

OAYA Annual Report 2020-2021

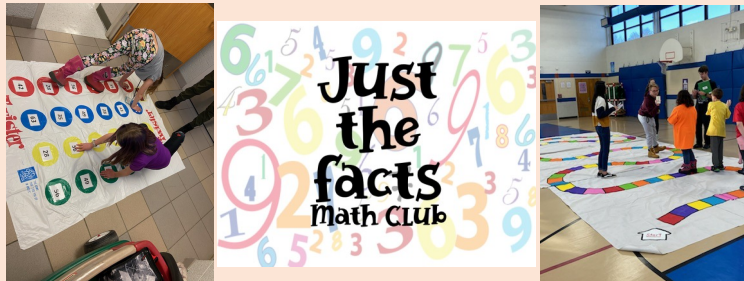
YOUTH RECOGNITION

We were unable to run our Youth Recognition ceremony in 2020, but in 2021, we were able to recognize the service-minded youth of Lake Orion with a Covid-safe program. Students were nominated by community members as in the past. We worked with ONTV to tape a virtual award ceremony that was broadcast on our Facebook page for families. In addition, we presented yard signs in person to all the students so that neighbors and friends would know how the students were making a difference right here in Lake Orion! If you'd like to watch the presentation, the link is still available on the Youth Recognition page of our website.



Photos courtesy of Lisa Gdowski

Photo courtesy of LOHS Team 302



Just the Facts Math Club is an after school math program for 3rd grade students at Blanche Sims Elementary School. The program is a collaboration between Orion Area Youth Assistance, the National Mathematics Honor Society at Lake Orion High School and Lake Orion United Methodist Church. Just the Facts targeted 3rd grade students and focused on mastering multiplication facts. The approach was to engage the children in fun math games and introduce creative ways to practice math facts with the help from student mentors and guidance from retired elementary teachers. The program typically runs from January—May and meets one day per week. In 2020, the program served 21 children; however, it was cut short due to COVID-19 and was only able to continue through early March. Feedback from children, parents, and teachers was positive. The children particularly connected with the student mentors from the high school which is a large part of the success of the program. We hope to re-start this program in the 2022-2023 school year based on the schools' Covid protocols.

Photos courtesy of Dawn Ames

CAMP & ENRICHMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Summer camp and extracurricular enrichment programs provide invaluable opportunities for students to learn new skills, make friends, experience new activities, practice teamwork, and often step outside of their comfort zones. Covid-19 severely limited access to camps and activities in 2020, but we were still able to provide 11 scholarships for student activities. We used the extra funds from 2020 to provide more generous scholarships in 2021. While we still only had 16 different requests, we were able to cover some more expensive activities including a STEM based service project at one elementary school, a full session of Driver's Training to a student who needed to drive to work to help support his family, and a cutting edge animal based program to one of our case work families.

HOLIDAY MART

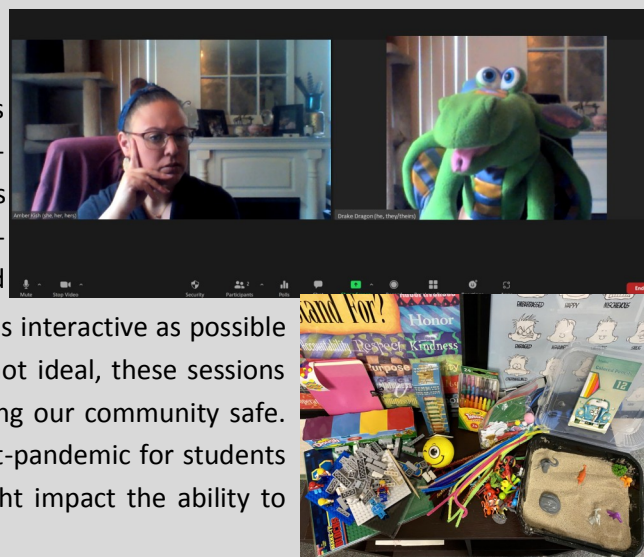
Covid restrictions prevented us from hosting a Holiday Mart in 2020 but did not prevent us from distributing the toys collected through Operation Homefront to the local elementary schools to offer to families who needed them. In 2021, thanks to the generosity of patrons and staff at our two local Dollar Tree Stores on Lapeer and Baldwin Roads and Green Hippo Gifts, we were able to return to hosting our Holiday Mart. Shoppers were asked to donate a gift for military families or families in need during the month of November. Over 1,800 items were donated and used to create our Holiday Mart. Preschool children of families with financial need were invited to come in and shop for gifts for their family members with the assistance of special "helper elves" from Orion Oaks Elementary. Overall, 64 children shopped for 145 family members.



Photos courtesy of Lisa Gdowski

CASEWORK SERVICES

Perhaps the biggest pivot we implemented to keep families safe during the pandemic was a switch to virtual casework services. Caseworker Amber Kish continued to meet with clients utilizing the virtual platform of Zoom. In addition, OAYA purchased supplies for porch drop offs for our younger clients and utilized a variety of online programs, allowing sessions to be as interactive as possible despite the fact that they remained virtual. While certainly not ideal, these sessions allowed families to get the support they needed while keeping our community safe. Additionally, it opened up a new avenue for our services post-pandemic for students where barriers such as transportation and other factors might impact the ability to attend in-person sessions.



BACK TO SCHOOL

In both 2020 and 2021, OAYA was able to obtain school supplies through a very generous donation from the two Dollar Tree stores located in Lake Orion and Orion Township. In 2020, OAYA partnered with Lake Orion United Methodist Church (LOUMC) and was able to provide 98 backpacks filled with school supplies which were customized by school and grade for each child and youth participating in the Blessings in a Brown Bag FREE Summer Lunch Program. Backpacks were distributed prior to the Labor Day holiday. In 2021, OAYA was able to distribute the school supplies to families at the CERC building when they came for their Wednesday pick up of food through the LOCS free lunch program. Extra supplies were provided to school counselors and FSCs to supplement student needs throughout the school year.

STATISTICAL CASE REPORT

REFERRAL SOURCE

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/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 2020-2021, Orion Area Youth Assistance received 104 new referrals and 51 information and referral cases in which services are provided without the opening of an official case.

AGE OF REFERRAL

AGE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
4	0	0	0
5	2	1	1
6	2	1	1
7	5	3	2
8	4	1	3
9	5	3	2
10	7	1	6
11	11	7	4
12	10	6	4
13	23	8	15
14	10	6	4
15	8	2	6
16	14	10	4
17	3	1	2
Totals	104	50	54

SOURCE	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
POLICE	10	4	6
PARENT/GUARDIAN	20	10	10
SCHOOL DISTRICT	62	31	31
DDHS/CPS	2	1	1
OC PROSECUTOR	10	4	6
Totals	104	50	54

REASON FOR REFERRAL

REASON	TOTAL	FEMALE	MALE
PREVENTION	79	39	40
ASSAULT AND BATTERY	2	1	1
RETAIL FRAUD	4	1	3
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	1	0	1
SCHOOL INCORRIGIBILITY	9	6	3
TRUANCY-SCHOOL	2	1	1
POSSESS OBSCENE MATERIAL	1	0	1
THREATENING BEHAVIOR	1	0	1
TRESPASSING	1	0	1
ANIMAL ABUSE/NEGLECT	1	0	1
LEWD & LASCIVIOUS CONDUCT	1	1	0
POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA	1	1	0
HARASSING COMMUNICATION	1	0	1

INFORMATION AND REFERRAL CASES

Total	CWR	GWR	Re-entry Related
51	51	0	0

Orion Area Youth Assistance

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Staff

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Lisa Gdowski, Office Manager

Oakland County Youth Assistance

Mary Schusterbauer, Chief
Liz Csizmadia, Supervisor

2022 Board of Directors

Dawn Ames, Chairperson
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Jim Newell
Julie Monroe
Lauren Smith

Inter-governmental Partners

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

Community Partners and Supporters

Golling Buick GMC · Skalneq Ford · Oxford Bank · LO Lions Club · LO Knights of Columbus · Christ the Redeemer Church · Motor City Widetrackers · Jet's Pizza (Lapeer Road location) · Environmental Wood Solutions ·

Waste Management · Lifton PromoSource · Turner Sanitation · Stadium Drive PTO · Neiman's Family Market · Dollar Tree (Lapeer and Baldwin Rd locations) · Green Hippo Gifts · LO United Methodist Church · LO Chamber OWLS Club · ONTV · The Lake Orion Review · OACC · LOCS Enrichment · Lucky's Natural Foods · Orion Township Library · API Consulting · Tire Warehouse · Heartfelt Impressions · Northern Flooring · Genisys Credit Union · KinderCare · Orion Center/LO Parks and Recreation · Counselis Farm Bureau Agency · Broadway Embroidery · St. Joseph Catholic School · Bob & Gina Adams · Linda McAleer · Michael & Jillian Nolan · Matt & Lisa Gdowski · Steven & Stella Britt · Sandra McCloud · Melisa Counselis · Mary Pilarski · Amber Kish