City of Manchester, New Hampshire

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

Volume 2, Issue 3: March 2010

OFFICE OF YOUTH SERVICES

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Spotlight on Staff: Shannon Hebert

Shannon has served at OYS for 6 years implementing the WYR Project as a Youth Services Counselor. She teaches in the PRIME for Life program. Outside of her work at OYS she coaches field hockey at Southside Middle School.

OYS Honored by the YMCA

OYS was appreciated by the Greater Manchester Family YMCA for collaborative work to keep youth in school.

Director's Corner - Media Literacy

Young people today have more access to more powerful electronic devices than ever. The Kaiser Foundation reports that the average young person (between 8 & 18) spends more than 8.5 hours "plugged" into these electronic devices every day. Parents, caretakers, educators, and health professionals are slowly catching up to the idea that unchecked, this amount of access to these devices can result in unintended consequences for children and their families. On this month's "For Young People," we had the opportunity to interview Rona Zlokower, Executive Director of Media Power Youth (See External Links). "Media Literacy is the most significant public health issue facing this generation." We hope this show will help viewers learn to successfully navigate the ever-evolving world of the mass media.

Thank You,

-Marty Boldin

Youth Perspectives -

By Maria Cervantes

Mayor Theodore Gatsas' inauguration on January 5, 2010 was the beginning of a new administration in the City of Manchester. Along with the Mayor, also comes new staff for the Mayor's Office. This staff includes a Chief of Staff, Special Assistant to the Mayor, and a Constituent Services Representative. While these positions may seem self-explanatory, I wanted to talk to Vicki Ferraro, the Constituent Service Representative for the Mayor's Office about her job and her new role working for the City of Manchester.

Ms. Ferraro described her position by explaining its two main functions. One of them is to help the citizens of Manchester with issues they are dealing with or ideas they have for improving the community. These requests are all very different. They come in as emails, letters, phone calls, or in person. Ms. Ferraro has to prioritize the requests and works with the other staff members to respond to everyone or point them in the right direction. The second part of her position is to represent the mayor at events or meetings that he is unable to attend. In this role, she brings back the important ideas and issues that were addressed to discuss with the mayor.

Ms. Ferraro became interested in public service during high school. She became a volunteer at the Red Cross, the Manchester Animal Shelter, and AARP. "I enjoy helping people and making a positive impact on the community," said Ms. Ferraro. She told me more about what inspired her to work in government. As she was volunteering at AARP, she attended some presidential debates. Her interest in government grew. She knew people who were involved in government and decided to volunteer on the mayoral campaign.

The Constituent Services Representative is the first government position she has held. "Working for the mayor is very exciting. Every day is different; I have met many people," she commented. Along with the excitement, she had also faced some challenges. Being new to the job, she has had to learn many things. When asked what advice she has for a young person who is interested in a career in government she quickly responded to get involved in the community. "Get out there. Volunteering will help you meet new people and find interests," she advised. Taking a political science class was another of her suggestions.

Even with her busy schedule, Ms. Ferraro made the time to allow a young person to interview her, showing her interest to help the community. With the excellent staff the Mayor has, it is right to say that Manchester is off to a fantastic start in 2010.

Substance Abuse Hotline

Are you a parent concerned your child may be using drugs? Are you a teenager who is considering using drugs? All of your questions can be answered via our Substance Abuse Information Hotline **(603) 665-6600**

Contact Us!

1045 Elm Street, Suite 204, Manchester, NH 03101
Phone: (603) 624-6470 Fax: (603) 628-6285 Email: OYS@manchesternh.gov
Visit us on the web: http://www.manchesternh.gov/youth

Meet the OYS Staff

Marty Boldin, Director
Carlos Agudelo, Youth Services Counselor
Greg Bolduc, Juvenile Firesetter Program
Judy Cooper, Substance Abuse Evaluator
Dan Daigle, Juvenile Firesetter Program
Jon Donovan, Youth Services Counselor
Dan Duval, Outreach Worker
Estefania Gonzalez, Office Assistant
Jeff Gore, Outreach Worker
Shannon Hebert, WYR Project Specialist
Dorothy Krasner, Administrative Assistant
Peter Lennon, Juvenile Firesetter Program
Karen Lord, Youth Services Counselor
Andrew Messinger, Americorps VISTA
Andrew Quigley, NH National Guard Counter Drug Liaison
Mario Peña, Youth Services Counselor
Charles Pierson, Juvenile Firesetter Program
Hector Urrea, WYR Project Specialist

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Our Mission:
The City of Manchester Office of Youth Services helps all young people by providing effective solutions to a variety of challenges encountered by youth and their families.

By offering a supportive environment for young people to address issues like alcohol and drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, truancy, and problems at home, the City of Manchester Office of Youth Services helps disconnected youth.

Likewise, the City of Manchester Office of Youth Services also provides significant resources to young people who are catalysts for positive change in the community.

Office Hours:
Monday—Friday, 8:00 am—5:00 pm
Evening hours available by appointment.

Contact Us:
By phone: (603) 624-6470
By E-mail: OYS@manchesternh.gov