



# 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## BIRMINGHAM YOUTH ASSISTANCE

### We are BYA! You are BYA!

#### **Birmingham Youth Assistance**

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Get Social with us on



#### **2020-2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

##### *Chair*

David Wind

##### *Vice-Chair*

Ann Nazareth Manning

##### *Secretary*

Eileen Pulker

##### *Treasurer*

Richard Stasys

##### *Past Chair*

Shelley Goodman Taub

#### **2020-2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Pierre Boutros

Mary Jo Dawson

Jill Reichenbach Fill

Kate Layton

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Sheriff Michael Bouchard

Jason Clinkscale

Jan Sweetapple

#### **OFFICE STAFF**

##### *Caseworker*

Catherine Womack, MSW

##### *Office Manager*

TBD

**VERY SPECIAL THANKS  
FOR EDITING ANNUAL REPORT**

Ann Nazareth Manning

## From Our Chair: Dave Wind

I was rereading my Chair report from 2019-2020, noting the challenges we faced at the beginning of the pandemic in March, 2020. We had to adapt "to the new reality of social distancing, virtual learning within our schools, and the temporary closing of our economy." Accordingly, we had to suspend many of our traditional events but felt hopeful that we could soon return to our traditional programming.



As we now know, that was not to be the case as 2021 presented many of the same pandemic-related challenges. However, as the year unfolded, BYA was able to continue our service to youth and families within the geographic boundaries of the Birmingham Public School district. Special thanks (and hugs) go to our Caseworker, Cathy Womack, who pursued faithfully our mission to strengthen families in our community. Despite challenging conditions, she worked tirelessly with youth and their families in need of support. Covid protocols presented complexities, but Cathy was able to provide her valuable services virtually.

We pursued traditional programming to the extent we could do so safely. We were excited to honor 11 students in June through our Youth in Service recognition program, replacing the traditional large gathering with outdoor school-by-school presentations featuring the students' principals. BYA also was able to provide camp scholarships to 17 kids and tennis lessons, generously donated by Bloomfield Fitness and Tennis, to a family with three children.

Our Farmers' Market Kids' Zone took place in September and October, but we modified our normal routine by handing out craft kit bags to the children rather than having them assemble them at our table. On Halloween, we gave away approximately 150 pumpkins kindly donated by the City of Birmingham. Many thanks go to Board members Shelley Goodman Taub, Jill Reichenbach Fill and her daughter G.G., Judy Adelman, and Ann Nazareth Manning for assembling the kits and participating at the events.

Another major accomplishment in 2021, led by Board member Kate Layton, was the creation of our exciting new website. I encourage all to view it at [www.birminghamyouthassistance.org](http://www.birminghamyouthassistance.org).

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors and volunteers. In 2021, we welcomed Birmingham Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Embekka Roberson to our Board. Late in the year, we were delighted to add another new member, Susan Robbins, who became interested in BYA as a result of our Farmers' Market event. Finally, I would like to thank my Executive Board: Ann Nazareth Manning (Vice Chair), Shelley Goodman Taub (Past Chair), Eileen Pulker (Secretary), and Dick Stasys (Treasurer) for their support and dedication.

My hope and prayer for the New Year is a more normal environment with peace for all.

## Two BYA Volunteers are Honored with Champion Of Youth Awards in 2020 and 2021

Every year at their Annual Meeting, the Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council (OCYACC) presents the Champion of Youth Award. It is given to someone who has been supportive of the county-wide Youth Assistance Mission 'to strengthen youth and families and to reduce the incidence of delinquency, abuse, and neglect through community involvement.'

In 2020 the Award was presented to Shelley Taub, who has been active in the Bloomfield Youth Assistance office and became a Board Member in the Birmingham Youth Assistance program where she served as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Board from 2015 to 2019. As a County Commissioner Shelley was appointed as a liaison to the OCYACC, which promotes communication and collaboration among all 26 Youth Assistance offices. Shelley has always been an advocate for youth and has sought to include Youth Assistance in any discussion benefitting youth and families.



The 2021 Award was presented to BYA Treasurer, Richard Stasys for his many years of service to Youth Assistance. He worked as Youth Assistance Staff as a Caseworker and then Supervisor for 30(+) years. Since his retirement he has volunteered with Birmingham Youth Assistance over 10 years, serving on the BYA Board and Executive Board, with his current role as Treasurer. He also stepped up to be an active member of the OCYACC and is the immediate past Chair of this group.

### Thank You Mike!



A grateful BYA Board shoutout goes to Mike Palmer, owner of Premier Pet Supply and someone who exemplifies the term "giving back." Mike's many community contributions include supporting animal shelters with donated supplies, regularly hosting adoption events, and employing special needs students from the Birmingham district in his stores. Mike has been a major supporter of the Kids' Dog Show for more than 25 years.

### Kids' Dog Show

One of the many things we missed about 2021 was seeing Birmingham children and their furry friends having a blast at the Kids' Dog Show. The event was cancelled in the interest of safety, so we have been even more excited than usual for the 2022 show. Sadly, our Board has just made the difficult decision to cancel the February, 2022 show due to the surge in Covid cases, as this would have been a large indoor gathering with guests likely to include numerous children too young for vaccinations.

Please mark your calendars for the long-awaited 40th annual Kids' Dog Show, tentatively rescheduled to February 5, 2023. Kids and their pups will get to compete in five zany categories: Best Looking, Best Trick, Best Costume, Waggiest Tail, and the Musical Sit game (musical chairs for dogs). Winners of each event will be eligible to win the Best in Show trophy. In addition to the competitions, we plan to offer a crowd-pleasing police K9 unit demonstration and have Birmingham service/comfort dog, Bella, interacting with the children. A representative from the Southern Michigan Obedience Training Club will demonstrate how kids can easily teach their dogs new commands, and we will all enjoy the paw-tapping, tail wagging tunes of DJ Music in Motion.

Events like this cannot happen without a lot of volunteer support from people like Mike Palmer (see sidebar). We'd like to also welcome to the Kids' Dog Show family our newest volunteer, graphic artist Laurie Blume of Blume Design, who graciously helped us with this year's promotional materials.



**Ann Nazareth Manning, Chair  
Kids' Dog Show Committee**

## Camp Report

For over fifty years, BYA has provided camp scholarships to area children whose lives could be enriched and improved with a summer camp experience. Unfortunately, summer camp may not be obtainable for many of those who would most benefit from a camping opportunity because of the various challenges they face in their lives. Birmingham Youth Assistance is committed to helping these children and their families.

This summer, seventeen camp scholarships were awarded to Birmingham children. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, only day camp programs were utilized. These camps and programs were Birmingham Community Education, YMCA, SCAMP and the Friendship Circle (both of which assist children with disabilities), and I-Code (computer programming and coding design).

Bloomfield Tennis and Fitness donated eight week tennis classes for three Birmingham youth. We thank them for their generous contribution to our program.

In total, twenty youth were involved in positive experiences that made a difference in their summer.

The pandemic significantly impacted the number of referrals from the Birmingham schools this program year.

**Richard Stasys,**  
Camp Chair



## Caseworker's Report

### 2020-2021 CASE STATISTICS

#### REASONS:

Prevention.....	29
Alcohol/Marijuana/Drugs .....	12
School Incurrigibility.....	5
Joy riding/Unlicensed Driver.....	3
Assault & Battery/Threats.....	6
Breaking & Entering.....	3
School Truancy/Ed. Neglect.....	4
Sexting/Indecent Exposure .....	3
Trespassing/MDOP.....	4
Retail Fraud.....	6
Home Incurrigibility.....	1
<b>REFERRAL SOURCES:</b>	
Schools.....	27
Police.....	33
Parents .....	7
Prosecutor's Office .....	6
Other.....	3

#### CASELOAD TOTALS:

Direct Service Cases.....	76
Consult Cases.....	191
Caseload C.S. Hours .....	165
Emergency Need Funds.....	8

#### YOUTH SERVED DIRECTLY:

Age	Male	Female
5 yrs.	1	0
6 yrs.	1	0
7 yrs.	3	0
8 yrs.	1	0
9 yrs.	1	0
10 yrs.	1	1
11 yrs.	2	1
12 yrs.	6	5
13 yrs.	8	5
14 yrs.	5	7
15 yrs.	12	6
16 yrs.	2	8

## Breakfast with Santa

We have such fond memories from Breakfasts with Santa in recent years. Our 2019 Breakfast with Santa was a terrific event. And, once again, Joanie Sams at The Townsend outdid herself.



As a bit of Breakfast with Santa (BWS) history, for over a quarter of a century, BWS was held at The Community House. In 2017, The Community House decided to no longer partner with BYA.

Happily, St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham with the leadership of Youth Director, Chris Fentress-Gannon and her youth group hosted us in 2017, complete with reindeer in the courtyard and a "new" Santa!

In 2018, we were hosted by The Townsend Hotel in The Clancy Room which seated 70 guests for breakfast. We had two seatings and could have sold many more tickets, so...

In 2019, we "graduated" to a larger room where we were able to seat 160 per session. We sold out the later breakfast and nearly did so for the first breakfast Santa was wonderful!

After the 2019 BWS, Joanie thought we should use the large ballroom in 2020 with a buffet breakfast in the foyer. Our date was set for December 12, 2020.

Sadly, because of the pandemic, BWS was cancelled in 2020 and again in 2021. Even though we had a vaccine available, young children were not able to be vaccinated. So, we are crossing our fingers and hoping to see everyone on Sunday, December 4, 2022 at the Townsend.

**Shelley Goodman Taub and Vicki Sower, Breakfast with Santa Co-Chairs**

## Have You Seen Our Exciting New Website?

Those of you who have been friends and supporters of Birmingham Youth Assistance for years will no doubt share our excitement at the launch of our all-new website. Thanks to BYA Board member Kate Layton Perreca and web designer Nell Westerlund of Nell Westerland Communication, the website now has a refreshing and welcoming appearance and is so much easier to navigate. *Thank you, Kate and Nell!*



# Youth in Service Appreciation Awards

The pandemic created hardships for many in our community and also presented numerous opportunities for young people looking for ways to “give back.” BYA was honored by the opportunity to recognize the selflessness and generosity of 11 Birmingham Public Schools Middle School and High School students. Each received certificates of appreciation from the City of Birmingham, the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Senator Stabenow, and Governor Whitmer.

The service provided by these students took a variety of forms. For example, a Groves student collected nearly a year’s supply of Band-aids, featuring superheroes and princesses, for the Beaumont Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Clinic. Three students took it upon themselves to stay connected with autistic classmates to make sure they didn’t feel isolated and maintained social interactions during the pandemic. Another young man made 120 face masks for students and faculty, donating the proceeds to provide food for Seaholm students in need.

One middle school and one high school student were selected to receive a financial gift from BYA and the Birmingham Optimists. Both of them focused their service on food insecurity in our community. One raised \$800 through a can/bottle drive to support Lighthouse’s COVID relief efforts and also provided that agency with four carloads of food collected through his own food drive. The other initiated a large-scale food drive to benefit an elementary school in Redford.

BYA is grateful to recent Board member Jennifer Rass for stepping up during the illness of program co-Chair David Walker, dedicating her time and considerable talent to helping make this program a success.

**Ann Nazareth Manning, Co-Chair, and Jennifer Rass,  
Acting Co-Chair, Youth in Service Committee**

## BYA’s Youth in Service Program is Changing Lives

*We thank the parents who gave permission for us to share this testimonial to the power of recognition and gratitude and put the essence of Youth in Service into words better than we ever could.*

My husband and I are so grateful for the honor you bestowed to our son Michael [name changed for privacy] today. I can’t tell you what a boost this is to his self-esteem. After many soul crushing bullying experiences in middle school when we moved to Birmingham he has been very socially isolated, and participation in school and community activities has not come easy as a result.

We often talk at our home about what we can do to help others in times of need, so at the beginning of Covid we had many conversations about the suffering of others. I asked my kids how they thought they could help, and this project was something Michael felt he could do on his own to help.

When Michael started this project, I don’t think he ever imagined his weekly can drop offs would amount to such a large donation to Lighthouse. He certainly never imagined he would be recognized for his efforts, let alone receive such a prestigious award. In fact, I don’t think he fully understood until this morning the magnitude of this recognition or his accomplishment. It was always very simply about deciding how he could help others.

Now that Michael is gearing up to complete his project here in Michigan, as we are moving to New York at the end of the month, he is about to drop off his final donation to Lighthouse. He will meet with the staff to make his donation and his efforts will again be acknowledged and recognized.

Having had such success, and desiring so much to be a leader, he is now talking about how he can start an effort at his new school. Thanks to this boost of confidence, he now knows he can make a huge difference with his efforts.

I know the saying goes that when you give you ultimately receive so much more back. I have always found this to be true. I have certainly seen it with Michael’s work on this project. After receiving the award, he immediately said to us, I would like to donate this award money to Lighthouse. I hope that’s okay with you. For us, we are inspired by him and are going to match your award with our donation.

Many thanks again for making such a difference in my son’s life.

### 2020 HONOREES

#### Groves High School

Eve Collon  
Norman C. Hurns  
Storm Stephenson  
Gavin Zacharias

#### Seaholm High School

Madeline Goetz  
Bejon Howrami  
Jack Rolls

#### Berkshire Middle School

Talia Kamoo

#### Derby Middle School

Samantha Rollo  
Nora Salyer  
Mercy Wisecup

### BYA wishes to thank.

The Townsend Hotel

### 2020-2021 Individual Donors

Andy Acho  
Judith Adelman  
Mary Jo Dawson  
Judd Trust  
Eileen Pulker  
Ann Nazareth Manning  
Richard Stasys  
Shelley Taub  
David Wind

### 2020-2021 Community & Business Donors

Berkshire Middle School  
Beverly Hills Veterinary Associates  
Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber  
Birmingham Community Education  
Birmingham Optimist Club  
Birmingham Police Department  
Birmingham Principal Shopping District  
Birmingham Public Schools  
Birmingham YMCA  
Bloomfield Tennis & Fitness  
City of Birmingham  
Mills Pharmacy  
Premier Pet Supply  
Revive Auto - Troy  
Seaholm High School  
Southern Michigan Obedience  
Training Club  
Village of Beverly Hills  
Village of Bingham Farms  
Village of Franklin

# Welcome to New Board Member Susan Robbins

Susan Robbins is a Project Manager with over 20 years experience in development and construction. When relocating to Oakland County she sought out organizations to offer her time to give back to the community. BYA stood out as an opportunity to make a difference and influence the next generation. After meeting Dave Wind, the current Chair, at their farmer's market stand, it was obvious BYA would be a good fit. Susan is also a current member of the Beverly Hills Lions club and Beverly Hills zoning board of appeals

# 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 Oakland County Circuit Court — Family Division, as well as the City of Birmingham, the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin, and the Birmingham Public Schools. Principle funding is supplied through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.



## BYA Calendar of Events & Sponsors

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TBD

**Touch-a-Truck**  
at Bingham Farms Elementary School

Sunday, December 4, 2022

**Breakfast with Santa**  
at The Townsend Hotel

Sunday, February 5, 2023

**The Kids' Dog Show**  
at Berkshire Middle School

### OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION

Hon. Mary Ellen T. Brennan,  
Presiding Family Division Judge

Hon. Jacob James Cunningham

Hon. Kameshia D. Gant

Hon. Lisa Gorcycia

Hon. Lisa Langton

Hon. Julia A. McDonald

Hon. Lori N. Savin

### OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT FAMILY DIVISION ADMINISTRATION

Kevin Oeffner, Court Administrator

Pamela J. Monville,

Deputy Court Administrator

Mary Schusterbauer,

Chief of Oakland County Youth Assistance

### OAKLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Yolanda Charles

Marcia Gershenson

William Miller

Chuck Moss

### BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dr. Embekka Roberson, Superintendent

Lori Ajlouny, Board President

Amy Hockammer, Board Vice-President

Kimberly Whitman, Board Treasurer

Jennifer Rass, Board Secretary

Luke Joseph, Board Trustee

Nicole McKinney, Board Trustee

Adrienne Young, Board Trustee

### CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Thomas Makus, City Manager

Therese Longe, Mayor

Pierre Boutros, Mayor Pro-Tem

Clinton Baller, Commissioner

Andrew Haig, Commissioner

Brad Host, Commissioner

Elain McLain, Commissioner

Katie Schafer, Commissioner

### VILLAGE OF BEVERLY HILLS

Kristin Rutkowski, Village Manager

John George, Council President

Racheal Hrydziusko,

Council President Pro-Tem

Rock Abboud, Council Member

Tracey Kecskemeti, Council Member

John Mooney, Council Member

Ryan Gorman, Council Member

Lee Peddie, Council Member

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Ken Marten, Village Clerk/Administrator

Ben Templeton, President

Mel Ettenson, President Pro-Tem

Lisa Blackburn, Trustee

Spencer Doty, Trustee

Larry Freedman, Trustee

Aaron Krabill, Trustee

Kurt Jones, Trustee

### VILLAGE OF FRANKLIN

Roger Fraser, Village Administrator

Bill Lamott, President

Brian Gordon, President Pro-Tem

Kathy Erlich, Trustee

Pam Hanson, Trustee

Mike Seltzer, Trustee

Ed Saenz, Trustee