

**Central
Shenandoah
Valley Office
on Youth**

**Annual Report
2011-12**



Office On  outh
Central Shenandoah Valley

Dear Friends,

January 6, 2012 marked my 20th anniversary as Director of the Office on Youth. The OYO has grown and expanded exponentially since 1992, and it has been an honor to lead this organization. After much thought and deliberation, I have decided to retire and pass the torch to a new leader who will take the OYO to even greater heights.

I would like to formally acknowledge some vital individuals and organizations who have made my career as Director of the Office on Youth a pleasure and a success. I am grateful to the City of Waynesboro for giving me my start and for Mike Hamp, Waynesboro City Manager, for providing me with leadership and support throughout my career and especially during the regionalizing of this Office. I am grateful to the City of Staunton for requesting that I take over leadership of their Office on Youth in 1998 and for Augusta County acknowledging the importance of this work and joining with us in 2000, completing our regionalization. I am grateful for the continued support of the Staunton City Manager, Steve Owen and Augusta County Superintendent, Pat Coffield as well as the respective elected officials and fellow department heads in all three localities.

I leave behind an organization full of vibrant employees who are excited about the future of the OYO. It has been a joy to participate in the good work of this Office, and it will be a pleasure to see it continue under new leadership. In preparation for new leadership, staff revised our Mission statement and developed Vision and Value statements.



Mission Statement: To develop positive connections between youth, their families and community.

Vision Statement: The OOH seeks to create a future where youth thrive in a healthy family and enrich their community.

Value Statements:

- 1) We value impacting youth and families by
demonstrating a sincere concern for others, for their needs and well being;
empowering youth and families to achieve success;
evaluating and improving programs in response to community needs;
providing opportunities for growth.
- 2) We value partnering with others in our community by
anticipating and responding to community needs;
building and maintaining networks for effective service delivery;
creating a supportive environment that nurtures inclusion, respect and a cooperative spirit;
sustaining and cultivating effective communication with community partners.

I will be forever grateful to this organization for giving me the opportunity to be a part of creating so many programs and services that have positively impacted countless lives. Thank you for your support of me and for your continued support of this Office. The Office on Youth is a wonderful organization and has much to offer the community. Please support them during this transition as they carry on for years to come. It's just going to keep getting better.

Carol Blair

The Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth

The Central Shenandoah Valley Office on Youth is a regional government agency serving Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County. The OYO has served the community since 1977 and is committed to providing resources and services to area youth and their families.

The Regional Youth Commission provides citizen input to the OYO Director on issues relating to youth programming, funding, and community needs. Commissioners serve as youth advocates and OYO 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– Carol Fortune, Brocky Nicely, Jack Lee, Lori Nicholson, Alexis Wagner
Waynesboro– Chloe Berry, Brian Edwards, Jeff Long, Judith Walden

The OYO has many partnerships with local youth-serving organizations, schools, faith-based institutions, local businesses, and area non-profits. The Office also greatly benefits from its connection with the three localities and is grateful for the regular support received from the City of Waynesboro, the City of Staunton, and the County of Augusta. It is through these partnerships and connections that many of the programs offered are made possible.

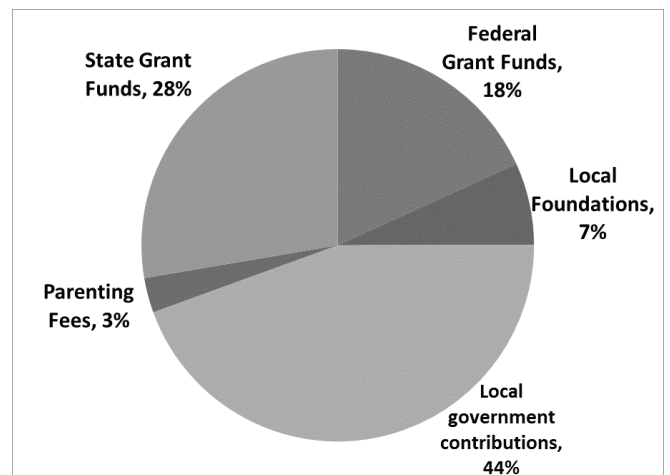
The Office on Youth would like to give special recognition to the following local agencies who regular support the OOH:



Financial Highlights

During 2011-2012, the OOH:

- operated 17 different programs throughout the second largest geographic county in Virginia
- served close to 6,000 youth and parents
- employed 14 full-time and 7 part-time employees
- only 44% of budget funded by local tax dollars
- leveraged \$500,000 of its \$977,516 annual budget from federal, state, and local grant funds



Programs for Juvenile Offenders

Juvenile Crime Control staff oversee a variety of programs and services for 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 2011-2012, services were offered to 317 court-involved youth.

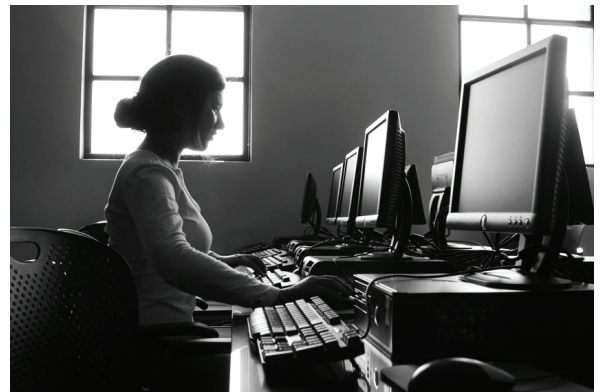
These programs are provided by state funding from the Virginia Juvenile Justice Community Crime Control Act (VJJCCCA). The purpose of the VJJCCCA is "to deter crime by providing immediate, effective punishment that emphasizes accountability of the juvenile offender for his actions as well as reduces the pattern of repeat offending" (Code of Virginia, §16.1-309.2).

The American Correctional Association estimates that, on average, it costs the Commonwealth of Virginia \$280 per day -- around \$102,000 a year -- for every youth in a juvenile facility.

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 hours. Students work to complete missed school work or earn high school credits through licensed and approved online educational services or they can work toward a GED. In the past five years, enrollment in Pathway has increased by nearly 40%. During 2011-2012, Pathway provided structured tutoring to 143 youth.

In the past two years, the local school systems have offered students the opportunity to continue academic coursework while suspended or expelled by enrolling in online courses. Pathway has played a significant role in helping many students enroll and complete these online classes. In 2012, Pathway received a grant from the Community Foundation of the Central Blue Ridge Youth Philanthropy Council to help purchase four new computers to upgrade technology to meet this rapidly expanding program.



 **Community Foundation**
CENTRAL BLUE RIDGE

Employment Services

The Office on Youth serves as a “youth employment agency” by providing employment readiness training, on-site work experience and assistance in securing employment opportunities through the following three programs:

The **Summer Youth Employment** program employed *46 youth* at 36 different businesses in the community. Over \$58,000 was paid in wages to these youth.

The **Out-of-School Youth Employment** program served *11 youth* who had been released from compulsory education, by providing services such as employment advice, resume help, GED tutoring, and transportation to job interviews. Of these 11 youth: 4 secured permanent gainful employment, 1 successfully attained his GED, and 2 obtained their drivers license.

The **Youth Corps** program served *58 participants* age 14-16 in Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County. Due to a decrease in funding for this program, the decision was made in the Summer of 2012, to discontinue the Fall and Spring Sessions of Youth Corps and offer this program in the summer only.

AUG 29, 2012

Kendall did an excellent job in his mentorship. He was a pleasure to have and it was amazing to watch his development.

He made real connections with the folks he worked with; everyone liked Kendall. They threw him a farewell lunch on his last day and some of the guys got a little misty-eyed (though they tried to hide it) when Kendall told them he loved them all.

By the end of the summer he had truly gotten into the swing of things, working out his own schedule with the various operation divisions on his own.

He did not warm up to the idea of becoming a civil engineer, any engineer, or a public works employee but he contributed to real work everyday and I think he learned a lot... about work, and about people.

Thanks to you (C.O.R.) for running the mentorship program and allow Kendall to work w/ us. We both learned a lot.

Todd

Todd D. Wood, P.E.
City Engineer

This letter is a testament to the work of the OOH, the community members who support us by working with our young people, and the impact we can make together.

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 youth to make healthy, informed decisions about their futures; while encouraging them to postpone sexual activity. The following are descriptions of programs offered by OOH staff:

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 *1,767 elementary students*.

Vision of You is a ten session decision-making program for middle and high school students. Vision of You was taught to *1,177 youth*.

Teachers and school personnel can ask for support from OOH staff to address a variety of “sensitive” topics. OOH staff taught *961 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 2011-2012, *358 students* participated in the program by participating in fetal development education and by taking home an infant simulator.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention staff were **guest speakers** at various venues to address a variety of “sensitive” topics. OOH staff spoke to *710 youth* at local summer camps, parent classes, the Middle River Regional Jail, the Shenandoah Valley Juvenile Detention Center, and the Salvation Army.



The following story is from Donna Wells, former TPP staff:

“I wanted to share some GOOD news about a prior participant. At the Wilson High School health fair on March 23, 2011, I received too many hugs for me to remember them all... but, one stuck out in particular. As I stood at my table, I was startled by arms reaching around me from behind and then a voice that said, “I just love you so much and thank you for always loving me back.” I turned around to see a young man whom I had taught in elementary, middle, and high school. I had also had the pleasure of serving him in our summer programs. Needless to say he was quite a handful. I asked this now senior in high school what his future plans were and he said he is going to be studying graphic design at Radford University in the fall. I’m so very proud of him!!

Parent Education and Support

Five different parenting programs were offered by the OOH in 2011-2012: For Kids' Sake, Love and Logic, Parent Project, Loving Solutions, and Mom's and Dad'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 2011-2012, *83 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 served *68 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 served *42 parents*.

Loving Solutions is for parents and caregivers of strong-willed or out-of-control children ages 4-12. This class served *29 parents*.

Mom's Inc. and **Dad's Inc.** is for mothers and fathers, respectively who are incarcerated at Middle River Regional Jail. Participants learn how to maintain a relationship with their children and strategies for a smoother transition into the home after release. Mom's Inc. was offered once and served 8 mothers. Dad's Inc. was offered twice and served 18 fathers.



“We as parents find this class really outstanding and really helpful. Before this class I felt hopeless and thought this life of behavior would never end. Now we have some kind of light and hope and all the thanks goes to the class facilitators. With their hard work and effort, they make people feel hope again. My son benefits from this class as well, because he comes out of class each week waiting to see us to tell us what he learned and then we discuss his class as a family.”

—Parents of 13 year old son enrolled in Parent Project and Teen Project

Gang and Substance Abuse Prevention

SAW COALITION



The SAW Coalition, under the direction of the OOOY, oversees multiple strategies that support gang and substance abuse prevention in the community. During 2011-2012, SAW Coalition members and staff conducted or participated in 55 presentations and community events reaching over *10,000 people* as well as conducted media campaigns through radio ads, posters, banners and other print media.

BE A PART OF THE “BIG PICTURE!”

With the help of a grant from the Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Board, the SAW Coalition conducted a media campaign educating parents about underage drinking laws and their rights and responsibilities as parents. The ***Parents Who Host Lose the Most (PWHLTM)*** campaign was implemented throughout the Staunton, Waynesboro, and Augusta County area. Over 500 *PWHLTM* stickers were distributed on pizza boxes by Papa John’s restaurants; 196 yard signs were erected by schools, businesses, and local citizens; all 7 high schools displayed banners; 140 posters and 190 table tents were distributed; 3 different radio PSAs were aired on 3 different radio stations at least 675 times during the two-month campaign; one, 20-minute radio show featuring the *PWHLTM* message was aired; and 3 television interviews were

conducted. Over 1,000 postcards educating parents about their legal responsibilities and the law regarding teenage drinking were distributed, mostly through local pharmacies. A total of 33 businesses collaborated with the *PWHLTM* campaign.

The **SAW Coalition** works in conjunction with area school systems to provide gang prevention and substance abuse prevention education and implements other gang and substance abuse deterrent strategies. In 2011-2012, the SAW Coalition provided anti-drug messaging supplies to all area schools reaching an estimated 11,000 students.



SAW Coalition staff worked with all 7 area high schools to develop and/or maintain active **Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) clubs**. A regional SADD club Olympics was held with 40 youth in attendance. Two Sticker Shock campaigns were conducted with 13 youth and local school resource officers. The Sticker Shock campaign is part of a community effort to make adults aware of the consequences of providing alcohol to minors. The SAW Coalition sent 18 youth and their SADD Club advisor, representing 4 different high schools, to the Virginia Youth Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Project conference (YADAPP), a week long event designed for youth leaders to develop school anti-drug plans. YADAPP teams came back ready to make a difference in their schools by providing positive messages/campaigns to deter youth from engaging in destructive behaviors.



All three area law enforcement agencies and local school systems collaborated with the SAW Coalition to support and provide enforcement activities around school proms. Police provided surveillance and parking lot checks at 6 high schools during their proms. After-prom party patrols were conducted the night of each prom. During the saturation patrols, four youth received warnings related to suspicious behaviors; 31 adults received warnings; 4 adults were arrested for illegal activities, and 1 adult was charged with possession of alcohol.

The SAW Coalition also completed an intensive Gang Needs Assessment from which three areas were identified as high-risk neighborhoods in need of targeted services. These areas are within Staunton, Waynesboro and Augusta County respectively. Utilizing state and federal grant funds, the SAW Coalition planned and conducted One-Stop-Resource-Fairs in the target communities that were designed to bring needed community resources directly to residents. Direct programming to youth living within these identified areas began in April and continues to be a major initiative of the OOOY. Programs provide structured after-school activities one day a week on-site within the identified areas. Activities include guest speakers, crafts, sports, and homework assistance. The summer program averaged 25 people participating each day; the after-school program averaged 15 people participating each day.

In addition to prevention programming, the SAW Coalition collaborates with area law enforcement to conduct targeted suppression/intervention patrols within these identified areas. Using state grant funds, undercover surveillance equipment was purchased to assist local police in their investigations of gang activities and has supported extra police patrols within the identified areas..

Teen Activities are designed to create opportunities where youth socialize and interact with each other without the pressure of using drugs or alcohol. The OOH sponsored 8 teen activities reaching *1051 individuals*. Events included: 2 events at Gypsy Hill Gym, 3 pool parties, Battle of the Bands, Rock the Block, and a teen holiday party.

S.P.O.K.E.S. 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 bicycle repair. Last year, SPOKES served *12 youth* who volunteered 144 hours repairing 32 bicycles. All of the repaired bicycles were distributed within the community.

Staff Additions

Keri Jones joined the OOH as a Gang and Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator in February. Keri is originally from the Outer Banks of NC but made the Valley her home in 1992 when she came to Eastern Mennonite University to attend college. She has two awesome sons with whom she loves to kayak, camp and hike. Keri is known to laugh... a lot!



Two additional staff joined the OOH in August shortly after the close of the FY 11/12 fiscal year.



Jessica Marino joined the OOH as a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program Assistant. Prior to working for the OOH, she was a cross country coach at Lee High School. She enjoys her job because she says, teenagers have a special kind of energy about them that makes them fun. She loves running, walking, hiking, or doing just about anything outdoors.



Glenn Martin joined the OOOY as the Gang Prevention Coordinator. Prior to working at the OOOY, Glenn was an Assistant Superintendent for the Alaska Department of Corrections for 20 years. He is very active with local civic organizations and is passionate about service and mission projects. Glenn loves to make people smile and enjoys the outdoors, hiking and exploring with his camera.

OOOY Staff June 2010—July 2011

Management Team

Carol Blair
Amber Ham
Terri Hagenlocker
Ginny Newman
Joy Stultz

Teen Pregnancy Prevention

Meredith Keppel
Alexandra Klein
Donna Wells

Supplemental Education

Isaac Diggs
Bill Hollandsworth
Regina Wenger
Tammy Zirkle

Gang and Substance Abuse Prevention

Diane Kellogg
Keri Jones
Nancy Tyree

Juvenile Crime Control

Kathy Gilliam
Dirk Robertson

Employment Services

Sharon McGaughey
Shawn McLain

Family Services

Tami Mullin
Judith Schrauder

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