

SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016

*Fostering the emotional, behavioral and developmental
well-being of a diverse, wide spectrum of youth
in the Shaker community.*

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Shaker Heights Youth Center:

Wow! What an amazing time to be living in Cleveland! I have to pinch myself to make sure that I am not dreaming, but we are now the City of Champions having broken the professional sports team curse that dated back to 1964. No longer do we have to count backwards in years to 1964; it is a truly different feeling. So many things have changed for the better and we are now receiving positive national exposure for the great city that we are. Something that has not changed and continues to be constant is the amazing and award winning services provided to our youth by the Shaker Heights Youth Center. We care, we nurture, and we help youth from all different walks of life get through tough times and understand what it means to grow to be productive members of society.

Our major funders, the Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County, The Cleveland Foundation, Shaker Heights City Schools, Ohio Department of Education, the City of Shaker Heights and individual and corporate contributions and fund raising events continue to help us and allow us to have an impact on the lives of our youth. Thank you for believing in our methods and our staff as we push our organization to follow practices that are both successful and effective. The best way for the SHYC to continue to be relevant with our youth is by continuing to reflect on the work that we do and analyzing the trials and tribulations of our young people as they grow up in a constantly changing environment. I give you my word that not only will we be steadfast in this endeavor, we will ultimately achieve our goals.

Can we top the excitement of 2016; we will not know until we are all exhausted from trying, a quality which our staff exhibits on a daily basis in order to improve the lives of youth in our area. Go Cleveland and Go Shaker Heights Youth Center!

Sincerely,

Donald Gries

From The Executive Director

Dear Supporter:

I am celebrating 20 years as the Director of the Shaker Heights Youth Center and it has been a truly challenging and rewarding experience. The agency has grown in a number of ways. We have added the Intensive Prevention Program, the Academic Success Aid Program, and MyCom out-of-school time programming. Our budget has increased to three times the amount it was when I came to the agency, all from support coming from sources outside of Shaker, and with our sole focus on providing services for the youth in the Shaker community. The Youth Center has received three awards from the State of Ohio for excellence in services due to the amazing work of a dedicated staff. I take this opportunity to acknowledge their dedication to the youth we serve and the length of time they have been with the agency; Harriet Lyons 19 years, Terry Karp 17 years, Tameka Taylor 16 years, Laura Chapman and Svetlana Wolfson 13 years, Carolyn Dolan 10 years, Sharon Bell 8 years and Cheryl Darden, Emily Geier and Alicia Sims 5 years. It is truly an honor to work with such talented people.

Looking ahead we are working in a constantly changing environment. Funding and priorities are shifting and the Youth Center is up to the task. We are small and flexible enough to embrace the change while continuing to offer superior services to the youth in the Shaker community. We look forward to developing programs that meet the evolving needs of the community.

Finally, I want to thank all of the individuals that support and nurture the Youth Center. Being involved in the Shaker community has allowed me to work with great partners; the Youth Center Board of Trustees, Shaker Heights City Schools, the City of Shaker Heights (the Mayor, Council, Police Department and Recreation Department), the Shaker Heights Public Library, First Unitarian Church, Heights Christian Church, our neighborhood and community organizations and the many individuals who advocate for youth in this extraordinary city. In four years I look forward to celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Shaker Heights Youth Center. This will be a tribute to all who champion youth development.

Sincerely,

John Lisy

Major Programs

- Intensive Prevention Program
- Academic Success Aid Program – School Year
- MyCom South Shaker
- School-Based Student Assistance Program
- Youth Mentoring Program
- Youth Leadership

Intensive Prevention Program (IPP)

The IPP Program serves suspended students, grades K-12 from Shaker Heights Schools. The morning tutoring program focuses on helping students stay current with assigned classroom work. The close working relationship between the Shaker Heights Youth Center and the Shaker Heights Schools provides a continuous learning atmosphere for the students. The afternoon session utilizes the Life Skills Prevention Program in which students work in groups that focus on building effective decision making skills and social competencies, as well as providing prevention education on alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

In SFY 2016, the Youth Center served 172 students in this program alone. Of these students, 73 were elementary and 99 were high school/middle school. Eighty-nine percent of the students successfully completed the program by fulfilling their homework assignments, demonstrating significant improvement in behavior and, for the high school/middle school students, pledging to abstain from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs.

Academic Success Aid Program – (ASAP)

The school year component of the ASAP program provides daily academic support to expelled students and teaches students positive social skills through participation in prevention groups.

In SFY 2016, we served 19 high school/middle school students. High school students earned coursework credit online while middle school students were kept current with their academic subjects. Eighty-four percent of ASAP students successfully completed the program.

MyCom South Shaker

As one of Cuyahoga County's neighborhoods receiving funding for out of school time programs, the Youth Center remains as the lead agency for the Shaker community. Funded by The Cleveland Foundation and the Cuyahoga County Council, this collaboration has resulted in very positive opportunities for our youth. Over the past six years, we have worked with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) to expand the summer jobs program. This year a total of 68 area youth were employed in the local workforce. The Shaker Heights Schools, the City of Shaker Heights and many other Shaker institutions benefited from the employment of these young people who gained real world job skills.

Over the last six years, MyCom funding has enabled the Impact Youth Enrichment Program at First Unitarian Church to expand its hours to Shaker Middle School students. MyCom also supports the Reading Enrichment Program at the Shaker Heights Public Library.

School-Based Student Assistance Program (SAP)

Last year the SAP staff provided in-school evaluations and support to 119 middle and high school students experiencing academic and/or social problems. Referrals of individual students are made by teachers, counselors and principals, with the goal of increasing school bonding and providing support to students. Services included: problem identification and referral, positive social groups, crisis intervention, resiliency training and support, resource provision and community-based collaboration.

Youth Mentoring Program

The Shaker Heights Youth Center continued its collaboration with the Impact Youth Enrichment Program at First Unitarian Church, which provides after school programming for Shaker Heights Middle School students. This unique partnership served 30 students during the past year under the guidance of staff members and volunteers. Despite the staff's best efforts, daily attendance did not meet expectations and the program is being restructured for the Fall.

Youth Leadership

MyCom Youth Council

The Youth Center supports three Youth Leadership groups. The first is the MyCom Youth Council, comprised of 15 Shaker High School students who meet bi-monthly to participate in an array of leadership-building activities that this last year included: Memorial Day Parade, various community service projects, a Diversity Fair, a Bring a Friend Event, Holiday Jam, Sussex and Ludlow Community service projects and government hours. The Youth Council also participates in countywide MyCom leadership programs such as Flow: Future Leaders of the World, My Media and My Path.

Summer Leadership Camp

The second group is a summer leadership camp for middle school girls that focuses on building self-esteem, resiliency, personal leadership qualities and the principles needed to reach one's full potential through creative expression, journaling, physical activity, education, and service learning projects. The students worked with the Ambassadors of Compassion, a national leadership program. Seventeen girls participated in the program this past summer.

Positive Engagement Encouraging Resiliency in Shaker Students (PEERS) HS/MS

The third group was a five week, all day summer program that helped students develop a resiliency-based project using the Life Skills Curriculum adapted to meet the cultural requirements and community needs of Shaker Heights. Students created messages that encourage the demonstration of appreciation, commitment, self-confidence, cooperation, creativity, empathy, enthusiasm, independence, integrity, respect and tolerance. Fifteen students participated in this program.

A Huge Thank You to All of Our Supporters

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State Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Activity

INCOME

Board of Trustees

Contributions/Gifts/Special Events \$ 21,555

City of Shaker Heights

Grant \$ 55,600

Prevention and Education \$ 13,900

Shaker Heights City Schools

Student Assistance Program \$ 45,000

Ohio Department of Education \$ 39,734

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County

\$ 209,589

MyCom

Neighborhood Leadership Institute/
Cleveland Foundation \$ 70,864

Collaborative Projects

IMPACT Youth Enrichment \$ 9,549

Other

Interest/Miscellaneous \$ 1,218

Total \$ 467,009

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits \$ 377,353

Professional and Contract Services \$ 17,345

Program Cost \$ 8,804

Occupancy \$ 31,930

Office Expenses \$ 11,770

Advertising \$ 1,271

Staff Development \$ 1,129

Other \$ 1,687

Total \$ 451,289

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The Shaker Heights Youth Center is funded by:

- *Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County*
- *The Cleveland Foundation*
- *Shaker Heights City Schools and Ohio Department of Education*
- *City of Shaker Heights*
- *Individual and corporate contributions, fund raising events*

Shaker Heights Youth Center

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shakerheightsyouthcenter.org

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