



TOMPKINS COUNTY  
YOUTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

# TCYSD COMMUNITY UPDATES

JULY 14, 2017

*We are honored to be charged with investing time, resources, and funding in local Tompkins County communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life, and hope that this quarterly communication will serve as another resource to help create a community where all youth are given the opportunities to thrive.*

## TCYSD Celebrates 40 Years!

From 1977 to 2017, Tompkins County Youth Services Department has been supporting our county's youth - 40 years! The role of the Department is to support Tompkins County municipalities and agencies that support and serve youth. Although we don't directly engage youth, our department provides the backend assistance to many organizations with whom you, your friends, and family interact.

The goals of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary initiatives are to **build awareness of the awesome youth services throughout Tompkins County; increase community engagement; and celebrate the caring adults** who dedicate their efforts to inspiring and raising world-changing youth. We want to inspire all within Tompkins County to be #CaringAdults to youth.

We encourage you to GET INVOLVED with some of the great initiatives we are launching. Here are a few:

1) **CONNECT** with Tompkins County Youth Services! Find us on Facebook (@ToCoYouth) and

Twitter (@TompkinsCoYouth). Join us at one of our many Youth Services trainings where we offer workshops for the community. You can also attend an event hosted in a municipality within Tompkins County. We share all of this information on social media and our website

[tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/40years](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/40years).

2) **NOMINATE** a Caring Adult. One MAJOR initiative this year is our 40 Caring Adults Campaign that will highlight the great work the adults in our community do with youth. If you know of a caring adult, are interested in being on our Selection Committee, or want to learn more about the Celebration Event for the campaign check out our website at [tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/40years](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/40years).

3) **GET INVOLVED** with the movement! When our youth are healthy and successful, our community

thrives. We challenge you to find new ways to inspire, empower, and support you! We've created a 40 Ways to Care brochure to help ignite some cool ideas, download from [tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/40years](http://tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/40years) or contact us for a stack to share. No matter what, we hope you will get involved and continue your work with youth in years to come!



# Leading our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Initiatives – Cheyenne Gorton

Tompkins County native Cheyenne Gorton began work with TCYSD in June as the lead for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. After graduating from Lansing High School in 2012, Cheyenne attended TC3 and Niagara University, graduating in 2016 with a bachelor's degree in tourism and event management. She is pursuing a master's degree at



Binghamton University in student affairs administration. In addition to juggling her studies, Cheyenne has coached cheerleading at Lansing High School, worked at a local winery, and helped plan the Ithaca Wizarding Weekend. She enjoys spending time with her family and her cat Oliver, watching Netflix, and enjoying the pretty area we live in.

Cheyenne looks forward to helping plan 40th anniversary outreach events and an October celebratory event. In particular, she is excited to promote our 40 Caring Adults campaign, helping to bring recognition to the many devoted supporters of young people here in Tompkins County. Who are the caring adults who helped Cheyenne develop into the person she is today? She cites her parents and a mentor at TC3.

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## Any Way You "Slice" it, Youth Adult Golf Tournament a Success!



**Youth On Par**

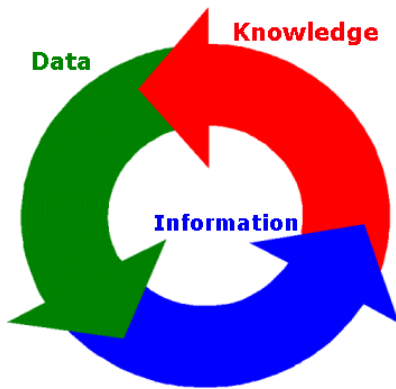
On Saturday June 3rd 26 youth and adults participated in the 4<sup>th</sup> golf tournament sponsored by the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth (CCHY) and Friends of Newman. Despite a wet cold spring, the day was beautiful, sunny and dry. The

Tournament is a fundraiser for CCHY to help them continue their work to prevent young people from using drugs and alcohol. Friends of Newman would like to see more youth participating in the game of golf; golf is a lifelong sport that you can play well into your nineties. This year the organizers of the tournament

partnered with Greater Ithaca Activities Center (GIAC). GIAC youth came to Newman Golf Course for 4 weeks before the tournament and got lessons from golf pro Jim Johnson where they learned to putt, chip, and swing the irons. Most of these youth also participated in the tournament. Look for the event to happen again next year in the first part of June 2018.

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# 2018 New TCYSD Resources Available



TCYSD has published updated materials on our website. First are updated [pro files of Tompkins County towns and the City of Ithaca](#). These include data related to youth - population, economic security, school enrollment and progress, civic engagement, family, and health indicators. We invite you to check out and use these resources if you are writing a grant, conducting a needs assessment, planning a program or service, or just want to learn more about our community.

Second is the [Summary of Highlights](#) from the 2016 Tompkins County Communities that Care Youth Survey. The biannual survey is given to students in Tompkins County public schools in grades 7-12. Check back soon for additional reports that compare the experience of sub-populations.

Third is our 2017 [Summer Camp Guide](#). The online guide is has been updated to make it easier to use. It's now possible to search by age range or by other useful key terms. TCYS compiles the camp guide using information provided by summer camps and programs; we do not run any camps directly.

And last but not least is our [2016 Report to the Community](#). This annual report highlights key happenings in the world of Tompkins County Youth Services over the previous twelve months.



## Summer youth employment underway

With the summer season in full swing, the last week of June marked the beginning of a summer job experience for many Tompkins County area youth.

This summer, three providers were selected to receive state funding for their youth employment programs: the Ithaca Youth Bureau's YES Program, Workforce New York's Office of Employment and Training, and Challenge Workforce Solutions. Together these programs are providing work experience to youth in Tompkins County, many of whom are experiencing their first exposure to the



workforce. Youth are matched with various employers throughout the county, such as day camps, local non-profits, and private for-profit businesses. The goal of these employment

programs is to provide youth with meaningful employment experiences that allow them to learn about the world of work.

What a great way for our youth to earn some money, gain exposure to new experiences,

and set the foundation for skills that will serve them for a lifetime! See our summer youth employment guides at [www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/publications](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/publications).

# Countywide Performance Measurement System (RBA)

To objectively understand how well the County is doing in reaching the intended outcomes of its

## Turn the Curve



departments and to use the insights gained as a way to continually improve performance, Tompkins County Administration

will begin trainings in August on a comprehensive performance measurement framework known as Results Based Accountability or RBA. Tompkins County Youth Services Department has been working with this system for over three and half years, and will assist the County Administration with these trainings and the implementation of the framework.

A contract with *Clear Impact* will provide additional training and technical support as well as a software

system that will enable departments to measure their success in attaining intended program outcomes.

The countywide effort will take over three years to be developed. Each year, ten departments will be trained in developing high end performance measures, understanding the RBA framework, as well as learning how to use the *Clear Impact* Scorecard, or software system. Although the first group is still being established, twelve departments have volunteered to be considered in joining Group One. They include: Information Technology Services, Probation and Community Justice Department, Social Services Department, Mental Health, Highway, Assessment, County Administration, Youth Services, Department of Emergency Response, Office of Human Rights, Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport, and County Clerk/ DMV.

## Involving youth on commissions & councils

Guess what's happening in the Municipal Youth Services System? Youth commissions and community councils around Tompkins County are gearing up to find ways to get more youth ideas, opinions, and knowledge. While some commissions had youth as active members not all commissions/councils did. TCYS staff shared a power point presentation and encouraged municipalities to get more youth voice involved in their decision making process. This idea was embraced and adult volunteers are discussing what the best way is for their community. Hosting youth forums, having youth report on a regular basis, creating a seat on the commission or council, or creating a youth board are some of the ideas being talked about. Tompkins County is a community that makes youth a priority and invests in their future.



# Youth Worker Training Series

So far in 2017 TCYSD has offered:

**January:** A session to discuss summer camp scholarship (child care subsidy) guidelines. The Child Development Council and Dept. of Social Services have worked together to make this process easier for camps and parents.

**February:** Exploring the Concepts & Skills of Conflict Transformation with Jeff Shepardson, CDRC Director of Training and Facilitation.

**March:** Social Media Part I and Part II with local radio personality Gabe Young.

**April:** ADA Summer Camp Requirements with Jennifer Lin Perry, Access Specialist, Northeast American Disability Act Center.

**May:** 5 Generations in Play – and at Work! with Deb Mohlenhoff from TC3.

**June:** Professional Rescuer CPR/AED and First Aid Class with Tom Basher from Meridian Fire Training Solutions.



## ***SAVE THE DATE – more details to come***

**September 14:** We Play Adventures – Play with a Purpose. Program is designed to help staff develop a collection of experiential games and activities to use with youth.

**September 20:** Enough Abuse Training. Enough Abuse offers educational information to adults to prevent people from sexually abusing children; a “silent epidemic”.

**October 11:** Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. Come learn about what CSEC is, how it’s happening in our community, and what you can do to combat this issue.

Check our [web page](#) regularly for more details on registration and soon-to-come information on trainings planned!

# 2018 Youth Services Dept. Budget

When the Resource Allocation Team of the Youth Services Board began to prepare the 2018 budget they began with projections from the County Administrator and Youth Services Department which included a loss of Federal STOP Act funding, additional requirements for our Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children programming and support

to continue Results Based Accountability with our County Departments. After reviewing available funding the Resource Allocation Team made five over-target requests (OTR) for 2018. Over-target Requests ask the County Legislature to consider providing additional funding to support programs and/or services. Our five OTR’s include:

**OTR 1: \$13,117 for a 2% increase on County funds for all Youth Services Contract Providers.** This will provide a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for all of our contract agencies to support a slight increase to cover the rising cost of services provided to youth.

**OTR 2: \$7,200 of one-time rollover funding to be provided for electronic replacements** of outdated equipment within the Youth Services Department. These upgrades include replacing the 7 desktop computers and 2 laptop purchased in 2011, as well as a broken printer purchased in 2008.

**OTR 3: \$10,000 to support ongoing training services** to youth services providers throughout Tompkins County. In an effort to continually grow and improve service offerings by youth provider we have realized that training is extremely important for youth service workers, however as non-profits continue to face significant financial constraints many non-profits have eliminated their training budgets. Youth Services has met this need by providing an annual training series targeted directly at youth workers. This training series has previously been funded via rollover funding; however the sustainability of this important program is extremely important and the Resource Allocation Team is asking for more stable funding to ensure the 400 youth workers served annually by the training programs continue to receive these services.

**OTR 4: \$3,000 of one-time rollover funding to provide support to the biennial youth development survey.** 2018 will mark the fifth time that the biennial survey is completed by every middle and high school student in Tompkins County. Previously the Federal Community

Coalitions grant provided significant support to this initiative, however the grant has now come to a close and Youth Services Department along with the school districts, Community Coalition for Healthy Youth, and local non-profits have committed to attempting to support this initiative as we move forward.

**OTR 5: \$30,000 to be provided to allow communities and/or non-profits to pilot small mini-grant programs** related to the programs and services brainstormed during the Achieving Youth Results Process. Youth Services Department took to community convening meetings in 2015-2016 to learn what services could be provided to support the six Achieving Youth Results goals. As solutions to the challenges faced by young people were discussed at the 70+ community tables it became clear that a small amount of resources may allow community members to build off of the current programs and services to help better serve additional young people. This unique request would allow local partners to begin to build off of the current programs and services to expand the current service provision for youth through sustainable mini-grant programming.

At this time the staff members of Youth Services are preparing our final budget documents to be submitted to the County Administrator who will combine our requests with all other County departments into the 2018 County Administration Recommended Budget. From there the County Legislature's Expanded Budget Committee will discuss and weigh in on the 2018 budget for final adoption in early November. When we release our fall newsletter, additional updates of the process will be available.



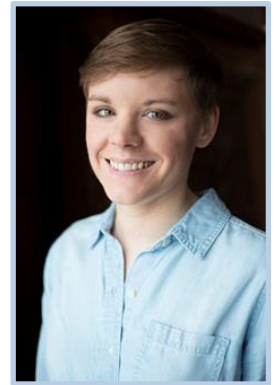
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## **A LOOK at the BUDGET**

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# Best Wishes to Caitlin Weems

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Caitlin Weems a fond farewell. Caitlin joined our department in the spring of 2016 as a Program Management Specialist. While at Youth Services Caitlin served as the lead for the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Critical Team as well as the facilitator of the Youth Employment Resource Team. Caitlin will be returning to her home in Maryland and will be missed by our entire organization.



## Research & 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.

[Annie E. Casey Foundation Releases Annual Kids Count Data Book](#)

[Changes to Kids Menus May Help Curb Childhood Obesity](#)

[Suicide Awareness in the Wake of \*13 Reasons Why\*](#)



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