gymnastics	Gymnastics	\$1,697.00	9
Hephzibah	Hephzibah After School	\$250.00	1
Julian Middle School	Cleveland Music Trip	\$1,190.00	5
New Wave Volleyball	Club Fusion Volleyball Club	\$250.00	1
Elmhurst College	Nike Soccer Camp	\$200.00	1
TOTAL		\$14,429.00	76

Youth Conference March 7th, 2017 - Centennial Celebration “Answering the Call”

120 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 Scott Ervin, The Kid Whisperer™, who “has a strong passion for improving the lives of teachers, parents, caregivers, and the children they serve. His career has been devoted to education and to helping children succeed. Scott has over 15 years of experience working with a diverse array of students on a daily basis and brings a wealth of knowledge and understanding to his work. Scott specializes in succeeding with troubled and at-risk students.”

Youth Services provides for printing of 150 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:

Call of Character
Call of Nation

Call of Community
Call of Peace

Call of Responsibility
Call of Technology

Restorative Justice:

The **FACE-IT Program**, administered by Jenifer Roth served **20 families** from April 1, 2016 through early March 2017. 1 River Forest family, 12 Oak Park, and 8 were non-residents 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 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:	29
Total completions:	25
Failed to complete:	4

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, Director along with Township staff and community volunteers continue to lead and co-lead over 110 Cargo Circle Sessions in the community during FY 17 including at: **Beye Elementary School:** Weekly for 50 minute sessions with all the 5th grade classes and one third grade class, **Brooks Middle School:** 7th grade classes during WIN periods weekly and as requested for conflicts, **Julian Middle School:** for conflicts, and **St. Luke's School** in River Forest, and **Riveredge Hospital.** Staff and volunteers are engaged in training Officers of the Oak Park Police Department to co- facilitate.

Due to successes and extremely positive feedback from Teachers, Special Education teachers, students, staff, and administration, we have proposed expanding Cargo Circles to all elementary schools in District 97 and are awaiting a Memorandum of Understanding with District 97 for fall of 2017. Cargo Circles ongoing.

The Youth Interventionist Program

Three Interventionists provide intensive case management helping youth and families involved in Gangs, Drugs, and/or Violence.

11 local tax bodies provide funding via an Intergovernmental Agreement. Calendar year 2016 had a **caseload of 56** clients and 27 unregistered clients. Clients were referred for multiple reasons including:

- Violence (24)
- Drugs (26)
- Gang involvement (6)
- Other (10) –*This includes mental health related issues such as co-occurring disorders involving symptoms resulting from childhood exposure to trauma and substance abuse, homelessness, and other unique family situations.*

Of those clients:

- 37 were Oak Park families 15 were River Forest families 4 other.
- 3 of these families were classified as Homeless.
- 32 were male and 24 female.
- Ages included: one < 7 Years of age; 7 ages 8-11; 15 ages 12-14; 22 ages 15-17; 10 ages 18 + and one “unknown.”
- Youths attended the following schools: OPRFHS, District 97 Julian, Brooks, Beye, Holmes, District 90 Roosevelt, Willard , Alternative Schools: Menta, Britten, St. Patricks, ACACIA Academy.

Interventionists provided for 17 groups in FY 17 at the request of schools to engage with youths. Interventionists are also being trained in and facilitating Cargo Peace Circles in Elementary and Middle School settings.

Youth Director and Interventionist Supervisor provided detailed annual report and presentation to the Council of Governments. The IGA was renewed for the 2016 through 2018 program years..

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

Interventionists provide presence in all three school districts, meet weekly with clients at 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, and the team provided support and presence at the Rotary Rally in August 2016 at the Keystone Park. Staff receives training on Substance Abuse, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma, Mental Health First Aid etc.

Partnerships

The Youth Services Director continues to represent the Township and provide leadership, consultation, and support in several arenas including: Chairing the monthly Youth Network Council, serving on the Concordia Counseling Program Committee, Past President, Current Sgt. at Arms of Rotary Club of Oak Park and River Forest, the Community Justice Center Steering Committee, AMENS Group, Interact Club, Salvation Army Ann's House Advisory Board, 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.

Youth Services 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.