

Youth in Service Celebration

11th Annual Celebration of Youth in Service

Sponsored by
Birmingham Youth Assistance
and
The Birmingham Optimist Club



March 24, 2022

Ernest W. Seaholm High School

Reception

String ensemble music performed by Sloane Bialas, Sophie Hanawalt, Hope Hughes, and Hannah Marshall

Program

Welcome and Introductions

Ann Nazareth Manning, Vice Chair, Birmingham Youth Assistance

Greetings from Oakland County Youth Assistance

Mary Schusterbauer, Chief of Oakland County Youth Assistance

Greetings from Birmingham

Therese Longe, Mayor, City of Birmingham

Youth in Service Awards Presentation

Ann Nazareth Manning and Jennifer Rass, Youth in Service Program Co-Chairs

Birmingham Youth Assistance Mission and Programs

Shelley Goodman Taub, former Chair, Birmingham Youth Assistance

“All-Star” Awards Presentation

David R. Walker, Board Member, Birmingham Youth Assistance and the Birmingham Optimist Club

Closing Remarks

Jennifer Rass, Youth in Service Program Co-Chair

This program will air on Comcast channel 18, AT&T channel 99, and Wow channel 18 in Birmingham, Bingham Farms, Beverly Hills and Franklin, as well as on Comcast channel 15 in Bloomfield Hills and Bloomfield Township. It will also be available online at www.Bloomfieldtwp.org or www.Birminghamareacableboard.org Video on demand page. Residents will have 24/7 access to the program online

2022 Youth in Service Honorees — Middle School



Rocco Caponigro

Derby Middle School, 8th grade

Nominator: Nancy Johnson, Derby Community Service Organizer

Rocco Caponigro has assisted families in our community in a variety of ways. He is involved in many of Derby's outreach activities including feeding families through SOS/Lighthouse Thanksgiving Sharing and providing families with holiday gifts through the Lighthouse Adopt a Family program. He also has been on several local mission trips with his church to nonprofit organizations in areas including Detroit and Pontiac. Rocco has sorted and prepared winter coats for distribution to the disadvantaged. He has volunteered at a shredding warehouse and worked with underprivileged youth. Rocco also has volunteered in community gardens in Pontiac, planting and cleaning up after harvesting.

Rocco has been a leader in his school as well as in the community. In addition to being President of Derby's National Junior Honor Society, he also is a WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) leader. In this role, he welcomes incoming 6th graders to the school and makes them feel at home.

Hannah Rass

Berkshire Middle School, 8th grade

Nominator: Krystal Dunlap, Development Director, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation

Hannah Rass designed and made 100 bracelets and sold them for \$5 each to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. She chose this project not only to raise money, but also to raise awareness for Type One Diabetes. In her design, she used the JDRF blue for the strands of the bracelet and included a pink knot to represent the drop of blood generated when diabetes patients prick their fingers to test their blood sugar.

Hannah and her family have raised funds for JDRF for nine years in honor of her brother who has Type One Diabetes and is himself very active as an ambassador and fundraiser. Each year, Hannah tries to raise at least \$200 to support her family's team for the annual walk. Hannah also does ten hours of volunteer service each year for the Church of the Redeemer.



Nora Salyer

Derby Middle School, 8th grade

Nominators from Derby Middle School: Fredrick Costello, Assistant Principal; Heidi Pratt, ASD Center-Based Program teacher; and Katie Kelly, Counselor

Nora Salyer has committed herself to serving students with autism at Derby Middle School. This summer, she volunteered daily for four weeks in the Extended School Year program, during which she worked in multiple classrooms helping students with their daily work. Now, as an 8th grader, Nora has given up one of her elective classes each term in order to assist 24 students in the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) center-based classes. These ASD classes draw students with varying degrees of disabilities from across Oakland County, and having a general education peer in the classroom makes a big difference. Nora is the only one of more than 600 students to have made this commitment, as it means missing out on several popular elective classes. In addition to spending her first hour daily in an ASD classroom, Nora regularly gives up her lunch and recreation periods to dedicate time to students in the program.

Nora's commitment to the ASD community dates back to the 3rd grade, when she began volunteering in the LINKS program. She took her commitment up a notch during the pandemic. Recognizing the importance of regular social interaction, she spent many hours on Zoom with several students throughout the quarantine period, trying to bring as much normalcy as possible to that scary time. Nora has been described as consistently kind and caring, even when students have emotional outbursts. She has the rare talent of forming positive relationships with students with Autism and behavioral disorders, who do not necessarily form bonds with others. When asked about her motivation, Nora explained, "There isn't really a difference between me and a student with autism. We are all equals here ... Yes, they might need different things or a device to communicate but nobody should think that they are more special because of it. I think that the world needs to change, and if I can do that any way possible, then I will."

Eliana Shulkin

Berkshire Middle School, 7th grade

Nominator: Jason Clinkscale, Principal, Berkshire Middle School

Eliana Shulkin collected more than 200 coats for the homeless during November and December of 2021. She organized two separate drives, one at her school and one at her temple. In each case, she organized the event, encouraged others to donate, and packed and delivered the donated coats.

Participating in volunteer weeks at Adat Shalom, Eliana has done 2 to 3 hours of volunteer service every few weeks for the past ten months. She has made lunches, scarves, and blankets for homeless people and toys for dog shelters. She has made cards for senior citizens and participated in several Zoom calls with nursing homes to encourage the seniors during the pandemic. Eliana also has helped at an urban garden with Repair the World. She is motivated by her enjoyment of helping others and making people happy.



2022 Youth in Service Honorees — High School



Grace Alkatib

Wylie E. Groves High School, grade 12

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak, Groves Community Service Organizer

Grace Alkatib helped to develop a mental health wellness program that provides a way for students and community members to cope with stress and anxiety. As president of the National Art Honor Society at Groves High School, she worked with the art and counseling departments to help develop the “Art as Therapy” program. In December, 40 students and community members had the opportunity to be guided in mindfulness meditations and then create artwork (painting or making candles) as a healthful distraction from stressful lives. Thanks to the positive response, another 84 people had the opportunity to learn these mental health self-care techniques in February.

Grace also is an active member of Big Brother, Big Sister, in which volunteer upperclassmen help make sure incoming students get off to a confident start to their high school journey. Grace also is very involved in her church. She has volunteered at a three-week vacation bible school program during each of the past four summers and at multiple three-day overnight camps. Grace also teaches Catechism for three hours every Saturday to a group of 25 first graders.

Sloane Bialas

Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 10th grade

Nominator: Nick Karpinsky, Seaholm Orchestra Instructor

Sloane Bialas, along with three other students, has performed on her violin at multiple assisted living facilities in the community. This string ensemble is completely voluntary and student led. They chose the music, coordinated the performances/visits, and practiced outside of school on their own time. This group is an excellent example of student leadership. Their orchestra instructor’s only role has been to provide them with additional music to learn. Each of these students has committed in excess of 100 hours of service over the past four years, including rehearsal time and performances at multiple senior facilities. In addition, these young women have raised awareness and generated donations for the Seaholm Orchestra program by performing for a variety of events including concerts, dinners, school fundraising events, and the Birmingham Youth Assistance Breakfast with Santa.

Sloane felt it was an amazing experience to share the music she loves with people in the community, bringing joy to both themselves and the senior residents. Individually, she has participated in multiple activities for her high school student service club, including working at Seaholm’s used clothing boutique, putting together kits for newborns, and loading boxes of food into cars at a food bank.



Dylan Brown

Wylie E. Groves High School, 12th grade

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak, Groves Community Service Organizer

Dylan Brown has been very active in his school’s Interact community service club and presently is one of the co-presidents. His involvement has included making cards for local veterans and dog toys for the Humane Society, clearing litter from a local park, and assembling more than 250 bags for children in foster care. Dylan also is involved with National Honor Society, Groves Student Congress, and Groves Student Ambassadors. His work with these organizations has included giving tours to new students and helping them find connections at Groves, organizing the 2021 Groves Field Day, and offering tutoring to others. Dylan consistently goes out of his way to make new students feel comfortable and welcomed to the Groves community.

For his BSA Eagle Scout leadership project, Dylan collected used bikes and accessories to donate to the Motor City Mitten Mission. He led his fellow scouts in canvassing the community through emails, flyers, and social media. In total, he and his team collected 88 bikes, 14 helmets, 12 locks, and 5 LED light strips and took the bicycles to a local shop for maintenance and repairs. Dylan and his troop also assembled about 300 sandwiches to be distributed alongside the bikes and accessories.



Eve Collon

Wylie E. Groves High School, 12th grade

Nominator: Elizabeth Sak, Groves Community Service Organizer

Eve Collon saw that students and staff at her school were struggling with stressors including the pandemic and the Oxford shooting. She has been bringing her family’s two certified therapy dogs to Beaumont Hospital for the past 3-4 years and has seen the positive impact they had on patients, family members, and the staff. Eve worked with school administrators, counselors, and the Beverly Hills police department and organized a Pet Therapy Program for Groves High School to relieve stress and boost morale. Eve brings her own pets and also arranges to have dogs brought in from other programs. Therapy dogs are now scheduled to visit Groves during finals week, charity week, lunch hours and all of the Groves Mental Health Club meetings.

Eve has volunteered at Beaumont Hospital for the past three years in a variety of roles, including several COVID vaccine clinics and a blood drive. During her time in the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology clinic, she saw that the children frequently had blood draws and injections that could be scary and learned that being able to select a special Band-Aid design (such as a superhero or princess) gave the young patients a sense of control over their situation and illness. Last year, she held a community and school drive and collected more than 11,000 character Band-Aids. She plans to hold another drive this year, with a goal of collecting another 12,000.

Christopher Davis

Detroit Country Day School, 12th grade

Nominator: Linda Engler, Committee Chair, BSA Troop 1032

Christopher Davis undertook an initiative to benefit physically disabled children. For his BSA Eagle Scout leadership project, he led a team of scouts in building two Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliant wheelchair-accessible picnic tables for the Methodist Children’s Home Society. The tables were for a summer camp for children and young adults with disabilities. They have an extended end, which provides an area for children and adults in wheelchairs to sit and enjoy the company of other children or adults. Christopher worked with the Society to plan the project, recruited 19 volunteers, collected returnable cans and bottles to fund the project, purchased the materials, trained his volunteers and led the construction. He dedicated nearly forty hours to the project.

During his high school years, Christopher has assisted multiple high school theaters through upkeep on equipment, set building, and maintaining lighting rigs because they often have insufficient staff. He also has performed various outdoor cleanup projects for his church, such as trimming bushes, removing invasive species, and fixing flower beds. Christopher tutors elementary school students at his school in various levels of math. He and his football team have supported St. Christine’s Food Pantry in Redford by running food drives, organizing their supplies, and even completely repainting their entire facility.



Sophie Hanawalt

Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 10th grade

Nominator: Nick Karpinsky, Seaholm Orchestra Instructor

Sophie Hanawalt, along with three other students, has performed on her violin at multiple assisted living facilities in the community. This string ensemble is completely voluntary and student led. They chose the music, coordinated the performances/visits, and practiced outside of school on their own time. This group is an excellent example of student leadership. Their orchestra instructor’s only role has been to provide them with additional music to learn. Each of these students has committed in excess of 100 hours of service over the past four years, including rehearsal time and performances at multiple senior facilities. In addition, these young women have raised awareness and generated donations for the Seaholm Orchestra program by performing for a variety of events including concerts, dinners, school fundraising events, and the Birmingham Youth Assistance Breakfast with Santa.

Sophie believes that their music, as well as their social interaction with the seniors, made a big difference for both the senior residents and the essential workers dealing with their challenging jobs. Individually, she has volunteered more than 100 hours in the past 12 months. Sophie serves at Bower’s Farm camps in the summer, which involves being a counselor to young kids at the farm and doing everything from helping to make butter to leading nature hikes. She also helps at Seaholm’s reused clothing boutique.



Hope Hughes

Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 10th grade
Nominator: Nick Karpinsky, Seaholm Orchestra Instructor

Hope Hughes, along with three other students, has performed on her violin at multiple assisted living facilities in the community. This string ensemble is completely voluntary and student led. They chose the music, coordinated the performances/visits, and practiced outside of school on their own time. This group is an excellent example of student leadership. Their orchestra instructor’s only role has been to provide them with additional music to learn. Each of these students has committed in excess of 100 hours of service over the past four years, including rehearsal time and multiple performances at senior facilities. In addition to playing for assisted living facilities, these young women have raised awareness and generated donations for the Seaholm Orchestra program by performing for a variety of events including concerts, dinners, school fundraising events, and the Birmingham Youth Assistance Breakfast with Santa.

During the senior center performances, Hope enjoys watching residents smile and tap their feet to the music and seeing the audience size grow during their performance, as this shows her how much the senior citizens are enjoying the performance. In middle school, Hope participated in Where Everyone Belongs, a program targeted at making new students feel comfortable and welcomed. This experience motivated her to continue serving the community and to start this quartet with her friends.

Travis Kondak

Wylie E. Groves High School, 12th grade
Nominator: Jaimie Barksdale, school counselor

Travis has served our community by supplying diapers to families in need. Baby Basics of Troy is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting low-income families by providing baby necessities including diapers. Travis has supported this group for years, most often by assembling the bundles of diapers, but he also has been involved in distribution and in conducting diaper drives. Travis has worked to build awareness of this issue and recruit volunteers by informing his peers about the organization and what they can do to help. Travis finds that our economic system is unfair and dehumanizing to these families in need and was saddened to learn that parents often resort to stealing diapers just to provide their children with this most basic of comforts. In explaining why he helps Baby Basics, Travis says, “I can’t fix the world yet, but this is a good place to start.”

Travis also has participated in a group effort to help low-income homeowners in Detroit with home repair and maintenance. He has volunteered at school art therapy events and also is a leader in the LGBTQ community at Groves.



Kasen Korstanje

Wylie E. Groves High School, 11th grade
Nominator: Elizabeth Sak, Groves Community Service Organizer

Kasen Korstanje and another Groves student teamed up to do a Prom/Homecoming dress collection to benefit students in need. They wanted all students to be able to attend these fun events but realized that the high price of dresses was creating a barrier. They passed out fliers in their neighborhoods and the general community advertising the initiative and then picked up all the donations. More than 75 dresses were sorted and taken to Seaholm’s Bloom Upcycle boutique, where Groves and Seaholm students were able to shop for a pretty dress and take it home for free.

Kasen is a leader at his school, where he serves as co-President of the SOS service club. He also has worked with Forgotten Harvest and Gleaners food banks since last June, both at their warehouses and at distribution centers in the community. He packed emergency food boxes and also loaded groceries into the trunks of cars at drive up distribution centers. Kasen has also worked to set up makeshift grocery stores in Detroit senior living communities, as it can be difficult for the residents to find fresh food in downtown Detroit. He also volunteers at the West Bloomfield Public Library.



Hollis LePage

Wylie E. Groves High School, 11th grade
Nominator: Elizabeth Sak, School Community Service Organizer

Hollis LePage and another Groves student teamed up to do a Prom/Homecoming dress collection to benefit students in need. They wanted all students to be able to attend these fun events but realized that the high price of dresses was creating a barrier. They passed out fliers in their neighborhoods and the general community advertising the initiative and then picked up all the donations. More than 75 dresses were sorted and taken to Seaholm high school’s Bloom Upcycle used clothing boutique, where Groves and Seaholm students could shop for a pretty dress and take it home for free.

In addition to this Homecoming Dress initiative, Hollis serves as vice president of two school service clubs, Interact and SOS. She has hosted a lunch table for new students who were eating alone to help them feel more comfortable and welcome at Groves. Hollis empathizes with foster care youth who may have to move from home to home with only a trash bag filled with their belongings. Over the past two years, she has been working to create a non-profit that gives foster teens a chance to shop trendy but suitable outfits that they can get excited about wearing. She has been liaising with foster care organizations and working to create an online clothing platform this year.

Savannah Grace Manjo

Marian High School, 11th Grade
Nominator: Jay Louis-Prescott, Campus Minister at Marian High School

Savannah Grace Manjo has been very active in her commitment to teach and mentor younger students through her church and former school. Over the past year, she has dedicated her Saturdays to teaching catechism class at her church and coaching basketball at her former school. She also tutors kids from her church. Savannah has helped at a vacation bible school camp during the summer, helping kids be more involved in their faith through a week of fun activities that teach them more about God.

All told, she has served more than 300 volunteer hours in the last twelve months. In the past, she has made blankets for hospitalized children, assembled care packages for the homeless, created Valentines for veterans, made ornaments for special needs residents at Angel’s place, and decorated lunch bags for Meals on Wheels.



Hannah Marshall

Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 10th grade
Nominator: Nick Karpinsky, Seaholm Orchestra Instructor

Hannah Marshall, along with three other students, has performed on her violin at multiple assisted living facilities in the community. This string ensemble is completely voluntary and student led. They chose the music, coordinated the performances/visits, and practiced outside of school on their own time. This group is an excellent example of student leadership. Their orchestra instructor’s only role has been to provide them with additional music to learn. Each of these students has committed in excess of 100 hours of service over the past four years, including rehearsal time and performances at multiple senior facilities. These young women also have raised awareness and generated donations for the Seaholm Orchestra program by performing for a variety of events including concerts, dinners, school fundraising events, and the Birmingham Youth Assistance Breakfast with Santa.

Hannah believes that the string quartet performances and subsequent conversations gave senior residents something to enjoy and anticipate. She also helps her family weekly with purchasing, organizing and delivering food and other necessities to five families living in Pontiac, Michigan.

**Shriya Nama**Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 11th grade

Nominator: Cameron Kniffen, City of Auburn Hills Parks and Recreation

Shriya volunteers throughout the year for the City of Auburn Hills, both at city events and as a leader on the Auburn Hills Teen Council. For the past three years, she has supported the Auburn Hills Summer Day Camp program, helping to make sure more than 100 children aged 3-13 are safe and following directions as well as planning and leading activities. Shriya helps in setting up and cleaning up for different family and teen events for the City of Auburn Hills, including running events for Diwali and the Solstice and assisting with the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony. During city festivals, she helps to run crafts and games. She has helped to run senior events and assisted in setting up a community garden. All told, Shriya has committed about 130 hours in service for Auburn Hills in the past year.

Shriya is a valued volunteer because of her reliability, flexibility, and leadership skills. She helps train new teen volunteers and goes out of her way to make sure they know what's going on. Shriya takes it upon herself to make sure each of the 80+ students in the youth program feels valued and that their individual talents and ideas are factored into event plans. She has been a lead volunteer for events with up to 500 participants and will be leading several fundraising events this year.

Margot NardoneErnest W. Seaholm High School, 9th grade

Nominator: Charlie Speiss, Executive Director, Enemies of Debris

Margot Nardone has been making her mark on our community since 2019 by taking action to clean up the Detroit River. As a longtime volunteer with Enemies of Debris, she goes “trash fishing” in boats every other week from April through October. The Detroit River is home to 65 species of wildlife, provides drinking water and recreation to more than five million people, and is the conduit through which three of the Great Lakes drain on their way to the Atlantic. In 2021 alone, Margot dedicated 110 hours and single-handedly removed more than 2,000 pounds of debris from the river, contributing to her group’s total of 7,000 pounds. Each trash fishing day, volunteers compete to see who can collect the most refuse and, by virtue of winning the most contents during the year, Margot has been named Trash Fishing World Champion.



Margot has demonstrated long-term commitment and remarkable leadership. She actively recruits new volunteers and motivates the whole group with her enthusiasm. Margot works to build a following for Enemies of Debris through social media posts and media appearances. She has filmed and narrated videos used worldwide to promote trash fishing and partnered in a public education campaign with animal protection group PETA. Margot also takes a leading role in fundraising for Enemies of Debris. According to the group’s executive director, “[Margot] isn’t just a volunteer. She is the best volunteer, better than all the adults and even the founders.” Margot is an Eagle Scout and volunteers her time to teach first aid skills to the rest of her troop. For her BSA Eagle Scout leadership project, she built planters and conducted a food drive for the Judson Center. She also volunteers for Gleaners food bank and Cass Community Social Services.

**Julia Raphael**

The Roeper School, 11th grade

Nominator: Cindy Eggleton, Co-Founder and CEO, Brilliant Detroit

Julia Raphael collected more than 700 donated books for the organization Brilliant Detroit. This nonprofit works to ensure that young children in Detroit have everything they need to be ready for success in school. School. Literacy is a critical part of the mission, and Julia’s actions ensured the availability of high-quality books that could be distributed to underprivileged children in Detroit. She held a book drive in her school, promoted a community-wide collection with dropoff points at four locations, and even procured a large number of books from the Friends of the Baldwin Public Library. Julia dedicated 20 hours over a 6-week period to this initiative.

Julia also has supported Bottomless Toy Chest, a local nonprofit that provides toys to pediatric cancer patients. She organized her classmates and together they collected more than 120 toys. Julia also led a student government initiative to support the organization Cards for Hospitalized Kids. The project, which entailed providing stickers, markers, and paper to the student body, yielded nearly 300 handmade cards that were mailed to kids in hospitals across the nation. In the 10th grade, she worked to get out the vote for the presidential election and led a campaign that resulted in 1000 postcards being written.

**Alex Roessler**Ernest W. Seaholm High School, 11th grade

Nominator: Linda Engler, Committee Chair for BSA Troop 1032

Alex Roessler helped Michigan Humane by providing toys to help entertain dogs and cats housed in the shelters. For dogs, he provided PVC pipe feeding tubes with holes to dispense their food and treats. These stimulate the dogs to play and be problem-solvers while they receive their daily food and treats. The cat activity wands are made of thin PVC, fishing wire, and a dangly bit made out of a brown lunch bag. They help workers and volunteers entertain and interact with the cats. He undertook this initiative as his BSA Eagle Scout leadership project, recruiting and leading a team of 19 volunteers. They raised nearly \$900 through a can and bottle drive, donating the unused portion directly to Michigan Humane. They assembled 120 dog feeding tubes (60 small and 60 large) and 60 reusable cat wands with 120 wand ends.

In addition to this Eagle Scout project, Alex has served twice as a chaperone for vacation bible school at First United Methodist Church. As a scout, he helped to remove weeds and clean up trash from the Chief Pontiac Trail.

Catherine RussellMarian High School, 12th grade

Nominator: Jay Louis-Prescott, Campus Minister at Marian High School

Catherine Russell has supported Friendship Circle, a nonprofit that runs programs for children with special needs, since 2019. As a counselor at their summer camp in 2021, she looked after the seven young children in her cabin. Catherine encouraged friendships, engaged with them at meals, and helped with bedtime. Since the summer, she has continued to volunteer weekly at the social circle programs, where she has been able to build on relationships she formed with the more than 50 kids who attended the camp. Her focus is on spreading warmth and kindness to the children through activities including nature walks, arts and crafts, and bedtime stories. She has committed 150 hours of service to Friendship Circle since 2019.



Catherine’s kind actions were inspired by her late mother. In addition to her work with the Friendship Circle, she has helped to pack emergency food boxes for Gleaners Community Food Bank and demonstrated considerable initiative as a leader of a two-day senior retreat at her high school.

**George Schreiberis**

International Academy, grade 12

Nominator: Amy Tyrrel, Board Vice President, Gigi’s Playhouse

George Schreiberis helped launch one-on-one literacy and math tutoring programs for Gigi’s Playhouse Detroit, a Down syndrome achievement center that provides free services to families. He went through 15 hours of training, met his students, and communicated with their parents ahead of the program to make sure he was prepared. George tutored a total of four students over 1.5 years, taking the time to connect with hesitant participants and create a fun environment with his creative ideas. George is particularly proud of his work with a young man his age who was a very reluctant reader. George took the time to get to know his students and interests. Their shared love for Marvel Comics turned out to be the key to creating excitement about reading and making significant progress.

For George’s BSA Eagle Scout leadership project, he led a team of scouts and adults in designing, building, and installing a free Little Library for the Birmingham Covington School playground. He helped at his Scout troop’s “Winter Klondike” event, at which the boy scouts taught many younger cub scouts useful skills such as building camp fires, tying knots, and creating stretchers from blankets and poles.



Birmingham Youth Assistance

Oakland County Youth Assistance (OCYA) has been dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse, and neglect since 1953. Twenty-six offices in Oakland County, under the auspices of the Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division, provide programs to serve youth and their families. Youth Assistance programs work because they are community-based and developed by volunteers who have their fingers on the pulse of the community.

Birmingham Youth Assistance (BYA) is proudly celebrating sixty years of serving youth and their families through a variety of programs and resources. A professional caseworker provides short-term counseling to youth (and their families) referred by schools, police, and the courts. BYA offers parent education programs and gives summer camp scholarships that provide learning opportunities and also enable children facing challenges to enjoy a respite from stressful everyday lives. The Mentors Plus program matches youth with screened and trained caring adults. BYA also offers a variety of fun programs designed to strengthen families. These annual programs include Breakfast with Santa and the Kids' Dog Show, an event for kids aged 4-14. Touch a Truck is an opportunity for youngsters to get up close and personal with fire trucks, police cars, construction vehicles, and more. BYA offers a Kids' Zone at the Birmingham Farmers' Market and, of course, our annual celebration of Youth in Service.

BYA operates with the sponsorship and generosity of the Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division; Birmingham Public Schools; the City of Birmingham; the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin; and donations from organizations and individuals. Principal funding is provided through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.



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Visit our website at www.BirminghamYouthAssistance.org



The Birmingham Optimist Club

The Birmingham Optimist Club is a volunteer organization of service-oriented, civic-minded women and men who represent a cross-section of the community. The Optimists' main purpose is to work with youth and promote optimism as a philosophy of life through active service within the community.

Optimist International

Optimist International has been "Bringing Out the Best in Kids" in communities worldwide, since 1917. There are more than 3,000 clubs worldwide. Optimists conduct 65,000 service projects worldwide each year, serving six million young people. Optimists also spend \$78 million on their communities annually.

Purpose

To develop optimism as a philosophy of life, utilizing the tenets of the Optimist Creed; to promote an active interest in good government and civic affairs; to inspire respect for the law; to promote patriotism and work for international accord and friendship among all people; to aid and encourage the development of youth, in the belief that the giving of one's self in service to others will advance the well-being of humankind, community life and the world.

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For more information about The Birmingham Optimist Club, please call David Walker at (248) 758-9900

Thanks to the Generous Sponsors of Birmingham Youth Assistance

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