

APRIL 2019
OAK PARK TOWNSHIP ANNUAL REPORT
YOUTH SERVICES AT A GLANCE
Submitted by: Megan Traficano, Youth Services Director

Youth Services supports programs and services that address youth through the implementation of prevention techniques, crisis intervention, restorative justice, therapeutic involvement, case management and coordination of wraparound services with other community partners and agencies. Youth Services also advocates for programs and services which enhance the social /emotional development of youth and their families. Youth Services is committed to promoting positive opportunities for youth and families and to helping the youth and their families access 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:

- 16** Contracts with agencies/organizations
 - 2** River Forest
 - 3** Joint OP and RF
 - 11** Oak Park
- 1,900+** Families, Adults, and Seniors received Holiday Food and Gift Basket deliveries of Gift Certificates for Food and Gifts purchased and delivered by volunteers.
- 16** Youth Completed Community Service through the TIME Program
- 216** Hours of Community Service provided through TIME Program
- 5** Families Completed Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention/Early intervention classes through the FACE-IT Program
- 59** Youth and Families received Intensive Case Management through the Youth Interventionist Program
- 4** UnRegistered Youth received services.
- 213** Interventionist *Home Visits* to client families April 1, 2018- March 31, 2019
- 120** Youths from OPRF, Trinity and Fenwick High schools participated in the annual Youth Conference - held since 1918 - at Concordia University in RF. Theme: Wired for Change
- 11** Cargo Peace Circles
- 66** Financial Assistance Scholarships for Youth in OP
- 27** Financial Assistance Scholarships for Youth in RF

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HIGHLIGHTS FOR FY 2019**Contracted Programs**

In fiscal year 2019, Youth Services Contracted for 18 Programs, in addition to the Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program, and Pony Baseball Sponsorships. Of these programs: 12 were specific to the OP Community, 2 were specific to the River Forest Community, 4 serve both communities.

Program	Contracted Amount	Billed Amount	Number of Youth Served (as of Jan. 2019)
RIVER FOREST			
Connections (RF) RF Public Library	\$ 7,812.32	\$5,352.14	225
I-Search (RF) RF Police	\$ 8,750	\$8,750	1115
Total RF ONLY	\$16,562.32	\$14,102.14	1340
JOINT	(OP 80%, RF 20%)		
Snowball (JT) 3 Area High Schools	\$ 5,9000	\$5,259	16 leaders
OPRFHS- Intramurals (JT)	\$6,000	\$0	0 (no reports were submitted)
Concordia Robotics (JT)	\$15,262 (OP 50%, RF 50%)	\$13,161.84	43
Holiday Food and Gift Basket Program	\$10,000	\$10,000	1,900 Plus
Total JOINT RF 20%	\$37,162.00	\$ 28,420.84	1,916 Plus

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OAK PARK			
Program	Contracted Amount	Billed Amount	Number of Youth Served(as of Jan. 2019)
Friday Night Place Fellowship CS	\$45,782	\$45,782	Avg = 28 per session (Unduplicated = 33)
OP Park District Scholarships	\$8,000	\$8,000	32
PONY Baseball	\$500	\$500	30 est.
Together We Can District 97:			
Mann Homework Helper (HH)	\$5,477	\$0	15
Longfellow Rainbows	\$2,547.75	\$2,331.15	19
Longfellow HH	\$4,812.50	\$4,812.50	30
Beye BOOST	\$4,304	\$1,592.00	21
Hatch Skill Builders	\$9,000	\$5,360	14
Whittier HH	\$5,812.50	\$5,812.50	10
Irving SLAM	\$8,598	\$7,025	16
Lincoln Media	\$6,937.50	\$2,968.75	11
CUC-SMART	\$84,027.90	\$80,730.62	36
Total Oak Park	185,799.15	\$165,539.76	267

- *Final numbers on youth served via contracted programs due May 20, 2019
- 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

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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 1,900 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 \$47,000 the prior FY.

In addition to the financial donations, nearly 275 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.

Besides the financial donors and sponsors, the program's success is also thanks to the many volunteers who help to organize the gifts at the church, as well as the 100+ drivers who deliver them. The last critical piece is the generosity of United Lutheran Church for graciously allowing us to take over their church space the first week in December.

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Youth Development and Advocacy

Financial Assistance Scholarships (FAS):

In fiscal year 2019, 66 children received FAS funding in Oak Park. OP Children were funded to participate in 14 programs (see below).

OAK PARK FAS

Organization	Program	Dollar Amount	Number of Youth
Bravo Performing Arts	Summer Bravo Academy	\$1,500.00	6
OPRFHS	Sports Camp	\$2,625.00	20
	Summer School	\$875.00	7
	Little Huskies Camps	\$1,090.00	7
Brooks Middle School	Junior Theatre Festival	\$500.00	2
District 97 Middle School	Spring Music Tour	\$3,000.00	12
YMCA	After School Program	\$500.00	2
Hephzibah	Hephzibah After School	\$250.00	1
OPRF YF	Youth Football/Cheer Camp	\$550.00	3
Sugar Beet	Summer Baking Camp	\$175.00	1
World Strides	Washington, DC Trip	\$250.00	1
Girl Scouts	Camp Alice Chester	\$250.00	1
A+ Master Tutoring	Tutoring Sessions	\$250.00	2
Tri-Star	Gymnastics	\$250.00	1
TOTAL		\$12,065.00	66

Youth Conference, 2019 – “Wired for Change”

120 youth participated in this annual conference that has taken place since 1918. The Keynote Speaker this year was Governor Patrick Quinn. Governor Quinn served as the 41st Governor of Illinois from Jan. 29, 2009 to Jan. 12, 2015. Governor Quinn has served the people of Illinois for more than 40 years as both a citizen and a public official.

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:

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Change of Attitudes | Change of Power | Change of Communication |
| Change of Mind | Change of Perception | Change of Norms |

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Restorative Justice:

The **FACE-IT Program**, administered by Jenifer Roth served **21 families** from April 1, 2018 through early March 2019. 7 River Forest families and 14 Oak Park families were served. 5 referrals from Oak Park Adjudication, 13 River Forest Adjudication, 1 Trinity referral, and 2 volunteer referrals. Youth attended the following schools: 16 OPRF, 2 Fenwick, 1 Trinity, 1 St. Patrick's, and 1 Triton.

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.

A total of 29 youths (18 through OP and 6 through RF and 5 failed to complete) were referred to the TIME program through local adjudication.

Total Completions: 16

Ongoing: 8

Failed to Complete: 5

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.

The Youth Interventionist Program

The Youth Interventionists provide intensive case management helping youth and families involved in violence, drugs, mental health related issues, trauma, and behavioral issues.

10 local tax bodies provide funding via an Intergovernmental Agreement. Calendar year 2018 had **a caseload of 59** clients and 4 unregistered clients. Clients were referred for multiple reasons including:

- Violence (19)
- Drugs (18)
- Other (22) –*This includes mental health related issues such as co-occurring disorders, trauma, self-harm, suicidal ideation, and behavioral issues.*

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Of those clients:

- 53 were Oak Park families 5 were River Forest families.
- 1 of these families were classified as Homeless.
- 38 males and 21 females.
- Ages included: 2 < 7 Years of age; 7 ages 8-11; 22 ages 12-14; 21 ages 15-17; 7 ages 18 +.
- Youths attended the following schools: OPRFHS, District 97 Julian, Brooks, Holmes, Irving and Hatch District 90 Roosevelt, Willard , Alternative Schools: Menta OP, Hillside Academy, Trinity, Joseph Academy, Ms. Roberts Beauty Academy, and Morton East

Girls on The Rise

- 32 Sessions of Girls on the Rise held
- 34 Youth participated in Girls on the Rise

Girls on the Rise is a girls-only, safe space gatherings that meet once a week after -school. A typical group serves 10-15 girls in grades 7th and 8th. Participants share feelings, struggles, hopes, and similarities and serve as a sounding board and or support system for one another while discussing and participating in a variety of activities geared for young teens. Topics might include communication, advocacy, mental health, decision making, improving relationships with family and friends, body image etc. The program gives adolescent girls an opportunity to feel empowered, improve daily problem-solving skills, gain self-awareness, understand culture bias, improve self-esteem, feel connected with other girls, make healthy decisions, and own their Magic.

Youth Director provided detailed annual report and presentation to the Council of Governments. The IGA was renewed for the 2018 through 2020 program years.

This past quarter, 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 2018 at the Keystone Park. Staff receives training on Substance Abuse, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Trauma, Mental Health First Aid etc.

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Partnerships

During the last couple of weeks of the FY 2019 there was a change in the Youth Services Director. The previous Director (April 2018-January 14, 2019) represented the Township and provided 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, 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.

The current Youth Services Director will maintain 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 and 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