

Sustaining our

# Future

Investing in

# Youth



**Tompkins County  
Youth Services Department**

**Annual Report 2010**

[www.tompkins-co.org/youth](http://www.tompkins-co.org/youth)

## A Message from the Directors

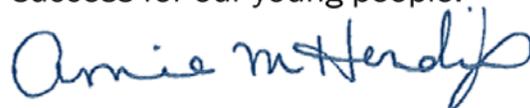
**2010 was a year filled with milestones, challenges and opportunities...**

We celebrated 21 years of the innovative Municipal Youth Services System, and 15 years of the Recreation Partnership, one of the largest Inter-municipal collaborations in the country, and surveyed students in all 6 school districts for the first time. We created new service-learning opportunities for young people who were denied summer jobs by funding cuts and worked with the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth to implement new strategies to reduce alcohol use among teens. In 2010, the Department also faced the largest proposed budget cut in the Department's history and used this as an opportunity to help those who value youth development to voice their support and demonstrate the value and cost-effectiveness of prevention. I concluded my 30 year career with the Department and Amie Hendrix took the reins to begin the next chapter in hers and to lead the Department into the future.

As outgoing Director, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all of the elected officials, agency staff, volunteers, and the extremely talented staff I had the honor and privilege of working with to develop the creative, cost-effective continuum of services for the children and youth that makes Tompkins County so special.



With each new beginning there are many challenges, known and unknown that will always arise. Beginning my service here in Tompkins County has already proved challenging, yet has had many hidden rewards. The support and energy of a committed and dynamic staff, dedicated Youth Services Board and engaged community has allowed me to see ways that our young people throughout the county are already thriving. Although times are challenging the dedication of this community to provide the best services and systems for the youngest residents offers hope and excitement for our future. I look forward to the coming years and together we will continue to provide a commitment of success for our young people.



*Thank you all for your support and continued commitment to young people!*

## **Youth Services Staff**

**Theresa Albert**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Kris Bennett**  
*Planner*

**Karen Coleman**  
*Program Management Specialist*

**Amie Hendrix**  
*Incoming Director 10/10*

**Janice Johnson**  
*Coordinator of Community  
Youth Services*

**Nancy Zahler**  
*Departing Director 10/10*

**Nancy Zook**  
*Coordinator of Community  
Youth Services*

## **Youth Services Board**

**Kathleen Schlather**  
*Chair*

**Maureen Kelly**  
*Vice Chair*

**Patty VandeBogart**  
*Secretary*

**Kathy Luz Herrera**  
*Legislative Liaison*

**Debra Austic**  
**Jane Levine Powers**  
**Amanda Verba**

**Steve Farkas**  
**Patricia O'Rourke**  
**Bernice Yarosh**

**Asher Hockett \***  
**Gale Smith**

\* Incoming Board Chair

## Vision



*Vision: A focus on creating, facilitating and shaping desirable future realities*

The Tompkins County Youth Services Department invests time, resources and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life. We are committed to creating, facilitating, and shaping desirable future realities for and with youth. It is our vision that the staff, together with collaborative partners, accomplishes our work in alignment with our core values: Empowerment, Fairness, Integrity, Innovation, Organization and Stewardship.

As stated by futurist, Joel Barker, *“Vision without action is a dream. Action without vision is simply passing the time. Action with vision is making a positive difference.”* We aim to make a positive difference in all that we do.

Over the past thirty plus years the Youth Services Department has helped to shape our future 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 and public relations 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 an achievable reality for all youth.

# Integrity

*Integrity: A sincere commitment to truth, trust and reliability*

The Tompkins County Youth Services Board, a volunteer board, advises and recommends to the county legislature the allocation of state and county funding. Funding allocations are given to agencies based on the needs of youth within our community. In 2010 the following agencies

## Resource Allocations

received funding as a result of this process: The Advocacy Center, Bridges for Youth and Families, The Child Development Council, Cornell Cooperative Extension, The Ithaca Youth

Bureau, The Learning Web & Tompkins Community Action.

Supporting local planning entities such as Youth Commissions and Community Councils the Municipal Youth Services System provides local youth development services to youth within Tompkins County. In partnership with various service providers and planning groups, TCYSD finds ways to effectively meet the youth development needs of each community. Through these efforts we bring services directly to young people where they live.



Through a Federal Drug-Free Communities Grant, the Coalition works with partners throughout the County to reduce youth substance abuse and violence by building an alliance among schools, government, agencies, civic and faith-based organizations, and concerned individuals.

The Recreation Partnership collaborates with local towns and municipalities to jointly plan, finance, provide, and coordinate shared, recreational services for youth of all ages and skill levels that supplement and complement those offered by localities.





## Empowerment

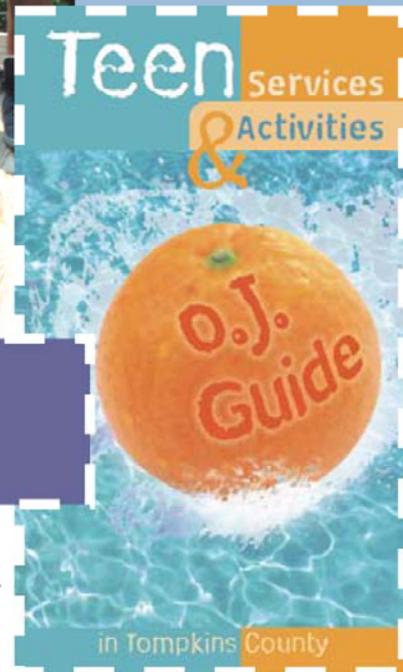
*Empowerment: The practice of equipping others with knowledge, skills and authority necessary for impact*

At the core of Tompkins County Youth Services is the art of empowerment. Through providing support to our agencies, municipalities, and organizations we empower them to be advocates for youth by:

- Advocacy interactions which educate local decision makers on the dynamic services offered by agencies, organizations and others to support youth needs.
- Supporting a continuum of youth services assuring that all children can receive services that are tailored to their personal assets.
- Holding community town halls to discuss relevant youth issues.
- Supporting a proclamation which was given for Runaway and Homeless Youth month in November from the Tompkins County Legislature to Bridges for Youth and Families Youth Action Committee.
- Working in partnership with a variety of other organizations, The Community Coalition for Healthy Youth held two medication collection events. The combined total of medications disposed during the events was 2483 lbs.



## Innovation



*Innovation: A commitment to improvement and problem solving*

As we work to build a brighter future it is important that we establish practices of continuous learning. Through innovative means we have developed a variety of resources which provide training opportunities and support/guidance for youth.

- 72 agency staff and community members attended 7 brown bag lunch meetings on a variety of topics including:
  - Programming at Southside Community Center
  - Youth use of cell phones and electronic media
  - New Roots charter school
  - Summer youth employment opportunities
- Published resources that connect youth with services and service providers:
  - Summer Youth Employment Guide
  - 2010 Summer Camp Guide
  - O.J. Guide for Teen Services & Activities in Tompkins County
  - 2010 School Officials Listing

# Organization

*Organization: Having a clearly defined process for getting things done and establishing order*

Tompkins County Youth Services is committed to our community. Through working with a variety of individuals and agencies we work tirelessly to enhance the communities within the county. In 2010 we:

- Worked with 13 local municipalities to support youth development and recreation.
- Received a Certificate of Recognition from New York State Office of Children and Family Services recognizing the “innovative intergovernmental partnership” of the Municipal Youth Services System.
- Reviewed with the Youth Services Board programs and recommended funding allocations for 2011.
- Coordinated the Educator in the Workplace pilot program with TST BOCES and the Workforce Investment Board. Five teachers were placed in local businesses during the summer months to learn more about these fields. The teachers then utilized this information to create innovative ways to teach in their classrooms.
- Chaired the Family Court Advisory Council which published the “Family Court and You Guide.”
- Funded Runaway and Homeless youth services and participation on the Continuum of Care Committee.





## Stewardship

*Stewardship: Maximizing the usefulness and the value of resources and talents that are presently in hand*

Research and Planning is fundamental to the advancement of youth services in Tompkins County. As stewards of information the Tompkins County Youth Service Department provides:

- Comprehensive needs assessments to ensure that the needs of our communities are being met.
- Monitoring & evaluation support which promotes accountability for all services offered through funding provided in conjunction with our department.
- Technical assistance and outcome performance for all youth development funding.
- The 2010 Youth Development Survey which highlights the accomplishments and challenges of youth in grades 6-12. This was distributed in collaboration with BOCES and the all Tompkins County school districts.
- The 2010/2011 resource allocations and resource allocation reports which outline the priorities of the Tompkins County Youth Services Department.
- Technical assistance for agencies that are writing and securing grant funding.

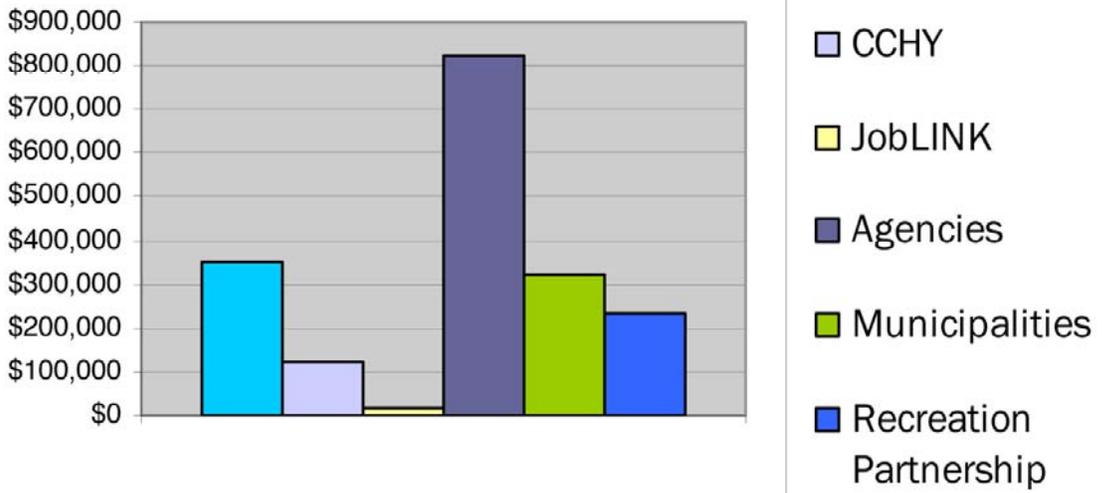
# Fairness

*Fairness: A commitment to justice and impartial decision making*

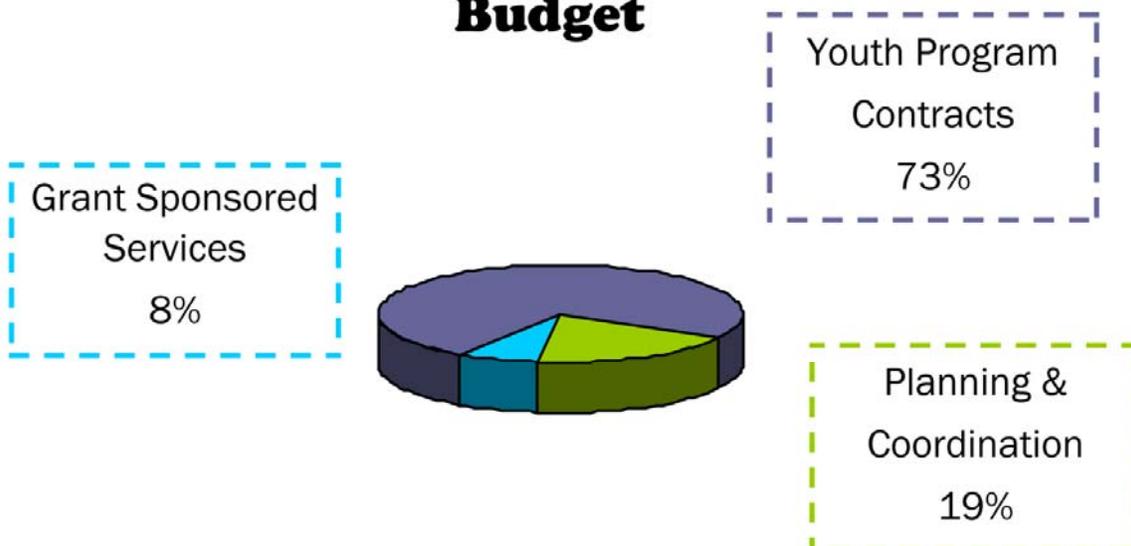
Dedicated to being fair in all that we do, Tompkins County Youth Services staff and board members work to ensure that all funding is properly distributed to meet the needs of critical populations of youth. Below is a snapshot of what the 2010 funding was able to provide to the Tompkins County community:

- 11** Youth were diverted from foster care placement through programming provided by Bridges for Youth and Families, Child Development Council's Teen Pregnancy and Parenting Program, Tompkins Community Action's Primary School Support Program
- 15** Youth were assisted in completion of their high school diploma or GED
- 102** Youth found unsubsidized jobs (part or full-time) to gain work experience
- 114** Youth found "stable housing" as part of an independent living plan
- 432** Youth who felt isolated were matched with mentors to allow them to build social skills and connections to school and positive adults
- 533** Youth received crisis support, counseling or help connecting with the community
- 1,749** Total youth were served in Tompkins County agencies as a result of TCYS funding.
- 3,001** Youth participated in programming provided in their localities through the Municipal Youth Services System
- 3,688** Youth participated in Recreation Partnership supported programs which yielded 5,667 registrations

## 2010 Youth Services Department Appropriations



## 2010 Youth Services Department Budget



Serving **8,844** youth/year

## 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 Youth Services Department is committed to creating, facilitating, and shaping desirable future realities for and with youth. It is our vision that staff, together with collaborative partners, accomplishes our work in alignment with these core values:

Empowerment  
Fairness  
Innovation  
Integrity  
Organization  
Stewardship

## The Tompkins County Youth Services Department provides:

Advocacy for all young people of Tompkins County; Coordination of Youth Services, Contract Management and Funding Opportunities; Planning & Needs Assessment; Research and Data Collection; Resources for Youth Serving Agencies; Training and Technical Assistance and Youth Publications.

*Tompkins County Youth Services Department  
is a member of:*



*Tompkins County Youth Services  
supports inclusion through diversity*



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Photo Credits: 1) A youth participating in a machine shop tour as part of a Learning Web program 2) Students on the Floating Classroom as part of a Municipal Youth Services sponsored program 3) Medications being disposed at a 2010 Collection Event 4) Guest Speaker Kim McRae-Friedman & Dr. Brenda Myers at the 2010 Groton Town Hall 5) A student working on a Youth Services sponsored community project 6) Director Nancy Zahler and Tompkins County Legislature Chair Martha Robertson receive recognition from Denise Dyer of NYS Office of Children and Family Services 7) Trumansburg youth clean up the roadside as part of a Municipal Youth Services sponsored program.