

Annual Report  
for  
Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau, Inc.

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for the year ended June 30, 2011



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## Letter from Board of Director's President

During the 2009-2010 year, the Tri-Town Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors determined that it would develop our first strategic plan. The process included reviewing our Mission, Vision and Values, conducting an internal assessment of our organization, and setting our priorities for the next three years. Board member Anne Yurasek guided us through the entire process.

As a result, we established four goals for the organization:

1. Maintain and improve our current plans and explore the development of new sustainable programs.
2. Develop and maintain our relationships in order to garner the resources to support our programmatic strategy.
3. Improve and adjust supports and safeguards to support our programmatic and relational strategy.
4. Improve our quality assurance efforts.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will read about our accomplishments toward reaching these goals.

The year was a difficult one for nonprofit organizations and we were no exception. The two major fundraisers that we conduct to supplement the aid received from our three towns and the grants we have secured from various state agencies are our Annual Telethon and Taste of the Valley. We raised approximately \$25,000, in profit, through the efforts of our board members and volunteers. Many area restaurants were present to offer samples of their cuisine to those attending Taste of the Valley. A number of local businesses provide sponsorship or donated items for our silent auction. This event is now a part of the social calendar of many residents.

Through the efforts of Executive Director, Gail Onofrio and her staff, we secured a Drug Free Communities grant from the Federal government. The funds received were used by the Tri-Town Youth Substance Abuse Prevention Council to improve our delivery in this area.

With our Strategic Plan in place, we look forward to the 2011-2012 year. We will continue to strive to improve our services and respond to the needs of the youth and families of Chester, Deep River, and Essex.

John H. Proctor  
Board President

### Board of Directors

John Proctor, <i>Chair</i>	(6)
Angus McDonald, <i>Vice Chair</i>	(6)
Trish Maselli, <i>Treasurer</i>	(5)
Regina Mercedes, <i>Secretary</i>	(4)
Roseann Ventimiglia	(4)
Gale Dilger	(4)
Kathy Lalikos	(4)
Anne Yurasek	(5)
Cathy Cooke	(7)
Nancy Kozlik	(1)
Stephen Klinck, <i>Youth Rep.</i>	(2)

### Board Committees

#### *Personnel*

Roseann Ventimiglia  
Cathy Cooke  
Gale Dilger  
Regina Mercedes

#### *Finance*

Trish Maselli  
John Proctor

#### *Strategic Planning*

Anne Yurasek  
Gale Dilger  
Trish Maselli

#### *Nominating*

Anne Yurasek  
Cathy Cooke  
Roseann Ventimiglia  
Regina Mercedes

## Staff

### **Executive Director/Counselor**

Gail M. Onofrio, M.S.

35 hours

### **Youth Program Coordinator**

Melissa Haines, M.S.W.

18 hours

### **Parent Resource Coordinator**

Meredith Adler, M.A.T.

10 hours

### **Administrative Assistant**

Kimberly Dodge, B.S.

12 hours

### **Bookkeeper**

Nina Sulinski

1 hour

### **Prevention Coordinator**

(Contracted through Drug Free Communities for work with the SAPC)

Ali Siemianowski, MPA

30 hours a week

### **Interns**

Jennifer Favorite 12 hours

Brittlyn Boulem, 10 hours

### **Counseling Volunteer**

Jan Loomis, varies

## Letter from the Executive Director

Founded as a nonprofit in 1984, 2010-2011 was Tri-Town Youth Services' twenty-seventh year of service to youth and families of Chester, Deep River, and Essex. Our founders possessed great wisdom and foresight in establishing a programmatic framework that continues to serve us well today. This framework meets state legislative charges, while at the same time it provides flexibility to address current local concerns.

The agency has evolved over the years to become a recognized leader in the field of substance abuse prevention. In August, along with colleagues from two other youth service bureaus and law enforcement representatives, we presented at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual National Leadership Conference on "The Impact of Regional Coalitions on Addressing Underage Drinking in Rural Communities." In June, we delivered a similar presentation at the Governor's Prevention Partnership's Northeast Regional Law Enforcement Conference.

Tri-Town Youth Services is fortunate to have a stellar staff, well-credentialed and actively engaged in the pursuit of ongoing professional development. Working with the State Department of Education, Tri-Town is employing Results Based Accountability to ensure quality programs with positive outcomes.

As this annual report reflects, all our agency's work, at the individual, family, and community level, is driven by our Mission, Vision, and Values. With support and direction from our Board of Directors, and with the support and generosity of our community, Tri-Town Youth Services continues to move forward.



Gail M. Onofrio

Executive Director

## MISSION STATEMENT

TRI-TOWN YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU, INC. is a nonprofit agency that *coordinates, develops and provides services* dedicated to promoting the positive *growth and development* of youth and families in Chester, Deep River, and Essex, Connecticut.

### “Coordinates...”

With its many connections and well-developed relationships throughout our three communities, Tri-Town Youth Services is poised to collaborate on many fronts. Tri-Town convenes the Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Council, the Asset Development Strategy Team, the Middlesex County Chapter of Youth Service Bureau Directors, and attends numerous meetings in our local schools.

The Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Council is comprised of everyone who lives or works in Chester, Deep River, or Essex who has an interest in substance abuse prevention. Community sectors represented: business, faith community, schools, law enforcement, parents, youth, youth serving organizations, local government, health care, civic clubs, media, and substance prevention organizations. In addition to its annually-organized awareness week, “High on Life,” the Council was recently awarded the Drug Free Communities grant through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA) and Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP). Through this grant, the Council has been able to become more active in the community with environmental strategies.



*Deep River Resident Trooper Chris Cope, Tri-Town Executive Director Gail Onofrio, and Prevention Coordinator Ali Siemianowski traveled to Washington, D.C. to attend a national training and to meet with legislators.*

### Asset Development Strategy Team

Dr. Ruth Levy, Superintendent of Schools  
Barbara Vandehei  
Philip Miller, First Selectman Town of Essex  
Mary Hambor  
Laura Kasprow  
Jane Cavanaugh  
Rev. Tim Haut  
Gina Sopneski

Marjorie Russell  
Justyna St. Onge  
Sarah Curran  
Cori Camire  
Ali Siemianowski  
Gail Onofrio

## “Growth and Development...”

Through an initiative funded by Middlesex United Way, Healthy Communities · Healthy Youth of Chester, Deep River and Essex, spearheaded by Tri-Town Youth Services, has mobilized the community, building youth developmental assets since 2005. Search Institute’s survey, “Profiles of Student Life: Attitudes and Behaviors,” was administered most recently in January 2011. Results of the survey will be released to the public in October 2011. Among the activities for building youth assets has been an emphasis on community service opportunities and volunteerism, and more recently, a Community Read, “On the Same Page,” which featured Three Cups of Tea for multiple reading levels. All four public libraries, schools, and many local businesses helped to promote this read, which was culminated by a community event, “An Afternoon of Community and Hope,” in October, 2010 at John Winthrop Middle School.

Our asset building focus is not limited to school-age youth. Part of our community mobilization efforts reaches schools, business, the faith



community, and parents. Through our community e-mail system,

*Peggy Schaedler; DRES librarian, Tri-Town Executive Director Gail Onofrio, Principal Dr. Jack Pietrick, and School Social Worker Laura Kasprow at Deep River Elementary School.*

asset building tips and parenting information are sent to parents. Working with the Early Childhood Council, social development is an integral part of preschool curriculum as well as for grades K-12.

## “Provides services...”

### Parenting Programs



**Meredith Adler, Parent Resource Coordinator**

*Outstanding Ones* and *Terrific Twos* provide parent support and relevant information as well as music, movement, and crafts.

*Chat & Walk @ Chatfield*: exercise and parent issues chatting

*A.I.M.* (Advocate, Inspire, Motivate): A special needs informational support group, sponsored by Valley Shore Collaborative, now meets monthly at Tri-Town.

*Birthday Party, Essex Elementary*: Tri-Town distributes information about developmental screenings to local families.



Amy Petrone admires the dry ice bubble on her daughter, Joanna, during the Mad Science family event.

*Family Fun Activities*: Mad Science, Clayhouse, Farm Day

*Parent Education*: Mother/Daughters Night Out: Getting Ready for Change

*Internet and Technology Safety*, presented by Scott Driscoll of Internet Safety Concepts, was co-sponsored by John Winthrop Middle School and Tri-Town Youth Services.

*Parent Consultations*: provided by appointment.

*ECC Panel Presentation*: “Talking About the Pre-school Years: A Panel Discussion on Boundaries and Expectations”

### Positive Youth Development Programs



**Melissa Haines, Youth Program Coordinator**

*Youth in Action*: leadership development, recreation, community service for middle schoolers.

*Youth Action Council*: leadership development, recreation, community service for high school youth.

*Summer Co-op* for youth entering grades 7-9. Asset-building fun.

“The Summer Co-op is a great program for kids entering 7th grade, as they get to know kids from the other towns, “ a mom recently said.

*Youth Job Bank*: matches youth with residents who need some help.

*Safe Graduation Party*: a drug-free alternative for graduating seniors.



*Youth in Action helped out at Essex Land Trust spruce-up*

*Mentoring*: Adults paired with elementary aged youth meet as a group.

*Reach-Out!* High school girls, paired with elementary-aged girls, meet as a group.

*Homework Hangout*: Underscores the importance of education and provides help after school.

*Babysitter Training Classes* provide skill and information.

*Peer Advocate Training* co-taught with Valley Regional High School Social Worker.

## **Counseling and Referral**

Individual, Family, Group Counseling available by appointment. Referrals made upon request.

Juvenile Review Board meets to handle individual

cases of youth in trouble with the law.

## **Environmental Prevention**



**Ali Siemianowski, Prevention Coordinator**

In November, through the Drug Free Community grant, the Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Council was able to hire Prevention Coordinator Ali Siemianowski, who serves as the Project Coordinator for Drug Free grant activities. Gail Onofrio serves as Project Director. Activities this year have included our updated website, planning for the Freshman Orientation, which will take place in August 2011, development of by-laws for the Council, and providing information to parents at Parent Council meetings and at Driver Education classes, as well as merchant training for responsible selling of alcohol, party patrols with law enforcement, and distribution of information on our Tip Line.

# Vision and Values

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## Our Vision:

Tri-Town Youth Services envisions a community where youth are able to establish strong and positive relationships with family, school, peers, and the community.

We will:

- Provide information, resources, and innovative services and programs that meet the changing needs of families, youth, and our community.
- Be a financially stable organization supported by our local towns, grants, and fundraising.
- Be known for our role in supporting families, youth, and our community.
- Be recognized as a leader in the field of substance abuse prevention.
- Inspire positive changes in the attitudes and practices of individuals, community organizations, businesses, and town government agencies through advocacy and modeling so that our youth feel like valued, integral members of our community.

## Our Values:

*We respect the families, youth, and community members with whom we work.*

*We are accepting and caring in our interactions.*

*We believe in a strength-based clinical philosophy, centered on the individual and/or family.*

*We offer customized services and resources for individuals and families.*

*We are collaborative.*

*We are in constant partnership with local government, schools, businesses, faith organizations, law enforcement, and the people we serve to develop solutions to our communities' challenges.*

*We commit to a high standard of professional ethics and integrity.*

*We are accessible and friendly.*



*Feedback from program participants and parents reflects how values are embraced:*

*"My daughter always comes home from the group with a smile on her face."*

*"I'm so thankful she joined the program. I can see a lot of improvement in her behavior since she's been a part of it."*

*"My big 'sister' is awesome!"*

# Tri-Town Youth Services' 2010-2011 Budget\*

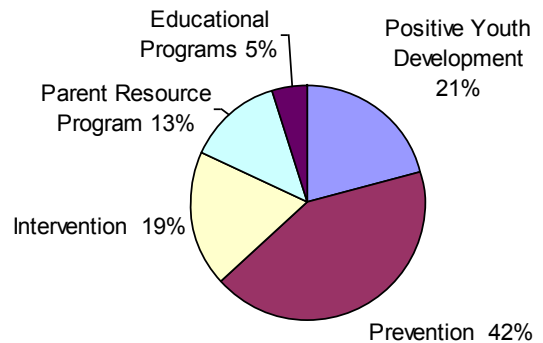
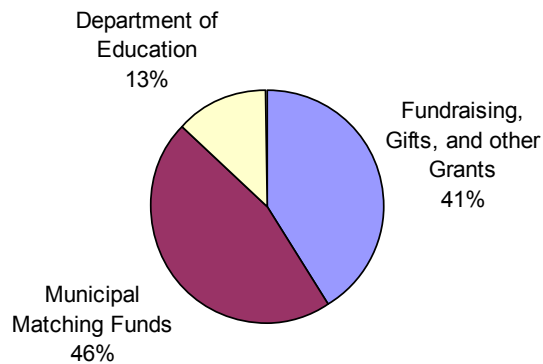
## Income

State Department of Education	\$22,280	13%
Municipal Funds	\$78,563	46%
Fundraising, fees, gifts, and other grants	\$69,065	41%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$169,908</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Expenditures

Positive Youth Development	\$35,875	21%
Parent Resource Program	\$21,649	13%
Educational Programs	\$8,908	5%
Prevention Programs	\$70,900	42%
Intervention Programs	\$32,576	19%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$169,908</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Where Tri-Town's Funding Comes From and Where it Goes



\*While Tri-Town Youth Services is the fiduciary for the Drug Free Communities grant, the grant was awarded to the Tri-Town Substance Abuse Prevention Council.