



Issue 101 | January 1, 2020
\$5.99

OUTH

EXCLUSIVE

**HELPING THE
YOUTH OF OUR
COMMUNITY THRIVE**

**CHECK
IT OUT**

**YOUTH
BUREAU**

Employs 240 Youth

**SUMMER
COHESION**

reads 1 Million
Minutes



**2019
ANNUAL REPORT**

2019 ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear friends,
I am pleased to share this 2019 Annual Report which is a reflection of the programs and special events that are overseen by the Chemung County Youth Bureau that promote positive youth development and help improve the overall quality of life in our community.

The overall success of the Youth Bureau continues to be demonstrated by the multiple partnerships developed and maintained with our area school districts, municipalities, community based organizations and businesses in providing quality programs to our youth and families and working together to help the youth of our community to thrive.

In 2019, the Chemung County Youth Bureau was selected and funded by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services to introduce the very sensitive topic of commercial sexual exploitation of children to our community. Over the past year the Youth Bureau has called upon its' many partners in the community to help provide education, awareness and joint planning to address this issue. The Youth Bureau looks forward

“The overall success of the Youth Bureau continues to be demonstrated by the multiple partnerships.”

to a continuation of this very important community partnership in 2020.

I thank you for your contributions to our success over this past year and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve this wonderful organization and the youth and families of our community.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Harris

Robert L. Harris, MPA, CPRP
Executive Director
Chemung County Youth Bureau and
Recreational Services

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COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY IMPACT

The Chemung County Youth Bureau was created in 1977. Its main purpose is to research the needs of the County's youth and to plan, coordinate, foster and supplement the activities of public, private, and faith based agencies devoted to the welfare and protection of youth. In the fall of 1993, the Chemung County Youth Bureau was merged with the County Recreation Department in an effort to streamline prevention and developmental services to youth and provide a more efficient mechanism of service delivery to youth and families in Chemung County. Today, the Youth Bureau administers over one million dollars from Chemung County and the NYS Office of Children & Family Services to provide preventive and recreational services to the children and families of Chemung County.

Total Youth Served* - 11,992
Total Youth Employed* - 240
Ages 4 - 20 Served

* A percentage of youth may be duplicated due to being served or employed by multiple programs.

The Youth Bureau is only as successful as the people who lend their time and talents. Without these people the Chemung County Youth Bureau would not be able to make its contributions to Chemung County.

Youth Advisory Board

Dave Ellis, Town of Southport
Corina Forsythe, GST BOCES
Jon Wilbur, First Tee of Corning

Kim Stanton, Glove House
Kellie Lowman, Chemung County Department of Social Services

Nikole Watts, Chemung County Storm Water, Soil & Water Conservation

Bryan Gilbert, GLN Tax & Payroll

Bernadette Raupers, Cornell Cooperative Extension, 4H

Andrew Finnerty, Notre Dame High School

Patrick Finnerty, Notre Dame High School

Abby Squires, Elmira High School

Olivia Shaw, Elmira High School

Hunter Raupers, Horseheads High School

Ethan Raupers, Horseheads High School

Samantha White, Reality Check

Jeremy Cranmer, Neighborhood Transformational Center
Mary Kay Diakite, Catholic Charities of Chemung & Schuyler Counties

Agency Staff

Robert Harris, Certified Parks and Recreation Professional
Executive Director

Kevin Adams, Certified Parks and Recreation Professional
Fiscal Officer

Lisa Bowers
Youth Program Coordinator

Laura Zurn
Youth Program Coordinator

Samantha Johnston
Youth Program Assistant

Jennifer VonNeida
Principle Clerk

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Arnot Art Museum - Chemung River School and ARTNOW

Both programs combined serve approximately 2000 students throughout Chemung County. The programs allow for youth to visit the Museum, while receiving enhanced education in fine arts.

City of Elmira Youth Court Elmira Police Department

Youth Court is an alternative to the criminal justice system for young people who have committed a crime or an offense. A diversion program that gives first-time offenders a chance to avoid entering the criminal justice system or Family Court. It holds these youthful offenders accountable for their actions as they are judged by their peers.

Cornell Cooperative Extension 4H - After School Programming

Nearly 2000 youth, county-wide, engage in project activities with opportunities to go to camp, publicly show their work, travel, host international youth and attend meetings and events at Cornell University, 4-H provides a framework on which young people can build self-confidence, responsibility, and generosity.

Southside Community Center - After School Programming

The Southside Community Center is a "drop in", neighborhood based, recreational youth center which currently provides free after-school supervision, educational and enrichment activities, snacks and dinner to approximately 400 youth, ages 5 to 18.

Youth Advocate Program - Reunification/Prevention Program

YAP's service model, incorporates strength-based, wrap-around services into an intensive community based program. Additional emphasis is placed on areas that are most critical to these families and youth including family relationships, school performances, and connection to the community.

Special Events

- Chemung County Bullying Prevention Taskforce - Multi-agency/Schools collaboration
- Compeer Mini Golf - Family Night Sponsor
- Summer Field Trips to Harris Hill Pool - Ernie Davis, Southside, and Woodlawn Community Centers
- Hunt for the Gold Shoe - Sponsor
- Town of Southport Trunk or Treat & Easter Egg Hunt - Sponsor
- Arnot Mall - Halloween & Easter Event Sponsor
- Chemung County Youth Bureau Family Fun Night at Eldridge Park
- West Elmira Softball - Proud Sponsor

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Performing Arts & Cultural Programs

The Chemung County Youth Bureau and Department of Social Services partner with the Clemens Center to provide access to performing arts and cultural experiences to the youth and families of Chemung County.

A total of 1,169 tickets were distributed to families in the Elmira City School District for 9 various types of performances.

Chemung County Safe Harbour

During 2019 the Chemung County Youth Bureau was presented with a very important leadership opportunity by the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. The Youth Bureau, in partnership with the Department of Social Services, was tasked with developing and implementing a county plan to create awareness, provide education and initiate local planning surrounding the very sensitive issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children.

As part of New York States' Safe Harbour initiative, the Youth Bureau assembled a diverse community partnership of over 20 youth and family serving community based agencies, school districts, law enforcement agencies, health providers and hotels. This "Critical Team" provided the necessary perspective, insight and guidance to the county that was required to launch a five year plan that would create awareness, provide education to our community and drive future intervention and prevention efforts.



COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

On April 21, 2019

Chemung County Youth Bureau's 36th Annual Awards Reception held at the Clemens Center recognized exemplary individuals and programs that make a difference for our youth and families in Chemung County.

2019 winners are:

Donahoe Award
Barbara Hubbell



Program Excellence Award
Horseheads Central School District & Career Development Council Partnership

Summer Cohesion Synergy Award
Glove House Behavior Intervention Center Program

Polly Sanders Scholarship
Jhamir Brown - Elmira High School



FEATURES



SPOT Summer

is a free, supervised, drop-in, recreation program for youth, ages 12-15 that reside in Chemung County. The 2019 program operated at three park sites; Chapel Park in Southport, Grove Park in Elmira and Sullivan Park in Horseheads Monday-Friday, July 8-August 16 from 12pm-5pm.

Off-site activities include; Rock-n-Splash at Harris Hill Pool, Putt Putt at Eldridge Park, Go Carts, Batting Cages and more at Harris Hill Park, movie day at the Elmira Heights Theatre, a visit to the Corning Museum of Glass and a trip to Park Avenue Sports.

The 2019 Spot Summer Program gratefully acknowledges the City of Elmira, Town of Southport, and the Village of Horseheads for providing park pavilions for the program.

SPOT kids were offered a free lunch each day through the Food Bank of the Southern Tier and the Summer Feeding Program. Daily activities include; basketball, football, board games, Corn Hole, arts & crafts, and more.



July 8 - August 16

FEATURES



Chemung County's Recreation Program for Teens

SPOT School

is a free, supervised, drop-in, recreational program for students in grades 7-9 that reside in the Elmira City School District. SPOT School operates Friday evenings from 7:00pm-9:00pm throughout the school year.

Activities and field trips include Open Gym, Swimming, Roller Skating, Golf, Movie Nights, School Dances, Pizza Parties with board games, jewelry making and more.

In addition to the Friday night activities, SPOT works together with Broadway Academy and Ernie Davis Academy to encourage positive behavior among students along with academic success throughout the

school year by providing various incentives to compliment special events that recognizes students.

The SPOT Program has grown in popularity with over 750 students

participating in at least one event during the school year. The Spot-School Program is made possible through partnerships with the City of Elmira, Town of Southport, Elmira City School District, and Town of Elmira.



FEATURES



Summer Cohesion

is a 6-week, drop-in, recreational, educational, and cultural enrichment program for youth, ages 4-12 in Chemung County. The 2019 program operated Monday - Friday, July 8 - August 16 from 8:00am-2:00pm.

A total of 783 youth were registered at the following site locations:

Cohen Elementary
Diven Elementary
First Baptist Church
Gardner Road Elementary
Hendy Avenue Elementary
Parley Coburn Elementary
Ridge Road Elementary

Each site is divided into 4 age groups.

- Tot Lot- ages 4&5
- Summer Friends- ages 6&7
- Summer Buddies- ages 8&9
- Summer Club- ages 10&12

Major Partners

- City and Town of Elmira
- Town of Southport
- Village of Elmira Heights
- Town and Village of Horseheads

- Elmira City School District
- Elmira Heights Central School District
- Horseheads Central School District

All activities are scheduled and followed through lesson plans creating a well-structured environment.

- Daily activities include indoor - outdoor games, arts-n-crafts, talent shows, daily reading, water games and more.

- Off-site field trips include swimming, hiking, picnics, visits to local museums, and carnival day.

- Local service agencies and businesses provide traveling programs to each site with hands-on activities and presentations that focus on proper nutrition, youth fitness, healthy lifestyles, and safety.

- Each site attended a special performance by 'Mario the Maker Magician' at the Clemens Center.



FEATURES



Annual Staff Training:

A comprehensive, 3-day staff training is held to prepare and setup for the six weeks. Staff members attend workshops on; Team Building, Classroom Management, Child Development, Literacy, Child Abuse Awareness, Swimming Safety, games, crafts and more. Two additional trainings were introduced in 2019, Intruder and Site Security Training. Both trainings were taught by officers from local police agencies.

Program Highlights:

- The USDA Summer Feeding Program, provides nutritious meals to children when school is not in session. In partnership with BOCES and the Elmira City School District free breakfast and lunch was served daily at four, eligible Summer Cohesion sites. Over 12,000 meals were served to 458 Summer Cohesion youth throughout the summer.
- Summer Reading continues to be a strong focus in the Summer Cohesion Program. Together with program partners; GST BOCES, Chemung County Library District, Elmira City School District, Horseheads School District and the Pawntrns Program, sites were well-stocked with reading materials, supplies,

activities and volunteers to read to them. In addition, volunteers including district teachers provided classroom support in the sites integrating daily reading activities such as; Readers Theatre, class mysteries, students as readers, journaling and book clubs.

- The goal each day of the program was for every child to engage in a reading activity for at least 20 minutes or more. Reading data was gathered each week and submitted to the Chemung County Library District to be included with national summer reading figures. Close to one million minutes of reading and activities were logged for the Summer Cohesion Program.
- Summer Cohesion continues to work together with local youth serving agencies to help families with care beyond the traditional hours of Cohesion. This continuum of care is important for all families in our community, providing additional programming for youth each day.
- The YWCA Elmira & Twin Tiers, Kids World Program provided care from 2:00pm

- 5:30pm at three Summer Cohesion locations, Hendy Avenue Elementary, Ridge Road and Gardner Road Elementary schools.

- In addition, The Southside Community Center which is located next to the Parley Coburn School, opened their doors at 2:00pm each day during the summer for any youth in Summer Cohesion providing activities along with an afternoon snack and dinner at no cost to families.

Promoting the online registration, over 8,000 program brochures were distributed in schools, businesses and youth serving agencies throughout Chemung County in May.

2019 Summer Cohesion employees:

Each site has a Site Coordinator, a Senior Recreation Leader, and Recreation Leaders assigned according to the number of youth registered there. A total of 90 employees worked in 2019.

- All staff are certified in Standard First Aid, Child/Adult CPR and AED.

FEATURES



Super Saturday

is a 6-week, recreational and enrichment program for youth in grades Kindergarten-6 who reside in the Elmira City School District. Super Saturday is offered at no cost with the exception of swimming which is a \$25 fee. The Program Assistant oversees the program each week, assist's staff and students, and answers questions parents may have.

Classes are divided into two age groups, Kindergarten-2 and 3-6. Each child attends two, 1-hour classes.

- Arts and Crafts
- Fun & Fitness
- Kids Kitchen
- Science
- Swim Lessons

Recreation Leaders work in teams of two in the classes.

The Super Saturday Program is made possible through partnerships with the City of Elmira, Town of Southport, Town of Elmira, and Elmira City School District.

Super Saturday operates two, 6-week sessions during the school year from 8:30am-11:00am at the YWCA Elmira & the Twin Tiers. Kids receive a free breakfast of cereal, granola bar, milk and juice. Online registration is held two weeks before the start of the program with 100 children being registered for each session.



FEATURES

LEARN AND EARN

A Program of the Chemung County Youth Bureau

The Learn and Earn Program provides youth program participants with an opportunity to strengthen their ability to become self-sufficient and responsible through a series of basic life and job skills training that will benefit them in a variety of life settings. The goal of the Learn and Earn Program is to enable youth to see themselves as respected, successful, and contributing members of the community and workforce with strong goals for their future.

The program serves income-eligible youth, ages 14-18, who are currently enrolled in high school in Chemung County. The program operates in 4 sessions throughout the school year. Income eligibility is based upon the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Department in regards to the Temporary Assistance (TANF) for Needy Families Program. Youth program participant's family income must be at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty guidelines.

51

> youth participated in Financial Literacy and Soft Employment Skills Training

20

> hours of soft employment skills is taught to each student

20-30

> youth are served in each session of Learn and Earn

4

> monthly sessions are completed a year at Elmira High School and Thomas Edison High School

16

> youth who completed Learn and Earn exercised their skills to apply and interview for a Summer Youth Employment Program

• The Learn and Earn Program partnered with Corning Credit Union to ensure all youth who participated in the program had the ability to sign up for a student account.

• The students participated in workshops that reviewed communication skills, decision making skills, teamwork, resume composition, banking skills, emotion management, how to take initiative, appropriate relationships in the workplace, motivation and goal setting, and stress management skills.

• The Learn and Earn Program was successfully launched in the Elmira Heights School District.

• During each session, students participate in a variety of team building activities to enhance their ability to become leaders within their community.



FEATURES



The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) is a comprehensive youth employment program for income eligible youth ages fourteen to twenty residing in Chemung County. Eligible youth and their families must have a gross income that does not exceed 200% of the Federal Poverty level.

The participating youth are placed in various public, private, and not for profit agencies throughout Chemung County. They are placed based on their interests, where they live, and their means of transportation. Over the course of the six week summer program, youth have the potential to earn up to \$1,000 by participating in subsidized work experience opportunities and learn valuable workplace skills by participating in various trainings and workshops.

- 88 youth successfully completed the Summer Youth Employment Program
- Youth received 13 hours of education throughout the program
- 14 Learn and Earn students successfully applied their skills and completed the Summer Youth Employment Program
- Youth worked an average of 25 hours a week
- The Summer Youth Employment Program partnered with Corning Credit Union to provide three and a half hours of Financial Literacy training at all mandatory events; covering topics such as: checking accounts, savings accounts, budgeting, money management, financial preparation for college, and writing checks. The youth also had the ability to open their own account with Corning Credit Union.
- At the first mandatory workshop, the youth received training on how to complete a

job application, taught to sign their name, write a check, compose a résumé and cover letter, and manage their money using a money register. The youth were also given a tour of the BOCES Adult Education and Career Center.

- At our annual Wrap Up Event, the Youth Bureau partnered with Corning Credit Union for our Mad City Money Event. Student participants were provided with a career along with a salary, a spouse, a child, and some loan debt. Participants were then required to purchase needs and wants from merchants to care for the members of their family. The Youth Bureau was able to utilize many volunteers from the community to put on the event. The youth also received training on the importance of credit scores as well as stress management techniques.

110 TOTAL YOUTH HIRED



FEATURES



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT 2019

110

› Hired

› Zip Code

14814

14816

14838

14845

14864

14871

14889

14901

14903

14904

14905

80%

› Retention Rate

› Youth Served

2

2

2

9

1

4

2

40

3

35

10

› Agency

Children & Family Services

Children Integrated Services

Probation

› Number from Agency Involved in SYEP

2

9

2

110 youth earned a total of \$160,412.60 during the summer

- 77 youth successfully completed a minimum 110 hours
- A mass mailing of 157 applications was sent through the Department of Social Services in the middle of March to youth whose families are currently receiving some form of public assistance through the department.

FEATURES

JAWS

Juvenile Assigned Work Service Program

Developed in 1995, The Chemung County Juvenile Assigned Work Service Program (JAWS) is designed to give consequences and prevent further involvement or placement of youth, ages 7-17 in Chemung County currently involved in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice System or the Child Welfare System. The Chemung County Department of Youth Bureau and Recreational Services JAWS Program provides a safe, supervised, structured environment in which youth can perform their assigned community service. Transportation is also provided between four convenient pickup sites throughout Chemung County.

Referrals received for the JAWS Program are made possible through the collaborative effort between the Chemung County Department of Youth Bureau and Recreational Services and the following referral sources: the Chemung County Family Court System, Chemung County Probation Department, Chemung County Children's Integrated Services and most recently, the Glove House Evening Support Center.

- 736 community service hours were completed for a value of \$8,169.60 based on NYS minimum wage of \$11.10 an hour.
- 93% of youth completed all assigned community service hours

Referral source:

- 50 referrals came from the Chemung County Probation Department
- 4 referrals came from the Glove House Evening Support Center

- The participants of the JAWS Program filled Easter eggs for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Chapel Park, participated in Leaf Raking Day with the Town of Southport, assisted with clean up after the Annual Trunk or Treat event at Chapel Park, and helped set up Christmas Land with the Town of Southport.

- The staff hired for the JAWS Program have various full-time positions outside of JAWS including teachers, case aids, and various youth programs throughout Chemung County.

- The Town of Southport, Southside Community Center, Ernie Davis Community Center, the Elmira Psychiatric Center, Frontline Ministries, the Frontline Youth Center, Harris Hill Parks, Tanglewood Nature Center, Horseheads United Methodist Church, the Transformation Center, Woodlawn Cemetery, the Human Resource Center, and the Chemung County Youth Bureau provide the JAWS youth with adequate spaces and supplies to complete their community service hours.



NRPA PARK PULSE

Parks and Recreation: Preferred Provider of Before- and After-School Care

90%

of adults believe it's important for park and recreation agencies to provide affordable before- and after-school care to children and young adults.



These services include tutoring and homework help, fitness and play opportunities, and the availability of healthy snacks.

Regardless of income, age, education or having children in the household, people agree, providing affordable before- and after-school care for our nation's youth is important!



Each month, through a poll of 1,000 U.S. residents focused on park and recreation issues, NRPA Park Pulse helps tell the park and recreation story. Questions span from the serious to the more lighthearted. The survey was conducted by Wakefield Research (www.wakefieldresearch.com).

Visit nrpa.org/park-pulse for more information.



National Recreation
and Park Association

Because everyone deserves a great park