

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS WARREN COUNTY

2009

WARREN COUNTY EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

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*Delivering Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
Services through the Warren County
One Stop Career Center*

*We are a partner in the local Workforce Development System
of the Saratoga, Warren Washington Workforce Investment
Board (WIB) and its Emerging Worker Council*

FROM THE DIRECTOR, WILLIAM F. RESSE

Our summer youth employment program is one of the youth initiatives supported by the county and the local Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to improve the workplace skills of our youth. The summer program often serves as the first introduction to work for those involved, but provides all an opportunity to learn valuable work skills. The primary goal of the program is to introduce youth to the expectations of the workplace and to develop a work ethic that they can carry forward to future jobs and employers. The development of a good work ethic can greatly assist local employers who sometimes struggle to find job applicants prepared to assume the appropriate expectations of the workplace. We appreciate the efforts of the host worksites during the summer employment program and the important role that the supervisors of our youth at these sites play to make this a learning experience. I would also like to thank our staff for their hard work and efforts dealing with the numerous details to make the program successful. These youth are the emerging workforce for our local employers and this type of program helps to build skills needed in the workforce.

AN OVERVIEW

It seems as though each decade brings major changes. In 2000 we went from JTPA to WIA. In 2010 stimulus monies from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and supplemental TANF funds enabled us to more than double the size of this year's summer program compared to last year. New worksite partnerships were established and our "tried and true" worksites remained loyal. Youth counselor Catherine Reed left ETA to pursue opportunities in the south. William Resse announced his retirement as full-time director of Employment & Training. We look forward to a new decade of training youth to become part of a skilled workforce in our area. A total of **16,460** hours of work was completed by **115** youth in Warren County at **51** worksites!

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SYEP Orientation

SUMMER STAFF

Coordinator: Sharon Sano

Counselors: Catherine Reed
Noreene Tarantino
Sharon Sano

Payroll/Fiscal: Julie Montero

2009 WORKSITES

ACC Marketing Project
American Red Cross – Adirondack/Saratoga
Bolton DPW
Cedars Mealsite (Office for the Aging)
Chestertown
DPW ~ Recycling Center
Chester Town Library
Cornell Cooperative Extension Project
Glens Falls Family YMCA
Summer Camp ~ Maintenance
Glens Falls Hospital
Central Service ~ Nutrition Services ~ Utilities
Healthquest IT Department ~
Healthquest Pathology Department
Glens Falls Mealsite (Office for the Aging)
Glens Falls Recreation Department
Crandall Park ~ East Field
Hadley/Luzerne Central School
Hadley/Luzerne Public Library
Hague DPW
Horicon Recycling Center
Hudson Mohawk AHEC
Hyde Collection
Johnsburg Town
DPW ~ Youth Commission

Johnsburg Mealsite (Office for the Aging)
Lake George Chamber of Commerce
Lake George Town
DPW ~ Gaslight Village ~ Planning & Zoning
North Creek Depot Museum
North Warren Chamber of Commerce
North Warren School
Queensbury Town Office
Richard's Library, Warrensburg
SPCA
Stony Creek DPW
Stuart Townsend Middle School
Top of the World Resort, Inc.
Thurman DPW
Warren County ETA
Warren County Head Start
Warren/Hamilton CAA
Warrensburg Town
DPW ~ Historical Society ~ Town Clerk's Office
Warrensburgh Museum
Westmount Health Facility
WSWHE BOCES
Career Exploration ~ Operation Food Chain

2009 PROJECTS

OPERATION FOOD CHAIN 2009

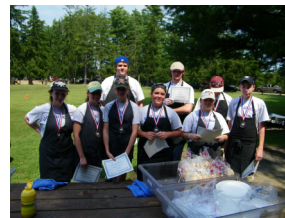
(The collaboration includes Warren County Employment & Training, WSWHE BOCES, Warren/Hamilton Community Action Agency, Glens Falls City Parks & Recreation, and NYS Department of Education)

The following was written by the 2009 OFC team:
Operation Food Chain is a program that operates through Warren County Employment & Training.

During the summer of 2009, Operation Food Chain was an opportunity to gain money and work experience. The hours were early and the summer was hot. Operation Food Chain taught us how to serve safe food. Over a period of eight weeks we ran a restaurant at BOCES culinary kitchen and served kids 18 years of age and younger. Some challenges we faced were keeping food cold, working as a team, and completing all of our tasks on time. The best part of the job was feeding the kids and seeing the smiles on their faces after they ate a nutritious lunch.

Summer 2009

Total lunches served: 2935
Milk: 3007 cartons
Sandwich meat: 477.6 lbs
Salad: 505.2 lbs
Food budget for the summer: \$5942.75



OFC Crew with culinary medals at award ceremony



BOCES crew exploring careers at Lowe's in Queensbury

CAREER EXPLORATION PROJECT

For four weeks during July, 17 young people were in a work-based learning program under the supervision of Jeff Plummer and Vern Perry. They learned social, academic and life skills while working as teams. Their work included doing "green jobs" at the BOCES Southern Adirondack Education Center and with local non-profit agencies. Each youth developed a personal portfolio which included career goals as a result of their career exploration process. They had the opportunity to tour businesses. The youth thought that their experience was enjoyable not only because of their paychecks, but because they "met people, learned a lot, got something done, and saw signs of progress."

CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PROJECT

Six youth worked with staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension in Warrensburg. They assisted with program preparation and development, pre-trip planning and equipment checks, and fair set up and clean up. All the youth completed their employment experience with many new marketable skills and leadership abilities. They learned the basics of Power Point and did public Power Point presentations at the end of the program.



Cornell Crew following Power Point presentations

ACC MARKETING PROJECT

Stimulus monies through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allowed youth up to age 24 work during the 2010 summer. Six college and college-bound youth upgraded their computer technology and marketing skills. Under the supervision of assistant professor Nick Paigo, the youth used state of the art computer software to develop materials to market the Adirondack Community College for the graphic arts program.

(See photo at left)



YOUTH PROGRAMS UPDATE

GED ACCOMPLISHMENTS & RECOGNITION

One of the highlights of our year-round youth program is to celebrate the accomplishments of the students who attended class to prepare for the high school equivalency exam and those who received their GED. Almost half of the youth who attended GED classes passed their exam during this program year (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009). This was a particularly special event because our guest speaker, Tara King, worked with Employment & Training as a youth and as an adult. She spoke to the graduates and guests about her determination to get her GED so she could support her children. Tara said she had no support or educational background from her parents. She felt supported by the Employment and Training staff. Once she received her GED, she enrolled in Adirondack Community College where she again found support from Noreene Tarantino on an everyday basis. Tara is now a registered nurse. Her message was that although it's difficult, you can do it. She told the youth to reach out to people who care even if they aren't in the household. Grab a hold of whoever is there to find your support. You can do it!



GED candidates and recipients



ETA Staff Kathy Albert, Sharon Sano, Speaker Tara King, Noreene Tarantino

HAPPENINGS & HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ The Operation Food Chain crew served **2,935** lunches to youth at two meal sites in six weeks
- ▶ Green jobs provided youth with an opportunity to do recycling and restoration in their communities
- ▶ A youth placed at a museum learned about the area's history and made valuable community connections
- ▶ Youth placed at Headstart presented their supervisors with bouquets of flowers at the award ceremony (photo above)
- ▶ The American Recovery and Restoration Act funding allowed post-secondary youth to earn money toward their college education
- ▶ Shari Marci of Headstart spoke at the award ceremony about the attributes of the four youth placed with them during the summer program
- ▶ One youth who received his ServSafe credential obtained a job at a local restaurant; another was hired by the summer worksite for their after-school program
- ▶ The Cornell Cooperative Extension Project youth flourished during the Warren County Youth Fair & their PowerPoint presentations were submitted to our state association (NYATEP)
- ▶ Our connection with the Hudson Mohawk AHEC (American Health Education Center) gave summer youth amazing opportunities in health care positions at Glens Falls Hospital working in the information services & pathology departments.



Headstart supervisors and summer employees

AWARD CEREMONY



John Twomey doing an interview with The Post Star.

John Twomey, Executive Director of NYATEP (New York Association of Training & Employment Professionals) took time from a very busy schedule traveling the country to address the youth of our community regarding the importance of their work experience and the summer employment program. He spoke about how fortunate we are to have had the stimulus monies and New York State's commitment to dedicate TANF funds to the summer employment program. Teenage labor force participation (how many youth are working out of every 100) is under 30%, the lowest since 1945 – less than 3 out of every 100 teenagers had a job this summer! John said that research shows for every year a teenager works during the summer, that in their 20s their income increases 14% to 16%. John congratulated the youth as well as their parents and grandparents for making sure they went to work, and told them this experience will pay off in the future

Guests attending the event were: Julie Montero, Kim Haviland, Lois Karhinen, Shari Venable, Matt Dennin, Tony Ruggerio, and Director of ETA Bill Resse, from the Warren County One Stop Career Center; Ralph Bentley, Town of Horicon; Bud Taylor, City of Glens Falls Ward 3; Louis Tessier, Town of Lake George; Joan Sady, Clerk of the Warren County Board of Supervisors; JoAnn McKinstry, Deputy Commissioner of Administrative and Fiscal Services; Frank O'Keefe, Warren Co. Treasurer; Tim Lahey, Director of Career Services, Adirondack Community College; Eileen Tarantino, Warren/Washington Mental Health Association; Jill Walls, Program Director Mohawk Hudson Area Health Education Center; Director Margaret Sing-Smith, Warren Co. Youth Bureau; Kate Hogan, Warren County DA; Shelia Weaver, Warren Co. Commissioner of Social Services; David Safer, Director of Council for Prevention; Judge Richard Tarantino, City of Glens Falls; Denise Palozzi, Coordinator of Business and Workforce Development for WSWHE BOCES; Rick Tomisman, NYATEP; Deb Capazuti and Meg Wood representing Assemblywoman Teresa Sayward.

Certificates of appreciation are presented to those who supervised summer youth at the 51 worksites. Every youth who completed the program received an individual certificate for a work-related skill they excelled in during their employment through the program.

Pins for *Excellence*, *Achievement* and *Perfect Attendance* were awarded as follows: **35 excellence pins, 38 achievement pins and 40 perfect attendance pins**. Trophies for youth who are outstanding employees are not handed out lightly, and go to youth who meet strict criteria. **Nine youth received trophies for *Outstanding Employee***: They are:

Victoria Baker, Ashley Bosford, Courtney Cleavland, Amber Miller, Tiffany Moffitt, Robert Mattison, Cody Ovitt, Brendon Rounds, Kawana Smith,



Over 165 employees, worksite supervisors, agency personnel, dignitaries, family and friends attended the ceremony on August 20, 2009.

Following the program youth who participated are asked to complete an anonymous survey about their experience. Here are a few quotes from the responses we received: *"It was the perfect 1st job."* *"It helped me figure out my likes and dislikes."* *"Got me situated with working in a job environment."* *"I know now that I can ask questions without feeling stupid."* *"It has prepared me better for different jobs in life. I have more skills."* *"Now I feel I can go out and get a job."*

SUMMER PROGRAM NUMBERS

Effect of declining funding for summer employment programs in Warren County on number of youth served

	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	2000	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09
WIA/ARRA	145	199	213	149	119	113	128	131	157	44	33	35	42	39	7	5	3	3	67
TANF										46	54	42	40	10	20	40	46	45	48
TOTALS	145	199	213	149	119	113	128	131	157	90	87	87	82	49	27	45	49	48	115