

2015-2016 Annual Report

Youth Matter in Colonial Heights

OFFICE ON YOUTH & HUMAN SERVICES

*OFFICE ON YOUTH
&
HUMAN SERVICES*
201 James Avenue
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Colonial Heights VA
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Office on Youth & Human Services

August 1, 2016

Honorable T. Gregory Kochuba
Honorable Members of City Council
City of Colonial Heights
P O Box 3401
Colonial Heights VA 23834

Dear Mayor Kochuba & Members of Council:

The 2015-2016 Annual Report for the Office on Youth & Human Services details the programs and initiatives for youth and families in Colonial Heights. I proudly present this year's report to City Council.

The Office on Youth, Youth Services Commission, and the Youth Advisory Council appreciate your continued support of our programming. We value your commitment and advocacy for youth and families in our community.

Sincerely,

Doug Harris

Youth Services Commission Chair

OFFICE ON YOUTH

STAFF

Eileen Brown
MSW, LCSW
Director

Becca Lynch
Youth Program
Coordinator

Abby Lynch
Youth Specialist

Sunni Guillot
Youth Specialist



MISSION STATEMENT

The Office on Youth and Human Services serves Colonial Heights' citizens by working to develop and improve community assets which assist families in raising healthy children.

The Office on Youth and Human Services partners, collaborates, and supports the work of City groups and organizations.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The Office on Youth serves as a community partner with other organizations to meet youth and family needs. In this role, the Office on Youth is active in several local, regional and state efforts.

- ⇒ Children's Services Act Program (FAPT & CPMT)
- ⇒ Colonial Heights Public Schools
- ⇒ Community Criminal Justice Board
- ⇒ Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation
- ⇒ Twelfth District Court Service Unit
- ⇒ Families First Program
- ⇒ Colonial Heights Fire Department
- ⇒ Juvenile & Domestic Violence Task Force
- ⇒ Partnership for Youth
- ⇒ CARES (Crisis Assistance Response Emergency Shelter) Board
- ⇒ Colonial Heights Food Pantry
- ⇒ Community Coalitions of Virginia and SAFE
- ⇒ Positive Parenting Coalition
- ⇒ Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act
- ⇒ District 19 Community Services Board
- ⇒ Interagency Prevention Team
- ⇒ Colonial Heights CADRE Coalition
- ⇒ Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership - HOBY Virginia Corporate Board
- ⇒ Evidence Based Decision-Making Team
- ⇒ CAAN-DUU Coalition
- ⇒ Smart Beginnings/School Readiness Coalition

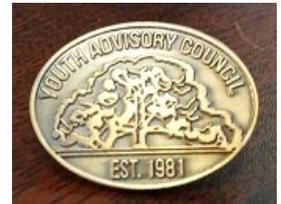
YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

- Doug Harris - Vice Chairman
- Ryan Blair Martin - Secretary
- Megan McLaughlin - Rec & Parks
- Sgt. Robert Ruxer - CHPD
- Margie Strum
- Christopher Underwood
- Elizabeth Luck - City Council
- Bland Campbell - YAC Rep
- Dorothy Vincent - YAC Rep
- Hank Rosser - YAC President
- Nicholas Thomason - Youth Rep



YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

- Hank Rosser - President
- Tiffany Kong - 1st Vice President
- Bryan Madl - 2nd Vice President
- Tamara Bowen - Secretary
- Austin Ouelette- Historian
- Alicia Winnie - Historian
- Nicholas Thomason - YSC Rep
- Sarah Bracewell
- Avery Brockwell
- Ella Kate Brockwell
- Jacob Eaton
- Aaron Ezell
- Jacob Ezell
- Kendel Fox
- Savanna Fox
- Andrew Gunder
- Savannah Haley
- Preston Hicks-Holmes
- Erin Hood
- Piyush Jessani
- Braden Johnson
- Sophie Kiene
- Caroline Kinder
- Christian Knight
- Claudia Miles
- Vivian Miles
- Anna Moore
- Bryanna Neece
- Claudia Osei-Asante
- Alexis Page
- Katie Peterson
- Nojan Sheybani
- Pritesh Singh
- Barrett Smith
- Maria Elena Smith
- Joey Upadhyay
- McKenzie Vrooman
- Abby Lynch - Advisor



*Helping change
our world,
one step
at a time!*

From July, 2015 through June, 2016, Youth Advisory Council members gave over 350 hours of volunteer service in and around their Colonial Heights community. The estimated value of their volunteer time is \$9,130.00!

SUMMARY OF SERVICES

Information & Referral - The Office on Youth & Human Services provides information on youth related issues and services. Information is available in our Resource Directory on the City's web page.

Planning & Program Development - The Office on Youth & Human Services works with community organizations, groups, and agencies to develop resources and services for youth and families.

Public Information - Staff are available to speak to community groups and civic organizations on a variety of topics related to youth and family functioning.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Staff accrued over 560 hours of continuing education and professional development on topics including school based diversion programming, positive discipline strategies, trauma sensitive services, substance abuse, mental illness and medications, emotional and social development of children, policy and programming in Human Services, leadership development, child abuse and ACES, suicide intervention and prevention in adolescents, agriculture in the classroom, gang awareness, mentoring, intern management, effects of trauma on brain development, truancy prevention, fire education in the community, stress management, domestic violence and human trafficking, and assessing family support trainings.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2015-2016

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL

- ⇒ YAC members completed over 350 hours of service in our community
- ⇒ Partnered with the CADRE Coalition on Project Sticker Shock
- ⇒ Awarded "Coleman Voice of Youth" scholarships to Brian Madl, Hank Rosser, Braden Johnson and Jacob Ezell
- ⇒ Made twelve no-sew fleece blankets for the CARE Shelter
- ⇒ Provided Christmas gifts, food and holiday decorations for two CARES families
- ⇒ Planted pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month with Domestic Violence Task Force and Swift Creek Woman's Club
- ⇒ Braided 190 t-shirt dog toys for the Animal Shelter at the CHHS Volunteer-a-thon
- ⇒ Volunteered for Back-to-School Festival and Halloween in the Park
- ⇒ Hosted a virtual and physical Lemon-Aid Stand to support pediatric cancer research
- ⇒ Assisted with Valentine's Day party for residents at Dunlop House
- ⇒ Participated in the Colonial Heights Christmas Parade
- ⇒ Sent Valentine, Veteran's Day, and Christmas Cards to McGuire Hospital veterans
- ⇒ Participated in the City Wide Clean Up and adopted James Avenue
- ⇒ "Happy Graduation Wishes" to Hank, Brian, Nicholas, Braden, Claudia, McKenzie, Alexis, Savanna and Jacob!
- ⇒ Fed Tri-Cities Work Camp crew

Leadership

Volunteerism

Activities

Education

Community Outreach

YOUTH SERVICES COMMISSION

- ⇒ Supported and assisted Youth Advisory Council with projects and activities
- ⇒ Supported activities at Pete's Place (Teen Center)
- ⇒ Advocated for youth and families in Colonial Heights
- ⇒ Revised the by laws of the Commission

JUVENILE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

- ⇒ Supported Regional Task Force efforts to prevent domestic violence, and provide services and resources for victims
- ⇒ Supported efforts to promote and provide trainings for advocates and professionals to better serve victims of domestic abuse
- ⇒ Received proclamations from City Council in October for "Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month" and in April for "Child Abuse Prevention Month."
- ⇒ Planted 500 pinwheels throughout Colonial Heights with the help of Youth Advisory Council and Swift Creek Woman's Club to recognize April as "Child Abuse Prevention Month"

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL SHOE FUND

- ⇒ Received referrals for forty four shoe vouchers for the purchase of a new pair of shoes during the school year
- ⇒ Received \$1,250 in donations to support shoe fund from local civic organizations: Kiwanis Club, Swift Creek Woman's Club, American Legion, Women of the Moose, American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Optimists Club.

COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES ACT

- ⇒ Served 28 youth and their families with a variety of services including community-based services, therapeutic foster care, respite services, day school programs, and residential treatment
- ⇒ Of those 28; 11 (39%) were from the Department of Social Services, 15 (53%) were from Colonial Heights Public Schools, 1 (4%) was from the Juvenile Court Services, and 1 (4%) was from the Community Services Board
- ⇒ CSA expenditures for FY2015 were \$776,158

INTERAGENCY PREVENTION TEAM

- ⇒ Multi-disciplinary team served 19 students and their families
- ⇒ Referred by teachers, guidance counselors, attendance officer, team members, or parents
- ⇒ Made recommendations for at-risk youth to enhance opportunities for success at home and in the community
- ⇒ Provided community staffing of cases, as needed, to better meet the needs of youth and families





“Youth programs encourage accountability, improves self-esteem, fosters citizenship, and responsibility, and instills a sense of community pride.”

VIRGINIA JUVENILE COMMUNITY CRIME CONTROL ACT

Community-based programs funded by state and local government to divert youth from the courts, and provide sanctions, education, and services to prevent repeat offending.

SHOPLIFTING DIVERSION PROGRAM

- ⇒ Educational program to inform teens and parent of the consequences of shoplifting
- ⇒ Program served 233 youth and their families

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

- ⇒ Served 53 youth to complete community service hours
- ⇒ Completed 929 hours of community service

“ACTIVE PARENTING” PROGRAM

- ⇒ Served 10 teens and families with “Active Parenting of Teens” Program
- ⇒ “Active Parenting of Teens” gives parents guidance and support to turn challenges of raising teenagers into opportunities for growth. The program offers tips on using respectful discipline, clearly communicating, preventing risky behaviors, and being an encouraging parent.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS DAY PROGRAM

- ⇒ Office on Youth partnered with Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Chesterfield Adolescent Reporting Program to staff the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Day Program at Pocahontas State Park.
- ⇒ The mission of DRC’s Virginia State Parks YCC Day is “to engage young people in a structured program of important conservation and park projects on public lands while providing learning that fosters teamwork, self-esteem, social responsibility and respect for the environment.”
- ⇒ 14 teens and 4 supervisors completed the three week program and all earned a stipend at the end of the program.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

- ⇒ Social Services funded early child care provider trainings to increase quality, availability, and affordability of care for children (Child Care Quality Initiative). The office hosted workshops in September 2015 - "Sing a Song All Day Long" for 70 providers; January 2016 - "Quality Interactions" for 63 providers; March 2016 - "Understanding Challenging Behaviors" for 60 providers; May 2016 - "Moving and Grooving Into Literacy" for 48 providers
- ⇒ Presented Shoplifting Diversion Program to 188 CHMS 6th graders
- ⇒ Provided 101 hours of supervised community service for 15 teens
- ⇒ Presented Alcohol Prevention Program to 183 CHMS 8th graders
- ⇒ Shared "Open Arms? Open Eyes!" on healthy relationships with 189 CHMS 8th graders
- ⇒ Presented Career Day information to 48 CHMS students
- ⇒ Shared resources with 30 parents and teens at 6th Grade "Dream Team" meeting
- ⇒ Partnered with Fire Department to provide Youth Fire Setting Program for 5 teens
- ⇒ Provided "Alcohol Education" Program for 4 CHPS Students
- ⇒ Provided Safe Driving Materials to 95 teens receiving driver's licenses in Juvenile Court
- ⇒ Assisted CHPS with "Little Feet Meet" sponsored by Office of Support Services and "Fun Day" at CHMS; Assisted with "Reality Store" at Falling Creek Middle School
- ⇒ Facilitated goLEAD Institute for 12 teens, and completed a service project funded by Walmart Foundation Community Grant
- ⇒ Provided safeTALK (suicide awareness training) for 30 participants
- ⇒ Shared "Suicide and Domestic Violence" presentation with Volunteers at The James House
- ⇒ Presented "Positive Discipline" Training for Department of Conservation and Recreation

KIDS' AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

- ⇒ Referral program for youth in Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Grades based on need for academic support, enhancement of social skills, promotion of positive behavior, increase in physical activity
- ⇒ Served 79 youth from Tussing, North, and Lakeview Elementary Schools, and Colonial Heights Middle School
- ⇒ Provided 3122 hours of mentoring and tutoring by 66 volunteers from Colonial Heights High School, Richard Bland College, John Tyler Community College, Virginia State University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Matoaca High School
- ⇒ Program coordinator provided 56 hours of Volunteer Training, 25 hours of Staff Training
- ⇒ Service projects included 33 no-sew blankets for CARES, and cards for McGuire Veterans
- ⇒ Enjoyed trips to Swader's, The Bowling Alley, SkyZone, Peak Experiences, Virginia Marine Science Museum
- ⇒ Trained Student Leaders (7th and 8th graders) in goLEAD Leadership Training



CADRE COALITION

- ⇒ Supported Colonial Heights High School CADRE participation in Project Sticker Shock
- ⇒ Held monthly meetings of adult coalition
- ⇒ Encouraged YADAPP (Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project) Team to complete STAN Plan which was created at the summer conference at Longwood University



PINWHEEL PLANTING
Child Abuse Prevention Month



KAP
Kids' After-School Program



POCAHONTAS STATE PARK
Youth Conservation Corps Day



goLEAD INSTITUTE
2015 Leadership Team



ADOPT-A-STREET
James Avenue



VOLUNTEER-A-THON
Dog Toys with YAC



PROJECT STICKER SHOCK
CHHS CADRE



CARES
Decorating for Christmas



ANTHEM LEMON-AID STAND
Fundraiser for pediatric cancer research



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