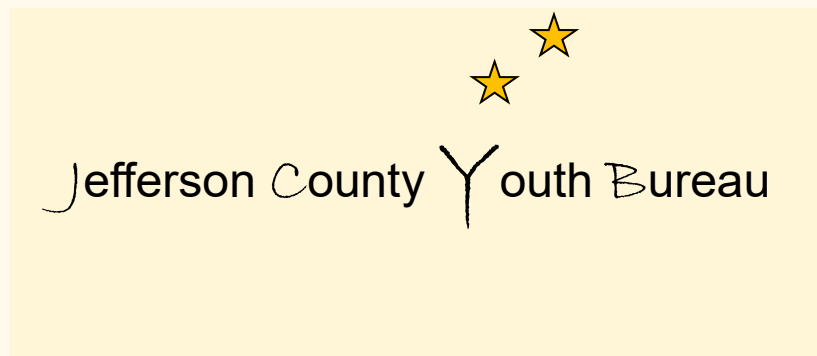




# Annual Report 2022



A Division of Jefferson County Department of Social Services  
250 Arsenal Street Watertown, New York 13601



# JEFFERSON COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

## Annual Report January 1—December 31, 2022

During 2022 the Youth Bureau and Advisory Board acted in an advisory capacity to the Jefferson County Board of Legislators through the Health and Human Services Committee

**William Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Legislators**

### Health and Human Services Committee

Anthony Doldo, District 15, Chair  
John Peck, District 7,  
Allen Drake, District 4  
Corey Grant, District 14  
Jeremiah Maxon, District 10  
Philip Reed, District 3  
Francis Calarco, District 12

### Youth Advisory Board

Scott Weller, Carthage, Chair  
Dan Deegan, Watertown, Vice Chair  
Brooke Roes, Watertown, Secretary  
Robert Cantwell, III, Liaison with Board of Legislators  
Stephanie Graf, CCE  
Jane Gendron, Watertown  
Sharon Chaple, Watertown  
Mary Mathewson, Watertown  
E. Wendy O'Sullivan, Watertown  
Joe Wargo, Watertown  
Allyson Wargo, Watertown (youth member)  
Alicia Ruperd, Carthage  
Veronica Neff, Felts Mills (youth member)  
Neva Bettinger, Henderson (youth member)  
Rebecca Calandro, Watertown  
Amy Canniff, Watertown  
Kaytlyn Desormeau, Watertown (youth member)  
Monica Makuch, Brownville  
Nova Schenk, Watertown  
Natalie Wesseldine, Watertown (youth member)  
Kirsten Widrick, Chaumont (youth member)

Robert Hagemann, County Administrator  
Sarah Baldwin, Deputy County Administrator  
Teresa Gaffney, Commissioner, DSS  
Karen Marcum, Deputy Commissioner/Youth Bureau Director



*Mission Statement: to provide, promote and expand opportunities for the positive development of all young people in Jefferson County*

## Highlights

2022

### *Youth Recognition Awards*

In recognition of outstanding accomplishments, annual youth recognition awards were presented to:

**Promising Ability In Youth Services**

**Mikey Kelley**

**Youth Overcoming Odds**

**Conner Cantwell**

**Youth Leadership**

**Kristina Donders**

**Outstanding Youth Volunteer**

**Elizabeth Hyman**

**Outstanding Adult Youth Worker**

**Michael Schanley**

**It Takes A Community**

**Dennis Crowley**

### **Community Support**

The Youth Bureau provided opportunities for youth serving programs to share information and resources and for the community to respond to identified youth needs. The Youth Services Network provided information on the topics of: CHJC Community School Liaison Program; The Victim's Assistance Center's Child Advocacy Center; the Glenmont Job Corps; Planned Parenthood of the North Country; the Court Appointed Special Advocates Program; Youth Court; and the North Country Prenatal Perinatal overview of programs.

The Youth Services Network gathers information from all attendees about the programs they provide. Minutes are taken and posted on the Jefferson County Youth Bureau website.

### **Recreation Scholarships**

19 girls & 26 boys ranging in age from five to nineteen received scholarships for activities such as gymnastics classes and various camps. Cornell Cooperative Extension offered "camp in a box" with a variety of activities for use at home. This was quite popular and successful and offered multiple opportunities and topics for youth to explore such as Space Exploration where youth learned about the constellations and how to build their own rocket.



## Youth Bureau Funded Programs



### Funding

**94,812.00** in funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to support:

- ★ Eight programs operated by non-profit agencies
- ★ Recreation Scholarships

### The Young People

Programs reported 900 children and youth attending Youth Bureau funded programs. (Children may have been counted more than once if they attended more than one program.) The Covid-19 Global Pandemic impacted the number of programs offered to youth in 2022, the ability of agencies to reach out to youth, and the number of youth served.

#### Gender

53% were boys, 47% were girls  
0% Transgender/Other  
(Data as reported in the state system which is unable to capture transgender/other at this time)

#### Ethnicity

82% Caucasian ~ 6% African-American ~ 3% Hispanic ~ 6% Two or more races ~ 3% Asian, American Indian, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian

**Ages** 78 ~ under five years old  
301 ~ five to nine years old  
346 ~ ten to fourteen years old  
131 ~ fifteen to seventeen years old  
33 ~ eighteen to twenty years old  
11 ~ twenty one and up

### Youth Development

#### *Hearts For Youth*

*(Hearts For Youth Inc. \$20,000)*

A program focusing on life enrichment opportunities that facilitate youth in volunteering and being an active and vital part of their community. After school and summer programs encourage teamwork and camaraderie, building relationships, developing physical and cognitive skills and encouraging healthy, respectful, productive citizenship.



#### *Babysitting Course (North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council \$3,500)*

This course will prepare youth to start their own babysitting business in the Community. They will learn the skills needed to safely care for children, including CPR and First Aid. Youth are provided opportunities for career exploration, work readiness skill development, job/employment training skills development and self-sufficiency skill development.



#### *Family Visitation Program (Resolution Center \$4,000)*

This program provides separated families with an opportunity to receive enhanced visitation while promoting permanency and normalcy in the lives of children.





## Youth Development Continued

### *Teen Center Life Skills Program (Children's Home of Jefferson County \$30,700)*

To help local youth become productive and healthy adults, the SoZo Teen Center focuses on health and wellness, academics, job readiness, life skills, and civic engagement. Dedicated staff and volunteers provide positive role models and ensure a safe and enriching environment. Nutritious snacks and hot dinners are served daily. All services are provided free of charge.



### *Lyme Central School Summer Theater Institute (\$6,800)*

Participating students in grades K-12 worked together to produce and present a high quality theater production to the local community.



# Youth Bureau

### *Recreation Scholarships (Youth Bureau \$10,000)*

Financial assistance helped to cover the costs of skill-building activities such as gymnastic classes and different camps for children from financially needy families. It was exciting to once again send youth to overnight summer camps!

## Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support

### *The Q Center (ACR Health \$10,000)*

The center provides services, activities and supports for our community's LGBTQ youth. The overall goal of the program is improved health and social-emotional outcomes for LGBTQ youth and their families.



## Youth Sports And Education Opportunity Funding

### *Sports & STEM (YMCA \$7,980)*

Youth will engage in fun and active sports programming while also sharing in exciting STEM activities. Sports programs keep kids active, teach friendly competition, and introduce healthy practices for life. STEM prepares students for a lifetime of critical thinking, collaboration, and creative problem solving in the context of hands-on learning.



### *Clayton Youth Commission (\$1,832)*

The program was established to encourage, supervise and maintain sports, fitness, recreational, educational and cultural programs for all youth through the age of 16. A variety of sports offered include Soccer, Basketball, Lacrosse, Softball, Golf, Baseball, Flag Football, Cheerleading and a tiny tots program which introduces toddlers to organized play.