



## Upcoming Events

### • First Call for Help: Stuff the Bus @ Tiffin Wal-mart

SMYL and First Call for Help are looking for volunteer help at this event

Thursday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 11am – 4pm, Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 7pm

Saturday, July 15<sup>th</sup> 8am – 1pm

Please contact SMYL if you're able to help

### First Call for Help: School supplies program Pick up @ Impact Youth Center

SMYL and First Call for Help are looking for volunteer help at this event

Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> 9am - 11am, Wednesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 11am – 2pm,

Thursday, August 10<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 5pm, Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 5pm – 7pm

Please contact SMYL if you're able to help

### • Heritage Festival Weekend

Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup>

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 10am and 5pm

## Mission Statement

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

SMYL Newsletter Issue 8 Spring/Summer 2017



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

ISSUE

8

Spring/Summer  
2017

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 Managers

Charlene Thomas

Cassie Eschweiler

## Research Assistant

Jessie Gase

## Board of Directors

Jill Gosche, President

Brad Radison, Treasurer

Cooper Conrad

Linda DeVaughn

Tiffany Fruth

Sharon George

Roseann Hall

Cindy Miller

Suzanne Reinhart

Bryce Riggs

Jay Rishty

Jan Steyer



## Impact Youth Center: After-School Program

The Impact Youth Center wrapped up a successful first year on May 12<sup>th</sup>. "Impact" is located at 230 S. Washington St. in downtown Tiffin in the basement of Little Faith Ministries and served community youth in grades 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The program was designed to produce a structure that combines social skills, character values, physical activity, the "arts", community engagement and service, as well as academic assistance. This free program ran from 3-6 p.m. from Monday-Thursday and was based around the 40 Developmental Assets of the Search Institute.

Impact is a collaborative effort that blossomed from a Community Partnership between SMYL and Little Faith Ministries, as well as Firelands Counseling and Recovery Services Center of Seneca County. Financial support was provided by the First Presbyterian Church, levy funds from the Mental Health and Recovery Board of Sandusky, Seneca and Wyandot Counties, Tiffin Community Foundations Youth Advisory Council and private donors. The Impact Youth Center was very thankful of the support provided by the Seneca County Family and Children's First Council, Tiffin-Seneca United Way and the North Central Ohio Education Service Center. We are excited to continue on with this program to help the youth of our community to make better decisions for a brighter future!

## Meet SMYL's New Case Managers! Cassie Eschweiler

Cassie is a recent graduate of Tiffin University; turned graduate student in Psychology. She is originally From Lakewood, Ohio and



has volunteered in the past with the Impact after school program and school pals. She is excited to meet everyone in the program!

## Charlene Thomas

Charlene grew up along the shores of Lake Erie and has lived in Tiffin since 1999. She is a graduate of BGSU and worked in the healthcare industry for 14 years,



but ultimately returned to her passion of working with children. Outside of SMYL, Charlene currently works at North Central Academy and also serves as the pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church in Republic.

## 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.

## 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!



## SMYL receives Community connectors grant for 3rd year

Marathon, Tiffin community Foundation, YAC, Mental Health and Recovery Board funding

## Spring Spectacular Fundraiser

Our fifth 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 Jill Gosche and Sharon George. Thank you also to Adam Smith and Camden Falls. A special thanks goes out to mentees Brittany, Rebecca, Oary, and Joey for their help on the night of the dinner, as well as the more than 100 donors who provided prizes for the evening.



## SMYL Lock-in Events

SMYL has introduced quarterly lock-ins in 2017 to our special events. The Impact Youth Center was the site of the St. Patty's Day Lock-in on March 17<sup>th</sup>. On, June 16<sup>th</sup>, SMYL enjoyed Hedges-Boyer Park and the Tiffin City Outdoor Pool courtesy of the Tiffin Park and Recreation Department for the second Lock-in of the year. The two lock-ins featured games, crafts, food, swimming and more! These fun-filled nights allow the students a social break to be active and can be a bit of respite care for both the participants and their parents. We are very thankful for all the volunteer mentors would help out, including those students from Tiffin and Heidelberg University. Our new Case Managers, Cassie and Charlene have already started to plan some great events for future lock-ins in the Fall!



## Ice-skating at the Cube

SMYL had approximately 14 mentees and 25 people overall at the Cube in Findlay for a fun afternoon of Ice-Skating. This was a first-time event for all but 3 of the mentees and was very enjoyable.



## Dinner & Etiquette at Reino's Catering Room

SMYL Day at Reino's Catering Room was well attended with 45 people attending the Dinner and Etiquette demonstration. Mentee and Mentor alike learned how to make a pizza and proper etiquette skills when having a sit-down dinner. Everyone had a great time and SMYL is very thankful for the etiquette presentation by Gene Chintala and the pizza making presentation by Johnny Reino.



## SMYL Day at the Barn

SMYL was very excited to partner with mentor Taylor McCluskey and the TU Equestrian Team for a fun-filled day at the Barn on Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. The weather was beautiful and participants had the chance to learn how to groom, lead and actually ride a horse. Coaches and student-athletes from the team made this a great day and also provided snacks for the participants.



## Announcements

Our staff and community partners have worked to carry out some fun events in the first half of 2017. We are always looking to continue to expose our mentees to experiences that they might not otherwise have the chance to do without SMYL. Please let us know if you have some new ideas as we continue to plan upcoming events. We hope you enjoy the pictures of some of our events below, including: Ice Skating at the Cube in Findlay, Dinner and Etiquette with Reino's Pizza and Gene Chinatala, our St. Patty's Day Lock-in, Spring Fest at Tiffin University, SMYL's Day at the Barn with Tiffin University's Equestrian Team and our game nights with Heidelberg's Wrestling Team. If you are not receiving emails about events and would like to be added to the list to help out with events, please let us know!

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.

## Mentoring Can Open the Door to Relationship Building and Academic Success

1. Be specific when talking about school success: turn in assignments on time, actively participate in class, ask for help when needed.
2. Ask what books your mentee is reading; you may have read some of the same books when you were young.
3. Help your mentee engage in problem solving about issues that arise at school.
4. Provide specific help with schoolwork, making sure that you stay in the role as "guide," not "doer."
5. If your mentee claims to not care about school, find out why. Does she believe she isn't smart enough to do well? Does he think he can't afford college?

Keep in mind that academic-related encouragement should not come at the expense of the relationship you are striving to develop with a mentee. Deciding how to help your mentee academically and how involved to get will depend on the wishes of parents and direction from your mentoring program.

