



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

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Youth Bureau Chronicle



February 2016

A Letter From the New Deputy Commissioner

I would like to take the time to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to the youth of Erie County. Your agencies are making a positive difference in the communities **we** serve.

As the new Deputy Commissioner-Youth Services, I look forward to great collaboration between the Youth Bureau and the agencies that we partner with. I also look forward to great communication as we work together to provide great programs that respond to the needs of the youth in our communities.

My previous work history in social services includes more than twenty years working with at-risk youth. This work history includes my most recent job as Director of Residential Treatment at Gateway-Longview. I was Director of Residential Treatment at Gateway-Longview for approximately 14 years. Prior to becoming the Director at Gateway-Longview, I was a Cottage Supervisor and prior to that a Direct Care staff. I also served as a Direct Care staff at The Franciscan Center for over 20 years on a part-time basis.

On a personal level, I am an avid Buffalo Bills fan and love playing golf.

I look forward to meeting you and sharing strategies which will continue to make a positive impact on the youth and families of Erie County.

The work you do makes a positive difference. Keep up the great work!

A Letter From the Youth Bureau Director

It was a great pleasure to see so many of our friends, both new and old, at the 2016 Youth Development Program Orientation held recently at Erie 1 BOCES on January 20th.

Over 85 of your colleagues signed in representing almost 70 youth-serving agencies and local youth bureaus from throughout Erie County.

It helped to remind me that the services and programs offered in our corner of New York State by those of you who were in attendance and the organizations you represent are as strong and effective as they are innovative and diverse.

I am of the opinion that we should all be especially proud of the services that are provided to the young people of Erie County and of the community of dedicated professionals working to better the lives of Erie County's youth each day.

Your work makes our community special and a place where people want to put down roots and raise a family. I could not be happier or more grateful to be a part of that community.

Good luck in 2016 and I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming weeks and months ahead!

It's Not Too Early To Think About Summer: Primetime Is Just Around the Corner!

There may still be ice and snow covering the ground, but another round of Summer Primetime programming is just around the corner! In fact, the 2016 Summer Primetime RFP is scheduled to release on Tuesday, February 16th. Please keep an eye on our website for additional details and in order to download the application electronically.

An Informational Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 1st from 10:30AM-12:00PM at Erie 1 BOCES, located at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224.

Interviews for all of those who apply for Summer Primetime funding will take place on Tuesday, March 29th, again at Erie 1 BOCES, from approximately 1:30PM-7:30PM. Thank you for your interest in serving the youth of Erie County.



Summer Learning Day is an annual national advocacy day led by the National Summer Learning Association (NSLA) to elevate the importance of keeping kids learning, safe and healthy every summer. This year, National Summer Learning Day is July 14th, 2016. Stay tuned for additional details on how to get involved!

This summer, the Erie County Youth Bureau intends to coordinate with Say Yes to Education Buffalo. The second year of the Say Yes Summer Camp will take place this summer. Stay tuned to the Say Yes Buffalo website for more details.

The ECYB Summer Primetime RFP will include a check box as to whether or not the applicant is also applying for Say Yes funding. This will allow the Youth Board to make the best-informed decisions possible regarding the awarding of funds to not-for-profit agencies and local youth bureaus who intend to apply for both funding streams. This will allow the Youth Bureau and the Youth Board the opportunity to best serve the youth in our communities.

Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo: 2016 Application & Workshops Now Active

Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo (GGB) is a not-for-profit located in Buffalo that provides materials & resources for growing and sustaining community gardens locally. GGB has a new location and is now located at 30C Essex Street in Buffalo.

For any not-for-profits or other groups who seek to start their own community garden, the application for doing so is due by February 29th.

Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo is also offering Winter/Spring workshops. Attached with this newsletter is the current list of all of the workshops to be provided. Additional workshops will be added periodically.

Grassroots Gardens of Buffalo is committed to revitalizing neighborhoods through the use of community gardening.

The efforts on the part of community partners have been instrumental in creating positive change within the community.

GGB acknowledges that running and maintaining a garden is not an easy task. Watering, weeding, and harvesting are all very time-consuming, especially when you add in the time spent organizing gardeners and neighbors.

For additional information, or to obtain an application for 2016, please contact Derek Nichols at derek@grassrootsgardens.org.

Erie County Youth Services applied for and was awarded a grant in partnership with Grassroots Gardens last summer. Seeds, soil, and plants were provided by the not-for-profit. As a result, four raised garden beds were cultivated and about a dozen types of vegetables and herbs were planted and harvested by Youth Services staff and the youth being housed at the Secure Youth Detention Center. The youth were given an opportunity to learn about the benefits of community gardening and that hard work pays off! Some of the plants that were grown included peppers, tomatoes, broccoli, kale, collard greens, and basil. None of this would have been possible without GGB!

Planning Underway for Peace of the City's "Shakespeare Comes to (716)"

In 2009, Peace Of The City's (POTC) "Shakespeare Comes to (716)" began with one July performance of "Romeo and Juliet". Eight seasons later, our program continues to expand. Along with our full-length production of Shakespeare—currently three July performances at Shea's Smith Theater—we now have monthly opportunities for our cast members to participate in artistic venues throughout our WNY community. Following is a timeline that demonstrates all of the hard work and dedication goes into putting on just such a performance:

January 2016: New and veteran Shakespeareans receive practical theater training on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30pm at POTC.

February 2016: POTC staff and Shakespeareans are invited to give the keynote address at Arts Partners in Learning & Young Audiences Winter Forum Professional Development Conference "Youth and Arts Innovation" at the Buffalo Zoo. Our actors will perform an original piece, "To Be or Not to Be...A Celebration of Voices".

March 2016: POTC hosts its first-ever Shakespeare Workshop and Retreat at Cradle Beach in Lakeshore, NY. Theater professionals from Niagara University, UJIMA Theater, the Patsy Rodenberg Center for Voice and Speech, and others will teach workshops to teen and young adult Shakespeareans.

April 2016: POTC actors taking part in the University at Buffalo's BUFFALO BARD to commemorate the 400th anniversary of

Shakespeare's death. We will give the final performance at the Central Library!

May 2016: POTC auditions and rehearsals begin for our eighth season.

July 2016: Original production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" by the ensemble of "Shakespeare Comes to (716)" will take place at Shea's Smith Theater on July 21st, 22nd, and 23rd.



Computers for Children Offers Discounted Computer Packages!

"We are a non-profit organization with a simple mission – enhance the learning opportunities for at-risk schoolchildren by increasing their access to current computers & information technology. By improving the computer-to-student ratio, we help prepare our children for higher education and career opportunities. Over the past 16 years, we've donated more than 30,000 computers to schools and trained hundreds of underprivileged students on state-of-the-art computer applications.

To supplement our program funding we sell Microsoft Certified Refurbished computers. To help our partners we are able

to offer current technology at a greatly reduced rate to individuals, families, for-profit, and non-profit agencies.

Please find the flier attached with our current prices. As you will see, we offer the entire computer package—desktops all come with monitor, keyboard, tower, and a mouse. Installed software includes Google Chrome, Adobe Reader X, VLC Media Player, and Microsoft Security Essentials. *For our non-profit agencies we can offer the full Microsoft Office 2010 suite installed for only \$49!*

In addition to quality technology at an affordable price, CFC offers:

- *Site Evaluations of current equipment
- *Delivery and computers set up in lab or office
- *Computer repair
- *90-day warranty
- *Discount pricing on multiple units

Don't miss out on a great opportunity to update your technology.

We look forward to hearing from you!"

Christine Carr, Executive Director

Erie County Youth Bureau

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ECYB Mission: “To serve youth and families through support of positive youth development programs and juvenile delinquency prevention and intervention programs that strengthen families and communities.”



[www2.erie.gov/
socialservices](http://www2.erie.gov/socialservices) or search
“Erie County Youth Bureau”

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS:

- **Friday, February 5th, 6:30-9:30PM: Westminster Economic Development Initiative—“Winterfest 2016”, Buffalo State College Campbell Student Union (1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222)**
- **Wednesday, February 17th, 12-8PM: Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns—“National Fine Art Exhibit”, Microsoft Store @ Walden Galleria (1 Walden Galleria, Suite L108, Buffalo, NY 14225)**
- **Saturday, February 27th, 8:00AM-12:30PM: Young Audiences of WNY & Arts Partners for Learning—“Reaching Youth Through Innovation”, Buffalo Zoo (300 Parkside Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14214)**

“A professional development forum focused on social & emotional intelligence, health & wellness, STEAM programming, creative thinking in the classroom & workforce, youth entrepreneurship, & arts-integrated education. Visit www.aplwny.org/2016winterforum/ to register.

We welcome submissions of community events at any time, so please consider sending us notices of upcoming events that you believe might be of interest to your colleagues. Thank you!

