

SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER



ANNUAL REPORT

July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020

The Shaker Heights Youth Center's mission is to foster the emotional, behavioral, and developmental well-being of a diverse youth community in Shaker.

President's Letter

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Shaker Heights Youth Center:

Adaptability is the best word that comes to mind to describe the efforts of the Shaker Heights Youth Center during our 2020 fiscal year. As everyone knows, the world changed shortly after the new year when Covid-19 became a reality. Although the Shaker Heights City Schools needed to go virtual for most of the second semester, children were not without needs and still had to be provided for. The leadership of the Youth Center created a plan and then went out and executed the necessary steps to continue to help the youth of Shaker Heights who needed assistance. In my almost 20 years of involvement with the Shaker Heights Youth Center, I have never been more impressed with the ability of the staff to handle challenging situations.

What will the coming year have in store for our City, community, schools, and the Shaker Heights Youth Center? At this point in time, nobody knows. But the Youth Center has demonstrated that it has the strength and resiliency to maneuver through this pandemic and continue its services. We cannot go back to what we perceived as “normal”, but we will use what we have learned to positively benefit both our organization as well as the population we serve. I am confident that the Youth Center will grow its services and become even more essential to the community. I would like to take this opportunity to promise you that this will be one of my highest priorities moving forward.

It is unquestionably apparent that everyone has dealt with varying degrees of hardship throughout this period; that is why I feel it is so important to continue to be compassionate towards others. If there is any way that you feel you can help the Shaker Heights Youth Center, be it financial support, summer job opportunities for our youth, ideas for recreation for youth, or in any other way, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

I thank all our funders and supporters who appreciate the work we do and how we prudently allocate our resources for one of our most valuable assets – the youth of our community.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Donald Gries

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends of the Shaker Heights Youth Center:

In our 50th year of service to the Shaker community, we developed a new five-year strategic plan that is focused on continuing and expanding needed services. I so appreciate the board and staff who dedicated their time over the summer to draft our new plan, some of which has already been implemented.

I am extremely proud of the job our staff has done during Covid by providing social-emotional support and virtual assistance to students through the end of the school year and into the summer. IMPACT Youth Enrichment provided both virtual and in-person summer activities. We placed youth in summer jobs through our strong relationship with MyCom and Youth Opportunities Unlimited. The Summer Leadership program became an in-person, co-ed endeavor of mostly high school students focused on community service. PEERS (Positive Engagement Encouraging Resiliency in Shaker Students) continued virtually. The Youth Center joined forces with several of our collaborators to help Shaker residents in need of food and shelter

I would like to give a big shout out to MOOS (Making Our Own Space), a Kent State University College of Urban Design program whose purpose it is to introduce youth to the design professions that shape our cities. It is a hands-on program that engages and empowers youth to design and create furniture to transform public space. Many of their pieces are installed in the Moreland community. Several pieces are also on display at the Lake Erie waterfront as part of Embrace the Lake, a community-focused resiliency plan for the eastern Cleveland lakeshore. The Metroparks integrated them into a scavenger hunt as part of their engagement work around the Cleveland Harbor Eastern Embayment Resilience Study (CHEERS). We are extremely proud of our part in this program and congratulate the youth who have participated over the last several years!

Financially we persevered thanks to the Paycheck Protection Program loan that enabled us to maintain our cohesive staff.

We did say good-bye to two staff members who retired this past summer, Carolyn Dolan who led our Intensive Prevention Program for 15 years, and Penny Croom who assisted at the Shaker Schools' Innovative Center (the IC) for three years. Penny also served on our Board prior to taking the job of tutor. They will both be missed, not only for their years of exemplary service, but also for the caring way they interacted with students and staff.

Most sincerely,
John Lisy

Major Programs

Intensive Prevention Program

Intensive Prevention Program (IPP) - This agency-based alternative to suspension or expulsion prevention program runs for the entire school day, Monday through Friday, and allows Middle and High School students to receive academic tutoring and/or complete their online schoolwork at the Youth Center. The Youth Center works closely with the Shaker Heights City Schools to keep students current with their schoolwork. Group discussions focus on the Life Skills curriculum, an evidence-based program, to help strengthen resiliency in youth.

Student Assistance Program – Elementary School

The Shaker Heights Youth Center staff lend support to students in grades K-4 in all five elementary schools in the district. They work closely with school teams to provide positive services to students who are experiencing difficulties that are affecting their success in school. A variety of supports may be used to connect with students including individual one-on-one engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources to ensure more equitable education access and success. This is our newest Student Assistance Program, starting in March of 2020.

Student Assistance Program – Woodbury Elementary School

Shaker Youth Center staff works with students in grades 5th and 6th who are experiencing challenges that are affecting their academic success and behavior in the school setting and/or community. A variety of supports may be used to connect with the students including individual one-on-one engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources.

Student Assistance Program – Middle School

The Youth Center works closely with guidance counselors, assistant principals, and teachers to identify youth in need of prevention services. Our staff evaluates and supports students who are experiencing challenges that are affecting their lives. A variety of supports may be used to connect with the students including individual one-on-one engagement, small group discussions, collaboration with teachers and administrators, and connecting families to community resources.

Student Assistance Program – High School

The Youth Center staff provides services at the Shaker Heights High School and interacts closely with school personnel to identify youth in need of assistance in fulfilling their educational requirements. Our staff evaluates and supports students who are experiencing challenges that affect their ability to succeed academically. Students in need are identified by the High School, generally beginning in 9th grade. Once students are referred to the program, our staff continues to work with them through graduation, utilizing all the resources available to assist them with their academic success.

MyCom Shaker

As the local lead Agency for the Shaker MyCom Youth Development Initiative since 2008, the Youth Center coordinates and staffs this project by working with its partners to strengthen youth programming. MyCom neighborhoods assess youth needs, build capacity, plan, implement and evaluate programming to best meet those needs. It provides out-of-school time opportunities to guide youth in building leadership skills, engaging in community service projects, and summer employment opportunities.

MyCom encourages youth to develop a voice in their community by active engagement in youth councils. The role of the Shaker Youth Council is to train and mentor high school students in leadership techniques and engage in service-learning opportunities. MyCom works with Y.O.U. (Youth Opportunities Unlimited) to expand the summer jobs program, allowing youth to gain real world job skills.

IMPACT Youth Enrichment Program

This program is designed to help students navigate through their middle school years. The Youth Center, in collaboration with UUCC (Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Cleveland), administers this program that provides after-school activities in a safe and nurturing environment. It focuses on life skills, social and communication skills, academics, leadership, drug prevention and service-learning projects to the community, all which have proven to be significant protective factors in the lives of youth. Community guest speakers talk with the youth throughout the year and parent engagement events are held as well.

Innovative Center for Personal Learning (IC)

The Innovative Center for Personalized Learning is a part of the Shaker Schools and offers a variety of non-traditional learning experiences for students. It seeks to meet the varied needs of the students by providing educational experiences and wrap around community resources that support growth, development, and success. The Youth Center supports many of the unique and individualized services including, connection to a support team of teachers and advisors, social emotional learning, the Life Skills curriculum, online courses and workshops that count toward high school and college credits, career preparation support and connection to internships, and credit recovery options.

Making Our Own Space (MOOS)

Shaker students work with the Cleveland Urban Design Collaborative, an outreach program from Kent State University's College of Architecture & Environmental Design that engages minority youth to design and construct outdoor furniture and playscapes for their neighborhoods. They are introduced to the design professions of architecture and urban design in this hands-on program. Many of the works built by Shaker youth have been permanently installed in the Moreland community as well as temporarily at the Cleveland lakeshore as part of a lakefront project. The Youth Center administers the MyCom grant that makes this program possible.

Summer Leadership Program

The Summer Leadership Program for students in grades 6 thru 12 focuses on building self-esteem, resiliency, and leadership skills, and incorporates the Life Skills curriculum and related activities to enhance these qualities in youth.

P.E.E.R.S. (Positive Engagement Encouraging Resiliency in Shaker Students)

In this summer program a group of 10–12 Shaker high school juniors and seniors used a “think tank” model to apply the Social Norms Theory to examine and discuss social justice issues as they affect teens. These youth leaders identified several major impending social issues and how they impact youth. They explored the response of youth and the “resiliency” factors required to manage these social complexities. Applying the Life Skills curriculum, they used role models, surveying, debates, social media, and other tools to explore the impact of social justice, a health pandemic, and other critical issues that have an effect on the lives of our youth population.

Donations

Our Leaders (\$2,500 and above)

- Donald & Lynn-Ann Gries
- Barbara Sheffler

Our Champions (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

- Robert & Sally Gries
- Doug & Lisa Schattinger
- The David & Inez Myers Foundation
- Christine Williams & Kenneth Frisof
- Adam & Sue Roth

Our Innovators (\$500 to \$999)

- George & Carolyn Hawk
- Peter & Susan Danford
- Stuart & Terri Kline
- Margot Schulz

Our Builders (\$100 to \$499)

John & Pamela Addison
Gail Arnoff & George Woideck
Leon & Marguerite Bibb
Dennis & Madeline Block
Margaret Bourguignon
Michael & Nicole Coxon
Charlie & Mary Crowley
Charles & Nancy Davis
Michael & Jan Devereaux
The Honorable Stuart Friedman
Brian & Pamela Gleisser
Jessica Goldstein & Jon Klein
Norman & Toni Graham
Rich & Barbara Gray
Richard & Wendy Halle
David & Loraine Hammack
Brett & Annette Himes
Steve & Carita Huang
Bruce & Donna Jackson
Bruce & Marilyn Karfeld
John & Jacqueline Lemay

John Lisy
Gil & Carol Lowenthal
Cecil & Mary Marek
Joe & Eleni Matts
Trent & Irene Meyerhoefer
Kurt Miller
Shane & Ann Millette
John & Nancy Moore
Tim & Leslie Moore
Marc & Amy Morgenstern
Peter & Kelly Nagusky
Arthur & Madeleine O'Brock
Linda Rae & Andrew Hertz
Molly & Geoffrey Ritts
Donald & Toni Scherzer
Tom & Nancy Seitz
Mark & Annette Sutherland
Unitarian Universalist Congregation
of Cleveland
Mikki Wolfberg & Howard Weisbrot
Daniel & Nancy Zavelson

Our Believers (\$50 and above)

Tom & Abby Abelson
Elaine Bolasny
Gilda Cohen
Bryan & Joann Christman
James & Karen Dakin
Jeffrey & Tina Fast
Joan Flinker
Carol Gobel
Ed & Tanisha Long

Christopher & Kelly Moody
William & Shirley Nook
Judy Pate-Shields
Bart & Sheryl Simon
Ian & Catherine Stuart
Cynthia Taylor
Marilyn Weston
Brian & Cathy Zbanek

State Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Activity

INCOME

Board of Trustees

Contributions/Gifts/Special Events \$ 18,510

City of Shaker Heights

Grant \$ 55,600

Prevention and Education \$ 13,900

Shaker Heights City Schools \$ 63,333

Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health

Services Board of Cuyahoga County \$ 176,440

MyCom/Cleveland Foundation \$ 73,625

Starting Point \$ 9,267

IMPACT Youth Enrichment \$ 5,454

Interest/Miscellaneous \$ 3,614

CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program

Forgivable Loan \$ 27,250

Total \$ 446,993

EXPENSES

Salaries & Benefits \$ 361,520

Professional and Contract Services \$ 12,273

Program Cost \$ 14,665

Insurance \$ 7,818

Occupancy \$ 20,971

Office Expenses \$ 25,741

Printing, and Publications \$ 997

Staff Development \$ 154

Advocacy \$ 1,000

Other \$ 1,519

Total \$ 446,658

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Donald Gries, President • Marlies Schweitzer-Schutte, Vice President
Mikki Wolfberg, Secretary • Ed Long, Treasurer

Gail Arnoff
Maureen Brodar
Angel Chapman
Pamela Gleisser
Cottrell Hancock

Patrick Kilts
Paul Larick
Judy Pate-Shields
Jahleela Pyles
Christine Williams

ADVISORY BOARD

John Addison
Peggy Bourguignon
Lisa Cremer
Jan Devereaux
Sandra Holmes

Stuart Kline
Nancy Moore
Robert O'Neal
Candace Sheffler
Bart Simon

SHAKER HEIGHTS YOUTH CENTER STAFF

Executive Director, John Lisy

Sharon Bell
Laura Chapman
Sarah Felson
Emily Geier
Norman Graham
Ysian Hassel

Sarah Kucyk
Harriet Lyons
ConnieMarie Mahaffey
Meg Petti
Tameka Taylor

The Shaker Heights Youth Center is funded by:

- *Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board of Cuyahoga County*
- *MyCom Youth Development Initiative of Greater Cleveland /The Cleveland Foundation*
- *Shaker Heights City Schools*
- *City of Shaker Heights*
- *Starting Point*
- *Individual and corporate contributions, fund raising events*

Shaker Heights Youth Center

17300 Van Aken Boulevard
Shaker Heights, Ohio, 44120

Phone: 216-752-9292 • Fax: 216-752-7217
shakerheightsyouthcenter.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer And Equal Provider Of Services