

2014 ANNUAL REPORT YOUTH BUREAU



2014 ANNUAL REPORT



**Celebrating 44 Years Serving the Children,
Youth, and Families of the Lancaster Community**

2014 Annual Report

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**denotes youth member*

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Nicole Gunsher, *Program Coordinator*
Andrew Gruber, *PT Program Coordinator*
Patrick McDonald, *PT Program Coordinator*
along with our Tutors & Summer Personnel

It's been 44 years and counting. Wow! Reflecting on how far we have come since June 1, 1970, we couldn't have accomplished the things we have done and continue to do without the support of our wonderful community.

Our dedicated staff continues to provide a wide variety of programming, serving all facets of the community, to the best of their abilities.



As we continue to fine tune our programs for the young people of our community, we maintained our Summer Junior Academies, including the Finance, Police, Fire and Trades Academy, along with our longstanding Summer Performing Arts Academy. We also began utilizing the Western New York Medical Institute, offering their Child & Babysitter Safety Course to the youth of Lancaster.

We also continued to utilize the Quality Youth Development System, and refined the Results Based Accountability Performance Measures. During the year we utilized the updated evaluation procedures to align with our performance measures, and we are now ready to fully implement the Results Scorecard.

Our collaborations with the Lancaster Central School District and Depew Public Schools, along with the Lancaster and Depew Police Departments, Lancaster Town Court, and the Lancaster Youth Foundation, along with the Lancaster-Depew Substance Prevention Coalition continue to benefit the entire community. We are so lucky to have such a great community that supports our efforts.

We also appreciate the support we have received from our Town Board, along with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Erie County Youth Services.

Everyone at the Lancaster Youth Bureau - our staff, boards, councils, and volunteers - all look forward to many more years of providing a wide array of worthwhile programs & services to the children, youth and families of the Lancaster-Depew Community.

John Trojanowsky
Executive Director



Town of Lancaster Youth Bureau 2014 Program Priorities

I. PHYSICAL & EMOTIONAL HEALTH

1. Youth & Family Counseling
2. Social Work Counselor
3. Substance Education Program (Life Skills/Healthy Athletes)
4. Life Skills Program (Court & Probation Referrals)
5. Health & Wellness Day Program

II. EDUCATION

1. Tutorial Assistance - School Year
2. Play Group for Three Year Olds
3. Summer Reading & Math Skills Reinforcement Program
4. Summer Skills Building Program for Middle School Students
5. Summer Enrichment Programs
6. Junior Scrabble Club
7. Story Book Theater

III. FAMILY

1. Family Support Center
2. Parenting Education Classes & Workshops
3. Children's Clothes Closet
4. Holiday Help to Families in Need
5. School Supply Closet
6. Fall Festival

IV. CITIZENSHIP

1. Teen Volunteer Program
2. Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program
3. Youth Court Member Training
4. Building Blocks Days (Asset Awareness)
5. "Kids Helping Kids" Club
6. Summer Performing Arts Academy
7. Hall of Fame

V. COMMUNITY

1. Special Friends Mentoring Program
2. Opportunities for Success Mentoring Program
3. Group Mentoring Program
4. Monthly Family Gatherings (Game Nights) for Learning Disabled Children
5. Project Sticker Shock

VI. ECONOMIC SECURITY

1. Youth Employment (Work Referral Program)
2. Red Cross Baby-sitter Training
3. Career Exploration Internship Program

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Youth & Family Counseling Services

Youth participating in the counseling program are expected to show positive changes in attitude, communication, decision making, and self-discipline. Without participation in the Youth and Family Counseling Program, the youth would continue in a pattern of negative behaviors resulting in poor school performance and problematic relationships. The Youth Counselor offers support in health and well being. She helps to sort out feelings and problems and to set and help achieve goals through positively changing negative behaviors.

The expected outcomes include: youth and families involved in counseling will show insight into the direct correlation of how the choices they make have consequences; and they will develop positive interactions with other youth, family members, school personnel and within the community; and will also develop a better understanding of how to resolve conflict and discipline problems through better communication, self control, decision making and problem solving skills.

Jennifer Candino counseled **15 students** this past year spanning 155 counseling sessions.

Mentoring Program Participants:



Life Skills & Healthy Athlete Programs

Youth participating in the *Life Skills/Healthy Athlete Programs* are expected to make positive life-style choices, have a better understanding of themselves and be able to adequately develop appropriate coping mechanisms.

The *Life Skills Education Workshops* are part of the sentences youth court participants are involved in and include: Theft Deterrence Workshops, Vandalism Workshops, Counseling Sessions for Anger Management/Aggression Control, Conflict Resolution, Decision Making Skills, Dealing with Peer Pressure, Developing a Positive Self-identity, and Sexual Harassment, along with Substance Abuse Awareness and Education, and Smoking Education/Tobacco Education Programs.

Student athletes are referred to the *Healthy Athlete Program* by the Lancaster High School Athletic Department. The program aims to deter student athletes from engaging in health compromising behaviors through an educationally based program specifically designed to meet the individual needs of each student. Participation in a minimum of three sessions is required for each student. During the sessions students examine their own identities and role model status and learn about the many aspects of being healthy from nutrition and self-esteem to living a drug free life. Students take an in-depth look at the most current information regarding teens and drug use. A focus is placed on the negative social, physical and legal aspects of using alcohol and other drugs.

28 youth participated in the two above programs.



Special Friends Mentoring Program

Special Friends is designed to assist in the early detection and prevention of school adjustment problems. The program identifies children at risk for school difficulties early in their school careers and uses trained paraprofessionals to assist with school adjustment.

Children in grades K-6 are given the opportunity to express themselves through play activities. “Special Friends” mentors learn to engage children in weekly play activities. As the relationship progresses, the child may also act-out frustrations, fears, anxieties, anger or other emotions that may create stress and interfere with concentration on school tasks. The “Special Friend” can offer support and encouragement to assist the child in experiencing success in areas such as coping skills, and practicing social behaviors.

Supervision Sessions are held on a bi-weekly basis, at which time the site supervisors (school psychologists and social workers) & program coordinator meet with the mentors (college psychology/social work interns and volunteers) individually to review the program and each child’s progress and goals in the program.

Annual conferences are held in February to go over each child’s progress with the child’s parents, the child’s teacher, the program coordinator, site supervisors and mentors.

Over the past calendar year **12 mentors have assisted 66 Lancaster School District Students.**

Group Mentoring

The goal of this mentoring program is to promote caring relationships for youth that are in need of guidance, support and nurturing and would benefit from a positive connection with an adult. The program offers participants structured weekly activities under the guidance of the mentors.

Objectives include: increasing the participants’ confidence levels, refining their socialization and communication skills and fostering healthy relationships between other group members and the adult mentors who facilitate the program.

There were **14 youth** involved with two adult mentors.

Opportunities for Success Mentoring Program

Through this program, students in 7th and 8th grade are paired with a trained mentor and meet periodically in individual and group settings.

The goal of the program is to help students become more involved in school related activities and become more academically successful, preventing them from dropping out of school.

Also, the students have the opportunity to explore future career opportunities with their mentors.

First and foremost, the mentor builds a trusting and caring relationship with each student in the program. As the relationship progresses, students will be introduced to a variety of activities to build developmental assets. The mentors serve as consistent and positive role models to lend support and encouragement to the students.

Over the past calendar year **3 mentors have assisted 42 Lancaster School District Students.**

Students who participate in the Opportunities for Success in-school mentoring program are invited to attend weekly group activities as well as monthly field trips. The mentors who meet with the students during the school day also consistently attend these groups activities as well as the Youth Bureau Program Coordinator, Family Support Center Coordinator and the Student Resource Officer from Lancaster Middle School.

These group activities help the students with socialization and the chance to connect with adults as well as their peers in a group setting.

There were **21 youth** involved in these group activities.

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Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program

Young people involved in the Youth Court & Community Sanctions Program are expected to make more thoughtful and responsible decisions regarding their actions. The program accepts referrals for first time offenders from municipal police departments and courts, probation, and schools throughout the year.

A Youth Court hearing is scheduled in order to sentence the youth to appropriate consequences for their offenses. Community service activities are planned monthly for the community service clients. Once the client has fulfilled their Youth Court sentence, a closing letter is sent back to the original referral agency. Youth Court Members act as judge, bailiff, prosecutor, defense attorney, and jury members. Sentences offered in Youth Court provide the offender with realistic and rehabilitative consequences such as community service, letter of apology, life skills education and counseling workshops.

Youth Court Training:

Members of Youth Court consist of high school students who have successfully completed a six week training program. Areas of instruction include an overview of the criminal justice system, NYS Penal Law, sentencing issues, & consequences of crime, etc.

The training program also includes professional guest speakers and concludes with mock hearings to prepare members for participation in Youth Court proceedings.

There are a total of **44 active members**, that includes 20 new members that went through the 2013 Youth Court training.

Crimes/Infractions:

Petit Larceny	3
Burglary	1
Criminal Mischief	12
Criminal Trespass	1
Harassment with Physical Contact	1
Harassment	1
Disorderly Conduct	1
Possession of a Controlled Substance	1
Unlawful Possession of Marijuana	7
ABC Law—Underage Drinking	1
Possession of a Knife in School	1
Criminal Trespass and Possession Of Burglary Tools	1
Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle By an Unlicensed Driver	1
Under the Influence of Marijuana and Possession While in School	1
Possession of a Weapon, Tobacco, And a Lighter in School	1

Referrals Sources:

Lancaster Police Department	4
Depew Police Department	5
Lancaster Police/Lancaster High School	9
Lancaster Police/Lancaster Middle School	4
Lancaster Town Court	2
Clarence Court	1
Tonawanda Court	1
Erie County Probation	1
Depew High School	6
Lancaster Middle School	1



Health and Wellness Program

Lancaster and Depew Middle School students attended one of several days where they received information to increase their knowledge of HIV/AIDS, STD's and teen pregnancy/relationship issues.

The Health & Wellness Day Program strives to educate and provide young people with accurate information so they can make informed and responsible decisions.

Program objectives include: promoting sexual abstinence as the best choice young people can make at this time in their lives, educating students about the transmission, symptoms, and consequences of sexually transmitted diseases, having students explore hypothetical dating and relationship situations, their feelings, and the harsh realities of intended/unintended teen pregnancy, and to enhance self-esteem, build communication and decision making skills, and prepare students so they can make informed, healthy lifestyle choices.

Health & Wellness Days were held for Lancaster Middle School & Depew Middle School Students. There were **553 student participants** this past year, while **39 peer facilitators** took part in the program.



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Teen Volunteer Program

The goals of the Teen Volunteer Program are to provide volunteer opportunities for youth, in order that they may become caring, responsible, healthy and contributing members of the community, and to provide local agencies and organizations with responsible, caring and able young people who are willing to dedicate their time and energy to make a positive difference in the community through service activities.

Young people involved in the Teen Volunteer Program become more caring in their attitudes, more responsible, and will demonstrate a healthier outlook on life, while becoming contributing members of the community. Organizations receiving assistance from our volunteers include:

- Lancaster Opera House
- Buffalo Museum of Science
- St. Vincent DePaul Society Soup Kitchen
- St. Elizabeth's Home , Terrace View, Hospice
- Linwood Health Care
- Lancaster Library, Lancaster YMCA
- Food Bank of WNY
- Kids Escaping Drugs, CHC Learning Center
- Child Care for school meetings
- Lancaster Youth Bureau's Children's Clothes Closet and School Supply Closet
- Summer Performing Arts Academy & Safe Summer Programs, Child Care for Common Sense Parenting Workshops
- Lancaster Youth Foundation's Spelling Bee & Teen Idol Competition



The total number of volunteer activities that were held this year numbered 411, while some 289 volunteers logged 3,570.5 volunteer hours.



Building Blocks Days

Sixth Grade students from William St. School were engaged in activities designed to introduce, teach and build the *40 Developmental Assets identified by The Search Institute* as building blocks kids need within themselves and around them to become **healthy, caring and responsible** young adults. Simply put, the more assets a young person has the better equipped they will be to deal with life's challenges and the greater likelihood of their having a successful future.

Students were able to identify important features of the Developmental Asset Framework and have an understanding of the assets dealing with positive peer influences, caring and self-esteem.

Building Blocks Day Program activities included:

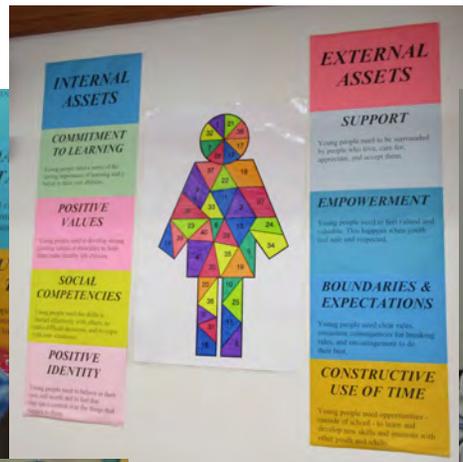
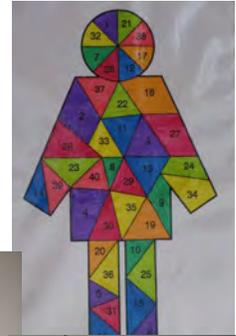
Explanation of Asset Framework - Tower Building & Asset Auction

Asset #15 - Positive Peer Influence - Bully Proof Yourself & Asset Jeopardy

Asset #26 - Caring - Understanding Those in Need, Craft Project for U.S. Soldiers

Asset #38 - Self-Esteem - Campaign Craze & Katie's Story

A total of **474 youth** participated in the program.



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Social Work Counselor Programs

Individual and Group Counseling

As a result of youth being involved with the Social Work Counselor, they are expected to improve their relationships with parents and school personnel and make positive, responsible decisions. Karen Schanne is assigned to work with Town of Lancaster youth and their families, and through a contract with the Lancaster Central Schools, students from the Court St. Elem. School and Lancaster High School. The young people Karen works with are expected to become more aware of their behavior and to accept the consequences for their actions, with the goal of improving their behavior, improving relationships within their families, schools and community. Counseling is done individually and in small groups.

Karen individually counseled **55 students** during the past year, and also was involved in facilitating social skills, banana splits, and friendship groups at Court St. School, & job skills groups at LHS involving a total of **40 students**. She conducted a total of 515 individual and group counseling sessions.

Karen also coordinated the Children's Clothes Closet, School Supply Closet and Holiday Distributions. Karen is a member of the Lancaster High School, & Court St. School Response to Intervention Teams, and the Family Support Center Collaboration Core Team. She is also a site supervisor for the Special Friends Program at Court St. Elem. School.

Kids Helping Kids Club

Karen supervises **141 2nd & 3rd grade students** who plan various school/community projects. The club fosters leadership skills, cooperation & team building skills. Several parents also assist in this program. The club meets 2-3 times per month for one hour after school throughout the school year. Kids Helping Kids Club promotes civic responsibility and involvement in positive activities that help build character. Members are provided with opportunities to develop and organize projects that benefit the community. School wide projects build assets by promoting school pride, positive behavior and caring for others. Some projects included: food drives, donations for UNICEF, Lancaster Dog Shelter and the Leukemia Society, crafts for Meals on Wheels, Anti-Bullying programs, cards for soldiers, and a teacher appreciation project.



Social Work Counselor Programs

Junior Scrabble Club

Karen continued to supervise first grade students at Court School in order to help improve language and social skills. **110 students** participate in the club. The club is educational, builds team work, and is a fun way to make new friends. During the school year three separate 5 week sessions are offered. Students utilize their vocabulary words for each game. Each time a team completes their word they write it into their vocabulary journal. Each week the students are on a different team.



Game Nights



The Lancaster Youth Bureau, along with the Lancaster School District, offered a workshop to parents who have children with Aspergers and/or Pervasive Development Disorder. After the workshop, a group of parent volunteers along with a representative from the Youth Bureau and School District developed a program called Game Nights for children on the Autism Spectrum.

It is held once a month at the Youth Bureau to provide a stress-free environment to play games and interact with other children who have similar needs. The program allows their parents to meet other parents and the adults assist with helping the children practice their social skills and establish new friendships. The children enjoy playing board games, video games, bingo, arts and crafts and watch movies together.

24 students attended at least one game night during the year.

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Social Work Counselor Programs

School Supply Closet

The School Supply Closet exists to provide assistance to families in financial need so that all children are prepared with supplies and are ready to learn. School supplies are provided at no charge to Lancaster School District families who are eligible for the free lunch program. Materials and donations have been received through the generosity of area merchants, businesses, civic organizations, community residents and Lancaster School District personnel, PTO's and Student Organizations.

188 families utilized the school supply closet, and of those families, 358 children were helped.



Children's Clothes Closet

Families Using Closet - 120

Children in Families - 247

Total Visits to Closet - 333

Free clothing enables families to ensure that their children have appropriately fitting and seasonal clothing which they could not afford otherwise due to economic conditions. The Children's Clothes Closet is available year round for local families in need to provide them with free used clothing for their children. The Youth Bureau accepts donations of infant to high school age clothes primarily from community residents to help sustain it. Clothing drives by schools, and local Scout troops also help to stock the clothes closet. Volunteers assisted with the maintenance of the Children's Clothes Closet to keep it organized and well stocked. Parents who use this program are happy to assist in maintaining it as their way of showing appreciation of its availability.



Social Work Counselor Programs

Holiday Distributions to Families in Need

	Families Receiving Assistance	Children in Families
Christmas	149	293
Thanksgiving	78	161
Easter	54	116

“DAY OF GIVING” in Coordination with the News Neediest Fund

Families were given food, new toys, gift certificates, cookies, hats and gloves, and many received a tree with decorations. Donations from the News Neediest Funds, local businesses, schools, community groups and residents help to insure the success of this program. Students and faculty from Lancaster High School, Lancaster Middle School, & William Street School along with the Youth Bureau’s teen volunteers participated with the wrapping of gifts, sorting food and assisted the recipients as they arrived to pick up their donations.

Easter Distribution - The Easter food baskets were made possible by donations that were provided by Lancaster Town Hall employees, Lancaster High School Math Honor Society and community residents. Students from Lancaster Middle School’s self-contained classrooms assembled the *family food baskets and Easter baskets filled with chocolate, treats and toys.*

Thanksgiving Distribution - Food and turkey donations were received from employees from Lancaster Town Hall employees, William St. School Good Citizens Club, Lancaster Middle School Student Council, and local citizens. Students from Lancaster Middle School assembled the *family food baskets.*



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Child and Babysitting Safety

Youth participating in the This Western New York Emergency Medical Institute course were taught the skills necessary to care for young children. This program is designed for youth ages 11 and up. Course highlights include first aid, safety and injury prevention, care giving, leadership skills, and constructive play time activities. Four (Total of 8 hours of instruction) Workshops were held during July and August involving a total of **83 participants** (77 females, 6 males).

Youth Employment Program

This program recruits youth who are seeking employment. It also provides youth with pre-employment skills such as interviewing skills and resume writing, filling out applications and forms, through employment counseling. The program also recruits employers and serves as a referral source for both employers and youth, especially for odd jobs such as; baby-sitting, yard work, etc. The program is free to all participants. This year **48 youth** participated in the program with requests totaling 65 odd jobs, part time work, babysitting, etc.



Story Book Theater

The purpose of the Storybook Theater is to encourage and promote reading with Kindergarten students by using a theatrical approach. Storybook Theater provides an opportunity for positive social interaction in an after school program that is educational, creative and fun. A small cast of students are first recruited from the Lancaster High School Jr. Honor Society to bring a storybook to life by becoming the characters in the book. Props, costumes, interactive questions, book themed inspired crafts and snacks help to captivate the children's imagination. Two 3 week sessions are offered during the school year providing an opportunity for **26 children** to participate.

Three-Year Old Playgroup

The Three Year Old Play Group is a structured program that provides preschool age children with the opportunity to develop and increase their social skills, enhance verbal and motor skills, improve listening skills and foster imagination and creativity in a nurturing environment.

Children participating in the play groups show an increase in social abilities, improved listening skills, and enhanced verbal and motor skills.

There were four sessions held this year, which included for the second time, a summer session. This session included three classes. The winter, spring, summer and fall sessions consisted of ten hourly classes. Each class consisted of open play, arts and crafts, circle time, group play, story time and snack time. The program focuses on teaching social skills such as taking turns and being cooperative. This year **18 three-year olds** took part in the program.



Appreciating Our Teen Volunteers



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Family Support Center

Due to a lack of knowledge regarding services that are available to families having concerns with their child, families will fail to seek the necessary services. As a result of the Family Support Center's involvement and assessment of a family, their needs can be identified and will result in the linkage to the appropriate service providers. Many of these families involved with the Family Support Center, will follow through and receive the necessary services, which helps the family address the issues as a family to help the child.

When a concern for a child has been identified, families are referred to Anne Monin, the Family Support Center Coordinator, from various school support staff, psychologists, social workers, school counselors, school administrators, along with self-referrals from parents and referrals from community agencies.

After receiving referrals for **120** families, there were **65** intake sessions, with **83** follow throughs during January through June of the 2013-2014 school year, and referrals for **35** families, **59** intake sessions, with **31** follow throughs during the first part of the 2014-2015 school year. Assessments were completed, and each family was provided linkage to the appropriate service providers.

Common Sense Parenting

Through their participation in the *Common Sense Parenting Program*, parents improve their ability to effectively deal with their children's behaviors and have better communication skills. The program focuses on the every day issues of being a parent, and addresses topics like: preventing misbehaviors, encouraging positive behaviors, teaching children self-control, and handling emotional situations. Childcare is provided free of charge to families. The six week workshop series of interactive sessions were facilitated by Mr. Jan Krull.



This past fall, **12 parents (with 10 children)** took part in the Common Sense Parenting Workshop.

School Year Tutorial Program & Exam Prep Sessions

Students participating in the Tutorial program showed improvement in at least three of the following areas: report card marks, test grades, homework assignments, work habits and attitudes towards school. The after school tutorial program offered reading and math tutoring on the elementary, middle and high school levels to **24 students**.

42 students in 4th, 5th & 6th grade from the William St. School also received reading and math tutorial assistance during the school year.



Students participating in the Special Exam Prep Session were better prepared to take the major Regents Exams in Integrated Algebra, Geometry, Algebra 2/Trigonometry, Biology, Earth Science and Chemistry.

Safe Summer Classes and Field Trips

Safe Summer Reading and Math Skills Reinforcement Classes

Students participating in the Reading & Math Skills Reinforcement Program helped maintain their basic reading and/or math skills, which helped them to meet with success when they return to school in September.

- 81 - students attended Math Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 88 - students attended Reading Skills Reinforcement Classes
- 7 - students attended the Science Reinforcement Class
- 17 students attended the Skills Building Program for Middle School Students



Safe Summer Enrichment Classes, Workshops & Field Trips

Students had the opportunity to participate in enrichment classes or activities that increased their knowledge about specific subjects or topics.

Students took part in the following areas:

- 106 - students attended Studio in Art Classes
 - 82 - students attended the Child & Babysitting Safety Classes
 - 10 - students attended the CPR/AED Training
 - 12 - students attended the “Getting Ready for Kindergarten” Class
 - 20 - students attended the “Kid’s Health & Fitness Fun” Classes
 - 19 - students attended the “Fitness Fun for Preschoolers” Classes
 - 7 - students attended the “Creative Writing” Classes
 - 8 - students attended the Survivor U Finance Class
 - 13 - students attended the *Rock n Roll Music Party* Workshop
 - 9 - students attended the *Music from Around the World* Workshop
 - 22 - students attended the *Nature in Our Neighborhoods* Workshop
 - 20 - students attended the *Crime Investigation* Workshop
 - 22 - students attended the *Science Below Zero* Workshop
 - 31 - students attended the *Digging Dinosaurs* Workshop
 - 22 - students attended the *“Incredible Insects/Buggy Friends* Workshop
 - 17 - students attended the Horseback Riding Field Trip
 - 15 - students attended the Hidden Valley Animal Adventure Field Trip
 - 9 - students attended the Rafting at Letchworth Field Trip
 - 9 - students attended the Junior FIRE Academy
 - 9 - students attended the Junior POLICE Academy
 - 9 - students attended the Junior TRADES Academy
- 417 - students were registered for the above programs (647 duplicate count)
- 17 - students attended the Skills Building Program for Middle School Students



419 children participated in the above programs (742 duplicate count)



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Summer Enrichment Academies

Junior POLICE Academy

Have you ever wanted to learn about the Justice System? Students were able to hone their detective skills, learn about what the local authorities are doing to fight the war on drugs & gangs, learn how real world forensics work, learn about the federal side of law enforcement, learn about the SWAT team, along with having a “Physical Fitness” day learning about the training that officers have to do to pass the academy. They also had a tour of the Lancaster Police Station and jail. This program is presented in collaboration with the Lancaster Police Department.



Summer Enrichment Academies

Junior TRADES Academy

Have you ever wanted to build something with your own hands? Do you wonder how things are made? Students were able to learn the techniques used by professionals in the trades today, the basics of hand and power tools and the process of seeing a project through from start to finish. All participants were involved in the design and creation of multiple projects, including building storage crates, as well as a take home project. Not only did they have the satisfaction of building something themselves, but they also learned valuable, practical, life-long skills.



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Summer Performing Arts Academy

Peter Panic



Peter Panic was performed on July 29th & 30th at the Lancaster Middle School with 72 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.

This summer we had the fun of visiting *Neverland* without actually producing *Peter Pan*! The story goes like this - Pam is the president of the drama club of her school, but due to cutbacks, the club may be eliminated. Pam and her friends decide to save the club by putting on a production of *Peter Pan*. But Coach Rook has other plans. He's facing his own budget crisis in his football program and sets his Pirates loose on the drama club to wreak havoc! Football players and cheerleaders audition for parts, and in desperation, Pam recruits students from detention to play the Lost Boys, well Girls. As if Rook's sabotage wasn't enough, Peter Pan spirals into Peter Panic when the school suddenly includes hooks on the list of weapons banned at school! Just when all seems lost, star quarterback Tinkerman, who plays – you guessed it! – Tinkerbell, sacrifices everything, including his football career, so the show can go on and Pam can see her dream come true!

This refreshingly clever and fun homage to the original classic is full of heart and reminds both the young and young-at-heart to always follow their dreams!

Summer Performing Arts Academy

All Shook Up

All Shook Up was performed on August 7, 8 & 9, 2014, at the Lancaster High School with 48 youth participating as cast members, musicians and stage crew.

All Shook Up is inspired by and featuring the songs of Elvis Presley. *All Shook Up* takes place in 1955, and into a square little town in a square little state rides a guitar-playing roustabout who changes everything and everyone he meets in the hip swiveling lip curling musical fantasy that has folks jumpin' out of their blue suede shoes with such classics as "Heartbreak Hotel," "Jailhouse Rock," and "Don't Be Cruel". Other songs include "Love Me Tender" and "Can't Help Falling in Love."



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Summer Enrichment Academies

Junior FINANCE Academy

Students in the program participated in a cause and effect interactive money game where students were asked to make financial choices that will led to different paths. For instance, a student might have to decide whether he should save the allowance he has earned this week or spend it on a new video game that just came out. Students were able to see the impact of their financial behavior on their health, wealth and overall well being. The game was intended to teach children how to make financial choices that will be most beneficial to them. The ultimate survivor won a prize. Classes were instructed by staff from the Lancaster-Depew Federal Credit Union, assisted by students from the LHS Academy of Finance.



Summer Enrichment Academies

Junior FIRE Academy

Our Academy participants know that the role of a fire department is to save lives and protect property. They were given the opportunity to learn the basics that are needed to become part of this tradition - The basic understanding of fire, proper use of fire extinguishers, use of the fire hoses, and fire safety/prevention, how a fire truck works and what equipment is in an Engine, type of equipment that fire fighters wear and how it protects them. They were also trained in basic First Aid and what equipment is needed to assist friends and family.

The program also taught basic understanding of fire and how to control its effect and to keep you safe. It is also designed to show what to do to help family and friends during an emergency. This program is presented in collaboration with the Twin District Fire Company.



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2014 Hall of Fame

The following youth are honored for their noted achievements in personal growth and service to the people of our community.

*Alicia Bauer
Nicole Becker
Kayla Bicknell
Heather Brady
Gabrielle Canino
Alexandra Casillo
Austin Crowe
Elise Depczynski
Rossella Giangreco-Marotta
Danielle Giroux
Brett Kaska
Michael Kleinfelder
Sabrina Kwiatkowski*

*Allison Mazur
Manda McNally
Daniel Mlodozienec III
Michael Pawlak, Jr.
Marissa Pillitteri
Ryan O'Hern
Nathan Riexinger
Seth Rueger
Anna Schiavi
Sarah Steiner
Conor Sullivan
Taylor Zaccarine*



The following adults were honored for their dedicated service to the youth and families of our community.

Elaine and Nick Driscoll

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Lancaster Youth Foundation

The Lancaster Youth Foundation, Inc. (LYF) is a public charity organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York and is located in the Town of Lancaster, NY. The purpose of the Foundation is to help raise funds to support programs and activities which will provide opportunities for youth development and delinquency prevention. These funds will be used to enhance programs provided through the Lancaster Youth Bureau as well as other youth service agencies within the Town of Lancaster.

The Foundation co-sponsored the First Annual Trivia Night and Teen Idol Competition, along with Letters from Santa to help raise funds for the grant program.

During 2014 the Foundation provided grants to various school groups and organizations to encourage creative approaches to strengthening developmental assets among the youth in the Lancaster Community.

The recipients of this year's grant program included: Depew Middle School—Magformers: The Ideal Math Manipulatives, Depew School District—Camp Invention, Lancaster Family Support Center—Common Sense Parenting, Lancaster Police Department—Teen Mentoring Program, Lancaster-Depew Substance Abuse Coalition—Healthy Choices = Healthy Life, Sacred Heart of Jesus CYO—Team Building, St. John Lutheran Church—Day Camp, St. Mary's Elem. School—Ropes Adventure/Leadership Building Program, Lancaster Youth Bureau - NYS Youth Leadership Forum, Christmas "Day of Giving" & Mentoring Programs.



Santa Claus

2014 Annual Report

Lancaster-Depew Teen Idol

Students from Lancaster, Depew & St. Mary's High Schools competed for the title of Teen Idol during the Eleventh Annual Competition. The preliminary competition involving 22 performers took place on April 2nd, with the finals held at the Lancaster Opera House on April 30th. Emily Bassett, a junior from Depew High School won this year's title. Conor Sullivan from LHS was first runner-up and Kirsten Brady from DHS was second runner-up. Evan Synor from DHS along with Erica Kilgore from LHS were also finalists. Patrick Uhteg was the Emcee for the Final Competition. The Teen Idol Competition is co-sponsored by the Youth Bureau and Lancaster Youth Foundation.



TRIVIA NIGHT

The Frist Annual Trivia Night, co-sponsored with the Lancaster Youth Foundation, took place on March 26th at St. Mary's High School. Nineteen teams competed for the grand prize, with the Depew Teachers Organization-Team #2 consisting of George Bushey, Paul Endres, Paul Parinello, and Michael Parks. Matt Walter served as Masters of Ceremony, with Youth Bureau staff members Mindy Muench & Nicole Gunsher tallying the results



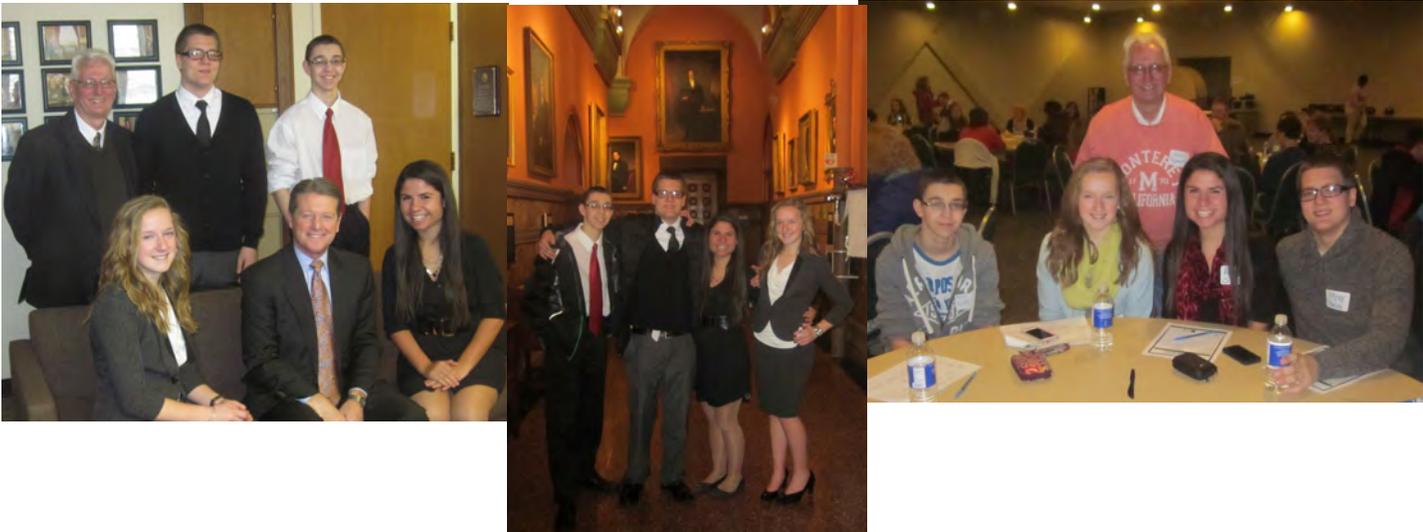
Project Sticker Shock

The Lancaster Youth Bureau staff, Teen Mentoring Group, and the Teen Volunteers along with the Depew High School SADD Chapter placed stickers on alcoholic beverages in the three local TOPS stores in Lancaster during prom/graduation season, along with holiday season. The stickers read: Know the Law - PREVENT UNDERAGE DRINKING - It is illegal for any persons 21 and older to purchase or provide alcohol to minors! Fines are up to \$1,000 or 1 year in jail!



Albany Youth Leadership Forum

On February 10th & 11th, John Trojanowsky brought Kristen Bull, Eric Koeth, Michael Pawlak and Kristen Vero to Albany, NY to participate in the NYS Assoc. of Youth Bureaus' Annual Youth Leadership Forum. The students participated in teambuilding exercises, stress management and service learning workshops and met with Senator Patrick Gallivan to discuss the importance of Youth Bureaus.



2014 Annual Report

Junior Spelling Bee



Fall Family Festival

On Saturday, October 4th the Youth Bureau held its 5th Annual Family Fall Festival. Pony rides, petting zoo, miniature golf, kids' crafts, face painting, along with Operation Safe Child & Driving & Texting simulator and lots of more fun was provided.



2014 Annual Report

Our Year in Review...



2014 Annual Report

The End of Our Year in Review...

