

## 2022 STATISTICAL CASE REPORT

Orion Area Youth Assistance provides confidential, short-term, family-centered counseling, casework, and referral services to youth and families who reside within the Lake Orion Community School District. Referrals are made to OAYA for a variety of prevention related reasons from changing family situations, struggles with emotional health and regulation, behavioral concerns, as well as diversion referrals, often first-time misdemeanor offenses, allowing the child to handle the situation without official court proceedings. In 2022, Orion Area Youth Assistance received 50 new referrals and 47 Information and Referral cases (I&R). I&R cases are referrals where an official referral is not opened but families meet with the caseworker for an average of 3 appointments and receive support and resources.

AGE OF REFERRAL				REFERRAL SOURCE			
AGE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE	SOURCE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
5	3	0	3	POLICE	2	0	2
6	2	0	2	PARENT/GUARDIAN	3	1	2
7	0	0	0	SCHOOL DISTRICT	42	23	19
8	2	1	1	DDHS/CPS	0	0	0
9	3	2	1	OC PROSECUTOR	3	0	3
10	2	0	2	REASON FOR REFERRAL			
11	4	1	3	REASON	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
12	8	6	2	PREVENTION	32	18	14
13	9	5	4	ASSAULT AND BATTERY	2	0	2
14	8	5	3	DISORDERLY CONDUCT	2	0	2
15	5	2	3	MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION	1	0	1
16	2	1	1	SCHOOL INCORRIGIBILITY	7	2	5
17	2	1	1	TRUANCY-SCHOOL	6	4	2
Totals	50	24	26	INFORMATION AND REFERRAL CASES			
				Total	CWR	GWR	Re-entry Related
				47	47	0	0

### Orion Area Youth Assistance

CERC Building  
455 East Scripps Road  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  
PHONE: (248) 693-6878  
FAX: (248) 693-1494  
oaya@lok12.org  
www.lakeorionyouthassistance.com

### Inter-Governmental Partners

- Charter Township of Orion
- Lake Orion Community School District
- Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division
- Village of Lake Orion

### Staff

Amber Kish, MA, YA Caseworker  
Lisa Gdowski, Office Manager

### Oakland County Youth Assistance

Liz Csizmadia, Youth Assistance Chief  
Anna Torres, Area Supervisor  
**2022 Board of Directors**  
Dawn Ames, Chairperson  
Jillian Nolan, Treasurer  
Nicole Quandt, Secretary

### Inter-Governmental Partners

- Charter Township of Orion
- Lake Orion Community School District
- Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division
- Village of Lake Orion

### 2022 Community Partners and Supporters

Skalnek Ford \* Kroger Cares Foundation  
\* Alpha Delta Kappa sorority \* Oxford Bank  
\* Milosch's Chrysler Palace \* Arana Long

\* Environmental Wood Solutions \* Pam Wise  
\* James Komedera DDS \* Orion Oaks Dental  
\* Waste Management \* Steven & Stella Britt  
\* Jennifer Myers \* FlipSpot Gymnastics  
\* Golling Buick GMC \* Easy Rodders  
\* My Pic Photography \* Graphic Takeover \*  
Counelis Agency Farm Bureau Insurance  
\* Orion Township Public Library  
\* Rainforest Café \* Robotics Team 302  
\* Oakland Township Fire Department  
\* Orion Township Fire Department  
\* LOCS Enrichment Services \* Gordon Smith  
\* GQT Movie theater (Oxford 7)  
\* Dollar Tree (Lapeer Rd and Baldwin Road )  
\* Neiman's Family Market \* Amazon Smile  
\* Orion Women's Leaders \* Linda McAleer  
\* Janice Hammond \* Lisa & Matt Gdowski  
\* Amber Kish \* Michael & Jillian Nolan

# ORION AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE 2022 Annual Report



## FROM THE CHAIRPERSON



Orion Area Youth Assistance (OAYA) continues to be a vital organization dedicated to the protection and advancement of at-risk youth throughout our Lake Orion community. We are committed to the prevention of juvenile delinquency, child neglect, and abuse through community involvement and family education. As we emerged from the pandemic, our hope was to begin to get back to a sense of normalcy for our youth and families. Unfortunately, we experienced tragedy with the mass killings of students in our neighboring community at Oxford High School and then in Uvalde, Texas, which placed stress on our youth, families, school administration, and the community to adapt to these circumstances. Many families are also struggling with financial hardship as the result of our economy. Now more than ever we are seeing youth exhibiting signs of anxiety, depression and other mental health issues. Through the collaboration of our capable staff and volunteers, OAYA is committed to advocating and offering support to those youth and families through our casework services and programming.

In 2022, we were finally able to get back to in-person programming and open our local office to engage with youth and their families face-to-face. We continue to accommodate meeting "families where they are" by having the option of virtual appointments if necessary. This flexibility of in-person and virtual appointments was a positive result of the pandemic and one that is embraced by our Caseworker, Amber Kish. This year, we were able to provide more camp and skill building scholarships due to an increased availability of in-person offerings, honor our Youth Recognition Award recipients at an in-person ceremony, and host our Annual Family Fun Fest for the first time since 2019. OAYA participated in several community events to expand our name recognition in the community so that families know where to go if they need help.

While we will certainly have challenges in 2023, I am confident that OAYA will continue to deliver quality programming and services to youth and families in the Lake Orion community. I also want to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, donors, community partners, and others that have let us share in their generosity. On behalf of our dedicated and talented Board, I offer my sincere gratitude. The African proverb "it takes a village to raise a child" means that a community can provide a safe and healthy environment for children to grow and thrive. We at OAYA invite you to join us to learn how you can partner with us and pursue our mission to serve the youth and families in this community. -Dawn Ames, OAYA Chairperson

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We loved being able to be back out in the community this year, attending events and meeting families. These activities help Lake Orion residents ask questions about who we are and what we do. Making these connections not only helps us reach families who can benefit from our services, but it also enables us to meet potential volunteers and donors. We look forward to being a part of even more events in 2023!



### Orion Area Youth Assistance Mission:

**To strengthen youth and families and reduce the incidence of delinquency, neglect, and abuse through community involvement.**

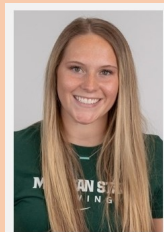
## YOUTH RECOGNITION

We were excited to have a traditional, in-person Youth Recognition Ceremony again this year. On May 19, 2022, we invited our six honorees and their families to join us for cupcakes and a lovely celebration. We had two Personal Achievement Award winners and four Community Service Award winners. Mary Schusterbauer from Oakland County Youth Assistance along with Chris Barnett, Orion Township Supervisor, and Ben Kirby, Lake Orion Community School's Superintendent were the keynote speakers as we celebrated a group of amazing Lake Orion students at the Orion Center.



## LIV ON SCHOLARSHIPS

OAYA is proud to partner with the family of Lake Orion graduate, Olivia Long, to provide the LIV ON scholarship fund. Olivia loved playing volleyball and other sports. Athletics had an incredibly positive impact on Olivia's life. One way her family is honoring her memory is by supporting other young women in their love and passion of sports with the hope that they can experience all the benefits that participation in athletics can bring. OAYA is administering this scholarship that is sponsored by Olivia's family and friends. The scholarship is available to girls in Lake Orion in grades K-8 who are experiencing economic hardship. The scholarship began in September 2022 and in that short time, LIV ON scholarships helped 12 girls with \$985 worth of funding. We look forward to continuing this partnership to support young women interested in sports and athletics as Olivia's memory and impact on the world lives on.



Photos courtesy of the Long family

## CAMP & ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Orion Area Youth Assistance believes that providing scholarships for students to attend summer camp and enrichment programs is an essential part of our prevention-based mission. Because there were limited camp and extracurricular opportunities in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic, extra funds were available to provide scholarships for 2022. We were excited to offer 46 different camp scholarships worth about \$7400 and 40 different enrichment scholarships worth about \$3300. Our camp scholarships covered a wide variety of activities including summer camps through LOCS Enrichment, Orion Township Parks and Rec, Camp Wonder, Rochester Area Rec Association, and Oakland University. Our Enrichment Scholarships covered many sports, including Pay to Play fees for several families as well as bowling, robotics, cooking, band, GAP clubs, dance, scouts, and Pokémon Club. Our financial supporters make it possible for many students to participate in these activities, giving them opportunities to learn new skills, make new friends, and step outside their comfort zones.

Photos courtesy of LOCS Enrichment and Orion Township Parks and Rec



## HOLIDAY MART

We were pleased to partner again with the Dollar Tree Stores, Operation Homefront, and the Lake Orion Early Childhood Center to offer our Holiday Shopping Mart in December. Shoppers at the Lapeer Road and Baldwin Road Dollar Trees were asked to donate a gift for a military family or a family in need during the month of November. Shoppers donated over 1100 toys! We used the toys to set up a Holiday Market for preschool students from families with financial need. Students came in to the mart with a shopping list to select a gift for each member of their family. Helper "elves" from Orion Oaks Elementary School partnered with the preschoolers to help them select gifts and wrap them before taking them home. We had 72 students "shop" over the course of the day for 315 family members.



## FAMILY FUN FEST

After a two year hiatus due to the Covid-19 pandemic, OAYA was excited to partner once again with LOCS Enrichment Services to host our Family Fun Fest event. On a beautiful fall day, over 200 people attended our FREE event at the CERC building. Families enjoyed free pizza, water, popcorn, and ice cream and participated in lots of fun activities including a rock climbing wall, bounce house, interactions with the Team 302 robots, crafts and activities, unicorn bowling, fire-trucks, and the smoke house. We have always enjoyed working with LOCS to put on this event and we appreciated the many community partners who helped us provide a wonderful, free evening of food and entertainment for families to enjoy together.



Photo credit: Gordon Smith



## HYGIENE CLOSETS

Thanks to monetary donations and a collection at the elementary schools during Open Houses, we were able to set up hygiene supply closets in the High School and all of the Middle Schools this year. Each building has a supply of personal hygiene items including soaps, shampoo, body wipes, combs, feminine hygiene items, toothbrushes, and deodorant. Students who need personal care items can take what they need to stay healthy. Once the supplies get low, the school can contact OAYA to replenish as needed. We also provided some basic clothing including underwear, pants, and sweatshirts to the high school's hygiene closet at their request.

