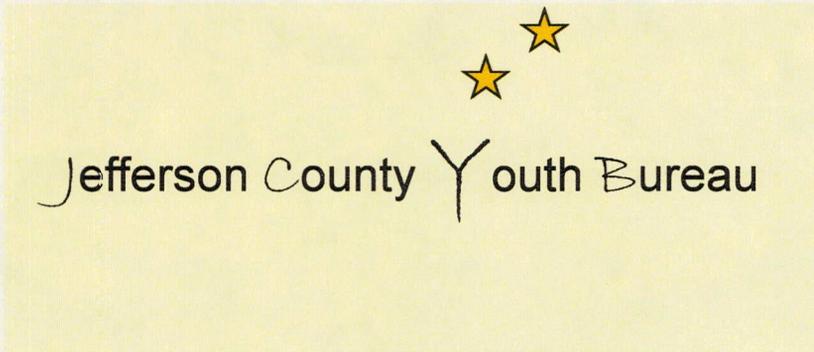




Annual Report 2023



A Division of Jefferson County Department of Social Services
250 Arsenal Street Watertown, New York 13601



JEFFERSON COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU

Annual Report January 1—September 30, 2023

During 2023 the Youth Bureau and Advisory Board acted in an advisory capacity to the Jefferson County Board of Legislators through the Health and Human Services Committee

William Johnson, Chairman of the Board of Legislators

Health and Human Services Committee

Anthony Doldo, District 15, Chair
John Peck, District 7,
Allen Drake, District 4
Corey Grant, District 14
Jeremiah Maxon, District 10
Philip Reed, District 3
Francis Calarco, District 12
Steel Potter, District 13

Youth Advisory Board

Brooke Roes, Watertown, Chair
Dan Deegan, Watertown, Vice Chair
Jane Gendron, Watertown, Secretary
Robert Cantwell, III, Liaison with Board of Legislators
Stephanie Graf, CCE
Scott Weller, Carthage
Sharon Chaple, Watertown
Mary Mathewson, Watertown
Joe Wargo, Watertown
Allyson Wargo, Watertown (youth member)
Veronica Neff, Felts Mills (youth member)
Neva Bettinger, Henderson (youth member)
Rebecca Calandro, Watertown
Amy Canniff, Watertown
Kaytlyn Desormeau, Watertown (youth member)
Monica Makuch, Brownville
Nova Schenk, Watertown
Natalie Wesseldine, Watertown (youth member)
Kirsten Widrick, Chaumont (youth member)
Robin Banks, Watertown
Katie Ramus, Adams
Anita Seefried-Brown, Watertown
Ammrose Souva, Watertown
Matthew Tucker, Watertown

Robert Hagemann, County Administrator
Sarah Baldwin, Deputy County Administrator
Karen Marcum, Commissioner, DSS
Tara Altieri, Deputy Commissioner/Youth Bureau Director



Mission Statement: to provide, promote and expand opportunities for the positive development of all young people in Jefferson County

Highlights

2023

Youth Recognition Awards

In recognition of outstanding accomplishments, annual youth recognition awards were presented to:

Promising Ability In Youth Services

Joseph Thomas

Youth Overcoming Odds

Layla Rogers

Youth Leadership

Kenneth Zehr

Outstanding Adult Youth Worker

John Carbone

It Takes A Community

Encompass Recreation

Community Support

The Youth Bureau provided opportunities for youth serving programs to share information and resources and for the community to respond to identified youth needs. The Youth Services Network provided information on the topics of: Zoo New York; Encompass Recreation; Access -VR; Raise the Lower Age of Juvenile Delinquency Program; Citizen's Advocates.

The Youth Services Network gathers information from all attendees about the programs they provide. Minutes are taken and posted on the Jefferson County Youth Bureau website.

Recreation Scholarships

11 girls & 23 boys ranging in age from five to nineteen received scholarships for activities such as gymnastics classes, Summer Youth Program, Music Lessons and various camps.



Youth Bureau Funded Programs



Youth Development Funding

112,081 in funding from the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to support:

- ★ Eleven programs operated by non-profit agencies
- ★ Recreation Scholarships

The Young People

Programs reported 2,502 children and youth attending Youth Bureau funded programs. (Children may have been counted more than once if they attended more than one program.)

Gender

55% were boys, 45% were girls
0% Transgender/Other

(Data as reported in the state system which is unable to capture transgender/other at this time)

Ethnicity

73% Caucasian ~ 17% African-American ~ 4% Hispanic ~ 5% Two or more races ~ 1% Asian, American Indian, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian

Ages 266 ~ under five years old
1,092 ~ five to nine years old
786 ~ ten to fourteen years old
288 ~ fifteen to seventeen years old
49 ~ eighteen to twenty years old
21 ~ twenty one and up

Hearts For Youth

(Hearts For Youth Inc. \$7,500)

A program focusing on life enrichment opportunities that facilitate youth in volunteering and being an active and vital part of their community. After school



and summer programs encourage teamwork and camaraderie, building relationships, developing physical and cognitive skills and encouraging healthy, respectful, productive citizenship.

Career Camp

(Jeff-Lewis BOCES \$10,838)

This course will prepare youth to start their own babysitting business in the Community. They will learn the skills needed to safely care for children, including CPR and First Aid. Youth are provided opportunities for career exploration, work readiness skill development, job/employment training skills development and self-sufficiency skill development.

Family Visitation Program

(Resolution Center \$3,375)

This program provides separated families with an opportunity to receive enhanced visitation while promoting permanency and normalcy in the lives of children.





Youth Development Continued

SoZo Teen Center

*(Children's Home of Jefferson County
\$15,000)*

To help local youth become productive and healthy adults, the SoZo Teen Center focuses on health and wellness, academics, job readiness, life skills, and civic engagement. Dedicated staff and volunteers provide positive role models and ensure a safe and enriching environment. Nutritious snacks and hot dinners are served daily. All services are provided free of charge.



Youth Court

(Resolution Center \$3,750)

This program exists to hold youth offenders accountable for delinquent behaviors; to provide positive peer-led restorative justice that promotes leadership, self-improvement and a healthier attitude towards rules/authority; and to increase knowledge and enhance refusal skills to avoid future behaviors and involvement in the criminal justice system.

Lyme Central School Summer Theater Institute (\$4,500)

Participating students in grades K-12 worked together to produce and present a high quality theater production to the local community.



YMCA BOLD

(YMCA \$3,787)

THE YMCA BOLD (B: Believe in yourself; O: Own your worth; L: Let go of negative talk; D: Determine your value) program guides youth to reach their full potential through powerful discussions through enrichment lessons for grades 5-9. The experience prepares youth for a lifetime of achieving personal and academic goals



Youth Bureau

Recreation Scholarships

(Youth Bureau \$9,054)

Financial assistance helped to cover the costs of skill-building activities such as gymnastic classes and different camps for children from financially needy families. There was a dramatic increase in the number of kids applying for scholarships to attend overnight summer camps.

Child Abuse Prevention and Family Support

The Q Center

*(ACR Health
\$10,000)*

The center provides services, activities and supports for our community's LGBTQ youth. The overall goal of the program is improved health and social-emotional outcomes for LGBTQ youth and their families





Youth Sports And Education Opportunity Funding

Sports & STEM ***(YMCA \$10,100)***

Youth engaged in fun and active sports programming while also sharing in exciting STEM activities. Sports programs keep kids active, teach friendly competition, and introduce healthy practices for life.

STEM prepares students for a lifetime of critical thinking, collaboration, and

creative problem solving in the context of hands-on learning.



CHJC Recreation Opportunities **(CHJC \$8,977)**

CHJC maintains a beautiful campus suited perfectly for the facilitation of various recreation and sports activities. The generous space allow CHJC to provide high quality recreational services to program participants and offers a variety of sports and activities.

Encompass Recreational Programs **(\$10,888)**

This program provided recreational opportunities for youth with higher support needs. Some of the planned activities include Basketball, Lego Club, Bowling, Swimming, Running, Baseball, Soccer and Fishing.

