



Annual Report 2019

Jefferson County  Youth Bureau

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, 2019

During 2019 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

Scott Gray, Chairman of the Board of Legislators

Health and Human Services Committee

John Peck, District 7, Chair
Anthony Doldo, District 15
Allen Drake, District 4
Robert Ferris, District 11
Carolyn Fitzpatrick, District 12
Jeremiah Maxon, District 10
James Nabywaniec, District 8

Youth Advisory Board

Jesse Roshia, Watertown, Chair
Scott Weller, Carthage, Vice Chair
Brooke Roes, Watertown, Secretary
Grace Babcock, Adams (youth member)
Amy Briggs, Lafargeville
Robert Cantwell, III, Liaison with Board of Legislators
Sharon Chaple, Watertown
Robin Colello-Poplaski, Watertown
Dan Deegan, Watertown
Taylor Edgar, Adams Center (youth member)
Sheryl Foan, Watertown, Immediate Past Chair
Jane Gendron, Watertown
Karlie Maloney, Belleville (youth member)
Kristine Maloney, Watertown
Mary Jane Mathewson, Watertown
Thomas Powlin, Watertown
Rebecca Reed, Carthage
Matt Rogers, Adams Center
Allyson Ruetten, Dexter (youth member)
Alicia Ruperd, Carthage
James Schell, Watertown
Christine Sutton, Watertown

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
children and youth in
Jefferson County***

Highlights

2019

Youth Recognition Awards

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

Outstanding Youth Volunteer
Jason Miles

Youth Overcoming Odds
Tori Brunet

Youth Leadership
Emily Locke

Outstanding Adult Youth Worker
Mark Taylor

It Takes A Community
Alison and John Trevor Perry

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: the Tae Kwon Do Training Center programs which focus on the challenges youth face today such as bullying, self-esteem and personal responsibility; CAPC Pre K and Head Start programs; BOCES High School and adult programs; the Victim's Assistance Center programming including services offered through the Child Advocacy Center which includes a new facilities dog and a mobile forensic interview unit; the Mobile Integration Team services (part of the St. Lawrence Psychiatric Center) whose main goal is to keep people out of the hospital and in their homes; Jefferson Community College Educational Opportunity Program designed to help students succeed in college; and the Exceptional Family Member Program which provides services to military families.

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

27 girls & 18 boys ranging in age from five to nineteen received scholarships for activities such as youth leadership program, overnight camps, music lessons and instruments, martial arts, dance classes, theater camp, kick boxing, tumbling, gymnastics classes, sports equipment and activities and day camps.



Youth Bureau Funded Programs



Funding

\$84,649 in funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services supported:

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

The Young People

Programs reported more than 1,900 children and youth attending Youth Bureau funded programs. (Children may have been counted more than once if they attended more than one program.)

Gender

47% were boys, 41% were girls and 12% Transgender/Other

Ethnicity

81% Caucasian ~ 8% African-American ~ 4% Hispanic ~ 6% Two or more races ~ 1% Asian, American Indian, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian

Ages 106 ~ *under five years old*
184 ~ *five to nine years old*
524 ~ *ten to fourteen years old*
818 ~ *fifteen to seventeen years old*
374 ~ *eighteen to twenty one years old*

Youth Development

Hearts For Youth (Hearts For Youth Inc. \$17,000)

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.



Summer Theater Institute

(Lyme Central School \$5,500)

Students in grades K-12 will produce and present a high quality theater production to the local community.



Youth Court

(Resolution Center \$8,000)

Youth volunteers are trained to oversee sentencing of younger children who have pled guilty to misdemeanors and infractions of the law.





Youth Development Continued

Watertown Teen Center Life Skills (Children's Home of Jefferson County \$17,500)

Teens learn to make healthy, responsible choices through youth programs teaching physical fitness, civic engagement, culinary arts, and life skills training, thereby growing their confidence levels and creating positive youth outcomes.



Peer Prevention Advocates (Planned Parenthood of the North Country New York \$10,000.00)

PPA provided direct links to care, to peers in their home school districts. The goal being to reduce teen pregnancy rates in high-risk areas, with a focus on decreasing unintended pregnancy among LBGTQIA youth, through the use of evidence-based programs delivered by Peer Educators, enhanced outreach, connections to services and by providing an inclusive community space.



Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support

The Q Center (ACR Health \$8,500.00)

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



Safe Zone Project (North Country Prenatal/ Perinatal Council \$6,500)



NCPPC staff worked with LGBTQ identifying youth, to develop videos highlighting their lives and what they need from the adult community (school, health care providers, their faith community, etc.) They then incorporated the videos into Safe Zone promotions and trainings with adults, designed to increase welcoming spaces and LGBTQ youth sensitivity services.

Youth Bureau ^{Rec-} *reation Scholarships (Youth Bureau \$11,649)*

Financial assistance helped to cover the costs of skill-building activities, camps, sports, equipment and lessons for children from financially needy families.

One recipient who participated in martial arts classes, sent this note of thanks: "Thank you for giving me the opportunity to pursue a passion. It's given me motivation to do better academically and overall in life."