



2014 Annual Report

# BETHLEHEM YOUTH COURT

*The power of positive peer pressure.*





## Table of Contents

Executive Director .....	2
Board of Directors .....	2
Co-Chairpersons .....	2
Secretary .....	2
Treasurer.....	2
Ex-Officio Member .....	2
Members .....	2
End of Year Report.....	3
Offender Statistics .....	3
Community Service .....	3
Board Members.....	4
Youth Court Members .....	4
Financial.....	5
Association of New York State Youth Court (ANYSYC) .....	5
Comprehensive Statistics 2006-2014 .....	6
Breakdown of Offender Statistics .....	7
Community Service Hours .....	8
Community Service Sites .....	9

**Bethlehem Youth Court**

261 Elm Ave.

Delmar, NY 12054

(518) 439-4955 x1143

[byc@townofbethlehem.org](mailto:byc@townofbethlehem.org)

[www.BethlehemYouthCourt.org](http://www.BethlehemYouthCourt.org)

## **Executive Director**

Katrina Charland

## **Board of Directors**

### **Co-Chairpersons**

Theresa L. Egan, *Deputy Commissioner for Safety, NYS Department of Motor Vehicles*

Thomas Spina Jr., *Assistant U.S. Attorney*

### **Secretary**

Jennifer Miller, *Albany County Probation Supervisor*

### **Treasurer**

Maureen McLeod, PhD, *Sage Colleges Professor*

### **Ex-Officio Member**

Hon. John Clarkson, *Bethlehem Town Supervisor*

### **Members**

Dave Doemel, *Administrative Dean, Bethlehem Central High School*

Adam Katz, *Assistant U.S. Attorney*

Jennifer Kilcoyne, *President, Bethlehem Chamber of Commerce*

Anthony Malizia, *Administrative Dean, Bethlehem Central High School*

Connie Mayer, *Associate Dean, Albany Law School*

Nick Petraccione, *BCSD Supervisor for Social Studies and Business Education*

Gene Primomo, *Assistant Federal Defender*

Pamela Clark Robbins, *CEO, Policy Research Associates*

Julie Sasso, *Bethlehem Town Board Member*

Michael Whiteley, *Detective, Bethlehem Police Department*

## End of Year Report

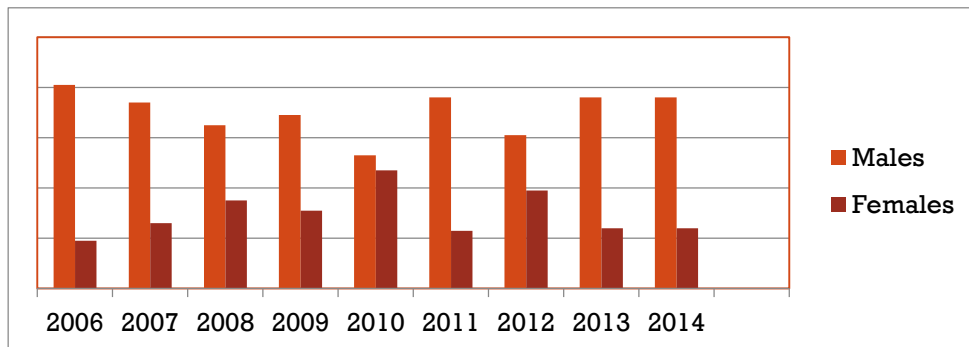
### Offender Statistics

Bethlehem Youth Court held 25 Youth Court hearings in 2014, handed down sentencing on 37 different charges ranging from Unlawful Possession of Marijuana to Arson, and oversaw the completion of over 700 hours of community service by offenders. While the total number of cases heard is down from the previous year (37 cases in 2013), it is important to note that 2014 statewide trends indicated decreased juvenile arrests across New York State.

The most common cases heard in Youth Court in 2014 were Unlawful Possession of Marijuana (16%) and Petit Larceny (16%). These two charges consistently remain the most common cases heard in Youth Court. Other common charges were in 2014 were: Harassment, Reckless Endangerment, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Unlawful Possession of Alcohol.

The successful completion rate in 2014 was 92%, having had 2 unsuccessful dispositions due to rearrest. Although BYC has seen 100% successful completion in recent past years, the 2014 successful completion rate is still well above success rates of comparable crime prevention and intervention programs.

The percentage of male and female cases remained exactly the same in 2014 as it was in 2013, with males comprising 76% of cases and females 24%.



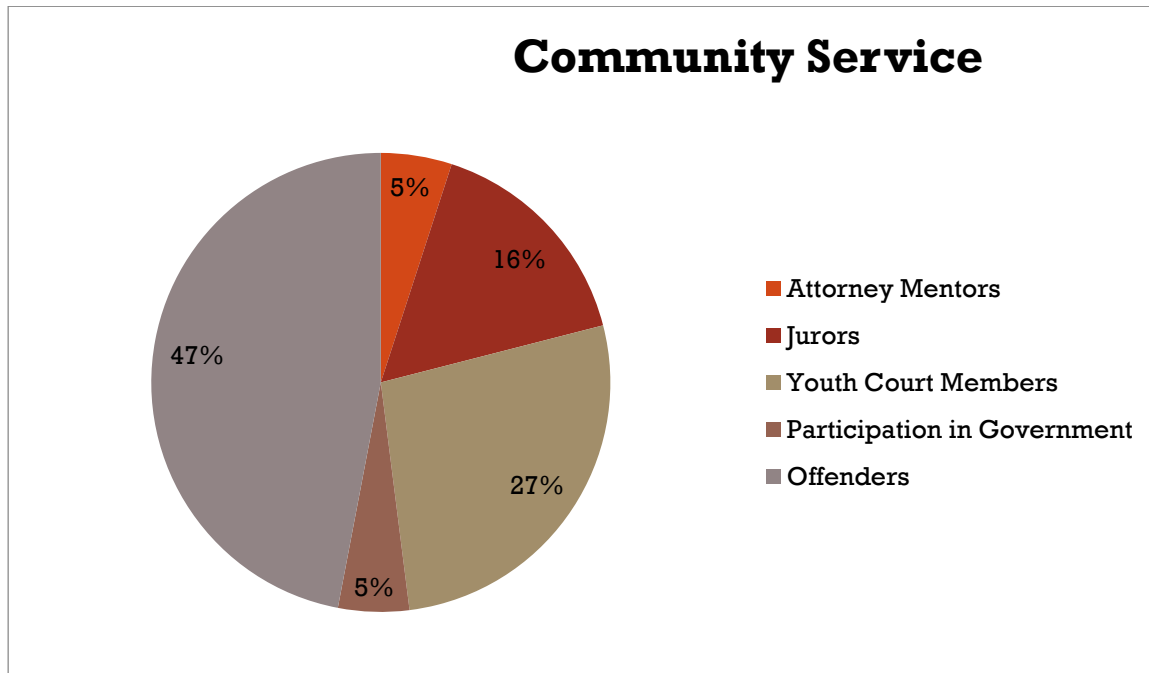
In April of 2014 the Direct Referral Pilot Program became a General Order giving permanency to the pilot program established in 2013 as an option for police officers to send cases directly to Youth Court without a formal arrest for juvenile cases (15 years old and younger). Families of offenders, and victims alike, have expressed their regard for the program, as it strikes a fair balance of holding a youth accountable while at the same time not being as punitive as the traditional route. This process is ideal for very low level offenses in which the victim is amenable to the direct referral.

### Community Service

Community service was performed at 30 different sites in and around the Town of Bethlehem and the Capital Region in 2014. A total of 708.5 hours of community service were sentenced by the jury of Bethlehem Youth Court for the cumulative offenses heard. The average number of hours sentenced per offender was 28, which is a significant increase from 2013 (average 20 hours) and 2012 (average 22). This could be attributed to the number of actual

charges heard in Youth Court, which was 37 in 2014, and/or the severity of cases. To clarify, some offenders whose cases were heard in Youth Court had multiple charges. For example, a youth may be pulled over for a traffic violation, such as a Failure to Signal, which could lead to the accompanying charge of Unlawful Possession of Marijuana if it's determined there is marijuana in the vehicle. The cases with multiple offenses tend to carry heftier sentences.

In addition to overseeing offender's community service, Bethlehem Youth Court also accounts for volunteer's time. In total, BYC oversaw 1571.5 hours of community service in 2014.



### Board Members

The Board of Directors saw very few changes in 2014. One notable change was the resignation of Dale Zatlin, our public relations and media expert. After serving on the board for several years, Dayle stepped down in September. Dayle contributed to our annual report, letter campaign and other media related items.

### Youth Court Members

A variety of scholarship opportunities were made available to senior Youth Court Members. In May of 2014 BYC hosted the second annual Judge Jordan Memorial Scholarship, which was the highlight of our annual Law Day celebration. The \$1,000 scholarship was sponsored by the Bethlehem Police Supervisors' Association and the Police Benevolent Association in honor of Judge Jordan who served as Town Justice, a Town Board Member and as a past BYC Board Member. Senior Youth Court members are also eligible for the \$500 Judge Wenger Scholarship, which is an essay contest, and may compete in the statewide ANYSYC scholarships.

Rather than hosting a 6-week New Member Training program in the fall of 2014, it was decided to simply hold a retraining for current members. This decision was based on the decreased case load and as a means to further engage current volunteers. We also recognized the need for retraining for current members, especially those who may have completed the original training 2 or 3 years prior. In November, BYC hosted a one day training, which resembled a mini-conference, featuring a guest speaker, luncheon, and workshops. The training was paid for by a grant from the Bethlehem Opportunities Unlimited (BOU) and was a resounding success.

### **Financial**

The Town of Bethlehem continued to support BYC with a budget line item in the amount of \$30,000, which is very consistent with past years. The Town's financial support continues to be a vital component to the success of the program.

In addition to Town funding, BYC received financial support from the New York Bar Foundation through the Judge Judith S. Kay Youth Court Fund, the Stewarts Holiday Match, the Bryant Asset Management Generation Grant, and from donations made by community members in response to our annual letter campaign and through the State Employee Federated Appeal (SEFA).

### **Association of New York State Youth Court (ANYSYC)**

The Director continued to serve in the position of Co-President of the ANYSYC and played a major role in the planning of a statewide Youth Court Conference, which was held at Syracuse University College of Law in September of 2014. As the Co-President of the ANYSYC, the Director works closely with representatives from the New York State Bar Association's Committee on Youth Courts.

#### **Stewarts Holiday Match Check Presentation**



L to R: Bernard (Bud) Malone, Jr., Det. Mike Whiteley, Tom Spina, Nick Grande, Katrina Charland, Mahnoor Amir, Julie Sasso, and Casey Vincelette

## Comprehensive Statistics 2006-2014

<b>Bethlehem Youth Court - Comprehensive Statistics 2006-2014</b>										
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Breakdown
Total # of cases	38	45	24	39	34	43	23	37	25	Total: <b>308</b>
% of successful cases	97%	98%	96%	100%	97%	93%	100%	95%	92%	Average: <b>96%</b>
Total # of community service hours	693	839	335	646	551	979	481	738.5	708.5	Total: <b>5971</b>
Average # of hours sentenced per offender	18.7	18.6	13	16.5	15.4	22.7	22	20	28	Average: <b>19.4</b>
Average age of offender	16	16	16	15.5	15.6	15.95	16	17	15.6	Average: <b>16.0</b>
% Males	81%	74%	65%	69%	53%	76%	61%	76%	76%	Average: <b>70%</b>
% Females	19%	26%	35%	31%	47%	24%	39%	24%	24%	Average: <b>30%</b>
\$ Restitution Paid	\$572.99	\$307.11	\$423.20	\$275	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$230	\$0	Total: <b>\$1,678.30</b>
Apology letters written	17	17	9	14	10	17	7	8	7	Total: <b>106</b>
Educational classes sentenced	10	15	2	10	8	4	8	6	10	Total: <b>73</b>
# of offenders who signed up as volunteers	5	?	2	8	5	2	3	1	1	Total: <b>25</b>
Most Common Charge	Petit Larceny/ Crim. Mischief	UPM (26%)	UPM (33%)	UPM (30/8%)	UPM (37%)	Criminal Trespass/ Criminal Mischief	UPM (48%)	UPM (28%) / Petit Larceny (28%)	UPM (16%)/ Petit Larceny (16%)	
Second most common charge	UPM	Petit Larceny (16%)	Petit Larceny (29.7%)	Petit Larceny (19.2%)	Petit Larceny (8.5%); Criminal Mischief (8.5%); and making graffiti (8.5%)	UPM	Petit Larceny (30%)	Trespass (13%)	Reckless Endangerment 2nd (8%); Harassment (8%); Endangering the welfare of a child (8%); and Unlawful Possession of alcohol (8%)	



## Breakdown of Offender Statistics

<b>Breakdown of Offender Statistics - 2014</b>	
Total cases accepted	25
% Male	76%
% Female	24%
% Successful completion	92%
Total hours sentenced	708.5
Average hours sentenced	28
Total apology letters sentenced	7
Total educational classes sentenced	10
Average age of offender	15.6
Most common charge	UPM (16%) and Petit Larceny (16%)
Other common charges	Reckless Endangerment (8%); Harassment (8%); Endangering the Welfare of a Child (8%); Unlawful Possession of Alcohol (8%)

## Community Service Hours

<b>Bethlehem Youth Court Community Service Hours for 2014</b>					
<b>Volunteers/Participants</b>	<b>Formula</b>	<b>Total Hours based on 25 cases heard</b>			
Attorney Mentors	3hrs/case x # of cases	75			
Jurors	Approx. 10 jurors per case x # of cases heard	250			
Youth Court Members	4 attorneys (3 hours/case), plus 1 victim advocate (2 hours/case) plus 3 other roles (1 hour/case) x # of hearings	425			
Participation in Gov.	(4) 20 hour Participation in Government	80			
Offender Hours	Total hours sentenced + total jury duties sentenced	741.5			
<b>Total # of Community Service Hours</b>		<b>1571.5</b>			

## Community Service Sites

1. Adopt-A-Highway roadside clean-up
2. American Legion
3. Bethlehem Bike Expo
4. Bethlehem Community Clean-up
5. Bethlehem Middle School Community Garden
6. Bethlehem Senior Services
7. Bethlehem Outreach Services (Food Pantry)
8. Bethlehem Youth Court – fundraiser assistance
9. Bethlehem Youth Court – Law Day event
10. Brighter Choices Learning Center
11. Clarksville Historical Society
12. Community Hospice (Walk)
13. Cue Theater
14. Delmar Dash
15. East Berne Fire House
16. Everyday Art
17. Go Green Day (multi-community recycling event)
18. Halloween Hay Day
19. Hamagrael After School Enrichment Program
20. Homestead Funding Breast Cancer Awareness Fundraiser – Bras for a Cause
21. Hope Life Center
22. Kitten Angels
23. Our Towne Turkey Trot (moving donated food items)
24. Policy Research Associates – Returning donated cans as fundraiser
25. Ravena Senior Projects Center
26. Regional Food Bank
27. Rotterdam Boys and Girls Club
28. St. Catherine’s Center
29. Teal Ribbon Run/Walk
30. Trinity Alliance

### Educational Classes:

Drug and Alcohol Class (June 19<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>)

Good Decision Class (June 26<sup>th</sup>)

Stop Bullying Class (Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>, Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>)

