

SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018

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:

United States. That is what our country is supposed to be, however I feel that we have never been more divided in my lifetime. That brings me back to choices that we all make in life; where to live, what to do, how to grow as an individual, how to meaningfully engage in society. Shaker Heights, although not perfect, is an amazing and wonderful place to fulfill the first part of these choices. My immediate family and I have been truly blessed to have been here for the last 25 years thanks to my grandparents who chose to settle here almost 100 years ago. Why Shaker and why Cleveland. The answers are readily available; the values, the quality of life, the seasons, the opportunities.

This leads me to the role the Shaker Heights Youth Center serves in our community; helping those youth who have stumbled and need some assistance during a difficult time. Last year I concluded my letter by asking everyone to reach out and help a child. We must go further. We have to. Our children are so worth the time and effort. The SHYC has been and will continue to be a resource to take the lead role in doing this most important task. It is done without fanfare or need for accolades. We are rewarded when we see those youth that we served begin to thrive and turn challenges into successes. It takes a certain kind of person to be involved and willing to pursue this endeavor. Our staff continually proves to be in a category of what I would call "heroes" of the community. They constantly go above and beyond the normal requirements to help our youth overcome obstacles. They are, simply put, **OUTSTANDING**. What bears this out the most is our continued support from the numerous funders who year after year value our work and see how important we are to the community. Thank you to everyone who shares my vision and thereby acknowledges that individuals who give of themselves and help others to overcome challenges benefit along with those they are helping.

Sincerely,

Donald Gries

From The Executive Director

Dear Supporter:

Change is inevitable, growth is optional.

Change continues to be the watchword at the Shaker Heights Youth Center. The Intensive Prevention Program for youth in grades K-6 has been discontinued due to both the elimination of funding for alternative programs statewide by the Ohio Department of Education and the move away from out-of-school suspensions in the Shaker Schools. The Youth Center is growing its programs though by offering services to elementary students in their home schools. Laura Chapman is now providing one-on-one and group services at Woodbury to students who need assistance with life skills. Laura, Tameka Taylor at the High School and Emily Geier at the Middle School continue to provide excellent in-school programs to Shaker students.

Change has also touched our staffing. I am very appreciative of the staff who have served the Shaker Heights Youth Center well for many years. This past summer we felt great sadness at the passing of Cheryl Darden, a wonderful individual who brought joy and a commitment to youth to her work with middle and high school students. Also, after a combined total of 35 years at the Youth Center, we saw the retirement of Terry Karp and Svetlana Wolfson. Terry was a dedicated and talented educator in the K-6 program. Svetlana was both a bookkeeper and a management information systems coordinator who kept us current with our reporting. All three very special individuals will be missed at the Youth Center.

Despite these changes great work on behalf of Shaker youth continues in our programs. The combined Intensive Prevention Program now serves both suspended and expelled students under the steady direction of Carolyn Dolan. IMPACT Youth Enrichment Program for Middle School students has flourished under the guidance of ConnieMarie Mahaffey. Student Assistance programs at the High School and Middle School have remained strong and our newest staff member, retired educator Corinne Croom, has expanded her responsibilities at the Innovative Center for Personalized Learning by providing tutoring and life skills services.

MyCom programming under the leadership of Sharon Bell continues to develop youth leaders, coordinate summer jobs and provide a forum that promotes collaboration among the Shaker entities that serve youth.

My last big thanks goes to Harriet Lyons and Norm Graham for their part in the renewal process that culminated in the Certification by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services to provide Prevention Services for another three year term. The Youth Center's annual audit was completed with zero adverse findings.

Thank you for very much for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

John Lisy

Major Programs

- Intensive Prevention Program
- MyCom South Shaker
- School-Based Student Assistance Program

Intensive Prevention Program (IPP)

This agency-based prevention program runs for the entire school day, Monday through Friday, and allows youth to receive academic tutoring and/or online schoolwork for Shaker Heights Middle and High School students who are suspended or expelled. By being at the Youth Center we are able to keep students current with their schoolwork because of the close working relationship the Youth Center has with Shaker Heights City Schools. Group discussions are conducted in an intensive but caring setting. They focus on examining the behaviors that led to being suspended or expelled as well as gaining alternative life skills for addressing conflict. In the 2017/2018 school year, the Center served 68 High School and Middle School youth.

School-Based Student Assistance Program (SAP)

Last year the SAP staff provided in-school services to 112 middle and high school students experiencing academic and/or social problems. In a pilot program, we served 18 elementary school students at Woodbury. 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.

Shaker MyCom Youth Initiative

As one of 20 Cuyahoga County neighborhoods receiving MyCom 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 neighborhood-based collaboration has resulted in very positive opportunities for our youth. Over the past nine years, we have worked with Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) to provide a successful summer jobs program. This year a total 68 area youth were employed in local summer work sites with the program maintaining a consistent completion rate of 98%. The City of Shaker Heights, the Shaker Heights School District and many other Shaker institutions benefited from the employment of these young people who gained real world job skills. Over the last eight years, MyCom funding has also enabled the Impact Youth Enrichment Program at First Unitarian Church to expand its hours to Shaker Middle School students.

Services to youth include:

MyCom Youth Council that is composed of 12-15 students from both Shaker Middle School and Shaker High School who meet bi-monthly to design and participate in an array of positive, leadership-building activities and community service projects. This

past year those projects included working with: Moreland Rising, Sussex and Lomond Associations, Heights Christian Church, Shaker Arts Council, Annual Memorial Parade, Annual “Make A Difference Day”, Martin Luther King Day and the Annual Global Youth Service Day. Youth Council members also participated in the annual Voices for Ohio Youth Advocacy Day in Columbus, FLOW (Future Leaders of the World) Program, Open Mic Night, the Youth Advocacy, Leadership Council (YALC), Annual Teen Summit, the annual MyCom Youth Voice Awards and a special program of drama, poetry and spoken word produced by community partner “Imagine” in recognition of (Teen) Domestic Violence month.

IMPACT Youth Enrichment Program

Shaker Heights Youth Center and MyCom continued their collaboration with the First Unitarian Church to provide after school programming for Shaker Heights Middle School students. This unique partnership served 31 students during the past school year under the guidance of staff members and volunteers.

Making Our Own Space (MOOS)

Now completing its second year, Shaker students work with The Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, an outreach program from Kent State University that teaches youth how to design and construct environments and playscapes for their own neighborhoods. They learn safety requirements, design techniques and construction details and produce a wide variety of useful structures that are then placed in their neighborhood parks. The intent of this program is to teach youth how to design and build their own public space improvement projects while creating a deeper sense of respect and pride for their neighborhoods. The Shaker Heights Youth Center administers the MyCom grant that makes MOOS possible.

Summer Leadership Camp

This 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. Seventeen students participated in and completed this program.

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

This group is an all-day summer program that helps 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. Thirteen students participated in this program with a 100% completion rate.

A Huge Thank You to All of Our Supporters

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State Fiscal Year 2017 Operating Activity

INCOME

Board

Contributions/Gifts/Special Events \$ 21,011

City of Shaker Heights

Grant \$ 55,600

Prevention and Education \$ 13,900

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health

Services Board of Cuyahoga County \$ 223,007

Shaker Heights City Schools

Student Assistance Program \$ 55,000

MyCom

Cleveland Foundation \$ 61,524

Starting Point \$ 20,296

IMPACT Youth Enrichment \$ 8,827

Other

Interest/Miscellaneous \$ 1,977

Total \$ 461,142

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits \$ 361,074

Professional and Contract Services \$ 12,523

Program Cost \$ 23,373

Occupancy \$ 24,525

Office Expenses \$ 3,934

Insurance \$ 8,077

Staff Development \$ 2,307

Printing, Advertising & Publication \$ 438

Other Expenses \$ 2,831

Total \$ 439,082

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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*
- *City of Shaker Heights*
- *Starting Point*
- *Individual and corporate contributions, fund raising events*

Shaker Heights Youth Center

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shakerheightsyouthcenter.org

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