Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court
2014 Annual Report

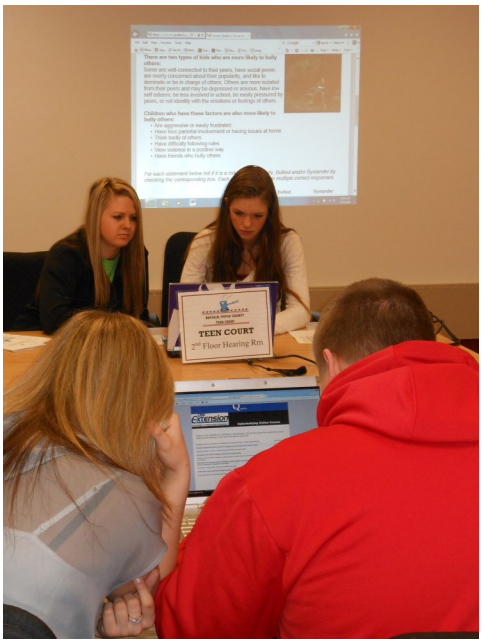
Teen Court works to create a change in youth behavior, provides an opportunity for youth to restore her/his image in the community while repairing his/her relationship between themselves and the victim, facilitates the strengthening of family resiliency, and offers ways youth can gain academic and 21st century life skills for future success. Through the restorative justice process the offender is encouraged to recognize the human relationship they have to the victim and their impact their actions had on everyone involved. It views the situation as a teachable moment for the offender and research illustrates it can be the most powerful model for young people.

Developing Effective Teen Court Panelists

In April 2014 the Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court held a new panelist training. Panelists serve as peer "judges" who hold juvenile first-time offenders accountable for their actions by issuing fair and innovative sanctions. Buffalo/ Pepin Teen Court Coordinators, along with five current panelists trained 14 new panelists. The training focused on a brief overview of Teen Court, restorative justice model , effective questioning, and mock trials. Panel members were given the opportunity to observe an actual court case with Judge Duvall, who also spoke with panelists about questions techniques, why people commit crimes, and factors to consider when deciding meaningful and authentic sanctions for youth offenders.

Strengthening Youth Leadership Skills

Throughout the year, Buffalo/Pepin Teen court offered mini trainings focused on bullying and workforce readiness. The goal of these mini trainings was to provide professional development opportunities for panelists; keep panelists up to date and engaged in Teen Court processes; and develop authentic and meaningful sanctions for offenders. By participating in the mini trainings, panelists engaged in life–long learning activities. During the workforce readiness training, students identified and developed tools to apply to their resumes. The individuals that attended the bullying training were able to participate first hand in a Cyberbullying Online Course developed by two of the three Teen Court Coordinators, Annie Lisowski and Dana Erickson.



Expanding Resources

The online Buffalo/Pepin Teen Court Resource Hub is in the final stages of development. The online hub provides resources and information such as sanction information for youth offenders, information for parents, and examples of sanctions. Sanction requirements and information on academic and financial education, career development, personal development and relationships, substance use, community service learning, and technology will be accessible through the hub. Mini trainings and other resources will be posted for not only panelists to utilize but also other Teen Court programs. The goal is to launch the Resource Hub by the end of 2014.

CONGRATULATIONS 2014 GRADUATES! THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION TO BUFFALO/PEPIN COUNTY TEEN COURT:

Alma

Jason Pronschinske

Jonathon Wodarz

Cochrane– Fountain City

Brandi Lorenz

Cynthia Lupton

Nicole Sobotta

Rebecca Whyte

Durand

Ryan Prom

Gilmanton

Jessa Kuba

Brittany Laehn

Katie Reidt

Mondovi

Morgan Lund

Sarah Kopp

Emily Stoughton

Pepin

Charlie Raethke

Cori Terpstra

Communicating the Value of Teen Court

Students enrolled in a digital media class at Durand High School recorded video footage during new panelist training and various mini-trainings throughout the year. Students from the media class also interviewed panelists and coordinators to gain first-hand perspectives on Buffalo/Pepin Teen Court. The footage was incorporated into an informational public service announcement, as well a documentary that was distributed to stakeholders, area schools, and Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court Advisory Board members.

Preparing for the Future

Throughout the upcoming year, Buffalo/Pepin Teen Court will hold a series of mini-trainings focusing on a more in-depth look at the violations seen in Teen Court, become more familiar with the sanction options Teen Court has to offer, and gaining more case experience through mock trials. In addition, short video trainings will be posted on our Resource Hub on a variety of topics such as the restorative justice model, avoiding leading questions, and the referral process. These video trainings will be available to our panelists as well as other Teen Court programs that utilize our resource hub.

Thank-You!

Thank you to the 2014 funders. The financial support of these businesses and organizations make Buffalo/Pepin Teen Court programming possible: Alliance Bank–Mondovi, Alma Knights of Columbus, Animal Wellness of Mondovi, Bauer Built, Bauer's Auto Service, Bautch Insurance Agency, Black's Valley Ag Supply Inc., Casetlerock Foundation Inc., Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company, Cochrane–Fountain City School, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Durand High School, Durand–Pepin Lodge No. 149, Eau Galle Cheese Factory, Elmer's Auto Inc., Federated Youth Foundation, Gilmanton High School, Graphic Image LLC, Komro Sales and Service, Kjentvet-Smith Funeral Home, Marten Transport, MH Smith Insurance Agency, Mondovi High School, Nelson Telephone Coop., Pepin Area Community Club, Pepin Area School District, Pepin County, Pepin Ill Evangelical Free Church, RBO Business Services Inc., Richardson-Koller Construction LLC, Richardson Electric, Riverland Communications Inc., Robert Hagness Law Office, Rosenholm Dairy LLP, Security Financial Bank, and Weiss Reality LLC.

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