



2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

BIRMINGHAM YOUTH ASSISTANCE

We are BYA! You are BYA!

Birmingham Youth Assistance

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2010-2011

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CASEWORKER

Elizabeth Csizmadia

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Birmingham Youth Assistance is the prevention and reduction of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect by providing positive alternatives to children and families through a partnership of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division, the Birmingham School District, sponsoring municipalities (Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Franklin) and volunteer citizens.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Friends of Birmingham Youth Assistance,

For more than 49 years, Birmingham Youth Assistance has provided services to the youth of our local community. We are a branch of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division that depends heavily on community and voluntary support to provide these family and youth oriented activities, parenting education and if necessary intervention for the children of the Birmingham School District. We offer an alternative to children who might be headed towards a formal involvement with the criminal justice system.

One of our regular events is the Youth in Service Recognition Breakfast. The Birmingham Optimist have also conducted such an event for over 50 years. This year, for the first time, these two organizations came together in support of the youth of our community to sponsor a joint event now known as the Annual Youth in Service Appreciation Awards Event. It was a resounding success and we look forward to collaborating with them again next year.

Other events conducted by Birmingham Youth Assistance this year include the Kids' Dog Show, Breakfast with Santa and Touch-a-Truck. These activities are described in this booklet and the actual event dates can be found on our website: www.birminghamyouthassistance.org.

We depend heavily on volunteer, community and local business sponsorships. These sponsors are included in this booklet. They help Birmingham Youth Assistance carry out our mission of providing positive activities for the youth and families of the Birmingham Public School District. We hope you will recognize and support these organizations and businesses. They have made a commitment to the positive development of the youth in our community.

The General Citizens Committee would like to thank our volunteers, businesses, the Birmingham Public School District, the city of Birmingham, and the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin, who have continued to support our organization during these difficult times. Through their confidence and loyalty we can continue to provide "positive alternatives for children and families".

Your interest in our organization and financial support is very much needed and appreciated. We hope that you will continue to be part of our programs. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, a mentor or a sponsor, please feel free to contact me through the Birmingham Youth Assistance offices.

Sincerely,

David R. Walker

BYA Committee Chairperson

**Birmingham Youth Assistance
wishes to thank**

the First United Methodist Church, The Community House in Birmingham,
Bingham Farms Elementary, and Berkshire Middle School
for providing space for meetings and BYA programs.

CASEWORKER'S REPORT

In October, I will have officially completed my first year as the caseworker assigned to Birmingham Youth Assistance. However, my Oakland County Youth Assistance coworkers will tell you that I'm probably one of the more seasoned veterans still on board-given my 16 years of experience serving in the Bloomfield, Pontiac, Royal Oak, and Clawson communities prior to my transfer to Birmingham. That being said, I've learned over the years that each move brings about all kinds of new and exciting challenges which I have found enriches me both personally and professionally.

Birmingham Youth Assistance (BYA) is committed to promoting the health and well-being of youth and families who reside in the Birmingham School District. I strive to meet this goal by providing quality casework services and assisting volunteers in developing programs for local youth and families. During this past program year, 67 youth were referred to BYA for casework services. Reasons for referrals include: minor in possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana, retail fraud, MDOP, and short-term counseling services for issues related to conflict at home and/or school.

Our organization achieves this goal through the combined efforts and support of the many people who make BYA an outstanding community program. I would like to thank our local program sponsors, the Birmingham Public Schools, the city of Birmingham, and the Villages of Beverly Hills, Franklin, and Bingham Farms for their ongoing support. My gratitude is also extended to the Oakland County Circuit Court/Family Division judges and staff who have a strong belief in this program.

I would especially like to thank the dedicated BYA Executive Board and General Citizens Committee who work so hard to create and maintain our outstanding programs which include Breakfast with Santa, the Kid's Dog Show, Touch-a-Truck and Youth in Service. Kudos to the Summer Camp, Mentors PLUS and Family Education committees as well.

Part of BYA's success is also created by the network of relationships it maintains with other community based organizations. BYA continues to partner with the Community House in Birmingham. Each year, this relationship has enabled BYA to offer informative family education workshops. It has also provided BYA with a festive venue to host Breakfast with Santa. The "breakfast" by the way, is always hot and delicious too!

This year, BYA also collaborated with the Birmingham Optimist Club to host Youth in Service and with the support of one of our newest volunteers, Rachel Rotger, Director/CEO of Stillwater Collective, our public relations campaign has taken off. The message: **"You Are BYA"** embraces the message BYA intends to pass along as the organization moves forward.

Finally, on a more personal note, I would also like to acknowledge and thank office manager, Diedra Righter. I am more than grateful to her for her guidance, sense of humor and friendship while I've used this past year to learn my "new job".

There is nothing like being in a new community: a new office, new sponsors, new volunteers, new resources and new referral sources to rejuvenate oneself. I'm looking forward to putting my new found knowledge to work!

ABOUT YOUTH ASSISTANCE



Oakland County Youth Assistance has been dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and neglect since 1953. Twenty-six offices in Oakland County provide programs to serve youth and their families, under the auspices of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division. Youth Assistance programs work because they are community based and developed by volunteers who have their fingers on the pulse of the community. The County of Oakland does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to its programs, activities or services as required by Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The County of Oakland is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Birmingham Youth Assistance has been a non-profit community-based service organization committed to youth and their families through a variety of programs and resources since 1962. BYA operates with the sponsorship and generosity of the Court, as well as the City of Birmingham, the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin, and the Birmingham Public Schools. Principal funding is supplied through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

BYA Camp Committee

For well over 20 years, Birmingham Youth Assistance has provided camp scholarships for youngsters who attend Birmingham Public Schools. BYA reaches out far and wide into the greater Birmingham School District to find children whose lives could be made better with a summer camping experience. Often times these children have parents who have experienced divorce, job loss, illness, death, addiction and other extreme stressors. Camp is a time for them to play, have fun and just be kids. BYA is committed to helping these children and families.

This summer 42 children received camp scholarships. Birmingham school counselors, teachers and other staff refer those students who are most in need. Parents can also make a referral. Most children select a day camp such as Super Summer, sports or science camps, the Birmingham YMCA, and others. A few children are even able to attend overnight camp.

The mission of BYA is to provide positive alternatives to children and families for the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect. Summer camp is one of these positive alternatives that really makes a difference in the lives of the families we serve.

*Claudia St. Amour, Chair
Camp Committee*



Touch-a-Truck

On Saturday, May 14, 2011, Birmingham Youth Assistance sponsored their fourth annual “Touch-a-Truck” event at Bingham Farms Elementary School on W. 13 Mile Rd. At this fun family focused event, families of pre-school and elementary age children from across the area were invited to get up-close with trucks, cranes, and public safety vehicles. Despite the chilly spring weather, over 200 cars filled with families stopped by between 10 am and 2 pm.

The front circle at Bingham Farms was filled with 12 different showcase vehicles from the Beverly Hills Police and Fire Departments, and the Village of Franklin, as well as private businesses. Kids of all ages were able to sit in the cab of a boom crane and checked out the Beverly Hills and Franklin Emergency vehicles. Most families took advantage of a delicious lunch from Franks Anatra-the hot dog truck.

Thank you to committee members for volunteering their time: Judy Adelman, Christine Gannon, Peggy Kerr, Dante Lanzetta, Dave Walker, Det. Chad Trussler, and Liz Csizmadia, our dedicated caseworker. I would also like to thank all of our wonderful student volunteers from Seaholm and Groves High Schools.

And a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to our dedicated truck donors: The Beverly Hills Public Safety Dept., Laramie Crane Co., Monaghan’s Towing, Beverly Hills DPW, Franklin Fire Dept., PM Environmental, Reefer Peterbilt, Goldner Walsh Garden & Home, and Frank’s Anatra. Without them we couldn’t offer this wonderful event.

*Russ Facione, Chair
Touch-a-Truck*



Annual Youth in Service Appreciation

April 13, 2011 marked the 1st Annual Youth in Service Appreciation Awards Event. Birmingham Youth Assistance has sponsored a similar event for 43 years. The Birmingham Optimist, a civic service organization known as the "Friends of Youth", has also conducted such an event for over 50 years. This year for the first time these two organizations came together to honor the youth of our community for their volunteer work.

The event was held at the Birmingham Community House, a long time supporter of both Birmingham Youth Assistance and the Birmingham Optimist. The organizations honored 13 Middle School and 23 High School students who had been nominated by their counselor, teacher or other civic service leader, for their outstanding contributions to our community.

Family members, school administrators, local, county and state government officials, and members of Oakland County and Birmingham Youth Assistance, and the Birmingham Optimist, were among those celebrating the incredible work and unselfish hours of time given by the honorees. Schools represented were: Eton Academy, The Academy of the Sacred Heart, Birmingham Covington School, Berkshire Middle School, Derby Middle School, Brother Rice, Groves High School, and Seaholm High school.

As the current Chairperson of Birmingham Youth Assistance and a long time member of the Birmingham Optimist Club, I had the pleasure of welcoming the Honorees and their families and friends. Greetings were extended from the Oakland County Circuit Court and the Family Court Judges by Mary Schusterbauer, Chief of Oakland County Youth Assistance. Rev. Chad Oyer, Pastor of Student Ministries at First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, gave the Invocation.

Our Keynote Speaker this year was the Honorable Judge Diane D'Agostini of the 48th District Court, serving the communities of Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake Village, as well as the Townships of Bloomfield and West Bloomfield. Judge D'Agostini, who has been a long time and valued support-

er of Youth Assistance, gave an inspirational and informative Keynote Address.

Thereafter, the awards were presented by James Van Dyke, Attorney and volunteer member of Birmingham Youth Assistance, Gordon Rinschler, Mayor of the City of Birmingham, Dr. David Larson, Birmingham Public Schools Superintendent, Lori Soifer, President, BPS Board of Education, Gerri Rinschler, Trustee, BPS Board of Education and myself as a representative of both The Birmingham Optimist Club and Birmingham Youth Assistance.

This year we had many outstanding candidates for the 2011 Jane Parker Ward Memorial Award. The Jane Parker Ward Memorial Award is given every year to a student who has distinguished themselves as an outstanding volunteer and emerging leader in the area of community service. As a result, two nominees received the award. I had the distinct privilege of introducing Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard, who presented the award this year on behalf of Birmingham Youth Assistance and The Birmingham Optimist Club to Anisha Glanton of Groves High School, who was nominated by school CSO, Sheila Brice and to Aaron Walden of Seaholm High School, who was nominated by school CSO, Cheryl Shettel.

I would like to thank the public officials, teachers and school officials, family and friends, as well as all of those volunteers from Birmingham Youth Assistance and The Birmingham Optimists, and the staff of Birmingham Youth Assistance, Elizabeth Csizmadia, Caseworker and Diedra Righter, Office Manager, who helped in making the 2011 Youth In Service Appreciation Awards Event Breakfast such a success. I would also like to recognize the Birmingham Community House for their continued support in many ways of Birmingham Youth Assistance.

In this time of economic difficulties, I would especially like to recognize our many Sponsors, including The Oakland County Courts, The Birmingham Police Department, and The city of Birmingham, and the Villages of Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills, Franklin.



High School Nominees: Samantha Arnold, Ryan Bartholomew, Daniel Bekemeyer, Austin Conway, Adam Egrin, Nicholas Espinosa, Anisha Glanton, Jeremie Harris, Alyssa Indenbaum, Kaitlyn Krizanic, Katherine Nagley, Boyce Oudersluys, Timothy Radlick, Elana Rosen, Erika Schmidt, Jonathan Schwarcz, Ian Shackelford, Isabella Shaya, Alexandra Sherman, William Wallace, Aaron Walden, Jessica Wells



Middle School Nominees: Audrey Belf, Chloe Claeys, Matthew Gallo, Jamie Greene, Jason Gross, Jherrard Hardeman, Lena Juratli, Gabrielle Klos, Phillip Manning, Elizabetta Markaj, Olivia Ruiz, Carly Wade, Kris Williams

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Breakfast with Santa was again a wonderful and successful event. Birmingham Youth Assistance has been organizing this fun filled family event since 1993. Held at the Community House in Birmingham on Saturday, December 4, 2010, our breakfast has become a family tradition for many of our Birmingham area families. We would like to thank our truly awesome volunteers from the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Rochester, Seaholm, and Groves High Schools that acted as Santa's Helpers. These special teens gave up part of their Saturday morning to act as servers and hostesses. They also helped keep children entertained with face painting and temporary tattoos while they eagerly anticipated their turn with Santa. Wilma the Clown created balloon creations that accompanied the children home and provided many smiles. Santa was able to spend quality one-to-one time with 146 children, which surely was the highlight of their morning.

A very special thank you is extended to Santa. He has been faithfully hearing children's wishes for us for 18 years. Thank you to Max & Erma's for the placemats and crayons and to the Community House for their co-sponsorship of this event. We appreciated the help of our volunteers; Judy Adelman, Dana Hathaway, Dick Stasys, Mary Jo Dawson, Nancy Johnson, Dante Lanzetta, Reuben Myers, Andy Acho, Peggy Kerr, David and Susan Rogers, and special thanks to David Walker and Russ Facione, our breakfast emcees. Without the help of our dedicated volunteers, events such as this would not be possible. We would also like to thank the Birmingham Police Department for extending the time on the parking meters so our families could enjoy their breakfast without the worry of a parking ticket. Special thanks to our BYA Caseworker Liz Csizmadia and Diedra Righter, Office Manager, who assist with the fine details to ensure a wonderful event.

*Peggy Kerr, Chair
Breakfast with Santa*



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2010-2011

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FAMILY EDUCATION

The mission of Youth Assistance is the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse and child neglect. What better way to address these concerns than with a focus on creating individuals, families and communities of character. With this goal in mind, Birmingham Youth Assistance offered a family education program to help parents understand and deal with the many faces of bullying. Our workshop addressed such compelling questions as, what can parents do about the problems of bullying and cyber-bullying, and what do parents need to know in order to be helpful to their children-whether they are bullies, getting bullied, or bystanders? Attendees were able to hear the latest research and clinic findings from the experts in the field of bullying prevention.

Our presenters: Leslie Rae Johnson, Perspectives Counseling Center Clinical Director; and Malissa Wood, Director of Child and Adolescent Services, provided a valuable educational experience for parents. We thank the Community House in Birmingham for partnering with BYA to co-sponsor this program.

*Claudia St. Amour, Chair
Family Education Committee*

2011 ADVERTISING/PROGRAM BOOKLET

Birmingham Youth Assistance's annual fundraising booklet includes a Community Resource Directory. Copies of our booklet are distributed to our advertisers and to all attendees of our Kids' Dog Show in February, our Youth In Service Recognition Breakfast in April, Touch-a-Truck in May, the Birmingham Summer Farmer's Market, our Sponsors Breakfast in October, and at Breakfast With Santa in December.

If you would like to support Birmingham Youth Assistance by purchasing an ad, please contact the office at (248) 642-4882.

Mentor's PLUS Program

The Mentor's PLUS Program matches pre-screened volunteers with children based on various criteria. Children are referred to the Mentor PLUS Program through a variety of venues. The process is overseen by our Caseworker Liz Csizmadia. Ms. Csizmadia comes to us with a vast amount of experience in various areas of Oakland County youth Assistance. She represents a significant and invaluable asset with regard to counseling and advice to the Mentor/Mentee and to the parents as well.

Sometimes children are referred through the schools or by their parents, teachers or even the youth officers for the community police departments in our area. If the Mentor PLUS Program did not exist, with the added benefit of an on-site social work professional, these children would possibly be diverted into the juvenile system at a much greater tax-payer expense. The commitment of time is very small, while the benefits are enormous.

I have had the privilege of being the chairman for a number of years now and I can honestly say that it has been a wonderful experience. I have been matched with the same young man for 6 years. I feel that the relationship continues to be a positive experience in this young man's life. He does very well in school and sports and started his Sophomore year in a new school. A new school, especially high school, is always difficult. However, I believe that the challenge of new experiences is healthy and prepares a child for the constantly changing world that they will encounter in life. As a Sophomore, he is beginning to think about college and soon will be attending yet another "new school". The new experiences will only benefit him and make him better able to successfully adapt to the new environment of being an undergraduate.

We continue to seek qualified male and female volunteers who are willing to spend a very small amount of time with a child for a very large return. This year, unfortunately, we lost a volunteer when he fulfilled his one year commitment with his match.

If anyone is interested in joining the Mentors PLUS Program as a Mentor or has a nomination of someone who would like to be a Mentor, I would like to encourage you to please contact the BYA office at (248) 642-4882. I would be more than happy to speak personally with anyone that might be interested in making a difference in one child's life, one day at a time.

*David Walker, Chair
Mentors PLUS Committee*

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Birmingham
Strengthening Families
Through Community Involvement

BIRMINGHAM YOUTH ASSISTANCE

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