

## Erie County Youth Bureau

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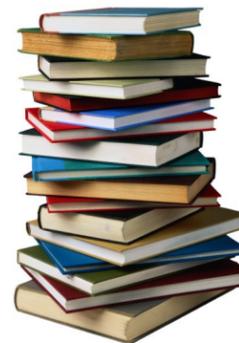
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**ECYB Mission: "To serve youth and families through asset development and advocacy, prevention, and intervention programs that strengthen families and communities."**

[www2.erie.gov/socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices)



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# Youth Bureau Tales

Volume 1, Issue 2

March 2014

## A Welcome Letter from the Deputy Commissioner

Happy New Year!

It's an exciting time for the Youth Services Division within Erie County as we continue to grow, strive to remain motivated and responsive to the needs of our youth and their families. As the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner I am confident we as a community will continue to work together and embrace the 3P's: Persistence, Perseverance and Passion.

As a community we are continuously transforming the way we operate to continuously improve our ability to work smarter and not harder. As a community we continue to meet and often exceed the challenges in our field to excel despite setbacks. I am very pleased to know where we are today and excited about where we are headed.

Before I finish, I'd like you to know that, as part of this collaborative community effort, we will continue to raise the Standard to Excel and Execute everything we say and do with Greatness! Again, I am very pleased to be aboard the Youth Services Team and I look forward to working with each of you and the teams that you lead!



Gary Damon, Jr., Deputy Commissioner-Youth Services

## A Letter from the Director

Welcome Back to the Youth Bureau Tales!

Happy 2014! I know I am not the only one who is excited for Springtime. Along with less snow (hopefully) Springtime also brings 2014 Year round site visits; both local youth bureaus and agencies, STSJP applications, Primetime applications and Year Round 2015 applications.

As always, we are looking forward to the variety of Summer and 2015 Year Round program applications. In addition, it is always great to be able to get out and see in person all of the hard work that our agencies and local youth bureaus accomplish.

Thank you to the agencies that sent in their information and pictures so that we can share your information with the community. Also a huge thank you to John Kordrupel for making this newsletter possible.

Best wishes,

Racheal Tarapacki, Director-Youth Bureau



To find out more information on the agencies mentioned in this edition, please check out their websites below:

◆ Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo: <http://www.bgcbuffalo.org/>

◆ Girl Scouts of Western New York: <http://www.gswny.org/>

## Youth Services Employees of the Month Recognized

Every month, one employee who works at the Erie County Youth Services facility is recognized for having gone above and beyond in their work to serve the youth who call 810 East Ferry Street "home" for some period of time. As such, we are proud to congratulate the following individuals for their recent outstanding performances for the months of December, January, and February, respectively.

Congratulations and keep up the good work!

◆ December: Tracy Krestos, Central Control

◆ January: Mike Long, Youth Detention Worker

◆ February: Diane Saxe, Administrative Clerk

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### Erie County Youth Board:

- \* Liza Acanfora
- \* LaVerne Ampadu
- \* Kendall Bazinet
- \* David Caywood
- \* Bill Conrad
- \* Tanya Hernandez
- \* Margaret Jones-Carey
- \* Susan Lumadue
- \* Juliana Norton
- \* Kathy O'Brien
- \* Mike Randall
- \*Carolynn Welch
- \* Tony Williams

## Primetime RFP Released; Information Session To Be Held

Spring is almost here, and so is Prime-time 2014!

The Primetime RFP was released on March 3rd. It can be accessed via our website.

An information session will be held on March 18th from 10:30am-12:00pm at Erie 1 BOCES, located at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

Special attention should be paid to the prioritized Service Categories. Programs that focus on at least one of these categories will be highly favored. The categories are as follows: Mentoring; Gang,



Violence, & Bullying Prevention; Educational Enrichment; Job Readiness; and Health Nutrition & Physical Activities. We are also seeking qualified agencies to work directly with the youth temporarily housed at the Secure Youth Detention Facility located at 810 East Ferry Street in Buffalo.

Programs offered by our funded agencies have historically included, but have not been limited to: Afterschool tutoring and Homework Help, Gang/Violence Prevention, Youth Employment, Faith and School-Based Initiatives, Runaway and Homeless Youth, Juvenile Justice/Diversion, and Mentoring.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming information session. We will provide more information, and questions pertaining to Primetime will be answered.

We are excited for what is to come in 2014 as we continue to develop existing partnerships and cultivate new ones with youth-serving organizations throughout Erie County.



## Youth Bureau Seeking Additional Youth Board Members

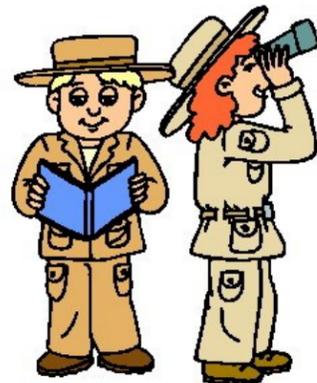
The Erie County Youth Bureau is seeking additional Youth Board members!

We hope to bolster our dedicated Board. We are currently seeking to fill eight vacant positions, including one position for a current high school student.

Board members review and approve applications for county funding for services to youth. In order to ensure that the youth of Erie County are receiving the best programs available, Board

members attend meetings on the second Monday of each month. They are also encouraged to attend site visits. Members are selected for their experience and knowledge in youth matters and are a valuable resource to the Board.

Interested individuals should submit a resume, statement of intent, and three references to Racheal Tarapacki, Youth Bureau Director, at [racheal.tarapacki@erie.gov](mailto:racheal.tarapacki@erie.gov). Further details can be found on our website under the "Youth Board" link.



## Agency Focus: Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo

In an effort to ensure that young people achieve great futures, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo features Job Ready!, a career enrichment program to support teen members in setting, pursuing and realizing career goals. Over 400 teen members have participated in job shadowing opportunities thanks to continued partnerships with local business.



Old Navy Camp provided members with the opportunity to shadow associates and staff from Old Navy at the McKin-

ley & Boulevard Mall stores. Throughout the day members learned about brand merchandising, inventory stock-

ing, loss prevention, and customer service. "We want our teens to take the advice and skills learned during their job shadowing opportunities and put them into action," said, Diane Rowe, CPO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Buffalo.

Job Ready! offers teens the experience and insight into a vast array of careers. They learn what it takes to achieve them, while developing the concrete skills and knowledge necessary to get started on their way to productive, fulfilling careers.

## Agency Focus: Girl Scouts of Western New York

Girls of all ages (in grades K-12) can join Girl Scouts to become part of a huge family. Girls join in a variety of ways, through one of the 5 Pathways to Girl Scouting:

1. The traditional Troop Pathway allows for caring volunteers to guide girls using cooperative learning, learning by doing and girl-led to grow, share experiences and develop values on their journey to develop leadership skills over the course of a year.
2. The Series Pathway offers the flexibility for girls to join a focus interest group for 6-8 weeks and for volunteers to commit to volunteering their expertise on a shorter, more flexible time frame.
3. The Camp Pathway has a focus on the outdoors and environmental education.
4. The Travel Pathway gives opportunities for girls to explore the world around them through local, regional, national and international travel.
5. Girl Scouts in the Event Pathway participate in programs related to a specific theme or purpose like career day or STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

**"Girl Scouting has something for every girl and adult volunteer! Through the Girl Scout Pathways, a girl can choose any one, all or some of the options - Troop, Series, Travel, Camp or Events."**

