

2023-2024 ANNUAL REPORT BIRMINGHAM YOUTH ASSISTANCE We are BYA! You are BYA!

Birmingham Youth Assistance

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From Our Chair: Ann Nazareth Manning

"History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children."



Nelson Mandela's words capture the essence of the work we do at Birmingham Youth Assistance, helping young people and their families work through everyday struggles, both large and small.

Our talented caseworker, Catherine Womack, works tirelessly in counseling children in our community, helping them cope with and work through a variety of challenges. These are not easy times to be a child. Many still struggle with anxiety and social and behavioral issues stemming from the pandemic. Drug abuse is a bigger risk for our children than ever before, with products readily available and marketed in candy-like flavors and colors. Domestic and economic pressures at home and social media are additional stressors children face. Fortunately, young students and their families can be referred to Birmingham Youth Assistance for professional casework services.

In addition to Catherine, I am honored to work with a team of dedicated volunteers who support our programming, such as camp scholarships and a program that shines a spotlight on students with a passion for serving their community. These volunteers also work to strengthen our community by planning fun events for the whole family, such as the Kids' Dog Show, Touch a Truck, and Breakfast with Santa. I'm particularly grateful to our hardworking officers — Vice Chair Susan Robbins, Secretary Eileen Pulker, Treasurer Dick Stasys, and former Chair Dave Wind.

Birmingham Youth Assistance is very grateful to our sponsors who make all of our work possible. We receive generous support from the Oakland County Circuit Court – Family Division, our local municipalities (the City of Birmingham and the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin), and the Birmingham Public Schools.

I'd like to end with an anecdote from earlier this year that warmed my heart. At our 41st annual Kids' Dog Show, I spoke with a family who personified the important role Birmingham Youth Assistance has played in community life for generations. There with us at the Berkshire Middle School gym were two young girls who have competed annually in the Best Costume event for years, their mother who competed herself as a child in one of our first shows, and the girls' grandmother. I hope that, one day, these 5th grade students will come back to the Kids' Dog Show with their own children.

For information about upcoming Events and Programs check out the BYA website at www.birminghamyouthassistance.org

Kids' Dog Show

Birmingham Youth Assistance held its 41st Annual Kids' Dog Show at Berkshire Middle School on Sunday, February 4th. Approximately 50 families and their four-legged canine friends competed in five fun events. The judging panel awarded prizes to the following students and their pets:

Best Costume— Alexis and Bridget Meathe, 5th graders at West Maple Elementary School, and their Labradoodle, Randy

Waggiest Tail— Jessica Swanson, 1st grader at Pembroke Elementary School, and her Coonhound, Ryder

Best Trick— Ruqaya Zahr, 6th grader at Berkshire Middle School, and her Bourbon Shepherd, Luna

Musical Sit— Amalia Berger, 4th grader at Hillel Day School, and her Labradoodle, Vince

Best Looking— Jaime Ishbia, 4th grader at Harlan Elementary School, and her Mini Goldendoodle, Daisy **Best in Show**— Jaime Ishbia, 4th grader at Harlan Elementary School, and her Mini Goldendoodle, Daisy

The Kids' Dog Show was strengthened by the generosity of its sponsors: Premier Pet Supply, Mills Pharmacy, Beverly Hills Veterinary Associates, Fluff & Tuff, Southern Michigan Obedience

Training Club, and Blume Design.

Birmingham Youth Assistance is also grateful to Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard and his deputies for bringing several of their comfort dogs to interact with participants. Linda Marler and Pam Roehr of Southern Michigan Obedience Training Club kindly showed kids how to teach their dogs a command. Finally, we are grateful to Captain Ryan Kearny, City of Birmingham Police Department, for bringing therapy dog Maple to visit with kids and their families.

A special thanks goes to our panel of judges: Elaine McClain, Mayor of the City of Birmingham; Mike Palmer, Owner of Premier Pet Supply; Shelley Taub, former Oakland County Commissioner, State Representative and Chair of BYA; Pam Roehr, Southern

Michigan Obedience Training Club; and Ethan Rass, Birmingham Public Schools student and past Youth in Service honoree. Finally, we would like to acknowledge three special individuals without whom this show wouldn't be the same: Carroll DeWeese, who has volunteered his photography skills at the show for many years, Jason Clinkscale, Principal at Berkshire Middle School and 10-year Kids' Dog Show emcee and Ann Nazareth Manning, Birmingham Youth Assistance Chair, who has been instrumental in the planning and development of this year's event.

Kids' Dog Show Committee

Dave Wind, Meg Sullivan Lopé and Erin Reemmer







Caseworker's Report Catherine Womack, MSW

The core elements of Birmingham Youth Assistance programs and casework services continue to derive from a mission of purpose in strengthening youth and families. Our efforts aim to reduce risks that correlate with juvenile delinquency, child abuse, and neglect through engagement and involvement in the community where families live, work, play and learn. Casework services assess and address concerns referred from parents/guardians, schools, law enforcement, and the courts. Needs, services, and resources are determined through family-focused casework services, meeting one on one with youth and families to develop goals focused on opportunities to grow, heal, mend, learn skills, adapt, and bounce back from mistakes or negative experiences. As a free program for families, Youth Assistance prevention efforts remain an economically sound service available for youth through the age of 17 years who live within the boundaries of the Birmingham Public School district.

A round of applause to the Birmingham Youth Assistance Board of Directors and the Executive Commit-

2023-2024 CASE	STAT	ISTIC	S
REASONS:	CASELOAD TOTALS:		
Alcohol1	Direct Service Cases128		
Assault & Battery8	Consult Cases69		
Breaking & Entry2	Caseload Community		
Disorderly Conduct4	Service Hours174		
Domestic Violence1			
Harassment/Threats9			
Home Incorrigibility4			
Marijuana/Drugs8	YOUTH SERVED DIRECTLY:		
Minor Destruction of Property7	Age	Male	Female
Prevention35	5 yrs.	1	0
Retail Fraud7	6 yrs.	2	1
School Incorrigibility12	7 yrs.	1	1
School Truancy13	8 yrs.	2	1
Sexting5	9 yrs.	1	1
Trespassing7	10 yrs.	2	0
Unlicensed Driver3	11 yrs.	5	2
Vaping2	12 yrs.	8	9
REFERRAL SOURCES:	13 yrs.	12	9
OC Juvenile Intake3	14yrs.	14	6
OC Prosecutor17	15 yrs.	15	10
Parent7	16 yrs.	12	3
Police47	17 yrs.	9	1
School54			
301100194			

tee who provided the gift of 1,583 hours of donated time and talents to Birmingham Youth Assistance operations, planning, and programs for year-round, healthy, family-focused, community events. The tri-sponsorship of Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division; the municipalities of Birmingham, Beverly Hills, Franklin and Bingham Farms; and Birmingham Public Schools has provided structure and support for Birmingham Youth Assistance for over 62 years. Along with the tri-sponsor commitment, the Birmingham Youth Assistance volunteers, community partners, and mindful referral sources are integral to making an impactful difference for youth to discover and implement their strengths and potential within their community.

Camp Report 2024

For more than fifty years, Birmingham Youth Assistance has provided camp scholarships to area children whose lives could be enriched and improved with a summer camp experience. Many of the youngsters who would most benefit from a camping experience due to the challenges they face might not be able to obtain this experience without a scholarship.



Birmingham Youth Assistance is committed to helping these children and their families. A camp experience can enhance a child's self-esteem, social skills, independence, leadership qualities, and sense of adventure. In addition, camp provides children with the opportunity to cultivate new interests or build on their existing talents. Summer camp is one of those positive alternatives that really help to make a difference in the lives of the families we serve.

This summer, 25 camp scholarships were awarded to Birmingham area children. This included both overnight residential programs and single or multiple sessions at day camps. Camps selected for children by their parents included Birmingham Community Education, YMCA, Springhill, and some specialty programs such as Michigan State University Drum Major Camp, Michigan Soccer Camp, Birmingham First Church Choir Camp, and University of Michigan Cheer Camp.

We are grateful to Birmingham Public Schools, the source of most of our camp referrals, for their partnership and cooperation. For more information about our summer camp scholarships, please contact the Birmingham Youth Assistance office at (248) 203- 4300. Birmingham Youth Assistance helps make the camp experience a reality for children.

Richard Stasys, Camp Chair

Youth in Service

On April 24, Birmingham Youth Assistance, along with event co-sponsor the Birmingham Optimist Club, held its 13th annual Celebration of Youth in Service at Groves High School to honor Birmingham-area students who have excelled in "giving back".



The Honorable Amanda J. Shelton of the Oakland County Circuit Court – Family Division and Birmingham Mayor Pro-Tem Katie Schafer re-

flected in their opening remarks the appreciation of all present for the students being recognized. Birmingham Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Embekka Roberson welcomed students and their families, thanking the honorees for their invaluable contributions.

32 high school students and nine middle school students were recognized for their selfless gifts of time and talent to serving others in our community. All of the students were presented with certificates from national, state, and local elected officials. Several also received financial gifts. This year, the Beverly Hills Lions Club also presented their Lion's Pride award.

Honorees demonstrated leadership and initiative, as well as kindness and empathy. The diverse range of ways in which they helped others included the following:

- Serving the special needs of both children and adults: Students volunteered at organizations including
 the Friendship Circle and Dutton Farms, as well as serving students on the autism spectrum within their
 schools. Two students formed a foundation to serve the needs of neurodivergent children through means
 including the creation of sensory rooms.
- Educating and mentoring younger students: Many students served as one-on-one tutors through the Pontiac-based Bound Together program, while others tutored at the Birmingham Public Schools Saturday School. Two students helped create a literacy program for underserved children in Detroit. Others mentored younger orchestra students, coached a Science Olympiad team, or coached younger athletes.
- Meeting health care needs for the less fortunate: Several students volunteered with World Medical Relief, distributing donated health care supplies globally to areas of great need. Others donated toys and craft supplies to hospitalized children or hygiene care packets to patients at a clinic for low-income patients, and one is a significant fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Pivotal to the success of a recognition program like Youth in Service are the nominators. These community members, including teachers and administrators as well as local nonprofit staff members, were aware of the good deeds being performed and took the time to nominate them online for recognition. Without their action, it would not be possible to give these students a much-deserved moment in the spotlight. Birmingham Youth Assistance asks community members to look out for youngsters who are working to help others and take the time to nominate them on our website beginning in January 2025 for next year's program.

Special thanks go to the Youth in Service Committee for planning and executing a lovely reception for the honorees and their families. We also are indebted to Seaholm orchestra students Hope Hughes and Hannah Marshall for sharing their musical talent at the reception

Youth in Service Chair Ann Nazareth Manning

About Youth Assistance

Oakland County Youth Assistance has been dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child abuse, and neglect since 1953. Twenty-six offices in Oakland County provide programs to serve youth and their families, under the auspices of the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division. Youth Assistance programs work because they are community-based and developed by volunteers who have their fingers on



sion. Youth Assistance programs work because they are community-based and developed by volunteers who have their fingers on the pulse of the community. The County of Oakland does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to its programs, activities or services as required by Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990. The County of Oakland is an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer.

Since 1962, Birmingham Youth Assistance has been a non-profit community-based service organization committed to serving youth and their families through a variety of programs and resources. BYA operates with the sponsorship and generosity of the Oakland County Circuit Court—Family Division, as well as the City of Birmingham, the Villages of Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, and Franklin, and the Birmingham Public School District. Principal funding is supplied through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

2024 Youth in Service Honorees



MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOREES

Kendall Dorfman, Berkshire Middle School, 7th grade
Olivia Goins, Berkshire Middle School, 8th grade
Nathaniel Lev, Berkshire Middle School, 8th grade
Catherine Reed, Derby Middle School, 6th grade
Sophia Stefan, Berkshire Middle School, 6th Grade
Alen Ter-Azaryan, Berkshire Middle School, 8th grade
Arno Ter-Azaryan, Berkshire Middle School, 7th grade
Claire Yandora, Derby Middle School, 8th grade
Olivia Yandora, Derby Middle School, 8th grade

HIGH SCHOOL HONOREES

Beckett Bambrough, Groves High School, 11th grade Vittorio Bevione, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Becca Burnstein, Groves High School, 11th grade Alberto Corrales, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Nia Daniels, Groves High School, 12th grade Dylan Day, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Lara Hammoud, Detroit Country Day School, 10th grade Maya Hammoud, Detroit Country Day School, 10th grade Gabrielle Hillman, Seaholm High School, 12th grade Alexa Hugel, Groves High School, 11th grade Saydee Jaboro, Marian High School, 12th grade Dina Kamal, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Leo Kim, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Lauren King, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Luke Linovitz, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Reid Linovitz, Seaholm high school, 9th grade

Lily Liss, Seaholm High School, 9th grade Sara Litkowiec, Groves High School, 11th grade Hailey Lossia, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Nathan Lucken, Groves High School, 12th grade Luca Mollo, International Academy Okma, 11th grade Bailey Mingus, Groves High School, 12th grade Gabriella Nastovski, Seaholm High School, 12th grade Hiren Patel, Seaholm High School, 9th grade Milan Patel, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Sydney Pereira, International Academy Okma, 11th grade Sophie Piotrowicz, Groves High School, 11th grade Ethan Rass, Groves High School, 11th grade Owen Reibscheid, Seaholm High School, 12th grade Toby Waterman, International Academy Okma, 11th grade Marko Zdravkovski, Seaholm High School, 11th grade Mariah Zeer, Marian High School, 12th grade



Breakfast with Santa 2023

The 29th annual Breakfast with Santa was held at the Townsend Hotel on Sunday, December 3, 2023 in the Regency Ballroom with seatings at both 9:00 and 11:30 am. Shelley Taub and Dick Stasys worked with Lizz Smith, the Catering Sales Manager at the Townsend Hotel, to create a contract for the December event. This year the cost remained the same at \$30 per adult, \$20 per child (ages 2-10), and no charge for children 1 year and under. A full breakfast was served to 171 quests (88

adults and 83 children), the combined total for both seatings.

It was a team effort with volunteers from the community, the Birmingham Youth Assistance Board, teen students, and mini-orchestra members helping with set-up, crowd management, and decorations. Board Member Andy Acho acted as emcee and entertained the group while families enjoyed breakfast. The Seaholm mini orchestra performed throughout

the Breakfast. The Balloon Lady also offered her balloon crafts during the entire event. The excited children colored special placemats and wrote letters to Santa while anxiously waiting for the jolly fellow's arrival.

Upon leaving, each child received a goodie bag full of fun paper crafts, holiday trinkets, and a candy cane. The festive Townsend holiday decorations, along with our table poinsettia centerpieces, made it a lovely event.

Please mark your calendar for this year's event planned for Sunday, December 8, 2024, at the Townsend Hotel.

Shelley Taub and Vicki Sower Co-Chairs, Breakfast with Santa



Farmers Market

Birmingham Youth Assistance hosted two Kid Zone events at the Birmingham Farmers Market in the fall of 2023. At the first event, we offered fall crafts for children to complete on-site or take home. This year, we introduced a new feature: yard games for parents to enjoy with their children. It was delightful to see such a large turnout and the fun that everyone had.

At the event held just before Halloween, we distributed approximately 250 pumpkins, generously donated by the City of Birmingham. We also provided stickers, markers, and stencils for kids to use while decorating their pumpkins with their parents at the market.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our members, whose generous

volunteer efforts made these events possible. We are already planning our return to the Birmingham Farmers Market for fall 2024. with events scheduled for September 22nd and October 27th.

Susan Robbins Farmers Market, Chair



Touch A Truck

Saturday, May 18, 2024 turned out to be a beautiful day for the 14th annual Touch a Truck event held at Bingham Farms Elementary School.

Children of all ages came out to climb aboard a fire truck, flash the lights of a police vehicle, pet and sit on a Mounted Police Horse (provided by the Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department), and blow the horns of numerous trucks. Birmingham Youth Assistance provided 500 hot dogs, chips and bottled water for all to enjoy free of charge. The unused food was donated to Micah 6 Community in Pontiac.

Just under a thousand parents, grandparents, and children participated in this fun family event. Families donated over \$2,400 to support our work in the community. Birmingham Youth Assistance would like to thank Bingham Farms Elementary School, the maintenance staff, and the drivers who donated their time and vehicles to make this event possible: Star EMS, Van Horn Concrete, Franklin-Bingham Farms Fire Department, Franklin-Bingham Farms Police Department, City of Birmingham Department of Public Services, Baldwin Public Library Book Bike and craft table, Durham School Services, Beverly Hills Department of Public Safety, the Birmingham Police Department, the Oakland County Road Commission, DTE Energy and SMART Bus. Many participants enjoyed the opportunity to purchase shaved ice from the Kona Ice truck.

Thank you to all the Birmingham Youth Assistance Board members and high school students who volunteered their time at Touch a Truck. We could not put on events like this without your dedication and participation.

Richard Stasys, TAT Chair



Welcome to Our New Board Member!

THE BYA BOARD IS EXCITED TO WELCOME A NEW MEMBER TO OUR TEAM.



The Birmingham Youth Assistance Board is excited to welcome a talented new member to our team! Katie Schafer, D.O. is managing partner of Bloom Pediatrics in Birmingham, as well as a Birmingham City commissioner and the Mayor Pro Tem. She is also a mom with students in the Birmingham Public Schools. Schafer's professional life is focused on the wellness and welfare of children. Her commitment to serve our community in city government, a Birmingham Youth Assistance sponsor, makes her an amazing asset in the work of Birmingham Youth Assistance. Best of all, it was Schafer who, having heard the mission of BYA, asked to be considered as a board member! Welcome Katie and Thanks!!

Mentors Plus Program

MAKING A DIFFERENCE - ONE PERSON - ONE CHILD AT A TIME

Mentors really can make a difference in a life, one child at a time. The Mentors Plus program pairs pre-screened adult volunteers with youth in the community who have been identified for a variety of reasons as needing a positive role model in their lives.

Young people without adequate guidance may be prone to making unwise choices. A mentor can often be a factor in guiding these soon to be adults down a more appropriate path. Often it doesn't take much to "nudge" the child in the right direction—just a little time, a little listening, and a bit of talking.

The Mentors Plus program, offered through Oakland County Youth Assistance, has helped hundreds of children in our community through one-on-one mentoring. Many more children, both male and female, would benefit from such a relationship. Consequently, Youth Assistance is always looking for new adult mentors. The time commitment for this rewarding experience can be as little as one hour per week. Anyone interested in volunteering, or simply learning more, can contact the Birmingham Youth Assistance office at (248) 203-4300 or visit the website at https://www.birminghamyouthassistance.org/mentors-plus.

A small commitment of time can make a huge difference in the life of a child.

David R. Walker & Jay Reynolds, Co-Chairs, Mentors Plus Committee

Birmingham Youth Assistance Thanks its Generous Sponsors

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Through Community Involvement

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