



Annual Report

2017

Letter from the President

Dear Friends, Volunteers, Past and Prospective Supporters,

Many thanks for taking the time to learn about our work in Northwest Detroit. Our efforts go back to 1996 when our leader, Fr Don Archambault, noticed a serious increase in negative behavior, graffiti, hanging out in gangs, loud arguments and threats to senior citizens. He then spent the summer meeting with business owners, parishioners, the retired, local educators and citizens who recognized declining conditions for raising youth. Together they set up a structure which became the Coalition.

Since then we have tried many ideas and suggestions to reach out to youth and parents. Fr. Don shared a story in which he and a few friends tried Christmas caroling door to door. The recipients were surprised if not shocked but eventually came to know and appreciate what he was trying to do. He is both bold and audacious in his effort to help community youth.

Now early this year, 2017, we reviewed our past efforts to determine what worked, and what needs modification. We have added activities and reworked programs that will better meet the needs of the youth and make the summer experience both enriching and exciting. Our changes are based on our experience and desire to meet the young people where they are and help them achieve goals and reach their potential. You can observe what the youth have experienced by looking over this Annual Report. We know there are challenges ahead and we do need and appreciate funding and involvement. As you look over this report please consider where we began and where we are now. Working together we can make a difference for youth in Northwest Detroit.

Thank you and feel free to contact any of us by e-mail or telephone number listed on the last page.

Sincerely,

Sr. Therese MacKinnon, D.C.

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The coalition collaborates with other community organizations serving youth in the area. This year O'Hare Park Camp was able to partner with the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department Junior Cadet Program. They sent us 13 cadets and 1 supervisor to assist with this year's camp. This was a great group that helped out in different capacities including administrative, lunch prep, sports activities, and set-up and clean up.

Executive Board Members – 2017

Sr. Therese MacKinnon, D.C.	President
Yelana Ramautar	Vice-President
Theresa Banka	Treasurer
Helen Marie Hart	Secretary

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017

Beginning Checking Balance (<i>as of 1/1/17</i>)	\$7,192.86
Trust Fund	\$8,535.00
Income:	
Grants	48,380.00
Fundraisers, Donations/Fees	3,051.17
Total	51,431.17
Expenses:	
Administration	\$1,726.62
Program	\$50,847.87
Total Expenses	\$52,574.49
Ending Balances:	
Trust Fund Balance (12/31/17)	\$8,543.21
Grant receivables	\$11,750.00
Accrued Liabilities	\$11,750.00
Ending Checking Balance @ 12/31/17	\$6,057.54

Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition

19800 Pembroke, Detroit, MI 48219

Phone: (248) 262-6848

BACKGROUND

The Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition was established in 1996 and received its 501c (3) non-profit, tax-exempt status in 1999. The Coalition is a collaboration of youth-serving agencies that came together to address the barriers that prevented youth from participating in organized sports and extracurricular programs. The target area identified by the Coalition is the area bounded by Woodward Avenue on the east, Telegraph on the west, Eight Mile Road on the north and Fenkell on the south.

MISSION

The goal of the Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition is to bring together community resources to support and initiate programs and activities which enhance the positive growth development of youth in Northwest Detroit.

GOALS

Identify existing programs for youth in the community.

Increase communication within the area of programs and opportunities available to youth.

Increase and facilitate the coordination of programs for youth when needed.

Support and enhance existing programs in the community.

Increase emphasis on preventive approaches to youth related issues.

Develop new programs and activities for youth.

Promote planning and a shared community vision for Youth development.

The Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition was originally formed to address the need for youth participation in organized sports and extracurricular programs. The lack of communication, transportation, trained leaders; financial support and collaboration were barriers that had to be addressed in order to provide these needed programs.

PROGRAMS

Since its inception, the Coalition has implemented many programs, utilizing quality improvement principles. Programs have been modified, improved and re-evaluated in order to develop programs based on community need and available resources. In 2017 the following programs were offered.

S.A.Y.A. (Summer Activities for Youth Achieving) is a four-week summer enrichment program for youth ages 5 to 11 in our community. We provide opportunities for community youth to engage in healthy activities (mind, body and spirit) to develop meaningful skills and relationships that will help them be successful during their summer break and throughout life. Our program usually begins the first week of July and ends the first week of August. SAYA enrichment day camp achieves five objectives.

SAYA offered a variety of age appropriate activities for forty-four youth. This year we provided an academic focus that included literacy, reading and writing; also math focused on counting money, calculating tips, interest, determining the price per pound as well as budgeting. In addition, students participated in physical education and recess daily. Students enjoyed the daily counselor led activities such as the herb garden, tie-dye t-shirts, and a sundry of other crafts. Our Bible study class promoted the common core values of our society such as how we respect and treat one another with kindness.

In addition to healthy homemade lunches the campers participated in the 'Meet Up and Eat-Up' program. Camp participants learned how to prepare healthy snacks including a zucchini pizza and smoothies. They learned the importance of reading labels.

After lunch, campers had an opportunity to engage in free play, Art, Nutrition, and Life skills. This year each of the three classes participated in a soccer clinic, which the students enjoyed immensely. The lessons of teamwork and good sportsmanship are vital life skills.



Community Collaborating Agencies

Adrian Dominican Sisters Ministry

Better Men Outreach

Christ the King School

Comerica Bank

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

Detroit Police Jr. Cadets

Henry Ford High School

Hitachi Corporation

Mission & Ministries, Inc.

New St. Paul Head Start, Inc.

O'Hair Park Community Association

St. Francis of Assisi Church, Ann Arbor, MI

St. John Providence Health System

Trinity Faith United Methodist Church

West Midwest Sisters of Mercy Ministries



Little Free Library

The Little Free Library program, begun in 2015, has expanded to four sites. It was designed to promote easy access to reading materials for children preschool through early teens. It was intended to have books available for neighborhood children living in the O’Hair Park area. Many of these children lack transportation to public libraries that still remain open. This is the newest project of the North-west Detroit Youth Coalition.



More than 900 books were collected, with some being purchased, but many were donated.



Volunteers from the neighborhood hosted reading sessions at the park for the children and provided snacks.

SAYA Activities

The youth ventured out on field trips to the Detroit Zoo, the Michigan Science Center, Greenfield Village and the Detroit Institute of Art.



Herb Garden

Ninety-percent of camp participants pledged to exercise at least one hour per day during the school year. Participants identified the following reasons for wanting to continue exercise: “stay healthy”, “stay skinny”, “relieve stress”, “have fun”. All of the campers agreed to share what they learned at camp with family and friends including African culture.

SAYA

Finally, we host a parent program at the end of camp for the children to showcase their new skill sets and experiences. In 2017 we enrolled forty-four youth, and engaged young adults, parents and community volunteers who assisted us in achieving our objectives.



O’Hair Park Summer Program

This program was started in 2016. The camp is held for four weeks, half days. It is a sports camp for girls and boys ages 10-16 years of age. Although this program was a half day, free lunch was provided for the campers every day by the ‘Meet Up and Eat Up’ program.



The activities that were available were tennis, basketball and volleyball, kickball, golf, dodge ball, soccer, cheer leading, and dance. We have added soccer and expanded the volleyball activities. We also provided other sports and activities such as kickball, dodge ball, jump rope, and hula hooping and a Marshall Arts Clinic. Basketball courts and tennis courts were reserved at Henry Ford High School.

There were ninety-two campers, fifty-four boys and thirty-eight girls, from the neighborhood and surrounding areas. The children participated in weekly supervised field trips to different venues to stretch their experience and associate fun with learning. We went on a total of four field trips. . These field trips included an event called, “Metro Detroit Youth Day”, at Belle Isle, Red Oaks Water Park, Riverside Skating Arena and the AMC Star Southfield Theatre. The campers were able to view the movie Detroit and learn about the events that happened right here in Detroit at the Alger Motel in 1967.

