

# Tompkins County Youth Services Department



*2013 Annual Report*

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2013**

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Amie Hendrix  
Janice Johnson  
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*A Message  
from our director*

It has been an exciting year at the Tompkins County Youth Services Department. Building on our success of defining our community needs and strengths, in spring of 2013 we moved into execution mode on a range of new initiatives. At the same time, we continued to invest in the activities and infrastructure that have defined TCYSD since its founding, and that distinguish it as a community leader for youth.

In our municipal programs, we worked to secure our Municipal Youth Services System and began to lay a foundation of sustainability through the development of a pilot collaboration among the municipalities that are serviced by the Ithaca City School District, which will launch in 2014.

To bring focus to a topic of global importance, we continue to house the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth, which is focused on the reduction of youth substance use and abuse. Working with the coalition we have been able to make strides towards reducing our youth use of alcohol, as found in our 2012 Youth Development Survey, our Tompkins County youth are using alcohol at a rate below their national peers.

Our agencies openly competed in a new funding cycle which will begin in 2014. The members of the Resource Allocation Team spent tireless hours reviewing proposals and advocating for agencies which will meet the identified needs of our needs assessment.

In the pages that follow you will read about these initiatives and more, as well as the resources that enable them. I am deeply grateful to the Tompkins County Community and the support of this small, but fierce department.

Amie Hendrix

Director of Youth Services



*Remembering our colleague &  
friend  
Nancy A. Zook*

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department and the greater Ithaca community lost a dear friend and colleague on April 18, 2013 with the unexpected passing of Nancy Zook.

Her life's work was dedicated to children and youth, starting as a third grade teacher in California. After she moved to Ithaca in 1982, she worked with pregnant and parenting teens at the Child Development Council. During her 23 years as a Coordinator of Community Youth Services for Tompkins County, she helped develop, fund, monitor, and coordinate a wide variety of youth development and risk reduction programs including those for runaway and homeless youth.

She helped coordinate youth employment programs and services for children and families with multiple needs. She served as Chair of Tompkins County's Family Court Advisory Council and on the NYS Runaway and Homeless Youth Advisory Council, in addition to working closely with The Learning Web and Cornell on the Independent Living Survey conducted by and for homeless youth. In recognition of those efforts, she earned Challenge's Collaborator of the Year Award. She was passionate about working with people, always striving to bring them together to work toward the common good.

Nancy always saw the good in everyone. Her warm, friendly, and helpful personality enabled her to develop hundreds of positive working relationships with colleagues in public and private agencies throughout Tompkins County. Locally, Nancy is survived by her husband, Thom Trause and daughter, Caitlin Thomas Zook. Nancy is greatly missed.



# Shaping the Future of Tompkins County

Over the past thirty-plus years, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department has helped to shape the future of Tompkins County by providing funding and resources, assisting agencies and municipalities, collecting information and data, staying abreast of current research and trends, coordinating services, providing advocacy for young people, support for programming and youth initiatives. These services are provided to all communities within Tompkins County to support the diverse needs of our population. Our team works hard to make sure that our vision of a desirable future becomes a reality for Tompkins County young people.



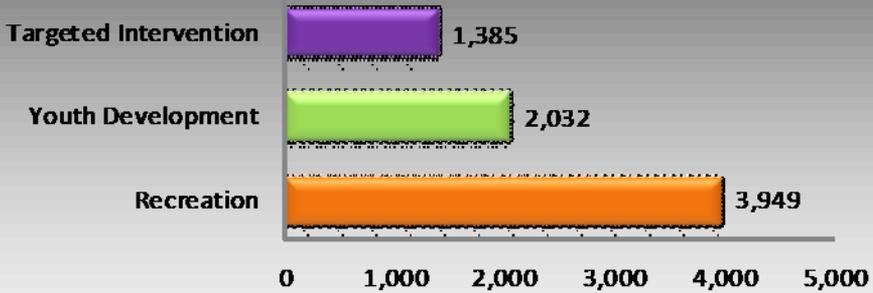
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1) Youth in an RYS Photography Program 2) Rural Youth Services Magic program participant 3 & 4) Learning Web Youth Apprentices 5) CCE 4-H Urban Outreach participants during summer programming.

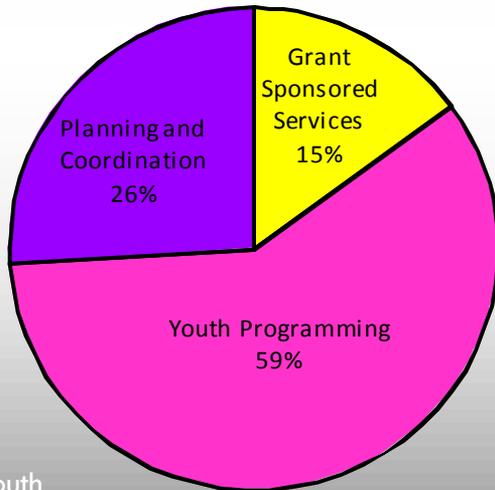
## *Accomplishments of 2013*

- 2** new grants were awarded to the Tompkins County Youth Services department
- 16** adult and youth teams participated in the inaugural “Clubs Not Drugs” Golf event
- 32** youth were diverted from foster care placement through programming provided by Bridges for Youth and Families and the Child Development Council’s Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program
- 40** youth were assisted in obtaining their high school diploma or GED
- 48** youth found “stable housing” as part of an independent living plan
- 64** youth that were runaway or homeless developed skills related to employability
- 102** sexually-abused youth had 343 contacts of advocacy services with the family or criminal court system
- 135** youth with special needs were provided leisure opportunities for active participation, making friends, fostering independence and community inclusion
- 313** youth who felt isolated were matched with mentors to allow them to build social skills and connections to school and positive adults
- 518** youth received subsidized employment within Tompkins County

# Unduplicated Count by Program of Youth Served in 2013



## 2013 Appropriations



## Our Mission:

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department invests time, resources, and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive

# *A Continuum of Care for Youth in Tompkins County*



*7,296 youth served in 2013  
through resources provided by the  
Tompkins County Youth Services Department*

At the foundation of the Youth Services Department are our astute business practices. Our careful oversight of contracted agencies and services, coupled with our commitment to being stewards of public funds is at the core of all that we do.

Utilizing the findings of *The State of Tompkins County Youth: A 2012 needs assessment of Tompkins County young people from birth to age twenty four*, the TCYSD and Youth Services Board honed our funding priorities and programming and released a new request for proposal for contracted agency services. After an intensive review process six agencies were recommended for support for three years beginning in 2014, based on services for youth, quality of programming and the merit of the application.

In 2013, we also committed to further diversifying our funding stream through additional grant funding for initiatives related to the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth and performance metrics of our agencies and municipalities. We received notification that we were awarded an additional Drug Free Communities Program grant for the Sober Truth on Preventing Underage Drinking and a Community Foundation of Tompkins County Magnified Results Grant for the implementation of the Results Based Accountability framework and Results Scorecard.



**Empowerment:** *Helping others to achieve their own success*



Through our community outreach services we build relationships and maintain connections with the various community groups (i.e. agencies, organizations, municipalities, businesses, youth, etc.) we serve through:

- The provision of training and technical assistance as needed by the community
- Recruiting, training and managing volunteers on local youth commissions
- The delivery of planning and needs assessment information to a specific community
- The coordination of community meetings and town halls related to important relevant topics
- The participation in and direction setting of a variety of community groups and boards
- Serving as liaisons for youth issues on local government, non-profit, and community boards and programs

Community outreach is integral to the work of the Tompkins County Youth Services Department. Through working with our community partners we are able to more effectively meet the needs of youth and their care providers. We serve as primary community support to the Recreation Partnership, the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth and the Municipal Youth Services System.

In order to fully understand the needs of young people and their families from throughout Tompkins County and how to support those needs in the most effective and efficient manner TCYSD collects, coordinates, and synthesizes statistical and empirical data as well as primary and secondary research on best practices related to youth. These data are then translated into community needs, strengths, and gaps and become one of the key factors in determining what services are supported by TCYSD. In addition, they become key areas to share and work on as a community or agency.



In addition to data collection, staff members of TCYSD monitor all funded programs to ensure quality services. Our monitoring services guarantee that all funding and departmental resources are being used in an effective and consistent manner, which align with the departmental mission and support the needs of Tompkins County Youth. Beginning in 2014, we hope to launch the Program Quality Assessment tool to ensure that all programs run through the Municipal Youth Services System meet the Youth Development criterion as outlined through the youth development framework.

Our Training and Technical Assistance component provides local governments, community organizations, and individuals with assistance in meeting their desired outcomes in relation to youth and youth programming in their respective areas.

Our technical assistance and training is geared at planning, developing, delivering and evaluating activities designed to achieve specific learning objectives, resolve problems and foster the application of innovative approaches to youth development and the creation of a community which supports youth.

Training and technical assistance are provided through an array of services and supports, including:

- ◆ Short-term technical assistance
- ◆ Long-term and extensive technical assistance and liaison services/support
- ◆ Peer-to-peer information exchange
- ◆ Publication creation and dissemination
- ◆ Information sharing and communication across communities



As a result of the economic downturn of 2010, we have noted an increase in the needs for more training among local youth-serving organizations and hope to increase our ability to support this need in the future.

## Our Mission

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department invests time, resources, and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work, and life.

## Our Vision

Tompkins County is a community where all youth are given opportunities which allow them to thrive from childhood to adulthood.

## Our Core Values

**Vision:** Seeing the bigger picture and planning for the future

**Empowerment:** Helping others to achieve their own success

**Innovation:** Continually searching for new approaches

**Integrity:** Commitment to honest and fair communications and interactions

**Stewardship:** Proper management of resources entrusted to our care



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