

# TCYSD COMMUNITY UPDATES

APRIL 18, 2016

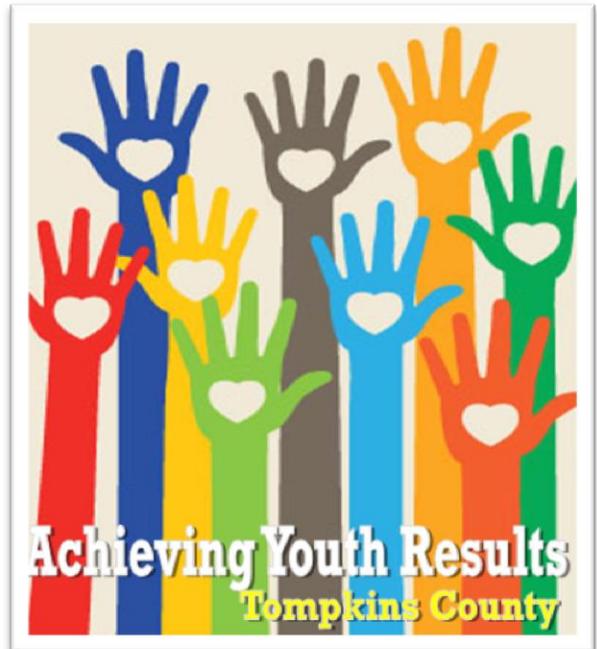
We are honored to be charged with investing time, resources, and funding in local Tompkins County communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life, and hope that this quarterly communication will serve as another resource to help create a community where all youth are given the opportunities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

## *Achieving Youth Results: Next Steps*

When we began the Achieving Youth Results process in the spring of 2015, it was extremely important to the members of our staff that we ensured that the process was open, transparent, and useful to our community. Setting goals and indicators for our youth and families is not something we took lightly. However, I don't think any of us could imagine how important this work would be to so many in the Tompkins County region.

As of today, we have had over 400 people come together from all facets of the county to discuss what our young people need to thrive. An additional 100 people weighed in on what measurements are important to our six goals and as of right now over 125 people have taken the time to prioritize the strategies from our community meetings into things that need to happen here in Tompkins County to make it a better place for our youth and families (make sure you weigh in on this survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AYRTC2> by 4pm on Friday, April 22.)

When the survey comes to a close, our Youth Services Team will begin to develop an action plan for Tompkins County. This plan will include the very beginning of strategies that we can implement to make changes to support the positive movement of our indicators and the accomplishments of our goals. Although we don't know what strategies we will put in place, we do know that no one strategy will accomplish all of the goals and in order to move the indicators we need so much more than one agency, organization, or individual can ever accomplish, we will need the whole community to make a difference.





## *Welcome to Caitlin Weems*



Caitlin Weems began working for Tompkins County Youth Services Department (TCYSD) on March 7, 2016. Originally from Cumberland, MD Caitlin received a BS from Frostburg State University in Maryland. After graduating she made her way north to Ithaca College, earning a master's degree in Health Education. With experience in youth education as well as working as a peer educator on programs that discussed tobacco and drug use, sexual assault and sexual wellness, Caitlin comes to the department with a well-rounded and varied background.

As a new Program Management Specialist Caitlin will be taking on the role of planning and implementing the

Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC) education initiative within Tompkins County. She will also be working closely with Workforce Development Board's Youth Oversight Committee as she conducts Summer Youth Employment program monitoring and evaluation.

When asked why she took the position she stated that during her previous experiences in health promotion and community education she realized that she wanted to work with and make a difference in the lives of young people. Welcome Caitlin!

## *Youth Worker Training Series*



Our 2016 Youth Worker Training Series is off to a fantastic start in 2016. So far training participants have explored ways to utilize outcomes to produce results, learned about the Department of Social Services, Youth Services, and laughed as comedian Matt Bellace talked about the teen brain, decision making and drugs. We continue to be excited to offer this engaging series and look forward to the following upcoming sessions (for more details on these sessions please visit [www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/training](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth/training)).

- **Strength Based Strategies** with Robert Lowery on April 28, 2016
- **Project Based Youth Leadership** with Laura Jankstrom on May26, 2016
- **Marketing and Branding Youth Programs** with Laurie Linn on June 20, 2016
- **Self-Injurious Behaviors in Adolescents and Young Adults** with Janis Whitlock on July 26, 2016

## *Best Wishes to Jasmin Cubero*

We would like to take this opportunity to wish Jasmin Cubero a fond farewell. Jasmin joined our department in August 2015 as a project assistant and worked on several exciting projects. She was instrumental in holding Achieving Youth Results sessions throughout the City of Ithaca.

While at working with TCYSD we were able to celebrate the birth of her first grandchild which was very exciting for all of us. Her final project was pulling together a massive spring expo “What’s Next”, for young people ages 17-24 who are looking for a career path. Jasmin’s passion for youth and making sure all kids have opportunities was ever present in her work and in her

daily life. We are going to miss Jasmin and wish her nothing but the best in her future ventures.



## Community Forum: The Prescription Drug Problem

Please join the Community Coalition for Healthy Youth at our third forum about the opioid problem on Thursday, May 19 from 5:00-6:30 PM at the Ulysses Philomathic Library, 74 E. Main St., Trumansburg.

This evening session will focus on prescription drugs. Perspectives will include:

- Alcohol & Drug Council of Tompkins County—Prevention
- Cayuga Addiction Recovery Services (CARS)—Treatment
- Andy T. —Recovery
- Trumansburg Family Health—Health
- Trumansburg Police Department —Law Enforcement & Medication Drop Boxes



There will be time for questions & answers. Light refreshments will be available.

Event details and information on previous forums can be found at [www.healthyouth.org](http://www.healthyouth.org)

# Congratulations to Jonathan Gomes Selman!

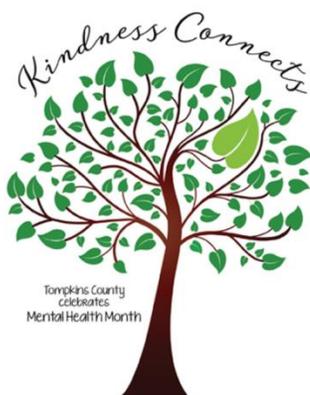
Ithaca High School Senior Jonathan Gomes Selman is recognized as the latest Tompkins County Distinguished Youth. A letter of nomination filed by Tompkins County Youth Services planner Kristin Bennett, on behalf of the Joint Youth Commission (for the Towns of Ithaca and Caroline and Villages of Cayuga Heights and Lansing) recognizes the many accomplishment of Jonathan, who has served actively for the past four years as the Commission's only youth member. But Bennett's letter states that "there is much more to Jonathan than his involvement with the JYC. In a nutshell, Jonathan is the 'complete package.' He is smart, kind, committed to making a difference, a leader, a musician, a scholar, an athlete, a volunteer, an innovator, and a friend."

Among his many accomplishments cited: a prestigious research internship at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Cornell, three years teaching children as a volunteer at the Sciencenter; communicating about interesting developments from the world of math and science through his blog, *Stumbling Into Science and Math*; three years as co-president of the IHS Computer Science Club, two years on the IHS Code Red

Robotics Team, and two years as a leader in the high school's Link Crew mentoring program. He is a National Merit Scholarship semi-finalist, a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the high school's concert band and pep band, and a member of the high school's (undefeated) tennis team.

"Jonathan has set a high standard for his peer group," Bennett's letter states. "He serves as a positive role model to students at Ithaca High and in the larger community. He is very deserving of recognition by Tompkins County as a Distinguished Youth."

The Distinguished Youth Award is cosponsored by Specialty Trophy and Awards, Bangs Ambulance Service, Purity Ice Cream, and Cayuga Radio Group.



## Kindness Connects Festival

Please join us on Sunday, May 15, 2016 from 1:00-4:30pm at the Ithaca Children's Garden (Taughannock Blvd, Ithaca) for the Kindness Connects Festival. For more information visit <http://www.collaborativesolutionsnetwork.org/pages/kindness-connects/>

Kindness connects is a collaboration of Collaborative Solutions Network, Family and Children's Service, Franziska Racker Centers, Ithaca Children's Garden, Mental Health Association in Tompkins County, Suicide Prevention and Crisis Service,

Tompkins County Youth Services Dept., TST BOCES, YMCA of Ithaca and Tompkins County and you!

# Opportunities for Involvement

Do you support the mission of investing time, resources and funding in communities to enable all youth to thrive in school, work and life? Are you willing to commit to providing your thoughts, insights, and time to help advise the Youth Services Department?

If you answered yes to these questions perhaps membership on either a local youth commission or the Tompkins County Youth Services Board is the right fit for you!

Current vacancies include:

- **Tompkins County Youth Services Board** is in need of representatives from Caroline, Danby, Groton, Newfield and Ulysses/Trumansburg, as well as one Tompkins County youth ages 16-21.
- **The Joint Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Town of Ithaca.
- **The Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Town or Village of Dryden or Village of Freeville.
- The **Community Coalition for Healthy Youth** continues to meet monthly to bring partners together to reduce youth substance use. Please come to a meeting if you think you might be interested; dates and times can be found at [www.healthyouth.org](http://www.healthyouth.org).



For more information on ways you can get involved please contact Amie Hendrix at [ahendrix@tompkins-co.org](mailto:ahendrix@tompkins-co.org).

## Free Presentation for Your Business or Group!

### Underage Drinking:

What you should know and what you can do about it

- **Information** on what influences young people to drink
- **Prevention Tips** to keep youth from using alcohol
- **Resources** for talking with youth about alcohol

**In under 30 minutes, learn how to cut underage drinking by 2/3!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO SCHEDULE A SESSION CONTACT:



Community Coalition for Healthy Youth  
c/o Tompkins County Youth Services Dept.  
(607) 274-5310 [www.healthyouth.org](http://www.healthyouth.org)

Perfect for parents, coaches, teen group leaders, or anyone who works with youth!



**Tompkins County Youth Services Department**  
320 West State/MLK Jr. Street  
Ithaca NY 14850  
607-274-5310

[www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth](http://www.tompkinscountyny.gov/youth)

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