



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

Youth Bureau Chronicle



June 2016

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Erie County Youth Board:

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- Kendall Bazinet
- Kelli Blakeley
- David Caywood
- Jeffrey Davis
- Paul Denning
- Veronica Golden
- Peter Johnson
- Susan Lumadue
- Juliana Norton
- Mitchell Nowakowski
- Kathleen O'Brien
- Brian Rochford
- Sheila Schostick
- Ryan Taughrin

2nd Annual Primetime Picnic Planned for August 4th

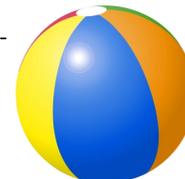
The Erie County Youth Bureau and Youth Board are pleased to announce that the **2nd Annual Summer Primetime Picnic** will take place on **Thursday, August 4th, 2016** at Chestnut Ridge Park from **11:00AM-3:00PM**.

Both agency staff and youth are invited, and we are hoping for a great turnout. There will be burgers and hot dogs (as well as a vegetarian option) cooking on the grill. There will also be lawn games as well as other entertainment appropriate for both youth and adults.

Sponsors are being organized, but there are still opportunities to volunteer your time and/or services in order to make this the best summer picnic yet! Please contact Ben or John if you're interested in taking an active part in this event. We will be sure to connect you with Sheila Schostick, Youth Board member and chair of the Event Planning committee.

Please RSVP by July 29th [using this link](#). Space is limited, so please be as accurate as you can with your count of both youth & staff. The enclosed flyer contains further information.

Thank you and we hope to see you in August to celebrate all of the accomplishments of Primetime!



Letter From the Editor

I don't typically pen my own piece in this newsletter, so I'm excited about the opportunity and I hope that you will consider reading on.

Summer has arrived and soon Ben Hilligas, Youth Bureau Director, and I will be hitting the road in search of great summer programming throughout Erie County. Generally, we know where we're going, but there is often a degree of adventure in the journey itself. Last summer, for example, while on our way to Camp Seven Hills in picturesque Holland, NY to visit the Girl Scouts, we took an unexpected detour because of a bridge that had washed out earlier that week. Pavement gradually became gravel, which quickly became dirt and thick vegetation. Suddenly, squirrels and birds of prey were mocking us with their scornful gaze as we meandered through the forest in a four-door sedan. Thankfully, we reached our destination without further incident. Touring the camp and speaking with staff and youth alike was a great pleasure. This experience can be used to sum up life. Plans change, often unexpectedly, but it's what you make of the journey and what you make of the outcome, that counts the most.

The Youth Bureau looks forward to a summer full of fun and learning, meeting new friends and making new roads where there were none previously. Thank you in advance to the 62 agencies funded this summer for your passion and dedication to the youth whom together we serve!

John Kordrupel, Youth Services Planning Coordinator

Agency Spotlight: P.C.C.B. Matt Urban Hope Center’s “Creative & Fun Kids Club”

The **Creative & Fun Kids Club** after-school program is located in Polonia Hall within the **Matt Urban Hope Center**. The program is devoted to supporting the youth living in the Broadway-Fillmore neighborhood for the purposes of enriching their lives and encouraging futures of success and happiness. Staff is dedicated to developing the social, emotional, physical, and academic wellness of youth so that they may grow into individuals who serve their community in positive, meaningful ways with love and purpose.

The program seeks to meet the basic needs of the community’s youth through a holistic, restorative, trauma-informed paradigm. We strive to be as intentional as possible in our use of recreation, art, literacy, and nutrition for the purposes of stress management, therapy, and wellness within a caring environment that enforces the importance of positive relationships and relationship-building.

‘As we always seek to acknowledge positive growth in our students, this month we would like to honor the successes of Natrice.

We met third-grader Natrice two years ago when she began attending the program, and watched her steadily grow into a successful student and confident individual with a diversity of talents and



interests.

Since becoming a consistent presence at Polonia Hall, Natrice has shown outstanding academic improvement and a personal desire to achieve to the best of her ability. Her socio-emotional character has strengthened as well, as she is able to show self-control in stressful situations during both in-school and out of school time.

This past month, Natrice has developed an openness to trying new foods such as celery, pears, hummus, and guacamole, which she now enjoys often, as well as new sports such as soccer. Natrice is certainly a student that we are proud to have represent Polonia Hall.

We are excited to watch her as she continues to grow into a successful young woman.’

~Kendra Durden

Agency Leader Spotlight: Gamileh Jamil, Access of Western New York

This issue marks the start of a new feature—an interview with one of the agency leaders with whom we partner. Our first guest is **Gamileh Jamil, Executive Director of Access of WNY**. I met up with Gamileh at Dog Ears Bookstore in South Buffalo, not far from where she grew up.

Gamileh has been working with youth since the age of 15. She joined the Board of Directors of the organization in 2013. Soon after that, she took a position as a full-time staff member. Earlier this year, she was named the Executive Director of the agency. She is responsible primarily for operational management and coordination at Access. She is also actively de-

veloping collaborative relationships with other organizations, most notably the City of Lackawanna and Mobile Safety-Net Team. She was a panel member last year at the ECYB’s 1st Annual Community Forum, held at UB’s E.O.C. in Buffalo.

When asked what the most fulfilling part of her job is, Gamileh spoke passionately about her staff, clients, and community partners, and how she always makes an effort to recognize both the humanity and the inner beauty in everyone with whom she interacts with.

A couple of things that most people don’t know about her—she enjoys hard rock music and sports. She particularly

enjoys playing sports—soccer, basketball, and swimming are among them.

When it comes to inspiration, Gamileh identifies her father. When Gamileh was 11 years old, her family traveled to Yemen. It was there that she developed a passion for helping others and fostering a sense of community. Gamileh also mentioned her faith, from which she continually draws strength.

This summer, Samir Jain, a 2016 High Road Fellow, is serving with Access of WNY. He is currently a first-year student at Cornell University. He is working with Access staff to build capacity for the organization.

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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:

- ◆ Saturday/Sunday, June 25th & 26th: **Boys & Girls Club of the Northtowns**—“Hooked on Fishing Tournament”, Gateway Harbor (1 Young Street, Tonawanda, NY 14150). RSVP to sobrien@bgcnt.net
- ◆ Monday, June 27th, 5:30PM check-in; 6:30PM start: **Peace of the City Ministries** in partnership with Slow Roll Buffalo—“Pedal for Peace” 10-mile fundraising bike ride, Resurgence Brewing Company parking lot (1250 Niagara Street, Buffalo, NY 14213):

*<https://www.crowdrise.com/pedal-for-peace/fundraiser/peaceofthecity>

*Stay for the After Party to see a special preview of “Shakespeare Comes to (716)” *Twelfth Night!*



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!

Erie County Youth Bureau
2nd Annual "Summer Primetime"

PICNIC

The word 'PICNIC' is written in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline. Inside the letters, there are black silhouettes of people engaged in various picnic activities: a person sitting on a bench, a person at a table with a picnic basket, a person standing, a person grilling, a person playing a game, and a person with a child.A large, smiling sun with a face, arms, and legs, positioned to the left of the main text.

The Erie County Youth Bureau and Youth Board invite you to join them for an afternoon of food & fun and to celebrate the accomplishments of 2016 Summer Primetime.

Thursday, August 4th, 2016
11:00AM – 3:00PM

Martin & MacKinnon Lodges
@ Chestnut Ridge Park
Orchard Park, NY

A red and black charcoal grill with smoke rising from it, located in the bottom left corner.A red and white checkered picnic table with a basket of food on it, located in the bottom right corner.A single red apple with a stem and leaf, located in the bottom center.

RSVP to benjamin.hilligas@erie.gov with number of guests by Friday, July 29th, 2016