

MISSION STATEMENT

TO STRENGTHEN YOUTH AND FAMILIES

AND TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE
OF DELINQUENCY, ABUSE
AND NEGLECT THROUGH
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT.

SPONSORS

OAKLAND COUNTY CIRCUIT
COURT – FAMILY DIVISION

PONTIAC SCHOOL DISTRICT

CITIES OF PONTIAC
AND AUBURN HILLS

Board meetings are held the third
Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m.
at the pontiac youth assistance office.
The public is welcome to attend.

HISTORY

Youth Assistance began in 1953 with a group of Hazel Park citizens and Juvenile Court Judge Arthur Moore. Together they developed a program to assist troubled youth within their own communities rather than referring them to Juvenile Court. The Y.A. Program has expanded over the years and is now a unit of the Oakland County Circuit Court – Family Division with 26 offices throughout Oakland County. Caseworkers are available in each school district to provide counseling services to youth and their families. These programs exist due to a unique tri-sponsorship with the local government, the local school district, and the Oakland County Circuit Court – Family Division.

All Y.A. counseling and referral services are offered to Oakland County residents free of charge. The participation of youth and their family is voluntary and confidential. Although the program is sponsored by the courts, there is no judicial or legal action.

**Parental permission is required.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.pontiacyouthassistance.org
OR CALL 248-451-7549



Strengthening Families
Through Community Involvement

248-451-7549

WHITMER HUMAN RESOURCE CENTER
COMMUNITY LEVEL/SUITE 2

60 PARKHURST

PONTIAC, MICHIGAN 48342

FAX: 248-451-7543

EMAIL: linda.taylor@pontiacschools.org

WWW.PONTIACYOUTHASSISTANCE.ORG

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Youth Assistance programs are community-based, and developed by volunteers who live and/or work in the communities in which they serve. The Circuit Court provides the professional staff to work with the volunteers and to provide direct casework services. Each local Youth Assistance program operates under the sponsorship and financial support of its local school district, the municipalities therein, and the Probate Court/Circuit Court-Family Division. Additional funding is obtained through grants, donations, and local fund-raising efforts.

The Oakland County Youth Assistance Coordinating Council, Inc. provides advice, consultation, and support to the Central Office and to the local Youth Assistance Boards. The Council provides training for local officers and coordinates county-wide events. It seeks and distributes grant monies to the local Boards, and produces the Youth Assistance newsletter.

EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting is an event open to the community where sponsors, community partners and concerned citizens can gather to recognize PYA's work and highlight the accomplishments of the program in the past year.

BOWL-A-THON

The Bowl-A-Thon is an annual fundraiser that provides support for Skillbuilding, Camp Scholarships and other programs designed to help youth.

PONTIAC YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

CASEWORK SERVICES

Youth Assistance provides free, confidential, short-term, family-centered counseling and referral services for young people, 16 years of age or younger and their families, who live or attend school in Oakland County. Referrals are accepted from schools, police, neighbors, and parents themselves with concerns about their child. The Family Division's Intake Unit diverts cases when, in their judgement, Youth Assistance services are most appropriate. Typical reasons for referral include retail fraud, school and home problems, assault, alcohol and other drug abuse, and violations of local ordinances.

FAMILY EDUCATION

Youth Assistance offers a variety of programs all aimed at improving communication between parents and their children, understanding child development, and enhancing parenting skills. By offering a variety of programs, families can choose the program that meets their needs at the time, and can continue to attend sessions as their children grow and change, presenting new issues that need to be addressed. These programs are frequently co-sponsored by other community groups, libraries and/or the local schools.

YOUTH RECOGNITION

Young people are recognized for making positive, volunteer contributions to their communities. Nominations come from schools, hospitals, churches, fire and police departments, and private citizens who have been helped by a youth. Local, county, and state dignitaries participate in making these events very special.

MENTOR'S PLUS

Adult volunteers are matched with a youngster, age 5 to 16, on a one-to-one mentoring basis. Adult applicants are screened and trained prior to placement. Additional training and consultation are provided throughout the match period. Each adult volunteer is asked to commit 1-2 hours per week with a match for at least one year. In addition, group and countywide activities are held. Many matches extend beyond the initial commitment.

CAMP

Camp scholarships are provided to young people who are in need of either a day camp or overnight experience. Some camps are right in the community, while others require transportation. They include specialty camps, such as basketball clinics and music camps, to those designed to improve math, science and computer skills, and others where young people learn to interact while fishing, hiking and sitting by a campfire roasting marshmallows.

SKILLBUILDING

Youth Assistance provides scholarships to youth who would benefit from a positive learning experience, designed to enhance their self-esteem, and a specific skill such as math and reading tutorial, dance, voice, musical instrument or art lessons. The scholarships are tailored to meet the unique needs of each youth who participates.

