



# TCYSD COMMUNITY UPDATES

MARCH 17, 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.



Tompkins County has always been a great place to raise your family. However, prior to 1977, if you were a 12 year old child who didn't enjoy competitive sports or fit in with the traditional youth groups like Scouts or 4-H, there weren't always a lot of options. Unfortunately, many of the programs serving youth didn't have opportunities to connect with each other to share and coordinate their efforts. There was no one agency responsible for taking a "Big Picture" look at the needs of youth and the services available to address those needs.

In 1977, our community recognized the need for one body to provide coordination, planning and funding of services for young people. Through many discussions, the Tompkins County Legislature

(then the Tompkins County Board of Representatives) created the Tompkins County Youth Services Department, originally known as the County Youth Bureau, and things began to change. These caring adults and our caring community set forward a strategic partnership to invest resources in the young people of Tompkins County.

The success of the Youth Services Department is a result of the caring communities that support young people. As we enter our 40<sup>th</sup> year we will be celebrating how caring adults continue to shape the lives of young people within Tompkins County. Stay tuned for how Tompkins County Youth Services has been creating caring communities since 1977.

## RBA Report Card Release

The RBA Report Card is ready for release. Wait...You don't know what RBA is?

RBA stands for Results Based Accountability™ which is a disciplined process of moving from desired result to action. The RBA Report Card is a template which is intended to be a simple, flexible tool for programs to report RBA information to funders, partners, and the public.

All Youth Services funded programs have completed their first report cards. Each program has aligned with one of the six Achieving Youth Results goals as a result that they are working with towards contributing to the success of. To see the report cards click on any [goal](#).

Each RBA Report Card includes the following information provided by the contracted agency:

- Achieving Youth Result Goal
- Name and agency that provides the service
- Performance measures
- Story behind the data
- An agency defined action plan



The RBA report card showcases key features of the RBA process. While it does not document everything that a program is doing, the report card provides a summary of the process defined by performance measures, causes that account for current data and proposed actions that will support better results and improvement. If other agencies would like to learn more about Results Based Accountability or performance measurement process please free to contact Dave Sanders at [dsanders@tompkins-co.org](mailto:dsanders@tompkins-co.org).

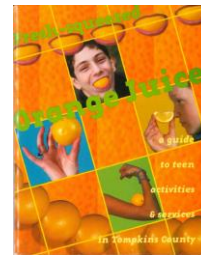
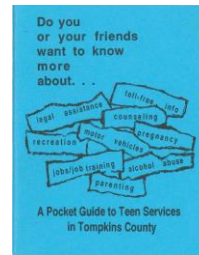
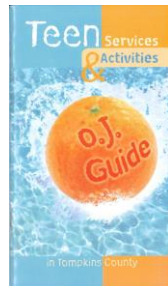
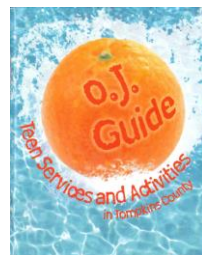
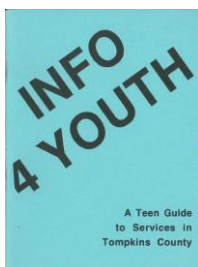
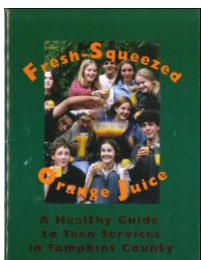
## R.I.P. O.J. Guide

After 25 years, the County Youth Services Department is discontinuing our OJ Guide to Teen Services and Activities. First published in 1992, in the pre-internet days, the pocket sized guide put important information at the fingertips of local teens. Over the years, the guide acquired its signature name, OJ Guide (named by teens since it included healthful choices). However, in 2017, few teens carry a hard-copy guide of services around with them when they have their smartphones and Google to help them find what they need. So it is with mixed feelings that we announce that we will no longer update and produce our guide. [We encourage anyone wanting information about needed services to contact 2-1-1](#). Or, of course, you can call us at 274-5310 for information.



Test your memory: Match the Teen Guide with the year of publication

1992 1994 1997 2000 2006 2010



A \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ C \_\_\_\_\_ D \_\_\_\_\_ E \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_

Answers:  
 A – 1997  
 B – 1992  
 C – 2006  
 D – 2010  
 E – 1994  
 F – 2000

# Youth Worker Training Series



It's a new year and we have hit the ground running as we strive to bring you practical, beneficial, and relevant training.

To date we've 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.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**April 6, 9 – 11:30 a.m.:** ADA Summer Camp Requirements. Jennifer Lin Perry, Access Specialist, Northeast American Disability Act Center will review ADA standards and answer your questions.

**May 3, 9 – 11:00 a.m.:** 5 Generations in Play – and at Work! Deb Mohlenhoff from TC3 will explore the distinct characteristics of the 5 generations that are in the workforce and give practical strategies for dealing with the preferences/styles of each group.

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

## **Collective Impact**



RI Collective Impact is a process where different sectors, organizations and agencies commit to working collectively to on a common agenda that will lead to solving a specific social problem. The Collective Impact is formed on the premise that large-scale social change comes from better cross-sector coordination rather than from the isolated intervention of individual organizations.<sup>1,2</sup>

Collective Impact initiatives are well underway in Tompkins County. Two youth focused groups are Cradle to Career and Childhood Nutrition.

The Cradle to Career Group is a collaborative effort of several organizations and individuals to ensure that all of our infants, children youth are healthy happy and successful.

While our focus is Tompkins County some of our activities will include youth from Seneca and Tioga Counties since TST BOCES is a critical partner in this effort. This effort is led by a coalition of organizations and individuals who are fully committed to the vision.

It is the vision of the collaboration to Improve Childhood Nutrition and Food Security in the Southern to ensure that every pregnant woman, child, and young person in Tompkins County has the resources to access nutritious, well-grown food every day, without stigma, to support their mental and physical health.

If you would like to learn more about either collective impact working group, please contact Amie Hendrix at [ahendrix@tompkins-co.org](mailto:ahendrix@tompkins-co.org) so she may connect you with the organizers of upcoming meeting and events.

1 Collective Impact Overview by Gen Meredith 2. [https://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective\\_impact](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective_impact) 2 From [https://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective\\_impact](https://ssir.org/articles/entry/collective_impact): nearly 1.4 million nonprofits try to invent independent solutions to major social problems, often working at odds with each other and exponentially increasing the perceived resources required to make meaningful progress.



Some great programs start with a couple of committed people meeting over coffee, which is what happened in Lansing NY in 1987. A small group of volunteers, who wanted to reach underserved youth in their community, contacted the Youth Services Dept.. The group hadn't planned on holding a large pizza party planning workshop of 60+ people, or surveying all their students and parents, and they definitely didn't plan on having the Town of Lansing create the Lansing Youth Commission, an organization now operating for 30 years, but that coffee inspired a much deeper commitment than they could have imagined.

The group of volunteers knew that while the Town had a very strong sports program and the school offered other activities, but not all youth were being served. Rural isolation, the responsibility of caring for siblings or the lack of self-esteem kept some youth from participating. The volunteers created a middle school program working with teachers and school administrators to identify at-risk-youth to participate, though the programs

were and still are open to all youth, to prevent the "it's that program" identity. The program currently serves over 150 youth a year.

In 2000, the commission realized a lot of the youth who participated in the middle school program became lost when they moved to the high school. As a way to support those youth they created the Youth Employment Program (YEP) to provide a first time job experience. The program has grown over the last 17 years and employs about 40 youth during the school year.

Realizing that funding was an important part of providing services, commission members wrote grants and talked to their Town, receiving funding from Tompkins County, Town of Lansing, and the United Way. In addition they did their own fundraising and started the LYS Spaghetti Supper. This Spaghetti Supper has become famous throughout the Town; Youth Commission members roll up their sleeves along with the youth who are the wait staff.

After 30 years Lansing has a lot to be proud of, their programs are strong and well respected; youth commission members include one of the "founding mothers"; youth who have been in the program have served on the commission; and they serve the best spaghetti in Tompkins County. *Come and support them on April 28th, 5PM to 9PM at All Saints Church 347 Ridge Road, Lansing NY.*

# Youth Employment Resource Team (YERT)



The Youth Employment Resource Team, known as YERT, is a local membership network committed to improving the effectiveness of organizations that help youth become

productive community members and employees.

This group meets monthly and spends their time working towards building and increasing the capacity of organizations and programs, learning from stakeholders to enhance and improve services, providing and supporting professional development, and tracking, crafting, and influencing policy for youth employment.

The most recent initiative that YERT is working on is a **Youth Job Fair!** This event will bring together 40+ businesses/employers in our community who provide summer, entry-level, or part-time

employment to youth between the ages of 16 and 21.

**When:** Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017  
9:00 am – 11:00 am

**Where:** TST BOCES Gym  
(Darwin C. Smith School)

Local businesses representing hospitality, retail, banking, civil service, and more will be present! Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to attend this wonderful event.

For additional information about this event contact Diane Bradac, Tompkins County Workforce NY, at [dbradac@tompkins-co.org](mailto:dbradac@tompkins-co.org) or Michelle Pronti, TST BOCES, at [mpronti@tstboces.org](mailto:mpronti@tstboces.org).

If you are interested in learning more about or becoming a member of YERT, please contact Caitlin Weems at [cweems@tompkins-co.org](mailto:cweems@tompkins-co.org).



## Research and Articles that Caught our Eye

With this issue of our newsletter we introduce a new recurring section. We will share 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.

[Keeping Students Safe and Supported](#)

[Creating Opportunity for Families: A Two-Generation Approach](#)

[Relationships First: Creating Connections that Help Young People Thrive](#)



# 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, Town of Ithaca, Newfield and Ulysses/Trumansburg, as well as one Tompkins County youth ages 16-21.
- **The Dryden Recreation and Youth Commission** has vacancies for commission members residing in the Town or Village of Dryden or Village of Freeville.
- **The Joint Youth Commission** has vacancies for one commission member from Town of Caroline and one from Village of Lansing.
- 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@tom-pkins-co.org](mailto:ahendrix@tom-pkins-co.org).



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

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