Responsible Public Policy

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DYS facilities and those on parole, DYS funds and supports over 680 direct service programs throughout the state offering more than 130,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change.

Youth Giving Back

DYS provides youth with opportunities to give back through community service, which gives youth a sense of pride and accomplishment as they provide needed services to various organizations throughout the state. Community service aligns with the restorative justice principle of making a positive contribution to society. It’s a chance for youth to become more aware of the consequences of their actions and make restitution to communities. Engaging youth in these meaningful opportunities helps to minimize idle time, alleviating boredom and tension. Activities often help youth learn new technical skills, gain social skills, focus attention, acquire marketable job skills and increase personal growth.

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, 31,384 hours of community service were provided by youth in facilities, and 14,561 hours of community service were provided by youth on parole. At Minimum Wage ($7.40 an hour), community service provided by DYS youth during FY 2011 would equate to nearly $340,000. For additional information regarding community service at DYS, please contact Christine Hauck, at 614-466-6747.

Partnerships

DYS monitors and supports the development of productive partnerships with non-profit organizations, government agencies, schools and charitable groups throughout the state of Ohio with confirmed 501C3 not-for-profit tax status. Some of the agencies served by youth during the past year include the following:

- American Cancer Society
- Animal Shelters
- Boy Scouts of America
- Boys and Girls Club
- Crayons to Computers
- Food Banks
- Goodwill Industries International
- Hats for the Homeless
- Homeless Shelters
- March of Dimes
- Meals on Wheels
- Mohican State Park
- NAACP
- Nationwide Children’s Hospital
- Parks and Preservations
- Red Cross
- Salvation Army
- Schools
- True North Ministries
- Upper Valley Medical Center

Services

Youth are linked to community service based on individual needs and interests. Listed below are some of the projects completed by youth during the past year:

- Assembling educational materials
- Cleaning and maintenance
- Creating greeting cards
- Folding and sorting clothing
- Landscaping
- Performing clerical duties
- Preparing and serving meals
- Setting up and dismantling public events
- Shoveling snow
- Stocking food pantries