

# Youth Bureau Tales

Volume 2, Issue 2

Summer 2014

Erie County Youth Bureau  
810 East Ferry Street  
Buffalo, NY 14211

## A Letter from the Deputy Commissioner

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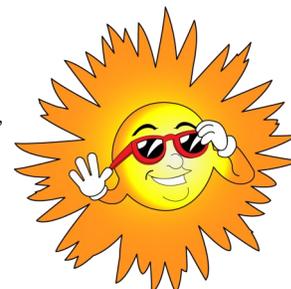
The final school bell has rung, the pencils and notebooks are packed away, and the children are ready for some summer fun! Whether it's swimming in the pool, taking a bike ride, family reunions, or attending summer enrichment programs, there is something for everyone.

Children who participate in summer enrichment programs each year are more likely to show improvements in academic achievement, attendance, and attitude during the school year. Summer enrichment programs often target children's specific needs by offering them the assistance necessary to demonstrate growth in many areas. One of the ways this can be accomplished is through positive youth development activities, field trips, science experiments, and arts and crafts, to name a few. This learning builds upon students' personal experiences which enhances classroom learning and engagement. High quality programs often incorporate unique learning strategies, which in turn increases students' mastery of skills and knowledge.

It's my hope that everyone enjoys this special time of year with family, friends and loved ones!

Happy Summer,

Gary Damon, Jr., Deputy Commissioner-Youth Services



### Erie County Youth Board:

- Liza Acanfora
- LaVerne Ampadu
- Kendall Bazinet
- David Caywood
- Bill Conrad
- Susan Lumadue
- Juliana Norton
- Kathy O'Brien
- Mike Randall

## A Letter from the Director

What a busy start to the summer at the ECYB! We are looking forward to the approval and start-up to all 2014 Primetime programs. As educators, we have heard a time or two, that summer programming helps youth to avoid the "summer slump" - that time when students forget everything they learned and teachers have to spend the first couple of months back to school re-teaching last year's information. This is definitely something that we at the Youth Bureau try to avoid by funding programs that help our youth in Erie County keep those minds and bodies active throughout the summer.

In addition, with all Local Youth Bureaus, Towns and Villages now a part of our Year Round application, we have a lot of reading to do!

I would like to thank all Youth Board members as they help us with this new process and as always John Kordrupel for putting together the newsletter!

Best wishes,

Racheal Tarapacki, Director-Youth Bureau



## Primetime 2014 Set To Begin Soon; 2015 Year Round RFP Released

We are looking forward to 2014 Summer Primetime programs beginning soon. Once approved, agencies will receive formal letters and then begin serving the youth of our County through the programs that we fund.

Primetime is anticipated to run from approximately July 7th-September 6th. We anticipate funding over 40 agencies, which will in turn provide critical services that are often lacking during the summer months.

In addition, the 2015 Year Round RFP has been released! The deadline for submission of proposals is June 6th at 3:00pm at 810 East Ferry Street, Buffalo, NY 14211.



We anticipate receiving many proposals, as this is the first funding cycle in which local youth bureaus will be applying directly to the Erie County Youth Bureau for year-round funding.



For both funding cycles, and going forward as well, special attention is being 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.

For the 2015 RFP funding cycle, 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.

Thank you to all who have applied and to those providing services to Erie County youth in 2014 and beyond!

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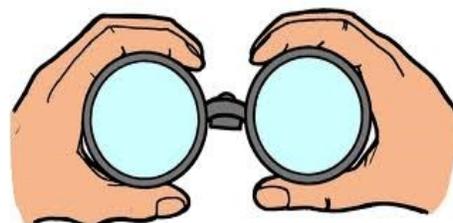
## Youth Bureau Continues Search for Youth Board Members

The Erie County Youth Bureau continues its search for additional Youth Board members!

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

Board members review and approve applications for county funding for providing 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 recent 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.

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## Agency Focus: Valley Community Association

The activities & programs that comprise the Valley Community Association's **Striving For Excellence Program** are many and varied.



Homework help is targeted, led by an Academic Coordinator who maintains regular communication with school day teachers. Physical Education classes are based upon the NYS Physical Education Standards & include age & developmentally appropriate activities.

Art classes are more than "arts & crafts"; designed not as educational lessons but rather educational lessons that also incorporate Math, ELA, Science, & Social Studies. Nature Ed-Ventures pro-

vides fun, hands-on STEM & nature classes that also align with NYS Standards.

Computer instruction is provided in a full-size computer lab that contains 24 computers, while "Reading Rocks" is taught by a Literacy Specialist and focuses on ELA skill building & comprehension. Finally, "Team Play" is an opportunity for youth to socialize as they play board games, read, or put together puzzles.

## Agency Focus: Jericho Road Community Health Center

One of the goals for the **Focused Learning for Youth (FLY) Program** is to present educational topics in an engaging and multifaceted manner.

Across the months spent studying architecture, FLY students brushed up on math skills relating to area, perimeter, and proportions, and new vocabulary words were introduced. Students also developed a greater awareness of the city in which they live through exposure to famous Buffalo architecture.



For the final project, students were divided into teams to build one-twelfth scale models of their dream club houses.

The plans for the club houses had been laid out on graph paper, but the end goal of a three dimensional model encouraged the students to exercise creative problem solving. At the end of the project, awards were given to the best club houses in different categories.

## Agency Focus: The Franciscan Center

The Franciscan Center's (TFC) mission is to assist young men in learning how to live a productive life.

The Franciscan Center has over 30 years of quality service to runaway homeless youth and youth in conflict. Their **Transitional Independent Living Program** can accommodate up to eight young men, serving adolescent males ages 16-20 for up to eighteen months.

*Says a resident, 'D': "I have grown as a person and learned that now is the time when I must be a mature young adult and no longer a child. Being here teaches me life skills such as cooking, cleaning, time management, and money management, that I will forever use in my life. I have been more involved in the community, now more than ever, and learned the value of a dollar and how valuable little things really are. Prior coming to TFC, I was going down the wrong path, and now I am on the right path to becoming a successful person in society."*

TFC addresses the needs of the youth in "body, mind, and spirit." The voluntary program provides shelter, food, case management, independent living skills and LIFE STEPS, with staff supervision 24 hours a day.



## Erie County Youth Bureau

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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)

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

- ◆ **The Franciscan Center:** <http://franciscancenterinc.org/wordpress/>
- ◆ **Jericho Road Community Health Center:** <http://www.jrm-buffalo.org/>
- ◆ **Valley Community Association:** <http://thevalleycenter.com/>

## 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 February, March, and April, respectively. Congratulations and keep up the good work!

- ◆ **May 2014:** Fran Baran, Head Nurse
- ◆ **April 2014:** Anthony Fistola, Juvenile Justice Counselor
- ◆ **March 2014:** David Pilato, Maintenance Worker

