



<http://www.bloomfielddyouthguidance.org>

Bloomfield Youth Guidance

4200 Andover Road Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302 Ph: 248-341-5680

2008-2009 Annual Report

A community-based prevention program assisting families in the Bloomfield Hills School District since 1967

Bloomfield Youth Guidance

Sponsors:

Bloomfield Hills Schools
Bloomfield Township
Oakland County
Circuit Court-Family Division

2008-2009

BYG Executive Committee:

Chairperson: Neal Barnett
Vice-Chairperson: Sue Boyle
Secretary: Barbara Reinoehl
Treasurer: Lorraine Goodrich

Volunteers:

Mary Belden
Ed Bretzlaff
Mary Buday
Donna DeWitte
Cory Donberger
Claudia Goldenthal
Barb Kilkka
Fred Klupp
Gail LePage
David Lubin
Michele Merritt
Mindy Nathan
Suzi Shepard
Beth Sinclair
Amy Singer
Suzy Von Ende
Katie Wiese

BYG Office:

Caseworker: Lorie Willing
Secretary: Suzanne Greenslate



*BYG Executive Committee Members:
Barb Reinoehl, Lorraine Goodrich,
Neal Barnett and Sue Boyle.*



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

On behalf of BYG's Executive Committee, I would like to thank our sponsors, the Bloomfield Hills School District, Bloomfield Township, Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division as well as the community for their ongoing support of our program. We are appreciative of the time and energy that our dedicated volunteers provide to our program.

We also remain grateful to our PTO's, The Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities, Bloomfield Optimist, The Village Woman's Club Foundation and the Episcopal Women of Christ Church Cranbrook. Their generous contributions made it possible for us to provide needed programs and rewarding experiences for the Bloomfield youth we serve throughout our community.

I would also like to thank everyone who served on the Citizen's Committee, especially my fellow officers, Sue Boyle, Vice Chairperson; Barbara Reinoehl, Secretary and Lorraine Goodrich, Treasurer. Also a special thanks to Lorie Willing, BYG Caseworker, for her dedication to our students and our committee.

Over one-hundred members of the community helped celebrate the accomplishments of nine students at our Outstanding Youth Citizens Awards Dinner in the spring. Their stories were inspirational and uplifting. Katie Wiese was chairperson of this special event.

In these challenging times we are fortunate to have so many caring individuals who give of themselves to assist our students. Thank you to everyone who contributed time, ideas, skills and financial resources to make this a successful year for BYG.

Neal Barnett, Bloomfield Youth Guidance Chairperson

Bloomfield Hills Schools, Bloomfield Township and Oakland County do 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. We are Equal Opportunity Employers.

Caseworker's Corner

This has been another successful year for BYG. We had a record attendance at our Outstanding Youth Citizen's Awards Dinner and saw a huge increase in the amount of Enrichment Scholarships awarded. We also welcomed a number of new volunteers to our Board while wishing a fond farewell to longtime volunteers extraordinaire-Suzy Von Ende and Suzi Shepard and our School Liaison Police Officers Cory Donberger and Jermaine Bolden.

On the casework front, BYG continues to provide free, confidential, short term family-centered counseling and referral services for youth and families within the Bloomfield Hills School District. Referrals are accepted from schools, police, parents and others who have concerns about a child. This past program year again saw an increase in the amount of referrals from schools and parents for a myriad of prevention based services. Overall, BYG received 78 referrals and informational requests.

Finally, as the 2008-2009 program year marked the end of my tenure with BYG given my retirement from Oakland County after approximately 33 years, I would like to thank the BYG board and Suzanne, BYG's office secretary, for all the creative ideas, tireless work and unwavering support. It has been my honor and privilege to have worked with such wonderful people in such a beautiful community.

Lorie Willing, BYG Caseworker

Volunteer Opportunities with BYG

Our strength as a community depends on our commitment as individuals

Volunteer opportunities exist whether you can spare an hour per week, a few hours per month, or at certain times of the year. To find out more about how we can match your interests and abilities with serving the needs of Bloomfield's youth, please call BYG at 248 341-5680.



Honorable Joan E. Young, Presiding Judge of the Family Division, Mary Schusterbauer, Chief-Youth Assistance and Honorable Linda S. Hallmark, Circuit Court-Family Division Judge, at BYG's Youth Recognition dinner.



BYG Outstanding Youth Citizen Award honorees in 2009 were: Left to Right: Cameron Peres, Pratyusha Yalamanchi, Natalie Jenkins, Sarah Black, Mary Frances Mullen, Christina Stilianos, EdenFay, Zoey Lutz, Melissa Kin.

2009 Youth Recognition Dinner

Nine outstanding young people who have enriched our community with their deeds were honored at the annual Outstanding Youth Citizen Awards dinner in April. The 2009 honorees included Lone Pine elementary student Zoey Lutz, West Hills Middle School seventh grader Cameron Peres, Lahser High School Seniors Sarah Black and Christina Stilianos, International Academy Senior Pratyusha Yalamanchi and Andover High School Seniors Eden Fay, Natalie Jenkins and Melissa Kin and Junior Mary Frances Mullen.

Sarah Black was the recipient of the \$1000 scholarship from the Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities.

The Honorable Michael Warren, Oakland County Circuit Court delivered the keynote address and Jan Roncelli read the glowing tributes.

Everyone in attendance was inspired hearing what good deeds these young people have accomplished in their relatively short lives.

The lovely dining room at Bloomfield Open Hunt provided the perfect setting.

Katie Wiese, Youth Recognition Chairperson



Youth recognition committee members-Standing: Katie Wiese, Beth Sinclair, Barb Kilka, Mary Belden. Seated: Gail LePage and Claudia Goldenthal.

Enrichment Program

This year the BYG Citizens' Committee:

- ❖ Helped 19 youngsters gain access to 10 enrichment programs
- ❖ Broken down by grades: 9 high school, 5 middle school and 5 elementary students

These youth participated in a variety of programs or received academic support. They came from many types of family and home situations including single mothers (some living with their parents), to unemployed and/or very ill parents. The types of programs we were able to help finance were in the following categories:

- ❖ 8 students received academic support
- ❖ 5 kids participated in day camp
- ❖ 6 kids attended skill-building programs

We would like to emphasize that we could not possibly accommodate this number of young people without the support from our contributors last year (Bloomfield Optimists, the Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church Cranbrook, the Village Woman's Club Foundation, Bloomfield School District PTO's and various individuals).

Lorraine Goodrich, Enrichment Program Chairperson



Cory Donberger, School Liaison Officer

After 6 years as a School Liaison Officer (SLO) for Lahser High School and the east side of the district, and 3 years as a member of the BYG Board, Cory Donberger returned to the road patrol on 6/29/09. Almost 13 years ago, that was his first assignment with the Bloomfield Township Police Department, and so he will once again be handling in-progress calls, traffic accidents, medical runs and other various types of criminal complaints.

Officer Donberger commented that his SLO career included: having the opportunity to work with so many dedicated staff members, teachers and school administrators and especially getting to see so many kids basically "grow up" and mature plus, in some cases, turn their lives around and make better choices. He feels very honored to be one of the few officers from the police department to serve in such a capacity; his six-year assignment was amazing. It reportedly not only

reinforced how important his own role as a father is, but also how much impact you can have on the life of a child with the right words and a compassionate attitude.

BYG wishes Officer Donberger the best, and likewise to his colleague, Jermaine Bolden, who was also reassigned from his Andover SLO post earlier this year. Welcome to Detective John Hoffman and Officer Andy Racine who are currently serving in the SLO positions.

Note: School Liaison Officers are assigned to cases that involve a juvenile either as a victim or as a suspect. They act as a liaison between the police department, the school district and the community. Serving as a central source for law enforcement information, or providing a high degree of informal interaction between students and police, the program fosters better community relations. In addition to referring juvenile matters to BYG or the Court, they present or assist with activities or programs like Safety Town, the Sixth Grade Program, Drug/Alcohol Prevention Programs, Parent Networking, and civic/law classes.

Mentors Plus



BYG Mentors Plus provides identified children in the community, ages 6 through 16, with a one-on-one meaningful mentoring experience with a caring adult. The intent is to build a trusting relationship between the adult and child, leading the child towards a more successful life experience.

BYG had three matches in place this past year. All participants have noted that they have had a very positive, rewarding and enriching experience. Extra special thanks go out to our MP volunteers for all the time and effort they devoted to their mentees.

There are children in our district who are in need of the friendship from a caring adult volunteer. A mentor willing to spend just a few hours a week caring, trusting, and believing in them makes a huge difference in their lives.

So, please consider becoming a hero and a friend to a young person in need. If you have a little extra time, want a rewarding experience, and a desire to make a difference in a child's life, please contact BYG's caseworker or BYG's Mentors Plus chairpersons for more details and volunteering procedures. The commitment is minimal but the rewards are huge.

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Mentors Plus Co-chairs



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To:

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS AND DONORS

BYG extends its heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors, individual donors, as well as the following community organizations for their generous support of our program.

BYG Sponsors:



The Bloomfield Hills School District



Bloomfield Township



The Oakland County Circuit Court- Family Division

Contributors and Supporters:

- * Individual School PTO's*
- * Bloomfield Township Fire Department Charities*
- *Village Woman's Club Foundation*
- *The Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church Cranbrook*
- *Bloomfield Optimists*
- *Oakland County Board of Commissioners*

BYG Statement of Philosophy

Bloomfield Youth Guidance is a community based service organization that has been providing prevention related programs and counseling services to youth and families in the Bloomfield Hills School District since 1967. The BYG philosophy is based on the belief that educational and supportive services help strengthen families and promote positive growth. BYG is part of Oakland County Youth Assistance, whose mission, since 1953, has been to strengthen youth and families and to reduce the incidence of delinquency, abuse and neglect through community involvement. All 26 Oakland County Youth Assistance programs are community-based and developed by volunteers who live and/or work in the communities in which they serve. The Circuit Court provides the professional staff to work with the volunteers and to provide direct casework services with local school districts and municipalities providing further support and sponsorship.