

Lehigh County Juvenile Justice System Community Report

Community Volunteers Edition ■ Spring 2005

Opening the Doorway to Success: College Mentoring

In the mid 1990s, the community service director for the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department, Brian Muschlitz, arranged for a group of youths under the department's supervision to visit his alma mater, Moravian College, to participate in social and recreational activities once or twice a semester. In 1999, through a federal grant, the Juvenile Probation Department partnered with Impact Project Inc. to expand this program to include competency development activities, arranging for tutoring and taking part in a variety of campus ventures. In 2002, Lehigh Carbon Community College joined the program, and in 2004, Muhlenberg College became involved. Currently, under the direction of Todd Breinich, Supervisor of Program Services for Impact Project Inc., and

Eva Frederick, Assistant Director of the Community Alternative Work Service Program, college mentoring programs provide activities over a nine-week period during the course of a semester, offering an important alternative outlook to the future of our youths.

Many of the youths with whom we work have a great deal of potential. Unfortunately, many do not receive proper guidance or direction to utilize their potential in a constructive way. Research has shown that young people who have mentors are less likely to begin using illegal drugs and alcohol, and are less apt to be arrested.

Mentoring has been shown to help them think more positively about their futures.

According to Eva Frederick, "As our youths participate in mentoring/ tutoring programs they are paired with mentors who can share, first had, the social and academic advantages of attending college. By pairing, one-on-one, with college students, our youths benefit from the advice of role models who are relatively close to their age and, through weekly activities, obtain a glimpse of what life is like on a college campus. During these sessions we hope that the mentors influence encourage our clients to devote more time to improve their academics and to consider furthering their education." Breinich agrees and adds, "Ultimately, it is hoped that lasting impressions are left with the youths, so that they can successfully transition into their adult years and become upstanding, productive members of their communities." ■

by Andrew J. DeAngelo,
Deputy Chief Probation Officer



Moravian College campus tour



Lehigh Carbon Community College presentation



Muhlenberg College community service project

Completed community service project, mural in Assistant Dean's office



Annual Community Alternative Work Service Programs and Volunteer Recognition Luncheon

On November 18, 2004, over 200 non-profit organizations, agencies and municipalities were recognized as worksites for the Community Alternative Work Service (C.A.W.S.) Program of the Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department. At the luncheon, held at the Barristers Club in Allentown, worksites were recognized for their contributions to this long-standing, nationally recognized program. Each of the worksites were acknowledged for their assistance in holding our youths accountable during the completion of their court-ordered, community service and out-of-school suspension work program. Many of these youths have completed hundreds of projects throughout Lehigh County, as individual volunteers and as members of work crews under the supervision of probation officers and crew supervisors. It is not an understatement to say that the list of projects our youths have tackled, is endless. On any day there are a number of kids working somewhere, whether it be in a shelter, in a school, at a food bank, cleaning a street, on a painting project or just helping someone who is in need. Some of our projects are seasonal. In the winter we shovel snow for the elderly and disabled, wrap donated toys for needy families, and answer letters children have written to Santa. In warmer weather



Volunteer recognition luncheon at the Barristers Club

we tend three gardens to raise 3,500 pounds of vegetables for food banks and soup kitchens. We do landscaping or outdoor work requested of us from our worksites. Seven days a week, juveniles work at the Allentown Recycling Center where, in 2004, they assisted the City of Allentown with 10,691 hours of labor in recycling over 5,000,000 pounds of material. In 2004, through this partnership, 94 crime victims were reimbursed \$21,300 from the proceeds of recycled materials.

Community Alternative Work Service Program

2004

39,600 hours
of work completed by
1,020 juveniles
is equivalent to
\$223,965
in wages

While our youths are contributing to make their communities better places to live, they are redeeming themselves by learning skills, becoming involved, and taking responsibility for their actions, as well as learning what it is to have a sense of accomplishment. Supervisors at our worksites help by becoming role models and mentors to youths who don't have proper direction. Youths are expected to follow a strict set of rules governing their behavior and are held to a high standard in completing their work.



Youths have contributed thousands of work-hours at the Allentown Recycling Center

In doing this, they are repaying their victims and the community. We strive to assign juveniles to projects in which they can take pride, build a sense of ownership, and develop competencies so they can become more productive. The 39,600 hours of work completed by 1,020 juveniles in the C.A.W.S. Program in 2004, have helped hundreds of agencies start and complete much needed work within their organizations. At \$5.15 an hour, this is equivalent to over \$223,965 in labor that agencies, organizations and municipalities have received through youths performing community services.

We have been fortunate in creating programs which build upon the strengths of our youths, teaching them valuable competencies they can use to enrich their lives. The Young Offenders Program, a six-week education program for 10-to-12-year-olds, mentoring/tutoring programs on the campuses of Moravian, Muhlenberg and Lehigh Carbon Community College, Job Readiness, Victim Awareness and LifeLine are just a few examples of our competency development-based programs. We have also referred our clients to community agencies such as The Caring Place and Casa Guadalupe where they can learn self-improvement skills. Our youths have also developed technical skills while working at places such as Computers for Kids and The RePlace Center.

The November luncheon provided an opportunity to reflect upon the impact community service has had upon two particular youths. One of these young men served as a speaker. He had completed 150 hours of community service for Bethany United Methodist Church. The work ethic he demonstrated by doing maintenance and landscaping earned the attention of church officials who offered him a position. To this day, Bethany United Methodist Church is his employer and support system. This young man has also contributed to his community by painting the barn which his victim offered as a meeting room for the church's youth group.

Ryan Schaffer, our Community Service Director, shared the success story of another young man who had successfully completed over 300 hours, which were court-ordered, at the Allentown Recycling Center. While he worked at the center he demonstrated a strong work ethic and used his time wisely, striving to become a more productive individual. He has since joined the Job Corps. in order to pursue a career in computer science. ■



Muhlenberg College tutoring session

■ Worksite of the Year

The Delaware and Lehigh National Heritage Corridor was selected as our 2004 C.A.W.S. Worksite of the Year. Within the last year, our youths completed a total of 1,178 hours for this organization. One of our projects involved the revegetation of Blue Mountain's Little Gap area. Additionally, our youths did cleanups and installed posts in Hugh Moore Park as well as helping to maintain many miles of Rails to Trails.

In 2004, we were very fortunate to have 12 new agencies join us. We are always in need of new "partners" who have worksites to which our youths can be assigned. Working side-by-side



Revegetation on Blue Mountain at Little Gap



Rails to Trails, an ongoing project to which our youths contribute

with volunteers, juveniles gain a new understanding of community spirit and goodwill. These positive influences are invaluable in reforming former offenders.

If you know of a non-profit organization which could benefit from our program, please contact the Juvenile Probation Department at 610-782-3143, and speak with Ryan Schaffer or Eva Frederick of the C.A.W.S. Program. ■

by Eva Frederick,
Assistant Director of the C.A.W.S. Program

From the Editor...

The Juvenile Probation Department provides community based supervision and services for the communities of Lehigh County. In the months ahead, planned activities involve coordinating recreational, educational and mentoring services with neighborhood and faith-based organizations.

Community Involvement is Welcome!

If you are interested in volunteering to work with our youths as a mentor or a tutor, or to provide a community service work site, please contact:

The Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department
610-782-3143
Andrew J. DeAngelo, Deputy Chief Probation Officer

Christmas Party at the Mosser Village Family Center

On December 20, 2004, our department joined with the Mosser Village Family Center to bring an evening of holiday spirit to dozens of needy families on Allentown's East Side. The party was held in Mosser Village's new Family Center, located in Keck Park. Members of Lehigh Carbon Community College's Justice Society entertained the children by reading Christmas stories and helping them make crafts and trinkets they could share with their families. The staff of Mosser Village treated everyone to a delicious holiday dinner. Children then waited for Santa to call each of them to sit on his lap for a photo. The children were filled with excitement as they received gifts of clothing and toys, which were specially selected for them from their Christmas lists. Santa's bag was filled with gifts that were generously purchased by members of the Bethel Bible Fellowship Church, juvenile probation staff and other county



Story time at the annual Mosser Village Christmas Party

employees. The children were surprised when given additional gifts to take home to open on Christmas morning. Parents were treated to Wal-Mart gift cards which were purchased by Mosser Village. Children also received hats and scarves, knitted by clients of KidsPeace, to keep them warm this winter.

The Juvenile Probation staff planned and prepared for months in order to make the day a memorable one for the children. We collected donated

presents and had our youths carefully wrap each of them. Several of our youths helped set up the party and assisted in cleaning up afterward.

Everyone left that evening with the satisfaction of having fulfilled the wishes of the children, adding to the enjoyment of providing holiday cheer to their families. ▣

by Eva Frederick,
Assistant Director of the C.A.W.S. Program



Children enjoyed creating Christmas crafts

Mission of the Juvenile Justice System

"Juvenile Justice: Community Protection, Victim Restoration, Youth Redemption."

Community Protection refers to the right of all Pennsylvania citizens to be and feel safe from crime.

Victim Restoration emphasizes that, in Pennsylvania, a juvenile who commits a crime harms the victim of the crime and the community, and thereby incurs an obligation to repair that harm to the greatest extent possible.

Youth Redemption embodies the belief that juvenile offenders in Pennsylvania have strengths, are capable of change, can earn redemption, and can become responsible and productive members of their community.

Furthermore, all of the services designed and implemented to achieve this mission and all hearings and decisions under the Juvenile Act — indeed all aspects of the juvenile justice system — must be provided in a fair and unbiased manner. The United States and Pennsylvania Constitutions guarantee rights and privileges to all citizens, regardless of race, color, creed, gender, national origin or handicap.



Lehigh County Juvenile Probation
invites you to join

The 2005 Annual Victim Benefit Open

Whitetail Golf Club Bath, PA

Friday, May 27, 2005

12:00-12:45 p.m. Registration
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start (Scramble Format)
6:00 p.m. Steak Dinner, Raffle and Awards

\$80.00 per Golfer

or, join one of our Hole Sponsorship Clubs and assist us in our annual fundraising event.

Hole Sponsorship

PLATINUM CLUB \$600.00 Donation

Includes 4 golfing positions, hole sponsorship, sign at tee, and dinner.

GOLD CLUB \$450.00 Donation

Includes 3 golfing positions, hole sponsorship, sign at tee, and dinner.

SILVER CLUB \$300.00 Donation

Includes 2 golfing positions, hole sponsorship, sign at tee, and dinner.

BRONZE CLUB \$150.00 Donation

Includes 1 golfing position, sign at tee, and dinner.

All proceeds benefit victims of juvenile crime in the Lehigh Valley.

For directions and a view of the course, go to: www.whitetailgolfclub.com.

Please detach and return this form by **May 13th** to: **Lehigh County Juvenile Probation**
Please make checks payable to **455 W. Hamilton St., Allentown, PA 18101**
Lehigh County Juvenile Probation **Attn: Tom Ganser**

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Phone: _____

We plan to attend. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$_____ for ___ golfer(s).

We would like to sponsor a hole as a member of the _____ Club. Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$_____.
The above listed golfer(s) will be attending as our representative(s).

We are unable to attend, but please accept our contribution of \$_____ and/or this gift for your raffle. (_____)

Gift for raffle



**Lehigh County
Juvenile Probation Department**
455 W. Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

Community Report

Court of Common Pleas
Thirty-First Judicial District
JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT
LEHIGH COUNTY COURTHOUSE

455 W. Hamilton Street Allentown, Pennsylvania 18101-1614

Friends...

The Lehigh County Juvenile Probation Department is sponsoring a golf tournament on May 27, 2005, at the Whitetail Golf Club in Bath, Pennsylvania to raise money for our victim fund which is maintained by the Crime Victim Council of the Lehigh Valley.

Juveniles who have caused any kind of financial loss to their victims are ordered to make restitution. However, victims often incur losses as a result of delinquent acts that are not covered by the court's order of restitution. Also, some victims' needs are immediate, and waiting for a juvenile to go to court or to make payments causes further hardship. The money in this fund will be used to meet some of those immediate needs. This past year, money from the fund was used to assist a woman whose car was hit by that of a juvenile, who had stolen the offending vehicle. As a result of this offense, the victim's injuries from the accident caused her to miss work. She was unable to pay her monthly rent and was facing eviction. From the fund, we were able to make payment to the landlord, preventing her eviction.

Victims often feel marginalized by what they perceive as an uncaring judicial system. We are very proud of the fact that victims' rights are a priority with our department and that we do everything within our means to assure that they are reimbursed for their financial losses.

Please see page 5 of this newsletter explaining details of the golf tournament. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Ganser