



Clarkston Area Youth Assistance Annual Report

2009

FROM YOUR CHAIRPERSON . . .

2009 was another great year for CAYA! Even though the economy has been struck hard by the recession, our volunteers, sponsors, community residents, and area businesses have offered their time and resources and have allowed CAYA to reach goals and make a difference in the lives of the youth and families we serve.

Our sponsors continue to support CAYA through generous contributions and, along with CAYA Fundraisers, help us to continue programs such as Mentors Plus, After School Tutoring, Family Education, Camp, Youth Recognition, and Skill Building. A professional caseworker provides short-term family centered counseling, intervention, and referral services for students living in the Clarkston School District. These referrals come from local law enforcement, schools, parents, and community agencies.

Our caseworker, Elissa Fogel, has continued her outstanding work. Her tireless efforts have enabled CAYA to meet casework objectives and to build community awareness of our programs. Elissa, along with administrative assistant Kathryn McVean, has kept the CAYA office running efficiently and effectively.

As my two year tenure as CAYA President comes to a close, I am optimistic about the future of this fine organization. Although CAYA is still the best kept secret in Clarkston, I am confident we will continue to provide a service like no other to the youth and families in our community.

If you are interested in becoming a member of CAYA, please contact our office. CAYA is about kids and your help as a volunteer will assure that these kids become great adults.

Finally, I want to thank all our volunteers, sponsors, and supporters. You are great people in a great community and we could not do our work without you!!!!

Joe Wauldron
Board President
Clarkston Area Youth Assistance.

BENEFIT PLAY

On November 13, 2008, a J.B. Priestley play, called "An Inspector Calls", was staged by the Clarkston Village Players. This performance was for the benefit of Clarkston Area Youth Assistance and played to "sell out" audience. As usual, The Clarkston Village Players did a stupendous job and have our sincerest appreciation.

We extend our gratitude to The Print Shop for donating the printing of the tickets and informational cards and offer our thanks to the many volunteers who made this an outstanding evening enjoyed by all.

Marian Emery-Chairperson

FAMILY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

On Oct. 29, 2008 we put on a program offered by Dr. Mark Menestrina. It was called "Prescription Drug Abuse by Teens." Prescription drugs are the entry drug of choice now for teens. The program was very well presented but not very well attended.

Jennifer Arkwright continues to do the "No More Whining" series in cooperation with Community Ed.

We are hoping to do some programs this year in cooperation with PTA's and PTO's. A program on bullying, developed by the American Girl doll company, will be presented in the coming months. Marilyn Allyn from our committee has offered to attend their meetings as our representative.

Our meetings are now held on the first Thursday of the month.

Merelyn Mallett- Chairperson

16TH ANNUAL GOLF FUND-RAISER

Our 16th Annual Golf Outing was held on Monday, June 15, 2009, at Shepherd's Hollow Golf Course in Clarkston. A beautiful day on a beautiful course ensured that each of our 70 golfers enjoyed a wonderful day on the links! The staff of Shepherd's Hollow expertly handled each and every aspect of the outing, which included a continental breakfast, golf, lunch, door prizes, and an auction. The event netted nearly \$10,000, which constitutes a large portion of our annual budget. No small feat in this economy!

A special thank you goes to John Bowman Chevrolet, which was again our main sponsor. Thank you, Mr. Bowman! We would also like to thank the Clarkston Women's Club, area businesses and individuals who donated auction items and door prizes. A special appreciation is extended to our Golf Committee, which organized this event, and to all the other volunteers who gave their time and energy to staff it. We can't do it without all of you!!

Planning is underway for next year's outing which will be held at The Fountain's Banquet and Golf Course. Please mark your calendar for Friday, June 18, 2010, for another great outing. Thanks to all the golfers for coming out and giving us your support.

Joe Wauldron & Sam McVean, Co-Chairpersons

MESSAGE FROM THE CASEWORKER...

I have been very fortunate to have worked as the full-time Caseworker for the Clarkston Area Youth Assistance for the past year. Throughout the upcoming year, I will continue to conduct presentations and serve on various committees to increase awareness of our program and services. I'm looking forward to maintaining our collaboration with the Clarkston School District, Independence Township, the City of the Village of Clarkston, and Springfield Township for many years to come. Please feel free to call or e-mail me at fogle@oakgov.com. I would love a chance to talk with you about all the ways that we can work together in Strengthening Families Through Community Involvement.

Elissa Fogel, M.S.W.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance held a 6 week Maple Grove Education Program for Youth. The main emphasis of this program was to promote moving forward and making positive changes. This was accomplished through education and support. Each class focused on skill development and practice, as well as related activities. Some of the topics included: Feelings and Self Esteem, Coping and Defenses, Chemical Awareness, Stages of Dependency, Peer Pressure and Decision Making, Anger Management, and Self Care and Getting Help. We were happy to have Kristin Reeves, M.S.W. facilitate this program and are looking forward to continuing our collaboration with Ms. Reeves and Maple Grove in the future.

We also offered our 6 week CHOICES program facilitated by Richard Klapko, who is a limited license psychologist. The CHOICES program also dealt with substance use and abuse.

If you know a adolescent between the ages of 13 through 16 struggling with these concerns, please call the Clarkston Area Youth Assistance office at 248.623.4313. We will be happy to share with you the dates for upcoming sessions.

DID YOU KNOW??????

In 2008, our volunteers donated 2,653 hours of their time to the various programs offered through Clarkston Area Youth Assistance. The U.S. government puts of value of \$20.25 per volunteer hour. This means that our volunteers have donated \$53,723.25 worth of time and service to local youth and their families in Clarkston Community School District. This program would be lost without their hard work and dedication. **Thank you CAYA volunteers!**

FROM YOUR NEW CHAIRPERSON

My name is Nicole Cronmiller and I have been involved with Clarkston Area Youth Assistance for over fourteen years. The last few years I have been very busy raising my two boys who are now five and eight and working out of the home part time. I have been doing what I can over the last few years to stay in touch and help where I can with the program. Clarkston Area Youth Assistance is a very important organization to the youth and families in this community and I am committed to promote and support this organization.

Volunteering to work with youth has always been something that I have done. In high school I worked as a camp counselor in a summer camp for mentally and physically handicapped children. I was a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters in Maryland and was matched to a young girl for almost two years. She was actually reunited with her father and moved to live with him. When I moved to Michigan, I was looking again for a way to work with youth in the community. Fifteen years ago I read an article in the Detroit News on volunteerism and Youth Assistance was listed. And here I am!

I am very excited to work in the capacity as President of the Board and look forward to working with our Board members and volunteers. Given the current difficult economic times, the families and youth in our community are facing many challenges. Clarkston Area Youth Assistance will continue to work hard and even harder in the upcoming years to support the families of our community through our family education, mentoring, tutoring, camp, counseling and skill building programs.

2008 CASEWORK STATISTICS

In 2008, Clarkston Area Youth Assistance had 75 casework referrals. The referral reasons and referral sources are as follows:

Alcohol/Drug Related	17
Assault and Battery	5
Home Incurigibility	9
Home Truancy	1
Larceny	6
Municipal Ordinance	1
Neglect	2
Prevention	15
Retail Fraud	7
School Incurigibility	7
School Truancy	3
Tobacco	1

REFERRAL SOURCES

Police	45
School	16
Parents	12
Other	2

YOUTH RECOGNITION

Our annual Youth Recognition event recognizes young people for their volunteerism in our local community. At our event this year held at the Clarkston United Methodist Church on May 22, we recognized 81 students. These students were nominated by various organizations including Scamp, Team Rush Robotics, St. Daniel's Catholic Church, Clarkston Junior High School, Sashabaw Middle School, Andersonville Elementary, Clarkston High School and Parents. These young people took the time to help others in many different ways including: working as camp counselors at Scamp - a summer camp for emotionally and physically challenged kids; sending hundreds of care packages overseas to female soldiers in Iraq through the Desert Angels program; mentoring younger students on education in science and technology; working as camp counselors at St. Daniel's Catholic Church; organizing a Relay for Life Team; community service in Chicago; fundraising through the Junior Optimist club; and raising puppies through Paws with a Cause to assist handicapped persons. Our Youth Recognition event for 2010 is scheduled for April 28. This year one of our goals is to increase the awareness of our event in the schools especially at the elementary and middle school level.

Nicole Cronmiller, Chairperson

AFTER SCHOOL TUTORING PROGRAM

The After School Tutoring Program at Bridgewater Park Apartments has completed its fifth year. The Homework Club offered tutoring on Tuesday and Thursday. During the 2008/2009 school year 58 sessions were held. Twenty (20) students were enrolled and twelve (12) tutors were involved in tutoring students in the first through seventh grades living in Bridgewater Park Apartments. Each session included a nutritious snack. Pine Knob Elementary and Sashabaw Middle School helped identify the students from the Apartments and supported the program throughout the year with materials and ideas that helped make the students' efforts productive. Bridgewater Park Apartments donated a three-bedroom apartment with electricity and water. The Whobody Circle at Clarkston United Methodist Church organized a holiday craft program. We went to the community to obtain many volunteer tutors plus in 2008/2009 we received a grant from Clarkston Schools to provide some paid tutor assistance. There were 1160 hours of tutoring delivered by our dedicated tutor group. This summer in conjunction with the media specialist and teachers at Pine Knob Elementary, a library program was offered at the Homework Club.

The 2009/2010 program begins October 6, 2009 in our newly renovated apartment. We thank Christopher Crump, the Community Director of Bridgewater Park Apartments, for this beautiful facility.

Joyce Bleim and Anita Demster, Co-Chairs

LETTER FROM A PARENT

Dear Clarkston Area Youth Assistance,

Please accept this letter as our thanks for all of the generosity you have shown to us. We are so grateful for your help during this time of need and are very happy to say that we are starting to recover ourselves.

We have continued to volunteer during this time and will never ever forget your assistance that made such a big difference in our lives. We know how much of a difference a little help can make so we will definitely make volunteering and donating a big part of our lives going forward.

Thanks Again, A Clarkston Area Parent

CAMP UPDATE

CAYA sent twenty youths to overnight camp, consisting of six days at Camp Copneconic located in Fenton Michigan. Due to the generosity of the Independence Township Parks and Rec Department, we were able to fill 59 Summer Day Camp opportunities at Clintonwood Park. Three one week day camp opportunities with the Oakland County Parks and Rec were filled as well. The camp committee would like to thank our community that so willingly supported the efforts that enabled these children to attend camp this summer.

Frank Mayer, Chairperson

VIRGINIA WALTER CHILDREN'S FUND

The Virginia Walter Children's Fund was established in honor of our long time friend and volunteer, Mrs. Virginia Walter. Through this fund, scholarships are made available to youth who are in financial need to enable them to participate in areas of supportive educational services, sports, music, arts and school activities.

MENTORS PLUS

Mentors Plus is our mentoring program, where boys and girls are matched with an adult. Mentors commit for one year, but can continue on longer. Mentors spend about 4 hours per month with their matches. Unique to Clarkston's Mentors Plus is our Once-A-Month Mentor program where volunteers meet children waiting to be matched, at our scheduled monthly group activities. To date, we have 4 matches and 8 on the waiting list to be matched. We had two new mentors join the program and two new once-a-month volunteers.

This year, some of our monthly outings included: a visit to the Painted Pot in Rochester, the Zip Line at the Howell Nature Center, and bowling at Century Bowl. We also held our Annual Food Drive to benefit Lighthouse and set a record this year with over 300 bags donated food. Another success was our Back to School party. This year, the party was held in conjunction with the Homework Club and together, provided backpacks and their school supplies for over 50 kids.

In the future, the committee will focus on recruiting more mentors and monthly volunteers. With the continued support from our dedicated Mentors Plus Committee Members and the guidance from the Board of Directors, our Mentors Plus program will remain successful and fun for everyone.

Kelly Hyer, Chairperson

CLARKSTON AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance
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(248) 623-4313 FAX (248) 623-4555

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Elissa Fogel, Caseworker
Kathryn McVean, Office Administrator

New Officers for 2010 Board of Directors

Nicole Cronmiller, President
Anita Demster, Vice President
Jackie Fromm, Secretary
Carole Meyers, Treasurer



Come visit our website at
www.clarkstonYA.org

Clarkston Area Youth Assistance

Youth Assistance is administered under the auspices of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division. One of 26 such county programs, Clarkston Area Youth Assistance operates under the sponsorship of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, the Clarkston School District, Independence Township, Springfield Township, and the City of the Village of Clarkston and with principal funding supplied through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

Oakland County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access of programs, activities, or services as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

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Pamela L. Davis, Manager, Court Services/Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division

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THANK YOU!!! CLARKSTON AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE APPRECIATES ALL OF THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS, PRIZE CONTRIBUTORS, GOLFERS AND VOLUNTEERS, WHO MADE OUR 16TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING AND BENEFIT AT SHEPHERD'S HOLLOW GOLF COURSE A HUGE SUCCESS!

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