

**LEADING A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE**



Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

**TROY YOUTH ASSISTANCE  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2021-2022**

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# TROY YOUTH ASSISTANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

## *From The Co-Chairs:*

Troy Youth Assistance continues to make changes to ensure we are serving the community and meeting their needs. The needs of families since the pandemic have changed a bit and we want to make sure that our resources change with it. Now more than ever we are seeing youth exhibiting signs of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. We continue to provide support to those families through family education, grants, and other services.

Troy Youth Assistance was able to provide a Boost Grant. This grant is designed to help students overcome obstacles and continue their journey toward reaching their professional and academic goals. We have also provided families with donations and resources for housing, groceries, gas, and utilities to help lessen the impact on youth with parents that were financially impacted during the pandemic.

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.

On behalf of everyone associated with Troy Youth Assistance, it is our privilege to present the 2021-2022 Annual Report, which highlights just a sampling of the important functions we provide to our deserving constituents.

Thank you for your continued support!

*Kristin Meldrum & Shari Pawlus*  
Co-Chairpersons

financial contributions from the Troy Police Department, City of Troy, Troy School District, Troy Women's Association, Troy Community Foundation, private donors, and Troy families. To our volunteers, we are grateful for the gift of time and talents that you share with us.

In June we honored and thanked our cherished volunteer, Robin Beltramini, as she stepped down from Troy Youth Assistance. As one of our key volunteers, Robin has been an advocate and supporter of Troy Youth Assistance for many years most recently chairing our Youth Recognition Committee. Robin made an impact at Troy Youth Assistance by making valuable improvements to our programs with her great ideas, knowledge, and enthusiasm. Thank you, Robin, we will miss your wisdom!

## **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.

During the 2021-22 school year, Youth Involvement of Troy Youth Assistance invested in supporting Red Pillar initiatives at the preschool and elementary level within the Troy School District. The Red Pillar ensures a focus on equity and well-being for every member of our school community. Our 13 schools, including the 12 Elementary Schools and the TSD Preschool, have committed time and resources around the work of equity, inclusive practices, and ensuring a sense of belonging throughout the school year.

Each building determined how the Troy Youth Assistance resources could be meaningfully allocated to positively impact the school community. Some investment of funds included purchasing consumable materials for service-learning projects throughout the community, contributing to March Is Reading Month shared experiences for each child to receive the same book, and partnerships with social emotional learning programs to name a few. Participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to allocate resources targeted toward enhancing the focus on equity and sense of belonging of all members of their school community.



*Hill Huskies carrying books for Drop Everything and Read*

## **Camp/Skill Building**

Our Camp/Skill Building program was developed to help youth benefit from positive learning experiences designed to enhance self-esteem or develop a specific skill. For the 2021-22 school year, financial assistance was awarded to 28 children ages 7-17 years old to attend programs such as soccer, football, baseball, karate, an 8th grade field trip, tutoring, and summer camps. Scholarships ranged from \$80 to \$300. Per Troy Youth Assistance policy, parents were required to pay part of the cost, as well as meet financial requirements.



*Children at Summer Camp in Troy*

## **Thank You!**

Our work is only possible because of the support Troy Youth Assistance received from our donors, sponsors, and volunteers. We are very grateful for the generous



*Robin Beltramini*

# LEADING A PATH TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

## Youth Recognition



Wyatt Lucas with a participant

Troy High School student Wyatt Lucas founded Hockey Mentors for Special Olympians to provide opportunities for special needs people to experience hockey and ice skating. A Boost Grant from Troy Youth Assistance enabled Wyatt to host an afternoon of free hockey and ice skating for individuals with any type of special needs (cognitive, physical or emotional), along with their family and caregivers. This family friendly event took place on Saturday, June 11 at the Troy Sports Center in two of the ice rinks and included skate rental, hockey equipment, lunch, t-shirts for those skating, and a jersey for guests trying out hockey.

Wyatt recruited volunteers to help guests learn to skate and play a friendly hockey scrimmage. Guests also watched exhibition games of teams consisting of people with different abilities. Wyatt worked hard to solicit additional sponsors for his event, and was extremely thankful to Troy Youth Assistance for the Boost Grant. Be sure to visit Wyatt's website at [www.hockeymentors.net](http://www.hockeymentors.net)



Hockey Mentors for Special Olympians Event, June 11, 2022

## Family Education

Since many students were returning to the classroom for the first time in over a year, Family Education of Troy Youth Assistance offered a new workshop focused on anxiety for middle school students titled *Students Coping With Post-COVID-19 Challenges*. The workshop was facilitated by a presenter new to Troy Youth Assistance, Alyx Deaner, MA, LLPC, NNC, CATP. Feedback from the attendees was very positive.

Additionally, Family Education offered our always popular youth workshops: *Girls Stand Strong* and *Overcoming Frustration & Anger*. Both are 4-week workshops geared towards youth in grades 4-6 where a parent/guardian attends the final session. *Girls Stand Strong* was offered virtually and *Overcoming Frustration & Anger* was an in-person workshop.

To keep our programs tailored to today's issues, the Family Education Committee reached out to the Troy School District principals, assistant principals, counselors, and social workers, and the School Resource Officers with a survey to determine current school and mental health issues to consider for future program topics.

The Family Education Committee welcomes new members to join in supporting Troy Youth Assistance's mission. The committee meets monthly, August thru June, on the 3rd Thursday morning of the month. Please consider joining us and sharing your expertise. Please reach out to the Troy Youth Assistance office for more information.

## Mentors Plus

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, show the way.

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 by the mentor and mentee.

This truly is a rewarding experience for both 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. Please reach out to the Troy Youth Assistance office for more information.

Be sure to check out  
the Troy Youth Assistance website at  
[www.TroyYouthAssistance.org](http://www.TroyYouthAssistance.org)



# TROY YOUTH ASSISTANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

## THANK YOU SPONSORS

for working together to support our mission

### Family Division Judges

Honorable Mary Ellen T. Brennan  
 Honorable Kameshia D. Gant  
 Honorable Lisa O. Gorcyca  
 Honorable Maureen H. Kinsella  
 Honorable Lisa Langton  
 Honorable Julie A. McDonald  
 Honorable Lorie N. Savin

### Oakland County Court

Kevin Oeffner, Court Administrator  
 Pamela J. Monville, Deputy Court Administrator

### Oakland County Youth Assistance

Mary Schusterbauer, Chief  
 Liz Csizmadia, Supervisor

### Oakland County Commissioners

Tom Kuhn, Penny Luebs, Gary R. McGillivray

### Troy School District

Dr. Richard Machesky, Superintendent

### Troy Board of Education

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 Dr. Nicole Wilson, Vice President  
 Gary Hauff, Secretary  
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 Elizabeth Hammond, Dr. Nancy Philippart

### City of Troy

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### Troy City Council

Ethan Baker, Mayor  
 Theresa Brooks, Mayor Pro Tem  
 Council Members: Edna Abraham,  
 David Hamilton, Rebecca Chamberlain-Creanga,  
 Ann Erickson Gault, Ellen Hodorek

### Troy Police Department

Frank Nastasi, Police Chief

## 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.

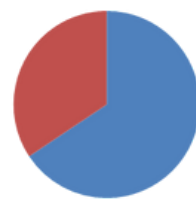
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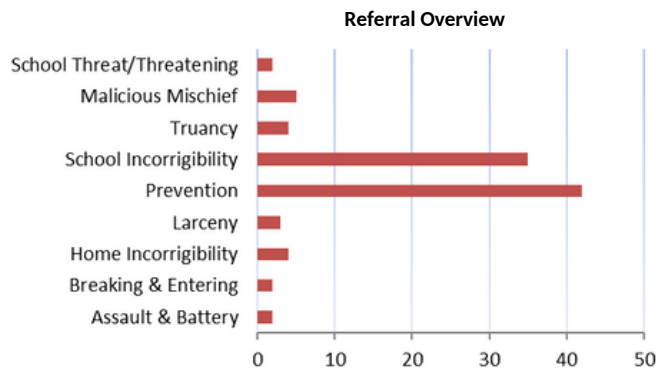
## Casework Referrals 2021-2022



99 New Cases



Referral Sources



Clients		
Age:	Number:	
	M	F
6	1	2
7	3	1
8	3	1
9	4	2
10	4	1
11	2	5
12	6	3
13	10	6
14	10	5
15	10	6
16	11	1
17	1	1

## TROY YOUTH ASSISTANCE

### EXECUTIVE BOARD

Kristin Meldrum, Co-Chairperson  
 Shari Pawlus, Co-Chairperson  
 Officer John Julian, Vice-Chairperson  
 Emina Alic, Treasurer  
 Karl Schmidt, Advisor  
 Susan Holle, Secretary

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 Zetter Slappy, Caseworker  
 Leonette Ciepielowski, Family Education  
 M'Liz Malven, Membership  
 Sunil Sivaraman, Mentors PLUS  
 Nancy Piotrowski, Non-Profit Network  
 Cindy Stewart, Publicity & Youth Recognition  
 Erin Keyser, Youth Involvement  
 Robin Beltramini, Youth Recognition

### STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Farrah Alaowad, International Academy East  
 Madison Bloom, Troy Athens High School  
 Max Faulk, Troy High School



Kristin Meldrum  
Co-Chairperson



Shari Pawlus  
Co-Chairperson



Officer John Julian  
Vice-Chairperson



Emina Alic  
Treasurer



Karl Schmidt  
Advisor