



Court Youth Advocate Program

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Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2020

COVID-19 does not deter volunteer's efforts within CYA Program

Despite social distancing and stay at home requirements provided by CDC as well as other Federal & State authorities, CYA volunteers are finding ways to stay connected with appointed youth. Using cellphone contact such as calling or texting is the most convenient way to maintain a connection. Other means include various other platforms such as Skype or Zoom to invite a virtual visit with youth at home. Youth staying in residential facilities would benefit from phone communication since most in the state are not allowing face-to-face visits during the pandemic crisis.

We are committed to volunteer, youth and community safety and in that effort, staff has been working remotely. Our focus is to provide you with resources to support and assist your efforts in maintaining consistent contact with your youth at a time when supervision is most likely at a minimum. Research shows that abuse/neglect dramatically increase when school is out. If you are unable to contact your teen longer than a week, please contact us to initiate a DCS wellness check. Your efforts to keep connected can assist with keeping kids' safe despite of risk of anxiety and stress from economic and health uncertainty for all. Thank you for all you do!



Volunteer Birthdays

January - May

January 4- Daryl Penfold
January 6- Natalie Conlon
January 26- Tommy Watkins
February 3- Maggie Fritzen
March 2- Larry Sheagley
March 4- Cheryl Sietz
March 19- Isaac Moore
April 3- Kayla Jackson
May 15- Kylie Foster

A MENTOR IS
SOMEONE WHO
ALLOWS YOU TO
SEE THE HOPE
INSIDE
YOURSELF.

- Oprah Winfrey



Shop with a Cop

On December 7 of 2019, the annual *Shop with a Cop* event took place. Local Police Officers, CYA volunteers and other service providers helped CYA youth shop for different items the youth needed with money donated by La Porte Police Department fundraising efforts as well as La Porte FOP and Lefeber & Sons. The event shows youth a different perspective of police officers instead of the negative.

Mentoring Collaborative

January is known as National Mentoring Month and has been proclaimed the same in La Porte County! On January 30, the mentoring collaborative held a *Celebrating Our Youth* Luncheon in an attempt to get the word out about the positivity mentoring gives into those who are not only being mentored, but the ones who are mentoring. The collaborative is made of the La Porte Community School Corporation's Slicer Champions, Michigan City Area Schools' Safe Harbor H40, Youth Service Bureau's School Buddies, The Boys & Girls Club's Al Whitlow Experience, and the Court Youth Advocate Program.



Mentoring Collaborative with Kris Pate, United Way Executive Director who is a sponsor, La Porte Mayor Tom Dermody and Michigan City Mayor Duane Parry holding signed proclamations for January as National Mentoring Month in our respective communities.

CYA Bowl-a-Thon

On January 25, the Court Youth Advocate Program held their fifth annual CYA Bowl-a-Thon! This year's theme was Harry Potter and how "The Magic is in our Choices." Bowlers were encouraged to show up in wizard costumes and have fun with their family and friends. This year, eighty-two bowlers attended the fundraising event.

Each year two individuals, one adult and one youth, are chosen as the highest fundraisers for the event. This year, Cheryl Seitz and Dylan Fritzen won the highest fundraisers for the event and went home with Harry Potter themed goodie baskets. Along with the individual awards, one team is chosen as the highest fundraising group of the event. This year's winner was Team Wolf Pack that included youth from the local middle school. The CYA Program wants to thank all who came out and had fun with us!



Upcoming Events

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic, the Volunteer Appreciation Brunch is postponed and will be announced when more information becomes available.

The Child Abuse Prevention Month activity dates are postponed at this time.

We will provide updates as they are available by email and our Family Advocates Facebook page.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions you may have during this challenging time.

