

# TOMPKINS COUNTY YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2018 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



Investing time, resources, and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work, and life

## OVERVIEW

Four decades after its creation, the Tompkins County Youth Services Department remains committed and focused on its original charge of transforming the lives of local youth, and the future of Tompkins County by providing comprehensive coordination of services that connect youth-serving agencies and municipalities with the resources they need to be successful. The TCYSD, often unseen and working in the background, provides the essential backbone of supportive services to these local youth programs by showcasing best practices and research, advocating for young people and providing collaborative and creative access to the solutions needed to keep our County at the forefront of youth development. We are proud to present our 2018 Report to the Community.



## EMPOWERMENT

Helping others to achieve their own success

Eleven trainings on various topics such as Adventure Based Learning, The Reality of Class and its Impact, Mandated Reporter, Poverty Simulation, and Project Look Sharp, were provided to over 50 different agencies, organizations, and school districts. Over 370 people attended our trainings to improve their professional skills and provide better service to young people in Tompkins County. As part of the training series we were able to screen two documentaries at Cinemapolis titled "Screenagers" and "I Am Jane Doe". In Fall 2018, 3,703 students in grades 7-12 in fifteen Tompkins County public schools completed the Communities that Care Youth Survey. This represents a response rate of 79%. For most schools, this was the sixth time they participated in the biennial survey, allowing for time-trend analysis since 2008. Survey highlights can be found on our website.



Seeing the bigger picture and planning for the future

## VISION

The Youth Services Department is charged with preparing a comprehensive plan for the youth development of our community, collecting and distributing data and information on our youth population, and acting as a resource for communities to support their young people. In 2016, we launched Achieving Youth Results (AYR). AYR seeks community input and investment to develop and track countywide indicators that inform a concrete action plan to support youth within six goal areas. By tracking 12 data points or indicators for these goals and exploring the story behind it, we are better able to see what supports our community may need to achieve the youth results we desire. Utilizing AYR indicators ensures the Department, in collaboration with the community at large, provides and encourages cost effective, wide-reaching, and diverse youth programs and services. In 2018, AYR was the cornerstone of the inaugural Pitch Program, and will continue to drive funding priorities. With new staff and leadership in the Department, AYR indicators will undergo a close review and we look forward to rolling out updates to these indicators and reporting on progress made since their initial roll-out. AYR builds on the Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework the Department and its funded agencies have adopted. To learn more about AYR and RBA, please visit our website.



# 2018

## INNOVATION

Continually searching for new approaches

2018 marked the inaugural year for the county-wide AYR Pitch Program. AYR brought communities together to develop an action plan for TC to more fully support youth and families. Hundreds of ideas were gathered crossing over the 6 goal areas of Community, Economic Security, Education, Engagement, Family & Physical and Emotional Health.

The Pitch Program gave non-profits the chance to compete for funding "Shark-Tank" style. Those competing had 10 minutes and no more than 9 power point slides to present their project idea, scope, methods, and budget.

In a 4 hour time period, a panel of judges heard the Pitches, deliberated, and announced the awards.

Eight area organizations were awarded a total of \$20,000.

For a full list of recipients, please visit our website.



Commitment to honest and fair communications

## INTEGRITY

In 2018, the Youth Services Department saw significant staff transition and reorganization. In March, David Sanders, former Program Management Specialist, left to serve in a double role for TC, as both the Criminal Justice Coordinator and the Results Based Accountability Technical Assistant. Also in March, Project Assistant Cheyenne Gorton left the department.

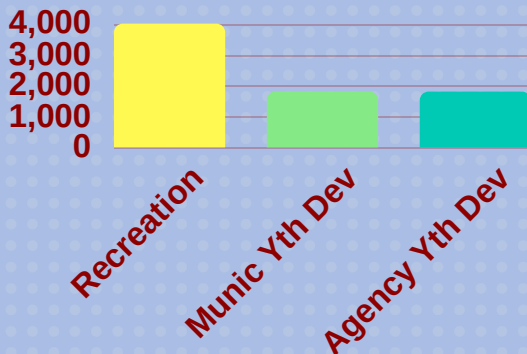
In May, we celebrated the retirement of Kris Bennett, former Planner for Youth Services, who had served in that role for 17 years. In June, we welcomed Bridgette Nugent into the newly formed role of Deputy Director of Youth Services. In August, Cisco Paler-Large, former Coordinator of Community Youth Services, left the department to begin employment with another youth-serving agency in the region. In October, we welcomed Shannon Alvord, as our new Community Youth Services Coordinator. The largest change in staffing came in October as Amie Hendrix, former Director of Youth Services, moved into her new role as Deputy Administrator of Performance and Innovation with Tompkins County. Despite all these internal staffing changes, the Youth Services Department remained focused and committed to its mission of helping all youth thrive in school, life, and work.



Proper management of resources entrusted into our care

## STEWARDSHIP

### 2018 YOUTH SERVED WITH RESOURCES FROM TCYSD



### 2018 RESOURCE DISTRIBUTION

