

Annual Report
2016



Northwest Detroit
Youth Coalition

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, 2016, we reviewed our past efforts to determine what worked, and what needs modification. There are many issues and discussions of how to proceed. We are in that process now. Our changes are based on experience. We learn from the past. You can observe where we are by looking over this Annual Report. We know there are challenges ahead and we do need funding and involvement. We are addressing those issues now, confident that our programs do work. As you look over this report please consider where we began and where we are now. 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 numbers 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.

Executive Board Members – 2016

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016

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| Beginning Checking Balance (<i>as of 1/1/16</i>) | \$5,352.00 |
| Trust Fund | \$7,653.00 |
| Income: | |
| Grants | \$54,450.00 |
| Fundraisers, Donations/Fees | 9,656.00 |
| Total Available Funds | \$64,106.00 |
| Expenses: | |
| Administration | \$2,701.00 |
| Program | \$50,337.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$53,038.00 |
| Ending Balances: | |
| Trust Fund Balance (1/1/16) | \$8,535.00 |
| Grant receivables | \$20,000.00 |
| Accrued Liabilities | (11,650.00) |
| Ending Balance @ 12/31/16 | \$24,072.00 |

Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition

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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 2016 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 16 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 last week of June and ends mid-July. SAYA enrichment day camp achieves five objectives.



SAYA offered a variety of age appropriate activities for 60 youth. In the morning, campers enjoyed breakfast, exercise, culture, money management class, reading/creative writing, sign language, math/science refresher and recreational sports. 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. The lessons of teamwork and good sportsmanship are vital like skills.



Community Collaborating Agencies

Adrian Dominican Sisters Ministry

Better Men Outreach

Comerica Bank

Corpus Christi Catholic Church

Flagstar Bank

Henry Ford High School

Hitachi Corporation

Michigan Technical Academy

Mission & Ministries, 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, began 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 Northwest Detroit Youth Coalition.

During the summer we had the Book Safari program. This At each site an adult reader was responsible for designing a reading session that included a reading activity. This program encouraged young children to develop reading skills.



We have plans to install another one in 2017. More than 500 books were collected, with some being purchased, but many were donated. One of the benefits of the Little Free Library is that many of the books remain with the families encouraging the children to read all year round.

SAYA Field trips

The youth ventured out on field trips to Detroit Zoo, Cranbrook Science Center, , and the Detroit Science Center, Step Classes, Roller Skating, and the Detroit Institute of Art.



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.

Other activities not outlined in SAYA objectives that contribute to youth development include gym time, arts and crafts, Journalism, reading, math and bible study. Finally, we host a parent program at the end of camp for the children to showcase their new skill sets and experiences. In 2016 we enrolled 80 youth, and engaged more than 25 young adults, parents and community volunteers who assisted us in achieving our objectives.



KIDS INVESTING IN SIMPLE SOLUTIONS (KISS)
Sponsored by Flagstar Bank

KISS is a money management program sponsored by NWDYC. The KISS program provides youth with skills to have a clearer understanding of the banking industry. The program targets youth ages 10 to 18.

The KISS program was taught at two sites this year. The program was filled with fun and financial knowledge. One group from the SAYA Camp was held in the Michigan Technical Academy Building, at the Corpus Christi Outreach Center, and the other was held at O’Hair Park Camp at Corpus Christi–Parish Center.

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, cheer leading, and dance. In 2017, we hope to add soccer and to expand the volleyball. We also provided other sports and activities such as kickball, dodge ball, jump rope, and hula hooping. Basketball courts and tennis courts were reserved at Henry Ford High School.

There were 71 campers, 60 boys and 11 girls, from the neighborhood and surrounding areas. The campers went on four field trips, which were Detroit Institute of Art, Red Oaks Water Park. Metro Youth Day on Belle Isle, and horseback riding at Horse ‘N Around Stables near Ann Arbor Michigan.



Since this is a sports camp, we went to Comerica Park, home of our Detroit Tigers Baseball Team and Ford Field, home of our Detroit Lions Football Team. The trip was both educational and lots of fun. These facilities had both Detroit history and sports history that we were able to learn about while on this trip.