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Tompkins County Youth Services Department Newsletter

TCYSD Celebrates 40 Years!

CARING ADULT CAMPAIGN AND 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary, TCYSD created the Caring Adult Campaign. Over the summer, the department put out a call for nominations of caring adults who have positively impacted young people and provided their own behind-the-scenes support to youth. 40 Caring Adults were randomly selected from over 100 nominations received, to be formally honored at the TCYSD 40th Anniversary Celebration on October 18, 2017 at the Ithaca Marriott Downtown on the Commons. Additional guests in attendance were TCYSD staff & Board members, Tompkins County

legislators, the Tompkins County Administrator, and other community members who support TCYSD and the Caring Adult Campaign.

To view all accepted nominations of the Caring Adults in the Tompkins County community, visit: 40CaringAdults.Wordpress.com or search #40CaringAdults.



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TOMPKINS COUNTY
YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WELCOME CISCO!

TCYSD WELCOMES FRANCISCO PALER-LARGE

Francisco Paler-Large joined TCYSD in October. As a new Program Management Specialist, Cisco will plan and implement the Commercially Sexually Exploited Youth (CSEC – Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children) education initiative in Tompkins County. In addition, he will work closely with the Workforce Development Board's Youth Oversight Committee to conduct monitoring and evaluation of the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Cisco grew up in Brooklyn and moved upstate to attend college in Oneonta. He spent several years working in schools – teaching English and theater in Binghamton, working as an assistant principal in Union Endicott, and serving as middle school principal in Trumansburg. He completed an internship at Elmira Correctional Facility as part of the requirements of his masters in social work degree which he expects to complete in December. He also worked for the Rescue Mission here in Tompkins County as a case manager for several years.

Cisco divides his time between Owego and Ithaca and enjoys time with his children. He looks forward to making connections with local agencies to advance the youth development work of the Youth Services Department.



Articles that Caught our Eye

Here are a few links to interesting research, trends, or program information that may be of interest to those in the youth services world. If you have suggestions on future articles for us to feature, please let us know.

[Year-round outdoor play can boost kids' performance in school](#)

[Younger Adolescents' Exposure to Online Alcohol Advertising](#)

[Preventing Bullying and Cyberbullying](#)



COMPARATIVE REPORTS

JUST RELEASED! 2016 STUDENT SURVEY COMPARATIVE REPORTS FOR TOMPKINS COUNTY

In fall, 2016, 3,960 students in grades 7-12 in fifteen Tompkins County public schools completed the Communities that Care® Youth Survey. In collaboration with the [Community Coalition for Healthy Youth](#), we published a Summary of Highlights to share survey results in spring, 2017. Three new comparative reports have just been released. Each disaggregates the data and compares results by subgroup.

One comparative report compares the experiences of **males and females**. Would it surprise you to know that males report feeling closer to both their mothers and fathers than females? Or that females report trying their best in school more than males?

A second comparative report compares the experiences of **White Students and Students of Color**. Students of Color are more likely change homes and move more frequently than White Students. Students of Color are also more likely to attend regular religious services.

White Students report easier access to alcohol. They also report better access to trusted, helpful adults at school.

The third comparative report compares the experiences of **LGBTQ+ Students with Students reporting as straight and either male or female**. LGBTQ+ students are more likely to have negative experiences at school – verbal harassment and other bullying-types of behaviors and not feeling safe. Self-reported rates of feeling sad or depressed by LGBTQ+ students are more than twice the rates of straight, male or female students. Straight, male or female students report more positive connections to community adults than LGBTQ+ students. They also report less fighting in their families than LGBTQ+ youth.

To see the complete comparative reports and the Summary of Highlights, please visit www.healthyyouth.org/publications.php

School Staff Listing

SCHOOL STAFF LISTING 2017-18

Each year the Tompkins County Youth Services Department prepares a listing of staff in each of the schools in Tompkins County. The 2017-2018 listing is [now available!](#)



RECREATION PARTNERSHIP



This Intermunicipal partnership allows youth to participate in shared recreation programs to meet new friends, learn new skills, and have positive new experiences in well-supervised appropriate activities at an affordable price at convenient times and locations.

By collaborating and pooling resources, the Partnership offers a wider and more affordable array of recreational programs than any single local government could offer on its own. The RP contracts with the Ithaca Youth Bureau to operate programs.

The 10 municipalities and the County who make up the Recreation Partnership are currently negotiating a new 5 year agreement that will run from 2018 through 2022.

MUNICIPAL VACANCIES

TOMPKINS MUNICIPAL YOUTH SERVICES

Tompkins County Municipal Youth Services System is committed to providing opportunities for under-served youth to deal successfully with the challenges of adolescence. By building partnership, with communities offer diverse, cost effective programs that strengthen and support young people. Youth who are confident, competent and caring become healthy, engaged and contributing community members.



By spending as little as 1.5 hours a month you can help the youth in your community. Tompkins County Youth Services Department funds the Municipal Youth Services Program that gives money to municipalities to operate "youth development" programs. Money is allocated through local youth commissions or community councils to programs that meet identified goals. The following municipal groups are looking for new members:

- 1) Dryden Youth and Recreation Commission needs 3 new members who live in the Town of Dryden.
- 2) Joint Youth Commission needs 1 member from Town of Caroline, 1 member from Village of Lansing and 1 member from the Town of Ithaca.
- 3) Trumansburg/Ulysses Youth Commission needs 1 member from the Town of Ulysses.
- 4) Lansing Youth Commission is accepting new members from the Town of Lansing.

Contact **Janice Johnson** @ jjohnson@tom-pkins-co.org or call 607-274-5310 for more information.

RESULTS BASED ACCOUNTABILITY

SMALL DATA, BIG RESULTS: USING DATA TO MAKE PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES



Youth Employment Service (YES) is a program of the Ithaca Youth Bureau that prepares teens for job success and connects them to opportunities. We have been using Results Based Accountability since its introduction in 2014. There were many changes at first: forms to update, intake processes to expand, and database adjustments to make so we could easily track the new data required for reports.

Before RBA, most of the information we kept on teens working with YES was located in the case-notes. These were long-form descriptions of a staff member's interactions with each teen on their caseload, and the progress being made. While these case-notes contained a wealth of information, there was no easy way to use it to see larger trends or change our own programming as a result.

RBA made YES bring a quantitative lens to qualitative problems, as we wrestled with answering the question, is anyone better off? In order to simplify RBA reporting, we added new fields to our database that made tracking performance measures easier to do at scale. As we saw the power of data in sharing our story with the community, we embraced the cumulative value of "small" data on our participants. We began tracking data without a formal plan for what to do with it or a vested sense of what the outcome should look like. This allowed us to simply observe the data without agenda and make programmatic tweaks as appropriate.

For example, we began tracking what we refer to as "milestones" in a teen's job search process. Milestones include the creation of a résumé or fact sheet, applying to jobs on paper and online, making follow-up calls to businesses after applying, and attaining interviews and job offers. This information had always been mentioned in case-notes, but now we had a clear way of seeing a teen's progress in a glance, as well as data we could use to observe trends among all our participants.

This small data led to interesting results. For example, we were able to conclude that teens who work with YES to develop a résumé or fact sheet are three times more likely to ultimately be hired by a private employer. Given this, we formalized the résumé as the first activity we do with teens seeking private employment. So far in 2017, 50 teens have been hired by private employers after working with YES.

What's next? The YES team is excited about the potential of tracking small data to lead to big results for our program. We are just now implementing a system for tracking each application process a teen undertakes with our program. This will ultimately allow us to learn details like how many applications the average teen fills out before getting hired, how many YES teens applied and/or were hired by a given business in a year, and much more. Where the data leads us, we will happily follow.

Beverly Stokes, Program Coordinator

[Youth Employment Service](#)

MONTHLY MESSAGES

Since 2010, Tompkins County Youth Services has collaborated with the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth in crafting and releasing **Monthly Messages**. The messages are aimed at parents and adults who are interested in supporting youth, keeping up-to-date on youth issues and trends, and looking for suggestions on staying connected. All the monthly messages are archived at <http://www.healthyouth.org/monthly-messages.php>

To check out the 3 most recent messages, click on the links below:

[November: Create Your Own List of Gratitude](#)

[October: Get Kids Into the Kitchen](#)

[September: Thinking of Parents at Back-to-School Time](#)

If you have a topic suggestion, please email us at ahendrix@tomkins-co.org.



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The Tompkins County Youth Services Department invests time, resources, and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work, and life.

