

Management Team

Michael J. Tarpinian
President

Alice Dunworth, LCSW
Vice President, Residential Services

Ginny Gentile, CPA
Chief Financial Officer

Sarah Johnson, MNO
Vice President, Development

Kane Loukas, LCSW
Chief Operating Officer

Gloria N. Melnick, LCSW
Executive Vice President

Andrea R. Paul
Vice President, Advocacy & Strategic Initiatives

Michael Smith, SPHR
Vice President, Human Resources

Wendy Anders, LCSW
Director, Substance Abuse Services & Family Outreach Services

Anne Archibald, LCSW
Director, Treatment Foster Care

Elizabeth Bailey, LCSW
Director, Family Intervention Services, Cumberland County

Deb Bopsie
Director, Family Mediation

Michelle Carter
Director, Finance

Rick Conway
Director, Information Technology

Guy Cousins, LCSW, LADC
Director, Perry's Place

Darlene Esty
Assistant to the President

Susan Giambalvo, LCSW
Director, ROADS Group Home

Albert Haynes, LCSW
Director, Reardon's Place

Kellie Joyce, LCSW
Director, Juvenile Detentional Alternatives Program

Stacy Karp Mosher, MS
Director, Communications & New Initiatives

Susan J. Levine, LCSW
Director, Heritage House

Gail Libby, LCSW
Director, Bass House

Peter MacMullan, Psy.D.
Senior Director, Statewide Initiatives & Clinical Services

Linda McKenney, LCSW
Director, Girls' Transitional Program & Homeless Youth Services

Wendi McMath-Dubois, LCSW
Director, Family Intervention Services, York County

Lisa Naseef
Annual Campaign Manager

Mary Ellen Rollins, M.Ed., LSW
Director, Centralized Intake

Elizabeth Szatkowski, LCSW
Director, Healthy Families Partnership

Patricia Walker
Director, Training & Development

Board of Trustees

Gregory Sanborn, Chair

Jean T. Nichols, Vice-Chair

Susan Schultz, Secretary

Richard J. Vail, Treasurer

Catherine Gavin

Jean K. Gulliver

Angus King III

Luc Nya

Kimberly Ann Moody, Ph.D., R.N., A.N.P.

Frederick Proctor

William J. Ryan, Jr.

Thomas W. Saturley

Michael J. Tarpinian

Amy H. Woodhouse

Alan Beagle, Clerk

President's Council

Madeleine Corson

Daniel Crewe

Layne Gregory & Daniel Oppenheim

Barbara Hoppin

Pamela & David Moser

Daniel Reardon

William & Peggy Ryan

Gregory & Catherine Sanborn

Thomas Saturley

Richard & Betty Sawyer

Robert & Barbara Schneider

Richard & Susan Schweppe

Joseph & Carol Wishcamper

Incorporators

Sam Barouch

Fred Cronin

Raelene Fasulo

Dr. Elizabeth Flannery, Ph.D.

Steven Hess

Laurie Kazilionis

Jeannine Lefevre

Susanna Liller

Michael J. Pearce

Cumberland County Child Abuse & Neglect Council

Cyndi Amato

Diane Bennekamper

Kristine Biegel

Polly Campbell

Nancy Goddard

Lauren Grousd

Kristen Hess

Diane Kindler

Shawn LaGrega

Pamela McNally

Gloria Melnick

Zoe Miller

Luc Nya

Connie Ostis

Andrea Paul

Chris Patterson

Will Robinson

Henry Shanoski

Faith Sheehan

Karen St. Clair

youth alternatives annual report

Dear friends:


At Youth Alternatives we know that creating sustained changes in the lives of children and youth requires reaching out to their families. It also means strengthening the communities in which they—and we—live, learn and work. That's why our case workers and care givers strive every day to create homes for vulnerable children; support families in need, conflict or crisis; reach out to homeless youth; provide substance abuse treatment and ensure safety by working to prevent child abuse and neglect. Guiding their work is our agency-wide focus on keeping parents and children together. Safe. Strong. At home.

During the last year, we worked with more members of our community than ever before. Of course, serving more people isn't an achievement unless you're providing quality services that create opportunities and transform lives. **It's not enough to say that you're committed to helping families. *You have to prove it.***

And prove it we do. We deliver outcomes-based services that obtain the very highest standards of professional practice. Last year YA, our friends and supporters and, most importantly, our clients achieved impressive results, some of which are highlighted in this annual report. Together we are making a meaningful and measurable difference in the lives of Maine's children and families.



Michael J. Tarpinian
President, Youth Alternatives



Gregory Sanborn
Chair, Youth Alternatives Board of Trustees



Youth Alternatives
advances safe, healthy, happy childhoods and
positive family relationships.

One Post Office Square/P.O. Box 596, Portland Maine 04112
T 207 874 1175 F 207 874 1181 TTY 207 874 1180
web www.youthalternatives.org email info@youthalternatives.org

services and outcomes 2005

results that matter

Creating homes for children and youth.

Youth Alternatives Residential and Foster Care Programs provided a safe haven for more than 445 children and youth this year. In settings across the state, our care givers and foster parents promoted healthy and productive lives for at-risk children and teens in nurturing, therapeutic and educational environments.

- ★ **Bass House** in Saco was a refuge for 13 boys ages 13-17, all of whom attended school during their stay. Of the six boys who completed the program, four returned home to their birth families and two went to live with foster families. A full 92% of the boys saw their families on a regular basis.
- ★ **Girls Transitional Program** sheltered 57 girls even as it moved from downtown Portland to a brand-new home in Falmouth. While in the program, 82% of girls improved their living situation, and 79% heightened their anger management and conflict resolution skills.
- ★ **Heritage House** in South Portland provided safe harbor to 20 girls in the juvenile justice system. Girls who stayed in the program for longer than six months achieved 100% school attendance, while 92% of all residents identified skills to regulate their emotions.
- ★ **Perry's Place** in Bowdoinham provided a stable living environment for 10 children, including two pairs of siblings, newly placed in state custody. As a result of their placement, these children made significant improvements in the areas of daily living tasks, work and study habits and self-care skills.
- ★ **Reardon's Place** was an emergency safe haven for 257 boys who registered a 75% overall improvement in their education, physical health, mental health, substance use and social lives. Additionally, the vast percentage of boys — 94% — remained crime-free while at Reardon's.
- ★ **ROADS Group Home** provided a home and life-skills training to 25 boys in Westbrook. During their stay, 92% of boys on probation did not commit any new crimes, and 88% of boys attended school.
- ★ **Treatment Foster Care** served 104 clients this past year. Our stays are growing shorter with more children returning home or being adopted. Of the eight children adopted this year, seven were adopted by their own YA foster parents. Every day we are helping these children make great strides in the areas of self care and hygiene.

Strengthening Maine's communities.

Each and every day **Youth Alternatives Community Programs** are hard at work with children and families in their homes, the public schools, juvenile courts and local community centers — not to mention on the streets — helping to prevent and resolve the crises that tear families apart.

- ★ **Family Intervention Services** offered voluntary safety assessments and case management to 1,143 at-risk families in Cumberland and York counties. After working with us, 95% of families had no new reports of abuse and neglect, and 99% of families achieved recommended safety goals.
- ★ **Family Mediation** conducted 155 free, voluntary mediation sessions for 88 families, including 199 children, in Cumberland, Sagadahoc and York counties. In addition to learning to communicate more positively, participants reported a 97% improvement in one or more of their areas of initial concern; 54% cited a decrease in teens running away; and 72% reported gaining clarity around family priorities.
- ★ **Family Outreach Services** provided counseling to 20 families at risk of having a child removed from the home. The communication among such families is typically hostile and unproductive yet YA helped 80% of family members completely stop their verbal abuse. By the end of treatment, nearly every family reported dramatic improvements in trust and connectedness — key achievements that boost the chances of the child remaining in the home.
- ★ **Healthy Families Partnership** provided ongoing home visiting to 138 new families in western Cumberland county. Nearly all parents (94%) learned something new about child development, and 90% of those parents saw their parenting skills improve

as a result. Of the 93% of parents who learned something new about discipline, 78% applied this information to make positive changes. What's more, 90% of parents feel more connected to community resources thanks to the efforts of their home visitor.

- ★ **Homeless Youth Services** provided basic necessities and community resource connections for 46 homeless youth (or youth at risk of homelessness), ranging in age from 9-17, in Cumberland and York counties. Our case managers assisted youth in returning to school, helped families secure safe housing and made referrals for counseling. At year's end, all of the clients had homes. We secured immediate placement for 16 youth and arranged stable, long-term placements for the other 30 youth.
- ★ **Intensive Supervision Services** provided case management and support to 185 youth who were awaiting a court date, leaving the Longcreek Youth Development Center or being diverted from jail. Over the last three quarters of the year, 91% of girls and 74% of boys remained crime-free three months after completing our program.
- ★ **Substance Abuse Services** works with teenagers with troubling rates of tobacco, alcohol and marijuana use. After working with us, the number of teens reporting daily use dropped by more than half and the number reporting no use for the past month climbed by 20%. Given that the teens in our program are court-ordered into treatment and often don't view their drug use as problematic, these are significant gains.

Keeping children and families safe.

Youth Alternatives Advocacy, Prevention and Strategic Initiatives provide a proactive voice for Maine's children and families by providing parenting education, influencing the attitudes of our neighbors and communities and shaping the policies of local and state governments.

- ★ The **Cumberland County Child Abuse and Neglect Council** stands at the center of our advocacy and prevention efforts. Formed in 1976, the Council is responsible for community education, professional training and consultation around child abuse and neglect prevention. Over the past year, the Council trained 1250 mandated reporters on recognizing child abuse and neglect and educated 5550 community members through coalitions, conferences forums, groups and meetings throughout the state.
- ★ **Parenting Education** champions developmental awareness, parent-child attachment, child safety, and alternative approaches to discipline. Over the last year our parent educators partnered with other agencies, school districts, educators and community members to:
 - Bring **Baby Think It Over** to 450 students in three different school systems. Students reported enhanced understanding of the risks infants face as well as the demands encountered by infant care takers.
 - Conduct five **parenting groups** every other week in the western lakes region. Designed to help parents feel connected to their communities, these groups reached 80 different parents and resulted in 1,059 contacts with kids and parents.
 - Offer **Parent Effectiveness in Resolving Conflict with Teens (PERC) courses** to 60 parents who learned how to communicate, negotiate and solve problems more effectively with their teens.
- ★ New this year is **The Linkage Project**, a statewide advocacy and education campaign designed to boost individual and community awareness of the link between animal cruelty and human violence. A collaborative effort led by the Council, the Linkage Project includes representatives from law enforcement, animal and human welfare, domestic violence projects, state agencies, educators, child abuse and neglect prevention councils, sexual assault response centers and other social service agencies. Rolling out initially in Cumberland, Kennebec and Penobscot counties, project leaders are training child, adult and animal welfare workers to recognize, report, treat and prevent cruelty across disciplines.
- ★ Given our agency-wide commitment to helping families remain together, **Youth Alternatives advocates and strategists** provided strong leadership around family-focused issues in Augusta. In addition to making numerous contacts with legislators and policy makers, we mobilized constituencies to support the restoration of funds to critical community intervention programs, family mediation services and homeless youth services.