

LEWIS COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU ADVISORY BOARD
2019
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 students from each, public school district in the county. Presently the board has 18 voting members and 4 Ex-Officio members.

2019

Governance & Administration

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

Lewis County Youth Bureau Legislative Committee

Ex-Officio Members

Greg Kulzer, Legislative Chairperson
Randy LaChausse, Legislator
John Lehman, Legislator

Lewis County Youth Bureau Advisory Board

Ex-Officio Member

Penny L. Moser, Director

Lewis County Youth Bureau-Community Board Members: Scott Mathys-Co-Chairperson, John Exford, Rhonda Vanucchi, Michele Ledoux, Ward Dailey, Mike Leviker, Deanna Edick, Brian Finn, Cinda Bush, and Katie Zehr. Community board members terms are 2-years, however upon completion of the original term, members may be reappointed to additional 2-year term. * *If a community board vacancy occurs, the Youth Bureau utilizes a “Board Application” that the board developed that is a helpful tool when seeking out potential new members.* **Student Representative Board Members:** Kirstin Moshier-Co-Chairperson representing Lowville Academy, Kallie Bauter-Vice Chairperson representing South Lewis Central, Mandalynn Atnip and Peyton Walker-representing Copenhagen Central, Alyssa Brower representing Lowville Academy, Justine Schmidt and Chloe Benson representing Harrisville Central, and Heather Puddington representing Beaver River Central. * 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.

(Board Makeup-Continued):

****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 program 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, and 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).

ALLOCATION OF 2019 OCFS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

In 2019 the OCFS allocation of Youth Development funds to Lewis County was \$21,115.00-Resolution No. 2019-56. Allocation amounts are based on the youth population of the county according, to the current census. In September 2019, the board was allocated an additional \$2,284-Resolution No. 2019-320, bringing the total 2019 allocation to **\$23,399.00.**

AWARDING OF 2019 YOUTH DEVELOPMENT FUNDS

At the direction of the Youth Bureau Board, **\$14,000** of the total OCFS allocation 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

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.

total of three (3) applications were received with a combined total of \$19,000 requested as follows:

(Awarding of \$14,000 OCFS YDF's-Continued)

Lowville Village Police Department requested \$6,000 to support the training of an officer to be the NYS Certified Basic Youth Aid Officer. Once trained the officer will interact with youth that have interactions with the police department and will provide guidance for troubled youth coming in contact with law enforcement from interview via arrests. The Youth Aid Officer assists other officers in an effort to have a stronger presence at Lowville Academy (the officers walk through the school as time permits interacting with youth). The Youth Aid Officer supervises the administration of issuing free "Safe Child" Identification cards as a public function and upon the request of individual youth groups. **Amount awarded \$4,000.** **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.** **Mountain View Prevention Services-Youth Advocate Program** requested \$10,000. Youth Advocates work with Kindergarten through Grade 12 students at Beaver River, Harrisville, and Lowville Academy School Districts. 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 \$7,000.**

Annual "Lewis County Night Out" Event: The Youth Bureau allocated **\$2,284** to support the 2019 "Lewis County Night Out event" a prevention awareness event.

2019 Administrative Costs:

At the direction of the Youth Bureau Board a portion of the 2019 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 project mailings to 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. At the end of 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 2019 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 application, was sent to Lewis County Town Supervisors and Village Mayors. **It is important to note that since 2014 funds for municipalities are*

not guaranteed from year to year. Applicants are required to submit with their proposal any other funding resources they were awarded for their recreational program such as- Pratt Northam Foundations-Summer Workership Program funds.

(Awarding of 2019 Municipality Run Recreation Programs-Continued)

A total of seven (7) applications were received with the combined request for funds equaling \$30,150.00 as follows:

- **Town of Diana-Harrisville Youth Seasonal Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$5,500; projected enrollment was 160 youth; applied for \$3,000 and were awarded **\$1,000.**
- **Town of Croghan-Beaver River-Summer Recreational Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$23,000; projected enrollment was 1,500 youth; applied for \$5,000 and were awarded **\$500.**
- **Town of Greig-Summer Recreational Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$26,245; projected enrollment was 150 youth (125 daily); applied for \$2,500 and were awarded **\$1,250.**
- **Village of Croghan Seasonal Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$15,000; projected enrollment was 148 (daily attendance 100 youth); applied for \$5,000 and were awarded **\$1,250.**
- **Village of Lowville-Summer Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$44,410 projected enrollment 425 (170 projected daily attendance) applied for \$6,000 and were awarded **\$1,250.**
- **Village of Port Leyden-Summer Recreation Program:** Total cost to run the program was \$14,000; projected enrollment was 95 youth (38 projected daily attendance) applied for \$6,515 and were awarded **\$1,265.**

The Town of New Bremen requested funding to support their sponsorship of the New Bremen Community Improvement Association's, NBCIA recreational programs held at Wagner Field. Funding would be used by NBCIA to maintain the ball park lighting, field conditions, picnic tables, bathroom facilities, fencing, and utility payments in order to host little, county, and church league games (projected enrollment 2,600) applied for 2,000. ***Consensus of the Youth Bureau was not to fund the Town of New Bremen for a sponsorship due to the majority of the request being for maintenance of the ball park vs. direct services for youth.***

2019 County Project Funds - \$5,000

During the 2019 Budget process, the Youth Bureau requested \$5,000 from the county to be used to support positive youth programs in Lewis County. ****This funding is not guaranteed from year to year. Fortunately, our County Manager and the Lewis County Board of Legislators recognize the importance of allocating county funds for youth programs/activities and events and approved of allocating the \$5,000 requested for positive youth programs.***

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. The 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 however **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

(2019 County Project Funds – Continued)

process. In 2019, the Youth Bureau voted unanimously to open the funds up to any youth program to apply for. County Project proposals were required to 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, 4 applications were received with the combined total of funding requested equaling **\$13,844**. **In 2019 all four (4) applications were either partially or fully funded with the County Project Funds as follows:**

- **Up! Community Coalition – Choices and Consequences-MEGA Brain:** The application was a coordinated effort between the Up! Community Coalition and Mountain View Prevention Services, to bring an inflatable “Mega Brain” an interactive substance abuse prevention program, to the Lewis County Fair for a 2-day period. The “Mega Brain” is an effective tool to educate youth, young adults, and adults, in helping to make healthier choices as it relates to drugs and alcohol consumption. The Up! Coalition requested \$5,000 and were awarded **\$500**.
- **Village of Castorland-Playground Equipment:** The Village of Castorland requested funds to support the upgrade to their playground equipment. The equipment is a fitness type play area for youth. The goal of the Village is to help area youth to get more active and to have a safe place for them to play. The Village of Castorland requested \$2,320 and were awarded **\$2,000 for new playground equipment**.
- **Double Play Community Center-Teen Enrichment Center:** Double Play requested funding to support a new Teen Enrichment Program (Video and Photography) targeted for youth ages 14 to 18. This age group is vulnerable to long-term drug use and mental health illness from depression and lack of stimulating programs. The Teen Enrichment program includes: Self-Empowerment, Personal Responsibility and Self-Worth. Double Play requested \$2,320 to purchase photo/cameras, a Canon Inkjet Photo Printer and a Travel Camera Tri Pod and were awarded **\$1,250 to purchase equipment for the program**.
- **Lowville Pop Warner Football & Cheerleading:** Lowville Pop Warner is a non-profit agency with a goal to teach the basics of football and cheerleading as well as to help build qualities into youth such as teamwork, self-esteem, respect, punctuality and how to build lifelong friendships. They requested \$4,200 to purchase new Jerseys for their youth football team and were awarded **\$1,250**.

2019-SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND INITATIVES

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. This 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. 2019 was the 8th year of the seasonal run for youth age 14 years of age and older who secured employment at Enchanted Forest Water Safari.

(Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge-Continued)

Over the past few years, this seasonal run was opened up for anyone to use to get to Old Forge for leisure and or employment at the cost of \$1.00 each way.

The 2019 Old Forge Route season ran from June 12, 2019 to September 2, 2019 and included a one day run on June 1st to accommodate Enchanted Forest Water Safari Orientation. 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. This year the Lewis County Planning Department offered the option of assisting Harrisville residents, however there were no riders who requested transportation to and from Harrisville this season. The total 2019 Season Ridership was **6,880 riders (an increase of 790 riders from 2018)**! 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.

Annual "Lewis County Night Out" event: This event is designed to strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The sponsor for the 2019 "Lewis County Night Out" event was the Lowville Police Department. Co-sponsors included the Lewis County Youth Bureau, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Lewis County Opportunities, Inc., and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Lewis County. The event was held on Friday, September 6, 2019 at the Lewis County Fairgrounds from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. In the past, we have recognized first responders, notable prevention agencies and community members. The 2019 LCNO Opening Ceremony was dedicated in memory of NYS Police K9 Will, who was accidentally shot and killed in the line of duty. We also recognized local Police K9's, Therapy Dogs, and their handlers who received a Plaque with the message *"Presented to you on behalf of the grateful residents of Lewis County" as follows:*

Local Police K9's and Handlers

NYS Trooper Heidi Lyndaker and K9 Ram
Sergeant Cory Paczkowski for the Lewis County Sheriff's Office and K9 Wyman

Local Therapy (Service) Dogs and Handlers

Amy Quonce-Handler and Emelia from the Child Advocacy Center

Donnie and Renee Moser and Moxy – Beaver River Central School
Brandon Roggie and Josh Center and Zora – Lewis County Search and Rescue

Introduction of the newest Sheriff's Office K-9

Sheriff Carpinelli and Deputy Andrew Waite, introduced the newest Sheriff's Office K9 Winnie

Boy Scout Troop 162 in Lowville led us into the Pledge of Allegiance and Kendra Virkler sang the National Anthem. Forty-one prevention awareness agencies had informational tables at the event to include the NYS Police and the Lewis County Sheriff's Office provided K9 Search & Apprehension demonstrations; The

(Lewis County Night Out-Continued)

NYS Police demonstrated their rollover simulator; West Carthage Fire Departments displayed their walk through, Smoke House Interactive Display; Lowville Police Department processed Safe Child ID Cards; Reality Check, and the UP! Community Coalition to name a few.

2019

"Homeless Christmas Tree" Initiative

November 21st – December 20th

At the Youth Bureau's October 16, 2019 meeting, the board approved of moving forward with their Annual "Homeless Christmas Tree" Initiative in support of an array of local agencies, who recognize there is a hidden epidemic that has to do with homelessness, lack of safe and affordable housing and assisting our local residents who have faced economic hardships get back on their feet. There are many reasons that individuals and families find themselves "out in the cold" including: Job loss; illness; addictions; and due to house fires. Referrals for donated items come from agencies including Lewis County Department of Social Services, the Workplace, Loving Lewis County, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Transitional Living Services of Northern, NY, Lewis County Opportunities, Inc., and School Districts to name a few. As of October 2019, donations received during our 2018 initiative have helped 236+ families and individuals with personal hygiene, kitchen and bathroom supplies, and other items needed when a family or individual "starts over." Donated items requested included: **For Babies:** Diapers (all sizes); wipes; shampoo; baby wash; lotions; powder; towels and washcloths. **For our Economically Vulnerable:** Shampoo/Conditioner; deodorant; toothpaste/tooth brushes; soap; toilet paper; bath towels/washcloths; laundry detergent (pods); dish soap; can openers (manual); silverware; pots & pans; sheets, blankets and mattress pads (twin or full); and pillows. This year, a portion of donations of personal hygiene items will be provided to the newly established Catholic Charities in Glenfield, for their "Personal Care Cupboard." *Monetary donations were also accepted and will be utilized to replenish items we run out of throughout next year.*

From November 21st through December 20th our "Homeless Christmas Tree" was displayed in the window of Lake Effect Tech, a local business located at 7567 South State Street in Lowville. Items were

dropped off Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm and on Saturday from 9am to 12:00 noon. Thank you to Josh Fitzgerald, Owner of Lake Effect Tech, who welcomed us with open arms. Chloe Benson and Justine Schmitt, Student Representatives at Harrisville School District, and Kallie Bauter-Student Representative at South Lewis Central School District, received permission to have a Satellite Tree at their school districts again this year the support of our community, businesses, and county government was overwhelming.

On December 27th donations were sorted and packed up, with donations being delivered to the Department of Social Services-“Homeless Closet”; Catholic Charities for their Personal Care Cupboard; and the remaining items are being stored at the Lowville Food Pantry. We also received monetary donations that will be used to replenish personal hygiene items that we run out of throughout 2020. ***A very special***

(“Homeless Christmas Tree”- Continued)

thank you to the Lewis County Maintenance Department who have annually assisted the Youth Bureau over the past several years in packing up and delivering the excess donations to the Lowville Food Pantry where the items are stored and are readily available when needed.

2019

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 our Student Representatives as well as some of our Community representatives assisted with in 2019:

- Actors and fillers for back ground scene of a commercials to promote the Seasonal Bus Runs to Old Forge with WWNY-TV 7.
- Lyons Falls Farmer’s Market- The Youth Bureau had an information table at the June 18, 2019 Lyons Falls Farmers Market. Nathan DeSantis former Youth Bureau Student Representative from South Lewis Central, represented the Youth Bureau at the market.
- 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 the “Red Kettle Drive.” Monies raised in Lewis County are used to support economically vulnerable residents with food, shelter, and clothing.
- Peyton Walker-Student Representative at Copenhagen Central, served as a “Zombie” during the 2019 UP! Coalitions 1st annual Zombie Run/Walk for prevention held at the Lewis County Fairgrounds.

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 2019 presentations:

- Cassie Forbus, Coordinator UP! Community Coalition-Presented an overview of data results collected from the Lewis County 2018 PNA School Survey. The survey was completed by 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders from Lewis County School Districts. The questions pertained to alcohol and substance abuse usage with the survey providing outcomes and considerations. Information gathered from the survey will be taken to events around the area, in an effort to build awareness and capacity.

(Presentations by Local Agencies-Continued)

- 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.
- Cassie Forbus, Coordinator Up! Community Coalition- Provided an overview of the October 12th Zombie Run/Walk for prevention that was held at the Lewis County Fairgrounds. This will be an annual event and is a way to reach out to the community, educate the public on the dangers of using non-prescribed prescription drugs, and have a little fun in the process. Middle and High School Students served as the Zombies.

Safe Harbour-Seed Funding: In January 2012, New York State Office of Children and Family Services received funding in the NYS Budget to support Safe Harbour legislation. The NYS Safe Harbour for Exploited Children Act of 2008 protects commercially sexually exploited children by recognizing them as victims and paves the way for better outcomes. NY aims to enable New York's child welfare and allied youth services systems to screen, identify, and respond effectively to the needs of children and youth trafficked for sex and/or labor and improve systems responses. In 2020 Lewis County and six other counties will be the last counties to receive Safe Harbour funds. Key elements of Safe Harbour NY include: Supporting the development of county plans that include the development of: Local multi-disciplinary responses through a critical team; gaps analysis, county-wide training plans; public awareness campaigns and direct youth outreach materials; referral pathways for identified victims to access appropriate services; provision of training on CSEC and child trafficking tailored to child welfare professionals and ongoing technical assistance with partners. To develop an effective county-level response to the commercial sexual exploitation of children and child trafficking, a local net work of stakeholders must jointly address system challenges.

2019

Recognition of Youth Bureau Student Representatives

At the June 19, 2019 Youth Bureau meeting, the Youth Bureau recognized and honored the following Student Representatives whose term of appointed ended June 30, 2019: **Madeline Lehman**-was appointed to the Youth Bureau board on June 7, 2016 representing Lowville Academy School District.

During her tenure on the board she assisted with the following: In 2017 she was voted in as Vice-Chairperson and held that office until June 30, 2019 when her board appointment ended. Madeline worked at the Annual “Lewis County Night Out” event all 3 years; has completed on-site monitoring of youth bureau funded programs; was an actor in WWNYS7 commercials for Lewis County Public Transportations offering to SUNY POLY Utica and Mohawk Valley Community College; was an actor in a Prom/Graduation video skit on the topic of not drinking and driving. Former Undersheriff Monnat was also in the skit; recorded numerous radio spots on behalf of LCNO, seasonal bus run to Old Forge for youth job opportunities; and more. And annually she helped pack up and sort through items donated during our “Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative. **Elizabeth (Libby) McGuire:** Libby was appointed to the Youth Bureau Board on June 6, 2017 representing South Lewis Central School District. Libby served on the board for 2 years. She was voted in as Co-Chairperson in June 2018; assisted with the Annual LCNO event where she learned how to make Maple Floss; she recorded radio spots for the LCNO event; and she has

(Recognition of Youth Bureau Student Representatives-Continued)

monitored Youth Bureau funded recreational programs. **Victoria Boliver:** Victoria was appointed to the Youth Bureau Board on June 6, 2017, representing Beaver River Central School District. Victoria has served on the board for 2-years. **Annabelle Atnip:** Annabelle was appointed to the Youth Bureau Board on November 7, 2017 representing Copenhagen Central School District. Annabelle served on the board for 1.5 years. **Kimberlena (Kimmy) Dolan:** Kimmy was appointed to the Youth Bureau Board on November 7, 2017 representing Copenhagen Central School District. She served on the board for 1.5 years. During her tenure on the board, Kimmy assisted with the LCNO event; volunteered at the Lewis County Office for the Aging – Annual Senior Picnic; and monitored youth bureau funded programs. All were presented with recognition certificates with the message: *Thank you for your diligence in attending meetings, engaging in discussion and for your commitment and dedication while serving on the Youth Bureau board.*

Submitted By: Scott Mathys, Co-Chairperson-Lewis County Youth Bureau

I’m grateful for the opportunity to work alongside all the members of the Lewis County Youth Board. Together, the impact of this advisory board is far reaching in our community. Throughout this annual report there are numerous examples of that impact. One of the particular projects from this past year that I’m especially honored to have been a part of was the Lewis County Night Out event. This year the event recognized local K9 service dogs and a number of Therapy dogs. These animals and their handlers are a blessing in our community. The Lewis County Night Out event helped recognize those efforts.

I’m always very proud of our student members; each positively representing their school and self. This group made difficult decisions in 2019 as we tackled challenging funding objectives. They learned and practiced applying due diligence necessary to allocate limited youth funds to their best use in Lewis County. The results are apparent throughout this annual report. I truly enjoyed our student representatives; witnessing firsthand their civic engagement that comes from this volunteer capacity. I also appreciate the adult community members of the Youth Board. It’s their voice, wisdom, and

guidance that is essential for the community-minded growth of our youth. Finally, it is always a privilege to work with our Youth Bureau Director, Penny Moser. She is extremely dedicated to youth needs in our community. Her compassion is inspiration for others to follow. Thank you to all those working with youth in our community. I look forward to 2020 and whatever challenges it brings.

Submitted By: Kallie Bauter, Vice-Chairperson and Student Representative South Lewis Central

I was appointed to the board last year, and I'm amazed at the impact it has had on the community. The board has provided a way for students to have a voice and give back to their community in many ways. Personally, I started a satellite tree at South Lewis High School as part of the Homeless Christmas Tree Initiative, helped, out at the Annual Lewis County Night Out Event, as well as voted on funding for local programs and activities. At the end of last year, I was elected as the Vice Chairperson and I'm excited about the opportunities the board continues to provide.

Submitted By: Kirstin Moshier, Co-Chairperson and Student Representative Lowville Academy

I have spent the past three years involved and serving on the Lewis County Youth Bureau. This past June, I was granted the opportunity and was voted in to be a Co-Chairperson along with Scott Mathys. As a Co-Chairperson, I take part in conducting the meetings such as calling the meetings to order and taking votes on different matters. Additionally, I help with our yearly OCFS monitoring by going to agencies, facilities, and or programs we funded to ensure the money is being spent correctly.

Being the Co-Chairperson of this, particular organization is incredible; the amount of responsibility that comes from being on the Youth Bureau has enhanced not only my own perception of government jobs but other student representatives as well. I'm truly thankful for the experience and blessed to be able to fulfill this role.

Submitted By: Penny Moser, 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 is 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 program 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 Members for their commitment and dedication in serving on the board.