



Mission Statement

Mentoring Seneca County Youth to make better choices for a brighter future!

Upcoming Events

• Fostoria Match Event

Friday, August 12th from 5:00pm to 7:30pm

Details to follow in the near future

Look to senecasmyl.org or our Facebook page

• Heritage Festival Weekend

Saturday, September 17th and Sunday, September 18th

SMYL plans to walk in the parade and volunteer at the village

We are looking for help at the village gates and at the mine sluicing station

Please contact SMYL if you're able to help either day between 10:00am and 5:00pm

• Save the Date: Tiffin Strike-A-Thon Fundraiser

Sunday, October 23rd at Heritage Lanes (747 W. Market St. Tiffin, Ohio 44883)

Two separate times: 12pm and 2:30pm

Sponsor sheets and team registration forms will be available on the website in the near future



A special thanks to Mercy Hospital of Tiffin staff for thinking of our mentees at Easter!

ISSUE

6

SUMMER
2016

QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER OF
SENECA MENTORING
YOUTH LINKS

S.M.Y.L.

201 S. Washington St.
Tiffin, Ohio 44883

Phone: 419-443-0981
Fax: 419-443-1192

Email:
senecasmyl@ncoesc.org

Website:
www.senecasmyl.org

Mentor Coordinator

Matt Coleman

Case Manager

Sha' Cousin

Research Assistant

Jessie Gase

Board of Directors

Jill Gosche, President

Deena Smith, President-elect

Tiffany Fruth, Secretary

Brad Radison, Treasurer

Cooper Conrad

Linda DeVaughn

Sharon George

Roseann Hall

Cindy Miller

Suzanne Reinhart

Bryce Riggs

Jay Rishty

Jan Steyer



SMYL Day at Miller Farm Featured Link

On June 30th, SMYL mentees spent the day fishing, learning about soil, hiking, doing archery, having water balloon tosses, playing kickball, and wiffle ball! A few SMYL mentors participated as well as staff. Pizza and snacks were also provided for the group. Fun memories were created for all who attended. This day at Miller Conservation Farm would not have been possible without the Seneca County Conservation District. This organization hosted, taught, and participated in the activities. SMYL members and staff are grateful for the invitation as well as the many volunteers and staff of the Seneca Conservation District!

Fostoria Summer Recreational Program

This summer, SMYL staff has been collaborating with the Fostoria Summer Recreation Program to play games and help the Rec. staff coordinate activities. During their time with the Fostoria program, SMYL staff has challenged the kids and other staff to "Minute to Win it" games in which the kids have to complete tasks such as dice stacking and puzzles while competing against each other in teams. Fun has been shared all around. A big thank you to the Fostoria Summer Recreation Program for allowing SMYL to bring activities to the youth of Fostoria!

This Issue

- Upcoming Events **P.1**
- Miller Farm, Summer Rec. **P.2**
- Fundraiser Successes **P.3**
- Program Training, Grants **P.4**



Ashlee and Morgan were matched in February. Since being matched, they have enjoyed spending one on one time together.

They have explored Seneca Caverns, visited Marblehead Lighthouse, hiked at Howard Collier Nature Preserve, as well as spent countless hours at home talking and visiting with each other's families. Ashlee has become a great positive role model for Morgan. Nan, Morgan's mother, says that the match is going great and Morgan really enjoys her time spent with Ashlee!



Waiting List highlights

There are always kids on our list waiting to be matched with a mentor. Currently, there is a boy who has a love for science, video games, and building and a girl who loves movies, going to the park, and animals. Both of these children would love a positive role model to help build confidence. These are just two examples of children in our program waiting for another positive friend in their lives.



SMYL Newsletter Issue 6 Summer 2016



S.M.Y.L.
201 S. Washington Street
Tiffin, Ohio 44883
419-443-0981 ph
419-443-1192 fax
www.senecasmyl.org

Mentors Needed for School Programming

Adult mentors and volunteers, 18 and over, are needed for SMYL's School Pal Program and After-School Program from September through May. One hour a week is all that would be committed to either program. Our goal is to have more one on one mentoring in our school related programs. Please contact the SMYL office for more information on mentoring and volunteering for the next school year.

Announcement

Any business, organization, or program that would like Mentor Coordinator, Matt Coleman, to present the SMYL Program Mentor Opportunities at a get-together or meeting should contact the SMYL office as the program is very excited to share specifics with other organizations.

Need for Mentors

SMYL is always seeking traditional mentors. A minimum of 4 hours a month can make a huge impact on a child. Together we can make a difference! Contact SMYL today!

Fundraiser Successes:

Spring Spectacular, Strike-A-thon, Golf Scramble, & Simply Susan's

Thank you to all of the participants, sponsors, & donors for these events!

SMYL would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone that helped play a role in the success of our fundraisers so far this year. Our fourth annual Spring SMYL Spectacular, on March 31st at Camden Falls, was a huge success with participation from over 250 people. The event raised over \$9,000 for the program.

SMYL staff would like to thank the board for their countless hours of work on the fundraiser, especially co-chairs Jill Gosche and Tiffany Fruth. Thank you also to Tom Rodgers Flowers, Adam Smith and Camden Falls, The Advertiser-Tribune, Clayton Neal, and Mary Hillman. A special thanks goes out to mentees David, Chloe, Curtis and Draven for their help on the night of the dinner, as well as the more than 100 donors who provided prizes for the evening.

We are happy to report that our first Strike-A-Thon in Fostoria took place on April 10 and was a great success. SMYL raised over \$3,300 for the program. This year's inaugural event was hosted and sponsored by Seneca Lanes in Fostoria and featured 75 bowlers across 18 lanes. We are excited to



continue to build on this success in the years to come. SMYL wants to give a special thanks to Jan Thibodeau from Seneca Lanes, as well as media sponsors Mix 96.7 WBVI and the Review Times. We were very lucky to have Pat McCauley and "Smokin" Joe Bacon in attendance to announce and add to the fun.

SMYL would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following Strike-A-Thon Sponsors as well:

Tool & Fab Corp., J&P Trucking; Commercial Carpet & Tile; Poet Biorefining; Callies Performance Products; Zender Electric; Burns Petroleum, JB Tours; Tim Sulken, D.D.S.; Steven Geroski, D.D.S.; Morgan Advanced Materials; Camden Falls; Melissa Perry Photography; Flair 37.

We are also appreciative of Fostoria Pizza Palace, Bob Evans, & Sticks Lawn and Landscape for providing door prizes for the event.

Congratulations also goes out to our "Battle of the Banks" Winner: 5/3 Bank and their bowlers Tiffany Wagoner, India Pitts, Jessica Kline, and Sandy Koerper.



The 4th Annual SMYL Golf Scramble took place on Sunday, July 17 at Seneca Hills. The event featured 32 golfers and raised over \$1000 for SMYL. We would like to thank our sponsors: Attica Sons of the American Legion Post #260; Toledo Molding & Die, Inc.; P.T. Services Rehabilitation, Inc.; the Tiffin Lions Club; Elaine Daugherty, and MJ Brown Company. We are also very thankful for the door prizes provided by Mohawk Nursery, Baumann Auto Group and Champs Barbershop and Jill Gosche. A special thanks goes out to Board Member, Jay Rishty for chairing this event and Bobby Pollitt of Seneca Hills for hosting.

Lastly, we would like to thank Susan Wilkinson of Simply Susan's for her donation of proceeds brought in from "SMYL Day" at her shop on Saturday, April 16th. We appreciate those who supported Susan and SMYL! If there are any other businesses or organizations in the community that would like to partner with SMYL, please contact Matt Coleman at 419-443-0981 or mcoleman@ncoesc.org.



Program Training & Adventure day at FELC

SMYL's mentor training took place on Saturday, April 30th at the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center. There were roughly 20 mentors, parents, and mentees who attended. During the morning training, Mentor Coordinator, Matt Coleman presented what the program is, what the expectations of the parents and mentors are, and the progress that the program is making. Each mentor received a mentor training policies and procedure manual. While the mentors were in training, the mentees were doing activities

help prepare a meal over a fire for the group to show appreciation for their mentors.

The later activities included a hay ride and a nature scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt involved looking for specific bugs, leaves, and rocks. Both mentees and mentors alike found joy in searching nature near the center. Lastly, a big thank you to Sr. Shirley Shafranek and the Franciscan Earth Literacy Center for hosting and participating in this event!



This Quarter's Mentoring Tips

Developing Trust in your Mentoring

- TIPS: - Be reliable, consistent, patient, and persistent with your mentee.
- Encourage your mentee to take the lead in deciding what you will do together.
- Tell your mentee what positive qualities or behaviors you see in them.
- Have fun together and create shared memories.



- Listen to cultivate understanding rather than only giving advice.
- Keep your conversations with your mentee private – not telling parents or teachers details of conversations.
- Do not push your mentee to achieve goals that you have set for them.
- Be trustworthy yourself by keeping your word.

Mentor Tips are Copyright © 2016 Search Institute ®

HIGHLIGHT New Grants

SMYL has recently been the recipient of funding from five sources. This funding will be used to help children in Seneca County.

Thank you to Tiffin Community Foundation's Youth Advisory Council, First Presbyterian Church, the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board of Seneca, Sandusky, and Wyandot Counties, Strong Families, the Community Connectors grant, and Tiffin-Seneca United Way as a community partner. SMYL would not be possible without these organizations, our community partners and great volunteers!

Match Opportunities Monthly reminder

If matches are interested in spending more time at the YMCA, contact the SMYL office for more information. Current mentors can look to the SMYL website's EVENT tab for match activity suggestions for Seneca County and SMYL. In addition, please remember to turn in your match log sheets to the office.