

Colchester Youth & Social Services



Our Mission:



THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH & SOCIAL SERVICES PROVIDES PROGRAMS AND SERVICES DESIGNED TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR YOUTH, FAMILIES AND INDIVIDUALS SO THAT THEY MAY REACH THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AS HEALTHY MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

Community Service Programs



WHEN YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN TO SERVE OTHERS THEY BECOME EMPOWERED; THEY GROW UP KNOWING THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

WE PROVIDE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE INCLUDING: TEENS IN ACTION AND YOUTH ACTION COUNCIL FOR GRADES 7-12, YOUTH FORCE GROUP FOR GRADES 6-8

PROJECTS INCLUDE: VISITS TO SOUP KITCHENS AND HOMELESS SHELTERS, ANIMAL SHELTER CLEAN-UPS, SPECIAL OLYMPICS, AND MUCH MORE.

Youth Force Group



Serving lunch at the Willimantic Soup Kitchen

- Youth Force Group is a team of middle-school youths.
- The mission of the group is to increase youth awareness and compassion for less fortunate individuals.
- This is accomplished through educational presentations, hands-on service projects, and community awareness initiatives.

Youth Action Council

- Youth Action Council is a high school community service group.
- Y.A.C.'s mission is to provide leadership and volunteerism opportunities for its members through the delivery of service projects.
- The group is comprised of eleven dedicated students who despite their busy school, sports and job schedules have made a commitment to help others.





Teens In Action

TIA is a free program that offers an opportunity for youth grades 7-12 to work on community service projects, receive credit for service hours, and experience great rewards while volunteering.

Teens in Action

TIA is a free program that offers an opportunity for youth grades 7-12 to work on community service projects, receive credit for service hours, and experience great rewards while



Where: Colchester Food Bank
Town Hall 3rd Floor

When: All Tuesdays in September

Time: 2:30p.m. - 3:30p.m.
Includes snack!

What: Teen volunteers will be sorting food donations, stocking shelves, & cleaning Food bank when necessary.

**VOLUNTEER
OPPORTUNITY!**

To register or for more information please contact Youth Services at 860-537-7255 or e-mail youthservices@colchesterct.gov

Youth Center Drop-in Program



WE STRIVE TO CREATE A POSITIVE PEER EXPERIENCE DURING DROP-IN HOURS BY PROVIDING A SAFE, DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE ENVIRONMENT WHERE KIDS CAN PLAY GAMES AND SPORTS, GET HOMEWORK HELP, BE CREATIVE AND SOCIAL.

Open Youth Center



- Open Youth Center is a time for middle school youths to hang-out in a supervised, safe environment.
- We have a pool room, craft corner, Xbox, Wii U, a reading/homework area, a room for foosball and air hockey, and more!
- Weather permitting, outdoor activities are also offered; basketball, capture the flag, kickball, and more!
- Attending the Youth Center is a privilege and kids are required to be respectful of staff, their peers, and the equipment.



Picture Above: 7th & 8th Grade OYC

Curriculum Based After School Programs



OUR STRUCTURED AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO NEED EXTRA SUPPORT, ADDITIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT, ACADEMIC TUTORING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESS. THE YOUTH WHO PARTICIPATE IN THESE GROUP ARE USUALLY REFERRED TO THE PROGRAMS BY SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND TEACHERS. THESE GROUPS LAST FROM 8-WEEKS TO 6 MONTHS AND GENERALLY HAVE 8-12 MEMBERS.

Intervention Programs

***OUR INTERVENTION
PROGRAMS ARE FOR
YOUTH AND FAMILIES
EXPERIENCING
DISTRESS INCLUDING
EDUCATION, REFERRAL,
GROUPS AND
DIVERSION SERVICES.***



***Juvenile Review Board**
***FWSN**
***Substance Abuse Counselor**



- THE JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD AND FAMILY WITH SERVICE NEEDS (FWSN) REVIEW BOARD EXIST TO OFFER A RANGE OF MEANINGFUL ALTERNATIVES TO THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THROUGH INTERVENTION STRATEGIES THAT ARE RESPONSIBLE AND COMMUNITY BASED.**
- THESE PROGRAMS OFFER COMMUNITY BASED SOLUTIONS WHILE AVOIDING THE DELAYS, COSTS AND STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH THE COURT AND LEGAL SYSTEM.**
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING: YOUTH SERVICES PROVIDES YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING THROUGH A CONTRACT WITH PROJECT COURAGE SERVICES ARE PROVIDED 2 DAYS EACH WEEK.**

Social Services

Social Service Programs



OUR SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO ASSIST INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN MEETING THEIR BASIC NEEDS AND ARE DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, FOSTER INDEPENDENCE, AND PROMOTE SELF-SUFFICIENCY WHILE MAINTAINING DIGNITY AND PRIVACY.

Social Service Programs



- Food Bank
- Energy Assistance
- Fuel Bank
- Assistance with completing forms and applications
- Advocacy
- Holiday Baskets and gifts
- Back-to-school supplies
- Summer lunch program for program participants
- Crisis management



Picture Above: Social Service's receiving a donation to the Food Bank from M.H. Marvin

Food Bank/Mobile Food Truck

- The food bank serves an average of 45 different families each week.
 - Families can visit the Food Bank once every four weeks.
 - Clients shop for themselves and can choose milk, bread, produce, meat, soups, mac and cheese, pasta, sauce, tuna, peanut butter, jelly, toilet paper, soap, canned veggies, and more.
- The mobile food truck serves an average of 70-100 different families each every month; and growing!
 - The mobile pantry, provides fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins, and other healthy foods for **FREE** distribution to individuals and families in need. All are welcome.



Back - To - School

- **125 kids received school supplies**
 - **100 received backpacks**
- **50 kids received new clothes and sneakers**
- **15 received gift certificates for haircuts.**

