



# Annual Report 2012

## Genesee-Orleans-Wyoming Reality Check

Reality Check (RC) is part of the Bureau of Tobacco Control funded through a grant from the NYS DOH. The tobacco industry researches teens and find the best ways to make them “replacement smokers” for those who have quit smoking or died from tobacco-related illnesses. RC youth encourage peers to make educated decisions about smoking and tobacco use.

Over 90% of industry’s marketing budget is spent at the “point of sale” in stores. Tobacco displays behind the counters are used to make tobacco use seem normal to kids and teens. Currently, RC is working on a video that will be used to educate the community about Point of Sale tobacco marketing and its effect on youth

smoking and tobacco use. As a result of the FDA law, localities can now design and enforce ordinances that would allow stores to continue selling tobacco products but keep them from being prominently displayed for young people to see. Adult smokers usually know what they want to purchase without having to peruse a rack of products. Several other countries already have such laws, all of which have seen a dramatic decrease in their youth smoking rates.

RC’s partnership with the University of California on the Smoke Free Movies continued. Organizations including RC continue to petition the Motion Picture Association of America to treat

smoking as they would drug use, cursing, and nudity by rating new movies with smoking “R.” Additionally, the program has begun researching the effects of tobacco imagery on television and YouTube, hoping to reduce youth exposure through these media outlets as well.

If you would like more information on Reality Check, please contact Jen Waldron or Angela DiRosa at our office.



RC teen with Assemblyman David DiPietro at Legislative Day in Albany.

### Youth Bureau Staff 2012

#### Executive Director

Deborah Kerr-Rosenbeck/  
Jocelyn Sikorski

#### Youth Program Specialist

Kathy Frank

#### Youth Program Coordinator

Angela DiRosa

#### Youth Program Assistant

Jennifer Waldron

#### Financial Clerk-Typist

Tracy Ranney/  
LuAnn Henry

#### AmeriCorps Members

Katie Stack  
Katherine Rudman

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## Youth Recognition Awards

On April 24, 2012, the City of Batavia and Genesee County Youth Boards sponsored their 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Recognition Dinner at Bohn’s Restaurant & Lounge. Fifteen young people were honored for their commitment to community service and/or an impressive role in their family. Additionally, the dinner recognized an Adult Volunteer, two Adult Youth Worker, and Business Appreciation award recipients.

The following were youth recipients this year: Kelley Biro, Natalie Cervone and Haley Kirby (Oakfield-Alabama ); Tevin Bloom, Daniel Cherry, Chelsea Mountain, Emily Shaffer and Emily Waters (Batavia High School); Jimmy Cherry, Santiago Deluna and Honesty Green (Batavia Middle School); Jamie Marshall (Elba); Nate Montoya and Sarah Skillman (LeRoy); and Meghan Zickl (Notre Dame).

Chuck Gugel received the Adult Volunteer Award for his generosity to youth-serving organizations through Clor’s chicken barbeque fundraising. Donna Lougheed from Elba Central School and former Youth Advocate Laura Calla received the Adult Youth Worker Award. Bob Miller Flight Training received the Business Appreciation Award .

Each recipient received an award and commendations from Senator Michael Ranzenhofer, Assemblyman Stephen Hawley, the Genesee County Legislature and the Batavia City Council. For more information about this event or the qualifications for the awards, please contact Angela DiRosa.



## Director's Note

I'm proud of how we handled it together as a team. Together we can persevere.

One thing that has not changed in 2012 is our dedication to our youth. Genesee County served 8,025 youth in 2012 through youth bureau-funded programs. This number does not include the direct service programs that we operate here at the Youth Bureau: Reality Check, SADD & STOP-DWI, Youth Court or AmeriCorps, all of which you'll hear about throughout this report. My hat goes off to our youth-serving agencies and programs who over the last five years are still achieving success with less and less financial support.

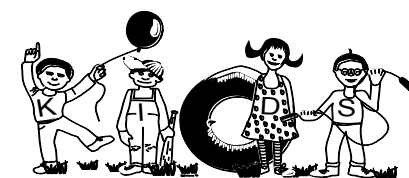
The Genesee County Youth Board did an intensive review of our funded contracts in the fall, asking all programs to come and present their daily operations, challenges and barriers, and success stories. What the board heard were some amazing stories of and outcomes for our children and families. This objective is important for our board, as the information they receive throughout the year help them make educated allocation decisions. I have seen

the shift as the county board is active more now than ever, knowing that the decisions they have to make can impact the community.

As we enter 2013, my outlook is optimistic. Our stance with the release of the Governor's Budget is to hold us to the 2012 funding levels. Youth bureaus will remain proactive and seek those additional opportunities that will best suit our communities. We will also be at the table and involved in the discussion as our system evolves in the years to come. Change is a constant and upon us again...

Best Regards,  
Jocelyn Sikorski

"You can't stop the future  
You can't rewind the past  
The only way to learn the secret  
...is to press play." ~Jay Asher



*Youth Make a Difference*

Dear Friends,

The Genesee County Youth Bureau went through significant transition in 2012. Our long-time leader and Director, Deb Kerr-Rosenbeck, retired in February. She was known as our *Empress of Youth* and worked hard for the children and youth of Genesee County for 25 years. Her passion, drive and determination got us through some very trying fiscal years as the state and municipal governments have evolved. She was a mentor and a true friend to all of the staff here at the Youth Bureau, and her presence has been missed.

To continue with the evolution of change, we moved our offices in with the Office for the Aging & Senior Center on Bank Street in Batavia. We had been proactive with changes that were upon us, sat down with other county offices and determined where our department would best fit. The Youth Bureau and Office for the Aging both provide similar direct services and opportunities, although our populations are different. Our move in March assisted us in closing the door to our change. The evolution for our staff was not an easy one; however,

The Genesee County Youth Bureau, established in 1971, is a department of county government funded in part by the NYS Office of Children and Family Services. The Youth Bureau's resource allocation process is unique and equitable, designed to provide services to all youth.

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## EnviroChamps

EnviroChamps provided a comprehensive environmental program for youth, a long-awaited goal of the Youth Bureau's former executive director. The project was a collaborative effort between the Genesee County Youth Bureau and Genesee County Park.

We created a flyer with the program's overview and registration information that circulated among sixth through eighth grade science teachers in eight school districts, our local Business Education Alliance and our municipal recreation directors. We also placed print ads in the community newspaper and used the local radio station during a weekly county spotlight to share information about the program.

The County Park Educator facilitated the camp along with an AmeriCorps member who worked closely with the Park and Youth Bureau for all planning and implementation. We relied heavily on other experts in the field to facilitate certain components of the week. These presenters were finalized in May. All of them included hands-on activities to support the information they

provided to help facilitate retention. This was a great resource to our program and we could not have had such a comprehensive one without all of them.

The participants took a survey on Monday morning as well as a post questionnaire on Friday. The curriculum included various subject areas including local vegetation and wildlife, wildlife photography, beekeeping and entomology. In addition to participating in the lessons and activities, youth created displays that summarized

everything they had learned. On Friday afternoon, the program held a Field Day. Families, presenters, other staff and community members were invited to have lunch with the kids and hear about the week from their perspectives.

Envirochamps was very well-received. Several of the participants asked if the camp would be offered again, and many other community members who could not participate are eagerly awaiting information about an upcoming program.



EnviroChamps camp participants at the Genesee County Interpretive Center

### The following prevention and intervention programs served 1,814 youth in 2012.

- Youth Crisis Services—Regional Action Phone
- Volunteer Training—Genesee County CASA for Children
- Youth Drop-In—LeRoy Christian Community Project
- Get Out and Get Active with GPS—Genesee County Parks Dept.
- Just Friends Mentoring Program—Ministry of Concern
- Youth Court/Youth Bureau Outreach—Genesee County Youth Bureau

### The following municipal programs served 6,211 youth during 2012

- |                         |                             |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alexander Recreation    | Gillam-Grant Youth Services |
| Batavia Recreation      | LeRoy Recreation            |
| Batavia Youth Services  | Oakfield Recreation         |
| Byron Recreation        | Pavilion Recreation         |
| Elba Recreation         | Pembroke Recreation         |
| Gillam-Grant Recreation | Stafford Recreation         |

## 2012 AmeriCorps Host Sites

*There were 30  
AmeriCorps  
host sites in  
2012*

4-H Camp Bristol Hills	Gillam Grant Community Center
Batavia Players	Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley
Batavia Youth Bureau	GLOW YMCA
Byron Bergen Central School	GO Art
Byron Bergen Public Library	LeRoy Christian Community Project
Camp Wyomoco	Literacy Genesee
Corfu Free Library	Livingston County Historical Society
Crossroads House	Olean Theatre Workshop
Genesee County Highway	Olean City School District
Genesee County History	Orleans Community Action
Genesee County OFA	Orleans Co Adult Learning Services
Genesee County Parks	Orleans County Cooperative Ext
Genesee County Sheriff's Office	Richmond Memorial Library
Genesee County Youth Bureau	St. Mark's Episcopal Church
Genesee Justice	WNY Rural Area Health Education Center



Left: Our display at the AmeriCorps Kick Off

Right: AmeriCorps Team Building at  
Camp Wyomoco



## Youth Court: Youth Serving Youth

The fifth year of Youth Court has been a success! There were 28 Youth Court members representing six school districts. The members consist of four classes of youth, the first class having been trained in 2008. All court official roles of this tribunal court are performed by youth members. The roles include three judges, prosecutor, defense attorney, and bailiff.

We were able to do some teambuilding with the members in September at Camp Hough/Red Pines. Members and program staff experienced a day of teambuilding and high ropes. It was a great way to bring the members together outside of their court responsibilities, enabling them to bond and rejuvenate them as a team.

We had 13 case referrals in 2012.

Referrals were made by law enforcement representing the Genesee County Sheriff's Office and City of Batavia Police as well as one school and Probation. The ages of youth ranged from as young as eight to not yet graduated. Multiple offenses were heard by the Court.

The members who serve on each case really listen to each youth and the situations that come before them. The respondents are treated individually for their offense regardless of how many times that 'offense' has been before the court. The youth court members are fair handing down the dispositions to the youth/respondents who are in the courtroom.

The Genesee County Youth Court is designed to create an atmosphere of equality through

judgment by one's peers. While each respondent is held responsible for his or her actions, s/he is able to avoid the gravity of family court and being tried as a juvenile delinquent for a first, and hopefully last, offense.

We are thankful for the continued local support of this program, and this is a great reflection of just that. If you would like more information about Youth Court or have any questions, please call or Jen Waldron at 585-344-3960.



## 2012 AmeriCorps Program Highlights

AmeriCorps is a program of the Corporation for National & Community Service. The Corporation's mission is to improve lives, strengthen communities and foster civic engagement through service and volunteering. Americans of all backgrounds are engaged in service to meet community needs. Genesee Co. AmeriCorps brings dedication and commitment to our area.

Fifty members served at a variety of host sites in 2012, completing over 24,400 hours of service. Assignments fall under the categories of youth development/mentoring, volunteer recruitment and public safety/community outreach. Members agree to complete 900, 450 or 300 service hours over a specific time period that cannot exceed one year. In return, they earn a living allowance, and at the end of their term of service receive an education award. This award can be used for college costs or to repay qualified student loans. Education awards earned in 2012 totaled over \$79,000. Members also engaged 820 volunteers in over 4,500 hours of service to the community.

2012 program highlights:

AmeriCorps partnered with RSVP of Genesee County and the YMCA to do a project on the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service, celebrated on January 16. This event was coordinated by our member serving at the YMCA. A total of 38 volunteers participated. Seven volunteers completed projects to improve the facilities at the Y and got work started on two other repair projects. The remaining volunteers created 93 thank you cards for members of the military. The cards were sent by the Genesee Veterans Support Network to Fort Drum and distributed to troops serving in South Korea. Everyone who attended also received information about programs providing economic opportunities for fami-

lies in the County.

National AmeriCorps Week was celebrated March 10-17. Members were given different options for AmeriCorps Week activities. Several of them wrote about their experience and submitted articles to newsletters or to the local media. Other members organized service projects for youth at their sites. We had a press release published in the Daily News outlining the accomplishments of our program and posted inspirational quotes paired with stories about our members on our Facebook page. Vicky Rippel and Katie Stack did a workshop on community service at the annual youth conference held during National AmeriCorps Week. Those who attended the workshop made bookmarks that were donated to the SAGE program at Richmond Memorial Library.

We added an environmental stewardship component to our program. AmeriCorps members were trained to present a session on water conservation to youth at our host sites. A total of 276 youth, ranging from kindergarten to high school age, attended at 13 different locations. Several activities were included in the session, covering water use, pollution and the water cycle. A mix of information and hands-on activities was used to deliver the messages. The vast majority of young people who attended reported an increased knowledge of environmentally-conscious practices at the end of the session. They were all encouraged to share the information with their families, which would further educate our community. The members and program staff who helped design and deliver the presentations also gained valuable knowledge.

This year we partnered with RSVP of Genesee County and the VA Western NY Healthcare System to coordinate an event on the 9/11

National Day of Service and Remembrance. Veterans and other community members gathered together at the Batavia VA auditorium for a ceremony honoring those who served, followed by an information fair for veterans and their families. Over 20 organizations provided information about services as well as education and employment opportunities in the community. AmeriCorps members greeted the over 150 attendees, distributed patriotic star-shaped fans created by youth at some of our host site locations and supervised a craft area for youth.

Several programs converged in Albany on November 20 for the 2012 AmeriCorps Kickoff event. Members viewed program displays, heard testimonials of service and participated in a project for survivors of Hurricane Sandy. The keynote speaker was Tim Morehouse, an Olympic medalist in fencing and AmeriCorps alumnus. One of our members, Micah Brill, was selected to lead the AmeriCorps roll call, allowing each program a chance to enthusiastically announce its presence at the event.

The service of our members has enhanced the ability of organizations to provide caring relationships for young people, helped agencies recruit both youth and adult volunteers and allowed sites to either expand programming or add new services. AmeriCorps benefits our community and provides members with an opportunity to gain new skills, explore career options and finance their education. Use the contact information on the back of this report to inquire further about becoming a host site or a member of the Genesee County AmeriCorps program. You can learn more about AmeriCorps in general or other national service opportunities by visiting [www.nationalservice.gov](http://www.nationalservice.gov).

## Genesee County STOP-DWI & SADD

*The STOP-DWI Display circulated to 20 locations in 2012, primarily during prom/graduation season.*

The Genesee County Youth Bureau is the primary education agency for Genesee County STOP-DWI. Our theme, "Going Out Tonight? So Are We!" has been seen throughout the county with the Adult Campaign and road signs. This message was also echoed on the 3,500 bags distributed to liquor stores over the holidays and appeared in two paid ads in the Batavia Daily.

The display with that and other prevention information went on the road twenty times throughout the year, with prom

and graduation being our busiest season for the request of this resource.

Genesee Countywide SADD is funded by STOP-DWI and coordinated by the youth bureau. SADD members represent the eight school districts and Notre Dame at monthly meetings. The students develop in-school campaigns promoting positive decision-making in areas like drinking and drugging, relationships, driving, etc.

Members presented a workshop at the annual seventh & eighth grade

Youth Conference and also served as peer chaperones for the day. Throughout the year, the group also provides input for the GCASA Drug Free Communities Underage Drinking Task Force.

Several of our youth rang bells for Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign and purchased gifts for teens in need during the holidays.

Currently, SADD is working on a Family Fun Night at the YMCA for county residents. Look for STOP-DWI and SADD this year!

### 2012 Youth Board

**Alexander - Open**

**City of Batavia:** Amy Barone

**Town of Batavia:** Dawn Stiles-Rindell

**Byron/Bergen:** Laura Platt

**Darien/Corfu/Pembroke - Open**

**Elba:** Sandy Wojtaszczyk

**LeRoy:** Katherine Hens

**Oakfield/Alabama - Open**

**Pavilion/Bethany - Open**

**Stafford:** Catherine Plaisted

**Job Development:** Jay Lazarony, *President*

#### Youth Representatives

Rechel DeNise

Melissa Fite

Bryce Rogers

**Dept of Social Services:** Becca Nigro

**Mental Health:** Mike Fleming

**Probation:** Kevin Wright

**Health Department:** Doug VanSlyke

**Legislative Liaison:** Annie Lawrence



### Family Game Night

The Genesee County Youth Bureau's AmeriCorps program hosted its 9th annual Family Game Night on April 30, 2012.

Held in honor with National County Government Month, more than 200 county residents enjoyed 19 informational and interactive displays hosted by departments and

programs. Focusing on the 2012 theme of "Healthy Counties, Healthy Families" there were displays by the Genesee County Park, GLOW Solid Waste and Genesee County Health, Genesee County Emergency Management, County Manager and several others. This annual event provides a unique opportunity to educate the community about the many county services available to them and gives County Legislators a chance to interact with a group of constituents they may not often see.

Family Game Night encourages families to turn off their televisions and log off the internet to play an entertaining and interactive board game with each other. Youth Bureau AmeriCorps members and volunteers they've recruited host game tables and teach participants how to play various games.

Thanks to donations from several sponsors, each family received a free brand new board game to take home. A light dinner of pizza, veggies, fruit, beverage and dessert was also provided for a nominal fee. beverage and dessert was also provided for a nominal fee. For more information about Family Game Night, please contact the Youth Bureau .

## Genesee County Summer Tennis

The Genesee County Youth Bureau received funding from the United States Tennis Association (USTA) to aid provide fun, free and active tennis activities for children in Genesee and Orleans County.

The tennis program served seven parks throughout the two counties: Byron, LeRoy, Oakfield, Pembroke, Stafford, Kendall, and Lyndonville.

The program served over 250 kids again this year over the seven programs, ranging from

the ages of four to 14. The children were taught using the 10 and Under method which teaches youth the game of tennis while accenting fun and success. The grant provided children with all of the necessary equipment to learn the basics of tennis in a fun environment.

The Youth Bureau enjoys offering this program to our local municipal programs. We look forward to offering our service to even more children in 2013.

### Looking Ahead!

ANYSYB Youth Leadership Forum	2/11-2/12
National AmeriCorps Week	3/10-3/17
Youth Conference	3/12/13
Youth Recognition Banquet	4/16/13
Earth Day Service Project	4/20/13
Family Game Night 2013	4/25/13
Reality Check State Summit	7/15-17/13
Youth Board Card Making for Troops	12/5/13

## Citizen Corps Council Grant: Helping the Community Prepare for Emergencies

The Youth Bureau continued to coordinate a grant from the NYS Office of Emergency Management focused on providing preparedness information to elementary school students and their families, utilizing the STEP (Student Tools for Emergency Planning) curriculum. This effort is being undertaken in cooperation with the Genesee Region Citizen Corps Council and RSVP of Genesee County.

Teams of RSVP volunteers and high school students have been trained to present the STEP curriculum. Eight additional volunteers were recruited and trained this year. In 2012 a total of 229 students and 8 teachers were trained in STEP:

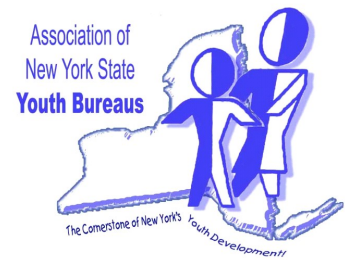
- St. Joseph’s School: 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 22 students and 1 teacher
- Pembroke Intermediate School: 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 74 students and 4 teachers
- Pavilion Elementary School: 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 54 students and 3 teachers
- Byron-Bergen Elementary School: 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 79 students

Each elementary student received an emergency starter kit and information to take home to their families. The teachers received an emergency kit for their classroom.

The presentations were well received by the students and teachers. Since the program started, a total of 389 students and 16 teachers have been trained. Additional sessions will be held prior to the end of the grant period, which is July 31, 2013.



Students from Batavia High School joined us on Make a Difference Day to assemble emergency backpacks that will be given to elementary students as part of the STEP program. STEP is being funded through our Citizen Corps Council Grant.



To learn more about New York State's system of youth bureaus, visit the Association of NYS Youth Bureaus website at <http://www.anysyb.net>

**Genesee County Youth Bureau**

2 Bank Street  
Batavia, NY 14020