

LEADING A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE



Troy

Strengthening Families
Through Community Involvement

ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020



From The Co-Chairs:

Troy Youth Assistance continues to be a vital organization dedicated to the protection and advancement of at-risk youth throughout our city. We are committed to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child neglect, and abuse through community involvement and family education. Through the collaboration of our capable staff and volunteers, Troy Youth Assistance continues to advocate for our youth.

Troy Youth Assistance made several organizational changes this past year. First, we took an objective look at how we allocate resources to best serve our mission. This reflection prompted a greater degree of coordination between Troy Youth Assistance and the Troy School District to meet the social-emotional goals of both organizations for the sake of Troy children. Such collaboration resulted in Troy Youth Assistance providing \$5000 to various food security initiatives for our most at-risk children. Likewise, the two entities worked together to provide timely family education— including programming on social media and cell phone use.

The context of COVID-19 spurred a second major change for Troy Youth Assistance: like many other organizations, we pivoted to provide increased digital services. From Zoom board meetings to digital counseling services, we did our best to meet the constant needs of our families during evolving times. Many thanks to Susan Holle and Zetter Slappy for their steadfast efforts!

On behalf of everyone associated with Troy Youth Assistance, it is our privilege to present the 2019-2020 Annual Report, which highlights just a sampling of the important functions we provide to our precious constituents. Thank you for your continued support!

Shari Pawlus & David Recker
Co-Chairpersons



Family Education

Like the rest of the nation and the world, the programs presented by the Family Education Committee in 2020 were affected by the onset of COVID-19. The popular youth workshops: YO’KIDS-Yoga for Kids!™ for students in grades 2-8, Overcoming Frustration & Anger for boys in grades 4-6, and Girls Stand Strong for girls in grades 4-6, were offered in Fall 2019 and again in February/March 2020, that is until COVID-19 halted face-to-face instruction in March. In total, 101 students participated. 45 parents of students were able to participate in the Fall closing sessions to understand the skills which their children were taught and to encourage practice and reinforcement at home. Joe Lilly, LMSW, presenter of Overcoming Frustration & Anger, offered a two-session workshop, Parenting Beyond Behavior, primarily aimed at parents of 4th-8th graders, as a complement to Overcoming Frustration & Anger. Ironically, the first Fall session was interrupted by the first snowfall of the season, but 14 parents eventually participated. The Spring session was cancelled by the COVID-19 outbreak.

The centerpiece of Family Education programming was the screening of the nationally-acclaimed IndieFlix film, LIKE, a documentary which explores the impact of social media on our lives and the effects of technology on the brain. The goal of the film was to inspire and help equip the viewers to self-regulate their use of both. It was followed by an enthusiastic question-and-answer session directed to a panel which included TSD administrators, a TSD social worker and a licensed area psychologist. Troy Youth Assistance partnered with Troy Tech Talks and

accepted financial support from the Troy School District to present the film. 350 students, parents, and Troy Community members viewed the film.

With financial support from a Family Education Mini-Grant, Larson Middle School and Baker Middle School counselors offered programs for parents to help their children manage stress, reduce anxiety and succeed in middle school. 18 parents attended. The Family Education Committee will resume meeting in September 2020, with the difficult task of providing essential parenting programs and student workshops to fulfill the needs of the Troy community within the guidelines of the Troy School District. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Troy Youth Assistance.



Fundraising

We are very grateful for all the donations we received. A big thank you to the Troy Police Department, City of Troy, Troy School District, Troy Women’s Association, Troy Rotary Club, First Presbyterian Church of Troy, and the many advocates for their generous donations. As a beneficiary of the annual Troy Police Department Charity Golf Outing, TYA received \$2,500. We received \$1,000 from the other corporate donors and \$1,460 from the many advocates. Thanks to everyone that supported TYA this past year!

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Youth Recognition

The annual Youth Recognition Event scheduled for April 29, 2020, was unfortunately cancelled because of the novel coronavirus restrictions. However, this did not deter us from honoring 74 most worthy, community oriented, youth volunteers. These young people made remarkable contributions to their schools, their churches and our community by helping others, collecting money and necessities, and lending support to those classmates who needed special attention. We missed our evening of celebration, yet managed to present certificates and a memento of the achievement to the 74 Troy middle and high school students. Special appreciation goes to our Presenting Sponsor, Troy Rotary Club, for their continued interest and investment in Troy Youth Assistance.

Camp/Skillbuilding

Our Camp/Skillbuilding program was developed to help youth benefit from positive learning experiences designed to enhance self-esteem or develop a specific skill. Last year financial assistance was awarded to 11 children ages 6-14 years old to attend programs such as soccer, cheerleading, football, baseball, t-ball, and karate. Allotments ranged from \$110 to \$300. Per TYA policy, parents were required to pay part of the cost, as well as meet financial requirements. Additionally we had earmarked funds to assist several children attend the Troy Community Coalition Summer Camp. Unfortunately the summer camp was not able to occur due to the COVID pandemic.

Membership

Thank you to all current volunteers for your work and commitment to our children and families. We recognize that we could not carry out our mission without your contributions. In December we honored our amazing volunteer, Leonette Ciepielowski, with the Youth Assistance "2019 Champion of Youth" Award. The Membership Committee continues to seek a chairperson along with volunteers to serve on our various committees and as task volunteers. We welcome your talents, time and effort. Just a little of your time can make a BIG difference.



Youth Involvement

Youth Involvement is geared toward empowering our youth and developing their unique skill sets through a variety of activities focusing on showing kindness, comforting others in need, and being a positive influence in the community.

Through our Elementary School program we visit one school each year. The children are selected based on teacher recommendation of those benefiting from supportive small group experiences with mentors. We hold after-school "parties" where we match elementary students with a middle school peer mentor.

During the 2019-20 school year we visited Morse Elementary where we were able to host one of two parties before the COVID pandemic forced closure. At the winter party, the Morse/Baker Middle School teams played games, shared a meal, and created a fleece tie blanket that went home with the elementary student. Unfortunately we were not able to host the Spring party due to the closure of K-12 schools under the Governor's order.

We held our Halloween Candy Collection again with 11 Troy Elementary Schools as well as our TSD Preschool participating. Costello Elementary Student Council and Baker Middle School partnered to package the candy and Mike Kerr managed the distribution to a variety of organizations.

At the close of the school year, Youth Involvement participants learned a great deal about themselves, their peers and the community.



Mentors PLUS

(People Listening, Understanding, Sharing)

Troy Youth Assistance and Oakland County run a program that connects a child in need with a caring adult called Mentors PLUS. The young people in the program benefit from having positive adult figures in their lives. This helps them develop the skills and confidence to believe more in themselves and to resist getting drawn into negativity that is sometimes around them. The motto is to be a friend while listening, understanding, and sharing. Mentoring is fun, creates new friendships, and allows volunteers to share their lives with a child who needs attention and support. The time commitment is only 2 hours per week for a year. The mentors choose their own ways of connecting with the young person. Activities and meetings are planned on a one-to-one basis, which is completely up to the mentor and the mentee. This truly is a rewarding experience for both of the parties. Oakland County Youth Assistance provides an orientation, where they share information about the program and discuss the Mentor relationship and the roles. It is our sincere hope that you will feel the same excitement as we do about the difference a caring adult can make in a child's life. In 2019-2020, we have been able to match 3 additional children in need with mentors in our community, leading a way to success for these young people. Please reach out to the TYA office for more information.

THANK YOU SPONSORS
Working together for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child neglect and abuse through community involvement:

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TYA ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020

Mission Statement

Troy Youth Assistance is committed to strengthening youth and families by preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency, child neglect and child abuse through community involvement.

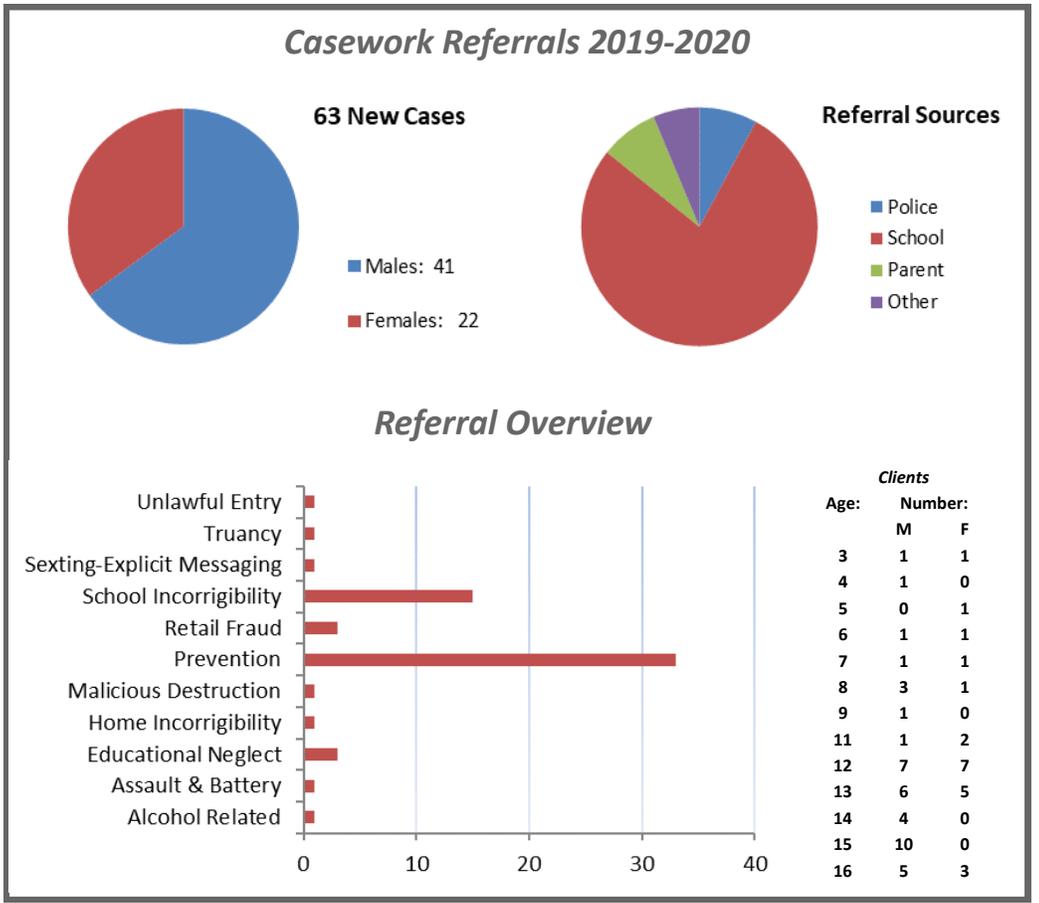
Troy Youth Assistance is a volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is one of 26 Youth Assistance programs in Oakland County. Each local Youth Assistance office is tri-sponsored by the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, the local school district and the city therein. The Oakland County Board of Commissioners provides major funding for a professional counselor in each unit. Volunteers work with the professional counselor to plan and sponsor local prevention programs for youth and their families.



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Co-Chairperson



David Recker
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Officer John Julian
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