



Mission Statement

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

Upcoming Events

SMYL Game Nights @ the Berg: Hosted by Heidelberg Wrestling Team

Fri. Dec. 9th- Tailgate before the match vs. Alma @ 6-9pm

Have pizza & pop before the home match in Seiberling Gym (meet in Saurwein Health & Wellness Center)

Kids will be given glow sticks & sit matside to watch the match

Wed. Jan. 11th- Game Night @ 6-7pm

Meet in Saurwein Health & Wellness Center

Games include ping pong, board games, dodge ball & more!

Save the Date

SMYL Basket Party

Thursday, March 30th 2017

This fundraiser will take place at Camden Falls.

Check out our Facebook page for when tickets become available.

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QUARTERLY
NEWSLETTER OF
SENECA MENTORING
YOUTH LINKS

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Impact Youth Center: After-School Program

SMYL is excited to announce the opening of the Impact Youth Center located at 230 South Washington Street. The program is open to all 6th through 12th graders in the area and runs Monday to Thursday from 3pm until 6pm on the Tiffin City School District's school year calendar. The program gives students the opportunity to explore character skills, physical & mental health, the arts, career exploration, community engagement and community service. Some of the monthly themes include support, commitment, empowerment, constructive use of time, boundaries, positive values, social competencies, and a positive identity. The daily schedule includes various activities, working on homework, tutoring and mentoring. On-site Coordinator Stephanie Little and Mentor Coordinator Matt Coleman have worked hard in getting the program off of the ground with the help of the SMYL board and numerous community partnerships. The Impact Youth Center is grateful for the generous support provided by the First Presbyterian Church, Mental Health and Recovery Services Board – Levy Funds, Tiffin Community Foundation – Youth Advisory Council and a private donor. Special thanks goes out to the numerous volunteers for helping make this program great!

This is a FREE program, but it is not a "drop-in" program. There are still spots available. In order to enroll in the program, you must submit your child's application and the proper emergency medical/liability forms. The forms are available through your school guidance counselors or by accessing them at www.senecasmyl.org. Students who are enrolled in the program are expected to be there each day, unless you specify that your child is involved in other activities on a certain day. We look forward to the opportunity to help mentor your child and continue to help our youth make better decisions for a brighter future! If you have questions, please call Matt Coleman at (419) 443-0981. Completed paperwork can be returned to the Impact Youth Center, by emailing mcoleman@ncoesc.org or faxed to 419-443-1192.





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. Also, if there are any businesses or organizations in the community that would like to partner with SMYL, please contact Matt Coleman as well.

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 Success: Tiffin Fall Strike-A-thon

Thank you to all of the participants, sponsors, & donors for this event!

SMYL would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone who helped play a role in the success of our fundraiser. SMYL would like to thank the staff and board for their countless hours of work on the fundraiser.

We are happy to report that our first Strike-A-Thon in Tiffin took place on October 23rd and was a great success. SMYL raised over \$2,200 for the program. This season's inaugural event was hosted and sponsored by Heritage Lanes in Tiffin and featured 18 bowling teams across 18 lanes with nearly 100 participants. We are excited to continue to build on this success in the years to come.

SMYL would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following Strike-A-Thon sponsors and donors: Simply Susan's, Attica Sons of the American Legion Post #260, Clouse Construction, The Advertiser Tribune, Mercy Hospital, Carmie's Bar and Grill, Meyer & Kerschner, Webster Industries, Toledo Mold and Die, Reineke Family Dealerships, the Family of Jamie Cooley, Old Fort Bank, Seneca County Radio and all of the bowling teams who raised money for the event!



Career Day: The Cleveland Indians

In August, 12 mentees from the program had the chance to go to a Cleveland Indians game that had an array of opportunities. The mentees, staff, and volunteers had a chance to meet some Indians players, tour the stadium, watch batting practice and learn about careers behind the scenes in sports. The Indians staff shared great career advice with the kids. This was a once in a lifetime experience that the SMYL program was very fortunate to offer.

We would like to send a huge thank you to Courtney Fallon, Lauren Schneider, Joshua Hsu, Jeremy Feador, Amy Richards and the entire Cleveland Indians organization. Mentor Coordinator, Matt Coleman said, "I believe there were a lot of firsts today. From the career panel to the tour, to Batting Practice and an Indians win. It was great! We were especially proud to be Tribe fans today!"



SMYL Game Nights at the Berg

SMYL continues to partner with the Heidelberg Wrestling team to bring events to mentors and mentees. All of these events were hosted by the team on the Heidelberg campus.

The first event on a hot September day included the team creating a large slip and slide on the hill at Berg's campus center. SMYL participants and Berg wrestlers enjoyed the wet ride down.

The second event, in October, included Nerf gun wars in the Kratz Multipurpose room. The wrestling team joined together with the mentees and had several competitive games including an obstacle course and capture the flag. Darts were supplied by the wrestling team and fun was had by all!

The most recent event held on campus was a dinner with the team in November. Several SMYL mentors, mentees, and their parents had dinner with the wrestling team at Hoernemann Refectory in the dining hall. The team and the SMYL members were able to spend time talking about future opportunities over dinner. SMYL is thankful for all these events and we look forward to tailgating with and supporting the Heidelberg wrestling team on Dec. 9th for their first home match!



Fostoria Olympic Family Fun Night!

SMYL's Olympic Family Fun Night took place on Friday, August 12th at Seneca Lanes in Fostoria. SMYL partnered with Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services to make this event possible.

There were many mentees who attended as well as many families from the Fostoria Town houses. During the event, the kids were split up into 3 different teams separated by the countries of Italy, France, and Japan. Games included sack races, water balloon tosses and bocce ball among other events. Hotdogs, chips, cookies, and drinks were provided. A big thank you to Kelly Garza and Seneca Lanes for collaborating and participating in this event!



Parades!

In September, SMYL walked in the Heritage Festival parade. Many of the parade walkers were mentees, mentors, staff and board members. After the parade, many of these SMYL members helped and volunteered at the gates and the mine sluicing station at Hedges Boyer Park. Thank you to all who participated in the parade or assisted at the village! This was a great way to get involved in the community!

In October, board members, staff, mentees, mentors and parents walked in support of the program in the 50th annual Tiffin Developmental Center Halloween Parade. A successful holiday party at the Impact Youth Center followed. A big thank you goes out to board members Jill Gosche and Suzanne Reinhart for carrying out this event!

This Quarter's Mentoring Quote

Testimony from a Mentor

People ask me "What is SMYL?" My answer "Where do I start?" It's an opportunity to give a child experiences, provide a safe place where they can express themselves and to be an exemplary individual outside of their household. But that is just the surface. As a mentor I have gotten in touch with my inner passions as a child, I have experienced the true emotion



of being overjoyed by someone's achievement and have become more aware of my surroundings. I went in thinking I would hang out with a kid and color but I didn't know how much that young lady would impact my life. SMYL is a growth experience for both participants in the program. I am so blessed this program brought (my mentee) to me! I have truly enjoyed, cherished and loved our adventures!

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.

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.