

LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD
2018
ANNUAL REPORT

The Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board was established and created by Resolution No. 30-1997, and adopted by the Lewis County Board of Legislators on February 5, 1997. The Board is an “Advisory” Board rather than a “Policy Making” Board. Per the Youth Bureau By-Laws the board shall have between 13 -28 members. The board makes recommendations regarding the provision of services to youth in Lewis County. The membership reflects a balance between government and non-government representatives who are directly concerned with the well-being of youth. Representation on the board consists of up to a maximum of 2 student representatives from each, public school district in the county. Presently the board has 18 voting members and 4 Ex-Officio members.

This Annual Report is dedicated in memory of Roscoe Fawcett, Jr. who served as the Chairperson of the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board from January 1, 2016 until his passing on January 1, 2018.

The Lewis County Youth Bureau presents this overview of 2018 Lewis County youth programs, that funding was made possible by the execution of the 2018 Resource Allocation Plan, between, the County of Lewis by and through the Youth Bureau, and NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). The execution of the plan, qualifies our county for state reimbursement in accordance with NYS OCFS allocation of funds, appropriated for counties engaged in comprehensive planning for youth services/programs. Additionally, this report reflects the allocation of Youth County Project funds approved by the Lewis County Board of Legislators.

2018

Governance & Administration

Lawrence Dolhof, Chairperson Board of Legislators
Ryan Piche, County Manager

Lewis County Youth Bureau Legislative Committee

Ex-Officio Members

John Lehman, Chairperson
Randy LaChausse, Legislator and Thomas Osborne, Legislator

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Ex-Officio Member

Penny L. Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau-Community Board Members: John Exford-Co-Chairperson, Scott Mathys, Rhonda Vanucchi, Michele Ledoux, Ward Dailey, Mike Leviker, Deanna Edick, Brian Finn and Katie Zehr. Community members board terms are 2-years, however upon completion of the original term, members may be reappointed to additional 2-year terms. * ***The Youth Bureau Board developed a “Board Application” that is a helpful tool in seeking out potential community board members as needed.***

Student Representative Members: Elizabeth (Libby) McGuire-Co-Chairperson representing South Lewis Central, Madeline Lehman-Vice Chairperson representing Lowville Academy, Kirstin Moshier-representing Lowville Academy, Kallie Bauter-representing South Lewis Central, Victoria Boliver representing Beaver River Central, Kimberlena (Kimmy) Dolan and Annabelle Atnip-representing Copenhagen Central, Kallie Bauter-representing-South Lewis Central and Chloe Benson and Justine Schmidt-representing Harrisville Central. **Student Representatives Term of Appointment:** Student Representatives term of appointment ends when they graduate from high school, or cease to be a full-time student of the district they represent.

****Having youth on the board provides the community with a youth perspective on what youth programs are needed in our county. Student Representatives engage in discussion, conduct program monitoring, review applications for funding and ultimately make recommendations to fund programs. Without the input offered by our student representatives, we would lose the voice of youth in youth programming decision making.***

***Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)
Youth Development Funds***

OCFS Youth Development Funds can be used to support programs for youth 0-21 years of age. This includes *Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Programs; Recreational Programs; and youth events/programs.*

These funds are targeted for early intervention and prevention services that are designed to curb the high priority problems affecting youth. These funds are intended to be used for youth most likely to become involved in the criminal justice system; to expand community service; or for youth summer recreational programs and or events (programs that could fulfill unmet youth program needs in the county).

DID YOU KNOW

Process for allocating and awarding OCFS and County Project funds:

-The Youth Bureau comes to a consensus on the types of youth programs that they would like to fund, the criteria for applying for funds, and the amount they would like to designate for each type of program.

-A press release announcing the availability of funds as well as the dollar amount available for each allocation program type and the deadline for submitting proposals is published in the Journal & Republican and is posted on Linking Lewis County Website and the Youth Bureau Website.

-Youth Bureau Board Members are provided with a copy of each application a week prior to their board meeting to review and be prepared to ask questions of the applicant pertaining to their application

-Applicants are invited to the meeting to answer any questions the YB members may have of their application. Note: Per the Youth Bureau By-Laws, the inability to provide a verbal presentation will not exclude applicants from consideration.

-The voting process for awarding funds is a simple majority of the membership present.

ALLOCATION OF 2018 OCFS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

In 2018 the OCFS allocation of Youth Development funds to Lewis County was \$21,115.00-Resolution No. 109-2018. (allocation amounts are based on the youth population of the county according, to the current census). In July 2018, the board was allocated an additional \$2,284-Resolution No. 253-2018, bringing the total 2018 allocation to **\$23,399.00** (this was an increase of \$2.00 from 2017).

AWARDING OF 2018 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

At the direction of the Youth Bureau Board, **\$14,000** of the total amount was designated for programs that address the prevention of juvenile delinquency through positive youth development, early intervention services designed to curb high priority problems affecting youth and programs designed to expand community services for youth under the age of 21. **A total of four (4) applications were received with a combined total of \$21,400.00 requested as follows:** **Lowville Village Police Department** requested \$6,000 to support the cost of sending an Officer to the Youth Aid Officer Basic NYS Certified Course as well as funding for wages for two Officers to have a stronger presence at Lowville Academy School District (1-2 hours per day). **Amount awarded \$4,600.** **Lewis County Sheriff's Office** requested \$3,000 to support the Juvenile Aid Officer Program that is designed to educate children about safety and drug abuse. Youth are instructed about the harmful effects and consequences of using drugs; and the importance of making good decisions. **Amount awarded \$3,000.** **Double Play Community Center-B.A.T.S. (Building Across the Street) Program** requested \$2,400 to purchase food related supplies as well as cups, plates, silverware; art supplies and youth athletic equipment. **Amount awarded \$1,400 (with the stipulation that students will not be charged for food items purchased through these grant revenues).** **Mountain View Prevention Services-Youth Advocate Program** requested \$10,000. Youth Advocates work with students in Lewis County School Districts from Kindergarten through Grade 12. Children benefitting from this program may present behavioral problems or may simply be feeling overwhelmed with something in their life and have a need to talk to someone to sort things out. **Amount awarded \$5,000.**

"DID You Know" Quarterly Reports

Youth Programs that run year to year, and that are recipients of OCFS Youth Development Funds, are required to submit quarterly reports. Reports are reviewed at regularly scheduled board meetings. The reports include a "Success Story" during the quarter.

Annual "Lewis County Night Out" Event: The Youth Bureau allocated **\$2,284** to fund the 2018 "Lewis County Night Out event" a prevention awareness event.

2018 Administrative Costs:

At the direction of the Youth Bureau Board a portion of the 2018 Youth Development Funds in the amount of **\$600** was allocated for the Youth Bureau's Administration expenses to include OCFS Dues (\$40), postage for regular mailings as well as special Youth Bureau Projects including the Annual "Homeless Christmas Tree" Initiative; the Annual "Lewis County Night Out" event as well as other youth events and initiatives that the Youth Bureau co-sponsors throughout the year. Any unused funds in the Administration expenses can be used to support a portion of the director's stipend.

Municipality Run Recreational Programs-Award of 2018 Funds

At the direction of the Youth Bureau Board, **\$6,515** was designated to support Lewis County Municipality Run Summer/Fall Recreation Programs through a competitive application process. Letters announcing the availability of the funds as well as a deadline date to submit applications, was sent to Lewis County Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. *It is important to note that since 2014 these funds are not guaranteed from year to year. **A total of five (5) applications were received with the combined request for funds equaling \$19,000.00 as follows:**

- **Harrisville Youth Seasonal Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$7,000; projected enrollment was 160 youth; applied for \$1,500 and were awarded **\$1,303.**
- **Town of Croghan-Summer Recreational Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$22,000; projected enrollment was 1,500 youth; applied for \$5,000 and were awarded **\$1,303.**
- **Town of Greig-Summer Recreational Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$24,770; projected enrollment was 150 youth; applied for \$5,000 and were awarded **\$1,303.**
- **Village of Croghan Seasonal Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$15,000; projected enrollment was 195 youth; applied for \$5,000 and were awarded **\$1,303.**
- **Village of Port Leyden-Summer Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$14,000; projected enrollment was 75 youth; applied for \$2,500 and were awarded **\$1,303.**

NOTE: The combined cost for the above five (5) Municipalities to run 2018 Recreational Programs, equaled: \$82,770!

Prior to awarding the Recreational funds, discussion was held regarding other funding resources that municipalities could apply for including: Pratt Northam Foundations-Summer Workership Program. This funding provides up to 400 hours of summer employment at minimum wage for students accepted and enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate academic program at a two-year-college for the following Fall semester. This program helps fill the need for summer help for local nonprofits and government programs serving youth.

Beginning 2019, if the Youth Bureau designates funds for Municipality Run Recreation Programs, they will be requesting applicants to identify other funding sources they have received for their program.

2018 County Project Funds - \$5,000

During the 2018 Budget process, the Youth Bureau requested \$5,000 from the county to be used to support positive youth programs in Lewis County. These funds **must** be used to support direct services to and for youth (direct costs are those costs that can be identified specifically with a particular, final cost objective i.e. an award, project, event, service, supplies for an activity of an organization). These funds can be used to support existing youth programs that had a decrease of funding, were eliminated or for new youth programs. County Project funds **cannot be used for indirect costs such as salaries.** The Youth Bureau can either designate the funds to a specific type of youth program, or open the funding up to any youth program through a competitive application process. In 2018, the Youth Bureau voted unanimously to open the funds up to any youth program to apply for. ****This funding is not guaranteed from year to year, however fortunately, our Board of Legislators recognize the importance of continuing to allocate these funds.*** Proposals for the County Project funds, must include a description of the activity/program to be funded; budget; approximate number of youth to be served; and the expected outcomes. A total of, seven applications were received with the combined total of funding requested equaling **\$13,340!**

In 2018 five (5) of seven (7) applications were either partially or fully funded with the County Project Funds as follows: **Project Safe Community (PSC):** A grassroots effort that started in 2017, whose focus is on drug prevention among youth as well as community wide education on addiction and drug use in the Harrisville area. The long-term goal of PSC is to open a community center where classes can be held, help for those in need can be sought, and people can find a safe space to engage in activity not involving drug or alcohol use. PSC submitted three (3) separate applications as follows: **Trip to the Wild Center in Tupper Lake, NY:** For 20 children between 9 and 14 years of age. The Wild Center provides interaction with nature and provides time away from devices, promotes outdoor activity, as well as a way to relieve stress of experiences from school and home. Amount of funding requested was \$650 and were awarded **\$400.** **Community Fest Float and Booth:** PSC requested funds to make a float for the Community Fest Parade held in Harrisville. Youth in the community decorated the float with the intent to spread the message of PSC by promoting it to the local community by handing out information on the dangers of drug use/goals and intents of PSC. The booth provided youth the chance to interact with their community and share their passion about the importance of preventative measures of drug use. Requested \$750 and were awarded **\$750.** **Bowling Day:** PCS requested funds to take twenty youth ages 9 – 14 to the Harrisville Bowling Lanes with the intended outcome to provide these children with an activity where the youth would develop skills to work with one another as a team. Requested \$250. Awarded **\$120.** **Lewis County 4-H Teen Council:** The 4-H Teen Council requested funds to participate in the Missouri 4-H Film Festival to further build their skills, help promote the 4-H program and explore career options. Participation at the Film Festival allowed members of the teen council to capitalize on an opportunity at a national level. Requested: \$5,000. Awarded **\$1,865.** **American Youth Soccer Organization:** The Adirondack AYSO Region 469 encompasses participation by students from the southern end of Lewis County. This program has created a vital developmental program that teaches children communication, socialization, leadership and athletic skills. ASYSO Region 469 requested funding to purchase soccer equipment. Requested \$3,000. Awarded **\$1,865.**

2018-SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge: As youth seek employment in a competitive job market, it becomes even more important that the workforce system adequately prepare them to obtain good employment on their career pathway. Many youth, lack the basic experience employers require such as attitude and behaviors necessary for them to succeed in a social work environment. The program provides the opportunity for Lewis County youth in forming their lifelong work ethics. This, is why, it is so important that Lewis County Officials, the County's Planning Department, Birnie Bus and the Youth Bureau, continue to collaborate in supporting this seasonal bus run year after year. 2018 was the 7th year of the bus run for youth age 14 years of age and older who secured employment at Enchanted Forest Water Safari. The seasonal run was also opened up for anyone to use to get to Old Forge for leisure at the cost of \$1.00 each way. The seasonal run began June 13 – September 3, 2018. Bus pick-up schedule included: Josh's Riverside Restaurant-Croghan; Lowville-TOPS Plaza; Glenfield-BOCES; Edge Hotel-Lyons Falls; Cliff's Local Market-Port Leyden; TOPS Plaza-Boonville; Woodgate Post Office; and Frankie's Restaurant. The total 2018 Season Ridership was **6,090 passengers (up from 5,596 last year)!** The Youth Bureau continues to assist Lewis County Public Transportation with the promotion and marketing of this seasonal run by recording radio spots, being actors in TV commercials and promoting the program in Lewis County School Districts as well as throughout the county.

"DID YOU KNOW"

*The Seasonal Bus Run to Old Forge, started in 2012 when the Lewis County Youth Bureau recognized the lack of and the need for youth summer job opportunities, therefore requested a meeting with County Government Officials including David Pendergast (former County Manager), Pennie Getman (former Employment & Training Director); and Eric Virkler (former Director of the Planning Department), regarding the feasibility of having a seasonal bus run to Old Forge for summer job opportunities for youth. After several meetings, approval was granted to move forward with a trial run utilizing the county's Public Transportation System, with the stipulation that the seasonal run be opened, up to the general public which enabled the county to utilize STOA (State Transportation funds) to help support the run. Although the bus run was opened to the public the targeted riders were youth who utilized the bus to get back and forth to jobs they had secured at Enchanted Forest Water Safari. Additionally, to avoid a fare hike of \$1.00 roundtrip, and to initiate the start-up of this now seasonal offering the Youth Bureau helped subsidize the trial run with 2012 OCFS "Initiative funding" in the amount of \$2,291. **The 2012 trial run began in early June through Labor Day Weekend with Bernie Bus that routinely had 25 riders. In 2018 the total Seasonal Ridership was 6,090 passengers (up from 5,596 in 2017)! The Lewis County Planning Department has headed up this seasonal program for several years now, however the Youth Bureau continues to assist with the promotion and marketing of this seasonal run by recording radio spots, being actors in TV commercials and promoting the program in Lewis County School Districts as well as throughout the county.*

(2018 Special Programs and Initiatives-continued):

Annual “Lewis County Night Out” event: This event is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The applicant for the 2018 “Lewis County Night Out” event was the Lowville Police Department. Co-sponsors included the Lewis County Youth Bureau, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, and Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. The event was held on Friday, September 7th at the Lewis County Fairgrounds from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. During the Opening Ceremony, Boy Scout Troop 162 lead us into the Pledge of Allegiance and Kendra Virkler sang the National Anthem and we recognized the danger, dedication, and effort that is put forth by our local and neighboring Fire Departments. Fire Departments recognized included: Beaver Falls; Castorland; Constableville; Copenhagen; 3-G; Harrisville; Lowville; Lyons Falls; Martinsburg; New Bremen; Port Leyden; Turin; West Leyden; Boonville; Natural Bridge; Redfield; and West Carthage. Terry Clark, Clerk of the Board of Legislators named off each Fire Department, and a representative from each Fire Department was presented with two Recognition Certificates of Appreciation (our local certificate was embossed with the message *“Presented to you on behalf of the grateful residents of Lewis County in appreciation of your Service.” Our local certificates were handed out by Legislator Bryan Moser and a State Certificate of Appreciation was handed out by Legislator Jim Nabywaniec on behalf of Assemblyman Ken Blankenbush.* A total of 41 prevention awareness agencies had informational tables at the event; the NYS Police and the Lewis County Sheriff’s Office provided K9 Search & Apprehension demonstrations; The NYS Police demonstrated their rollover simulator; West Carthage Fire Departments brought their Smoke House Interactive Display; and the Lowville Police Department was on hand to process Safe Child ID Cards.

“Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative:

At the Youth Bureau’s September 2018 meeting, the board approved of moving forward with this Annual Initiative that is sponsored by the Lewis County Youth Bureau in support of the Lewis County Department of Social Services as well as many other local agencies, who recognize there is a hidden epidemic that has to do with homelessness, lack of safe and affordable housing and assisting local residents who have faced economic hardships, get back on their feet. There are many reasons that families and individuals find themselves “out in the cold” including job loss, illness, addictions, and house fires. As of October 2018, donations received during the 2017 initiative have helped over 225+ individuals and families with personal hygiene, kitchen and bathroom supplies, items needed when a family or individual “starts over.” Besides the Department of Social Services, referrals for donated items come from an array of local agencies including the Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, North Country Prenatal/Perinatal Council, Lewis County Opportunities, Inc., and School Districts, to name a few. This year donations also benefitted two families that lost their home due to fire as well as a family who lost the contents of their home due to a bad wind storm.

In 2018 the Youth Bureau recognized the importance of continuing this initiative, however they also recognized the importance of helping our senior citizens as well as babies, therefore this year we incorporated donations for the following two projects in conjunction with the 2018 “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative: **“Loved Twice” Baby Boxes:** Requested donations of baby clothes (new or gently used) sizes newborn to 24 months. Each box will contain enough clothing for babies first year. We also asked

for donations of diapers, baby blankets, and other baby items. **Donations for our Senior Citizens:** Requesting donations of items such as gift cards (Kinney's and Walmart), as well as denture brushes, adult diapers, denture adhesive cream, and diabetic socks (the wish list of donations for our senior citizens was provided by Office for the Aging). This year's initiative began September 19th and ran through December 21, 2018. The "Homeless Christmas Tree" was displayed in the window of the Lewis County Chamber of Commerce where it was visible for all to see. Again, the support of our community, businesses, agencies, and county government was overwhelming. On December 27th all donations were sorted and packed up with some of the donations delivered to the Department of Social Services; a car load of donations as well as a supply of Kinney gift cards were delivered to Office for the Aging to use at their discretion for their seniors; and the county's maintenance van was filled with the remaining donations that were taken to the Lowville Food Pantry for storage to use throughout 2019. **Highlights:** Peyton Schmitt-a student at Harrisville Central School, contacted the Youth Bureau regarding wanting to do a community service project. Peyton ended up receiving approval from his school superintendent to have a satellite tree at Harrisville School; Kallie Bauter, Student Representative on the Youth Bureau, also on her own, had a satellite tree at South Lewis Central School District; and Trish Mooney a Caseworker at DSS and her daughter Olivia helped with packing up the donations along with Kallie Bauter. and we received monetary donations that will be used to replenish items needed throughout 2019. *A very special thank you to the Lewis County Maintenance Department who have assisted the Youth Bureau each year in packing up and delivering excess donations to the Lowville Food Pantry where the items are stored and are readily available when needed.*

2018

COMMUNITY REQUESTS

Throughout the year, the Youth Bureau receives many invites to assist other community agencies with a variety of marketing needs including recording radio spots; being actors in TV commercials and having informational tables at local events. Listed below are some of the events The Student Representatives as well as some of our Community representatives assisted with in 2018:

- Marketing of the NRCIL' Annual Lewis County Walk for Wellness – recorded radio spots
- Being lead actors and fillers for back ground scene of a commercial to promote the Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge with WWNY-TV 7. Kirstin Moshier, Madeline Lehman, Tara Martin, and Victoria Boliver were in the commercial. ■Tara Martin along with Casandra Buell of the Lewis County Planning Department, recorded a radio spot pertaining to the Seasonal Bus run.
- Lyons Falls Farmer Market – Tara Martin had an informational table pertaining to the Youth Bureau at the June 26, 2018 Farmers Market.
- The Salvation Army Summer Camp Project Opportunity: Tara Martin marketed and signed up youth for the 2018 FREE Camping Opportunity for Lewis County youth ages 6 -12. Transportation to and from the Salvation Army's Long Point Camp, located in Penn Yenn, NY was provided by South Lewis Central School District. Eight youth from Lewis County attended this FREE Camping experience.

(2018 Community Requests-Continued):

- Lewis County Office for the Aging – Senior Picnic: Kimmy Dolan and Tara Martin volunteered to help OFA with their June 29th Senior Picnic held at the Lewis County Fair Grounds. They helped by calling out BINGO numbers; checking BINGO cards; and helped serve the elderly a BBQ style meal.” Lewis County Night Out” Event – Elizabeth (Libby) McGuire and Legislator Randy LaChausse- recording a radio spot at Flack Broadcasting.
- The Salvation Army – Lewis County “Red Kettle Drive” Beginning Black Friday through Christmas Eve, some Youth Bureau board members volunteered to ring the Salvation Army Bell during their “Red Kettle Drive.” Monies raised in Lewis County are used to support economically vulnerable residents with food, shelter, and clothing.

2018

Presentations by Local Agencies

In an effort, to keep the Youth Bureau membership up to date on new youth initiatives, programs, or community concerns, periodically throughout the year, agencies request or are invited to present at regularly scheduled board meetings. Listed below were 2018 presentations:

- Korin Scheible, Executive Director of Mountain View Prevention Services-Presented on the “Drug Free Communities” Grant funds.
- Anna Platz-former Youth Bureau Student Representative, presented on her accomplishments since being on the Youth Bureau Board as well as spoke about her Career Path. Anna presently works at Lewis County Public Health as a Specialist and is working on getting her master’s degree in Public Health.
- Reagan Domagala-former Youth Bureau Student Representative presented on her college experience and how it is ok to change your Career Path multiple times as you will eventually find the career that best fits you. Reagan attends college at SUNY Cortland where she is majoring in hearing and speech science. She is currently the reigning Lewis County Dairy Princess. In this role, Reagan is able to support Dairy Farmers by advocating for them through the “Naturally Dairy” Campaign.
- Cassie Forbus-Coordinator (UP!) United Prevention Coalition of Lewis County- Provided an overview of the Mission of Up! which is to reduce the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in Lewis County youth by collaborating with the community to empower residents to make educated decision about living a healthy lifestyle.
- 2018 National Film Festival – Vice-Chairperson Madeline Lehman provided an overview of the 2018 National 4-H Film Festival that she and Emma Reid attended on behalf of the Lewis County 4-H Teen Council. The festival was held July 29 through August 11, 2018.
- Scott Mathys, CEO of Lewis County Opportunities Inc., presented a synopsis of agency services offered at Lewis County Opportunities, Inc. LCOI was incorporated in 1965 during America’s War on Poverty and is a not for profit agency.

(2018-Presentations by Local Agencies-Continued)

- Kathleen Lehman, 4-H Youth Program Educator provided an overview of 4-H program offerings.
- Dan Myers, Director of Double Play Community Sports Center provided an overview of all Double Play's Youth Development Programs as well as spoke about how Double Play partners with community agencies.

2018

Recognition of Youth Bureau Student Representatives and Legislative Committee Members

At the June 20, 2018 Youth Bureau meeting, the Youth Bureau recognized and honored the following Student Representatives whose term of appointed ended June 30, 2018:

- Jacob Hartle-Co-Chairperson-Harrisville Central who served from August 1, 2015 to June 30, 2018
- Jurnee Allen-Harrisville Central School, who served from June 7, 2016 to June 30, 2018

Tara Martin was appointed as a Student Representative from Beaver River Central. Recently, due to the many community, school, and work commitments, that Tara had acquired, she recognized that she was unable to fulfill her term on the board. Tara truly is an inspiration to all and we thank her for serving on the board. ▪ Thank you to Officer Luke Monnat who served on the Youth Bureau as a Community Member. Officer Monnat. ▪ Thank you to Legislators Andrea Moroughan and Greg Kulzer who had served on the Youth Bureau's Legislative Committee. Their term of appointments on the Youth Bureau ended December 31, 2017.

Letter Submitted by:

Madeline Lehman, Vice-Chairperson and Student Representative Lowville Academy

I have been part of the Lewis County Youth Bureau since 2016 when I was indicted my sophomore year. I have helped with the co-chair and vice-chair positions. It is through these two positions where I learned how to properly run and adjourn a meeting. By being part of this board, I felt like I have made a positive difference in my community by providing funding for programs that impact youth. I have seen differences in our schools, along with recreational activities which have the opportunity, to operate because of the Youth Bureau. By being on the board for three years, it has taught me that one thing I care deeply about is philanthropy.

Not only has the Lewis County Youth Bureau Board taught me about philanthropy, but also about how I like meeting and listening to people. I have met many people from different school districts, along with adults from the county that are very influential. When I was filming the Public Transportation Commercials, I met with my peers outside of the Board and learned that many of the youth serving on the board are very similar. Since 2019 will be my last year serving on the board, I will miss all the experiences and opportunities, I have gained through it. The Lewis County Youth Bureau Board has been a huge part of my life, inside and outside of the traditional meeting setting.

Letter from the Director

It is an honor to have the opportunity to work with each, and every one of the members of the Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board as well as the Youth Bureau's Legislative Committee. I have been affiliated with the Youth Bureau for 17 years, and it continues to amaze me how well the mix of community members, student representatives, and legislators work so well together to fund quality youth programs in our county. *Without the diverse makeup of Community; Government; Non-Government; and Student Representatives who serve on the Youth Bureau Board, we would not be able to make the difficult youth funding decisions that we make.*

The youth board requests proposals for programs for youth ages 0 – 21, they review applications, engage in discussion, and ultimately make difficult and challenging decisions on funding youth programs despite the possibility of a decrease of funding from year to year. Additionally, the youth bureau partners with many local agencies to assist them in meeting the needs of their consumers, by volunteering to assist agencies in promoting their programs and or events.

When board member's terms on the board expire, my hope is that they take away a sense of pride, and accomplishment in knowing that they made a difference for so many, youth in our county. I also hope they understand how important, community involvement, compassion for others, as well as the positive impact that is created when agencies collaborate and work together.

I sincerely thank the Youth Bureau Board for their commitment and dedication in serving on the board and look forward to working with them in 2019.

Sincerely,
Penny L. Moser, Director
Lewis County Youth Bureau