



Central Shenandoah Valley  
**OFFICE ON YOUTH**

serving the Cities of  
Staunton and  
Waynesboro, and  
Augusta County

## OOY Staff In June 2011

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# Office on Youth 2010-2011 Annual Report

## NOT A HAND OUT BUT A HAND UP

**O**n a beautiful September day, I drove to Hugh Cassell Elementary School to meet Todd Campbell a “graduate” of the Office on Youth’s Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Todd had recently been hired by Augusta County Schools as a custodian at Cassell Elementary. It was my intention to talk to Todd about his SYEP experience and to see how he liked his current job.

My first encounter with Todd went something like this – the principal called Todd to the office to meet me. I asked Todd if he had just a few minutes to talk.

Todd said, “Right now I’m cleaning.”

I pleadingly looked at Todd and said, “Well then... can I come along and talk to you while you work?”

Todd said, “I guess.”

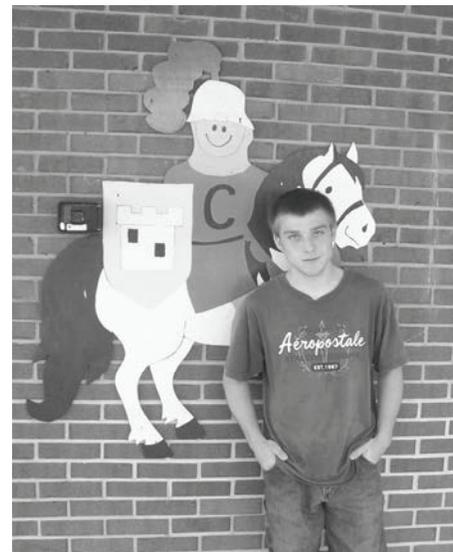
He headed off to the cafeteria to finish mopping the floor. I followed along with notepad in hand.

Immediately, I knew Todd took his work and his job seriously. He was conscientious, a hard worker, and really didn’t have time to talk to me while he was working. Todd’s supervisor, Jimmy Shifflett describes Todd as a boy “...who can’t sit still. He always has to be doing something. He is very energetic.” These are a few qualities that have made Todd a success.

Todd began participating in the SYEP at the age of 16 while attending Valley Vocational Technical School and working toward a graduation from Wilson Memorial High School. Todd struggled some in school and enjoyed the opportunity to learn hands-on job skills while earning a paycheck. For the next four summers, Todd worked as a custodian at Cassell Elementary. At first, Todd did basic cleaning, but the longer he worked, the more skills he gained. Todd learned how to use

the floor stripper machine, do lawn maintenance, and other general building repairs.

This past year, after obtaining his high school diploma, a position for a custodian became available at Cassell Elementary. Todd applied. The school principal and Mr. Shifflett interviewed all the candidates. They agreed that Todd was the man for the job because he possessed a strong advantage of actual work experience at the school. They knew Todd as an individual who had proven himself to be responsible, a hard worker, possessing a positive and willing attitude, and someone who had already learned the skills they were looking for in an employee.



Todd gives credit to his SYEP experience for helping him get his full-time job. Todd says, “It definitely helps you get your foot in the door. I appreciate the opportunity I had. I wouldn’t be here right now if it wasn’t for ya’ll [OOY].”

And just where is Todd? Todd has a full-time job with benefits. He recently bought his first truck; it is insured and registered in his name. He is working on saving up enough money to get his own place.

Todd writes on his facebook page, “I’m proud to say I’m a custodian. Its a job and puts money in my pocket and I help people and thats all I care about.”

-Joy Stultz

This report, represents a snapshot of the work and impact made by the Office on Youth during the 2010-2011 fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011.

### Supplemental Education

For students in grades 6-12 who are suspended or expelled from school, the **Pathway Program** provides structured programming in which these students can remain positively engaged during school day hours. In 2010-2011, the Pathway program provided structured tutoring and community service opportunities to *144 youth*.

### Employment Services Division

The Office on Youth fills the role of a “youth employment agency” in helping to prepare youth for the workforce by providing employment readiness training, on-site work experience and assistance in securing employment opportunities through the following three programs:

**Youth Corps** served *37 participants* ages 14-16 in Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County.

The **Out-of-School Youth Employment** program served *20 youth* who have been released from compulsory education by providing services such as employment advice, resume help, GED tutoring, and transportation to job interviews. Of these 20 youth: 5 secured permanent gainful employment, 2 successfully attained their GED, and 1 obtained their drivers license.

The **Summer Youth Employment** program employed *55 youth* at 40 different businesses in the community. Over \$55,000 was paid in wages to these youth.

### Programs For Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile Crime Control staff oversee a variety of programs and services to local court-involved youth. These services are designed to deter juvenile crime and provide alternatives to detention. A variety of services are provided to court-involved youth including but not limited to electronic monitoring, curfew checks, community service placements, anger management classes, and shoplifting alternative classes. In 2010-2011, services were offered to *560 court-involved youth*.

### Gang and Substance Abuse Prevention

SAW Coalition under the direction of the OYO oversees multiply strategies toward gang and substance abuse prevention. First, SAW Coalition seeks to educate the community about the gang and substance abuse problem. During 2010-2011, SAW Coalition members and staff conducted 45 presentations reaching a documented *5,109 people* as well as conducted media campaigns through radio ads, posters, banners and other print media.

Second, the SAW Coalition assists in building the capacity of other community organizations to develop and increase programming targeting at-risk youth. Toward this goal, the Coalition worked in partnership with the Staunton Recreation and Parks Department, the Nurturing Neighborhoods Network, and various faith-based groups.

Third, the SAW Coalition works in conjunction with area school systems to provide gang prevention and substance abuse prevention education. In 2010-2011, the SAW Coalition provided anti-drug messaging supplies to all area schools reaching an estimated 11,790 students. Coalition staff worked with 6 area high schools to develop and/or maintain active Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) clubs. Staff conducted presentations during club times and assisted with other outreach activities. The SAW Coalition sponsored 20 youth and their SADD Club advisor in attending the Virginia Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project conference, a week long event designed for youth leaders to develop youth-led school anti-drug plans.

### Empowered Youth

Empowered Youth is an afterschool and summer program for at-risk youth that consists of case management, professional counseling, life skills education, community service, academic assistance, communication skills, and recreational activities. Unlike traditional afterschool and summer programs, Empowered Youth is an intervention program targeting youth involved in delinquent behavior. This year long program was piloted during FY 11. Due to the nature of this program less youth were served but in a much more intensive manner. A total of *15 youth* were served.

**S.P.O.K.E.S.**

SPOKES stands for Supervised Program Offering Kids Effective Skills. This program provides middle and high school youth the opportunity to be engaged with a positive adult role model while learning bike repair. A SPOKES' session operates for a minimum of 15 hours and enrolls 4 youth at a time. Last year, SPOKES served *12 youth*.

**Teen Activities**

Teen activities are designed to create places where youth can socialize and interact with other youth without the pressure of using drugs or alcohol. In 2010-2011, the OOOY sponsored 8 substance-free teen activities reaching *1,008 youth*. This year's events included 2 events at Gypsy Hill Gym, 3 pool parties, Battle of the Bands, Rock the Block, and a teen holiday party.

**Teen Pregnancy Prevention**

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Division educates teens, parents, and the community about the emotional, physical and financial risks and responsibilities of sexual activity and parenthood. The goal is to enable adolescents to make healthy, informed decisions about their futures; while encouraging them to postpone initial sexual activity. The following is a description of programs offered:

**Family Life** is a program taught to area elementary school students on topics related to puberty, hygiene, and personal safety. Family Life was taught to *1,690 elementary students*.

**Vision of You** is a ten session decision-making program designed for middle and high school students. Vision of You was taught to *917 youth*.

Teachers and school personnel can ask for support from OOOY staff to address a variety of "sensitive" topics. OOOY staff taught *460 students* about various topics related to healthy relationships, sex, abstinence, birth control, and pregnancy.

**Baby Think It Over** utilizes a life-like infant simulator designed to educate youth about the demands of being a parent. In 2010-2011, *543 students* participated in the program by participating in fetal development education and by taking home an infant simulator.

**Parent Education and Support**

Five different parenting programs were offered by the OOOY: For Kids' Sake, Love and Logic, Parent Project, Loving Solutions, and Mom's Inc.

**For Kids' Sake** is an educational seminar for parents with custody issues resulting from divorce or separation, with the goal of providing parents with the knowledge and skills to nurture their children through this difficult process. In 2010-2011, *77 parents* completed For Kids' Sake.

**Love and Logic** is a basic parenting class for parents of children ages 3-18. This program teaches simple yet effective parenting techniques. This class serviced *66 parents*.

**Parent Project** is for parents and caregivers of strong-willed or out-of-control adolescents. The curriculum teaches strategies targeting the most destructive behaviors with the goal of stabilizing the family unit. This class serviced *55 parents*.

**Loving Solutions** is for parents and caregivers of strong-willed or out-of-control children ages 4-12. This class serviced *26 parents*.

**Mom's Inc.** is for mothers who currently are incarcerated at Middle River Regional Jail. Mothers learn how to maintain a relationship with their children and strategies for a smoother transition into the home after release. This class was offered once and serviced *11 mothers*.

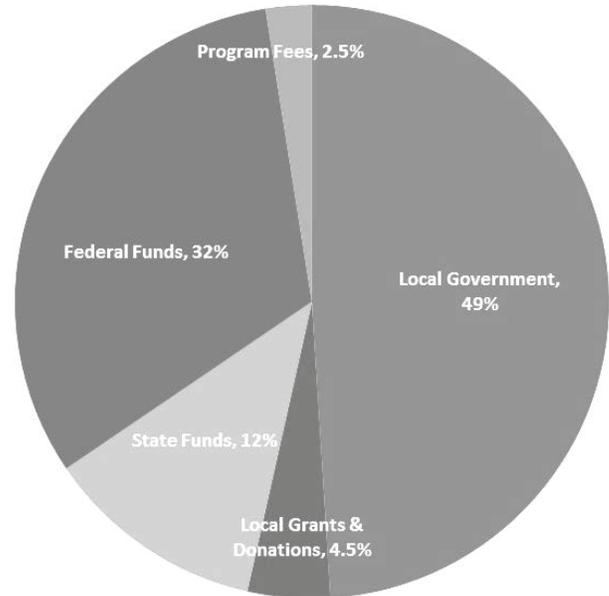
**Numbers Served By Program**

	2009-10	2010-11
After-school/ Summer Program	35	15
Employment Training Programs	102	112
Juvenile Justice Programs	453	560
Parenting Programs	192	235
Pathway Program	142	144
SPOKES	16	12
Teen Activities	1,759	1,008
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	2,840	3,610
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,859</b>	<b>5,686</b>

## Message from Director .....

Life has not been dull at the OOOY as we have struggled to sustain our services through these difficult times. We have applied for many grants – gotten some, not gotten others, and had one major potential funding source withdrawn. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our funding sources over the past year, without which we could not provide the level of programming that you see highlighted in this report. We are fortunate to receive a significant portion of our budget from local government funding and local funders. These local dollars are combined with state and federal grants as well as limited fees for services. Funding sources to support our FY 11 expenditures of \$905,345 are as follows:

- **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (49%):**  
Waynesboro City Government and School System;  
Staunton City Government and School System;  
Augusta County Government and School System;
- **LOCAL GRANTS AND DONATIONS (4.5%):**  
United Way of Greater Augusta; Community Foundation of the Blue Ridge; Augusta Health Foundation;  
Various civic and community groups;
- **STATE FUNDS (12%):**  
Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Funds;
- **FEDERAL FUNDS (32%):**  
Drug Free Communities Grant; Department of Justice Justice Assistance Grants; Workforce Investment Act funds;
- **PROGRAM FEES (2.5%)**



This is a broad list and doesn't begin to capture the multitude of individual donors who have contributed to various programs. I offer a big heart felt THANK YOU to all of our funders and contributors who have helped us to serve local children, youth and families over the past year.

*Carol Blair*

### About the Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth:

The OOOY is a regional government agency committed to meeting the needs of youth and families in Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. The Regional Youth Commission provides citizen input to the OOOY Director on issues relating to youth programming, funding, and community needs. Commissioners serve as youth advocates and OOOY ambassadors. The Commission is comprised of 15 members, 5 from each locality.

Commissioners for the past year were:

**Augusta County**– Kendra Beyeler, Steve Bridge, Holly Herman, Erin Staebell, Linda Yancey

**Staunton**– Ron Cartwright, Yamon Crawford, Chance Crawford, Carol Fortune, Jack Lee

**Waynesboro**– Chloe Berry, Brian Edwards, Jeff Long, Tonya Marion, Judith Walden

