

*Final Report:*  
Neighborhood Youth Center  
Program Evaluation

Report Prepared for the  
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## **The Evaluation Process**

The evaluation included a number of steps and related activities. The evaluation team: (1) reviewed relevant research literature, center proposals, and work plans; (2) met with staff to learn more about program structure, services, and needs, and receive input on a proposed evaluation plan; (3) provided technical assistance and consultation; (4) finalized the evaluation plan; (5) provided a training session with programs to familiarize them with the evaluation plan; (6) provided technical assistance during the evaluation; (7) analyzed data; (8) provided feedback to the programs through a final meeting; and (9) completed this final report.

Before discussing the report, we would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the directors and staff of the centers. Without their time and effort this evaluation would not have been possible. An evaluation of this magnitude required changes in the ways the centers collected information and how staff time was allocated. New systems for documenting youths' attendance at the programs had to be established. Staff were asked to complete a survey describing their own experiences in the centers and to administer questionnaire surveys to youth participants. Program directors were asked to provide basic registration and financial data about their centers. Directors and staff had to make themselves available for a number of evaluation meetings. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, they had to be open to the process of self-examination. We appreciate the commitment and enthusiasm shown by many who participated.

## **The Final Report**

The final report is divided into five parts. In Part One, we provide an overview of previous research that supports the neighborhood youth center model. We believe that this research provides an important context for the evaluation of the Connecticut Neighborhood Youth Centers (NYC's) by providing an overview of the key components of successful community-based youth programs. This research shows that the Connecticut NYC's are grounded in a proven approach to the prevention of youth related problems such as delinquency and substance use.

Part Two consists of a summary of the "process data" that were collected as part of the evaluation. This includes descriptions of the centers that were evaluated, descriptive data on the populations served by the centers, and summary reports on attendance and participation patterns of the youth using the centers. These reports are presented for all centers combined as well as for the individual centers. These data provide insight into the extent and manner of the centers' use by youth.

Part Three is a summary of the “outcome study” that was conducted as part of the evaluation. Youth who participated in the activities of the centers were surveyed in the Fall of 2000. Youth’s anonymous responses to questionnaire items help us understand the possible positive effects of the centers on their lives (especially decreased risk for delinquency and substance use and increased opportunities of “connectedness” to peers, center staff, families and the neighborhood).

Part Four consists of a summary of a survey that was conducted with the staff of the centers. This survey was conducted in an effort to get a sense of how the staff view their roles within the center, the strengths and weaknesses of the centers, as well as their satisfactions and dissatisfactions with their work environments and responsibilities. This basic information was deemed important because the attitudes and experiences of the staff inevitably impact on the experiences that youth have within the centers.

Part Five consists of a summary and discussion of the entire evaluation. Within this section, we discuss the implications of the data that were collected and make recommendations regarding future evaluations of the NYC’s.

## PART ONE

### **Overview of Significant Research Findings on Delinquency and Substance Use Prevention: Literature Support for the Neighborhood Youth Center Model**

The 25 centers involved in Connecticut's Neighborhood Youth Center (NYC) Programs were from poor neighborhoods in 7 cities. All included the following positive youth development program components: a location convenient for youth within the target neighborhood; athletic/recreational programs; enrichment/tutoring activities; skills training; and, some degrees of parent and youth involvement in the planning and management of the centers.

A review of relevant social science and human services research literatures was conducted in order to isolate key components of successful community-based youth programs, in order to compare these findings with the model of Connecticut's NYC's.

#### The Intervention Model

NYC's serve high-risk groups, and they seek to promote resilience and involvement through a positive youth development approach. The literature suggests that comprehensive services for at-risk urban youth must include prevention-based positive youth development approaches (Pruett, Davidson, McMahon, Ward, & Griffith, 2000), and that youth development programs should work to promote competence in teens by providing opportunities for developing new roles and responsibilities and/or enhancing positive supports (Roth, Brooks-Gunn, Murray, & Foster, 1998).

## *What works and why?*

### **Prevention Focus**

- Comprehensive services for at-risk urban youth must include prevention-based positive youth development approaches (Allen, Philliber, & Hoggson, 1990; Pruett et al., 2000).
- Empowerment is the key to successful prevention, perhaps especially so for youth of color. Services for youth should include "culturally appropriate interventions derived in collaboration with the population served" (Pruett et al., 2000, p. 63).
- "Prevention strategies aimed at enhancing youths' development, reducing communities' specific risks, and strengthening protective factors are likely to be more successful than programs addressing the problem behaviors themselves." (Barton, Watkins, & Jarjoura, 1997, p. 483)

### **Positive Youth Development**

- "High rates of boredom, alienation, and disconnection from meaningful challenge are not signs of psychopathology, at least not in most cases, but rather signs of a deficiency in positive development... A central question of youth development is how to get adolescents' fires lit, how to have them develop the complex of dispositions and skills needed to take charge of their lives." (Larson, 2000, p. 170).
- Youth development programs may work to promote competence in teens by providing opportunities for training/new roles and responsibilities AND/OR enhancing emotional, motivational, or strategic supports (Roth et al., 1998).

### **Risks and Protective Factors**

- The risks and protective factors for delinquency and substance use overlap (Jessor & Jessor, 1977). Effective programs take an ecological approach to supporting youth. They address the individual, family, peers, school, work setting, and community (Bogenschneider, 1996).

Risk factors for delinquency and substance use include

- Poverty, residential instability, unsafe neighborhoods (Kowaleski-Jones, 2000).
- Irregular school attendance, antisocial behavior, alienation from goals and values, and deviant peer associations (Coie, 1996).
- Unsupervised peer contact in the after-school hours, especially for adolescents in low-monitoring homes and unsafe neighborhoods (Pettit, Bates, Dodge, & Meece, 1999).
- Long work hours, poor parental monitoring, distant/uninvolved/inconsistent parenting, academic failure (Bogenschneider, 1996).
- Internalizing disorders (e.g., anxiety, depression), aggressiveness, low bonding to school/community, truancy/drop-out, delinquent peers, gang membership, and community disorganization are risks for delinquency and substance abuse (Hawkins et al., 2000).

Protective factors include

- The involvement of supportive adults and peers in the lives of adolescents serve as protective factors against delinquency, as do beliefs that promote school success and the rejection of crime and substance use (OJJDP, 1999).
- "Adolescents who are able to balance positive expressions of relatedness to others with an understanding of how social interactions can be supportive of both autonomy and relatedness may be more likely to avoid involvement in delinquent activity." (Kuperminc, Allen, & Arthur, 1996, p. 417).
- Problem-solving skills, self-esteem, social and interpersonal skills, religious commitment, a close relationship with at least one person, a close friend, belonging to a supportive community, and bonding to a social institution (Bogenschneider, 1996).
- Parental monitoring, for girls -- but not for boys in conflicted families (Formoso, Gonzales, & Aiken, 2000).

### **Results of Studies of Involvement in Youth Programs**

- Participation in community youth organizations has been linked -- in many correlational studies -- to higher self-esteem, self-control, and educational goals and achievement, and to lower rates of delinquency, although longitudinal research is limited (Larson, 2000).
- Recreation-based programs help youth develop social skills and self-esteem (directly), and reduce delinquency & substance use (indirectly) (Tolan & Guerra, 1994).

- Programs that involve youth in their communities have an empowering effect (increasing connection and reducing alienation), especially when youth are given choices in their types of involvement (Allen et al., 1990).

### *How does the NYC model fit with the research?*

The NYC model is supported by the existing research literature. NYC's serve high risk groups, and they seek to promote resilience and involvement through a positive youth development approach.

The best existing study of neighborhood, prevention-oriented, youth development programs was conducted by Roth et al. (1998).

- They studied 15 evaluations of youth development models.
- Three themes emerged, with the most effective programs (those yielding more positive outcomes for youth) incorporating:
  - more elements of the youth development framework
  - opportunities for the development of caring adult-adolescent relationships (these need not be limited to 1-on-1 mentoring)
  - a long-term approach to engaging youth throughout adolescence.

These elements are entirely consistent with the NYC model in Connecticut.

Some questions, of course, remain. According to Roth et al. (1998, p. 444), further research is necessary to address the following questions:

- What are the principles underlying various youth development programs?
- For whom do youth development programs, or sets of services, work?
- How should capacity building and staff training be conducted?

## **PART TWO**

### **Process Data:** **Documentation of Participants and Participation Patterns**

All program evaluation involves describing the clients served by a particular program and documenting how these participants utilize the program. In order to get this information we asked the directors of the various centers to provide us with basic information on the budgets of the centers, the staffing patterns found within the centers, as well as descriptive information of the youth who are registered at the centers. These data are summarized below. Please note that the data broken down for each center can be found in Appendix A. The actual questionnaire sent to each of the directors can be found in Appendix B.

In addition, in order to get at this information we asked centers to submit to us daily attendance rosters. These rosters contained a complete list of youth currently registered at the centers. When entering the centers, youth were asked to “sign-in” on the attendance roster and to indicate what they intended to do at the centers. That is, upon entering the centers youth were asked to indicate whether or not they intended to participate in athletic/recreational activities, enrichment/tutoring activities, “skill training,” or other selected activities.

Once these data were coded we were able to document the number of different youth who attended the centers on average over the evaluation period, the average daily attendance at the centers, and how often individuals attended the centers in a typical month. In addition, we were able to evaluate how the centers were typically used by the youth in attendance. These data, summarized for all centers, are also presented below. As with the director’s reports, these data, broken down for each participating center, can be found in Appendix A.



**Overall Summary of the Information from the Director's Reports  
(Number of Centers Submitting Director's Reports = 24) <sup>1</sup>**

Total Youth Registered: 5797 (Males = 3678 (63.4%); Females = 2119 (36.6%))

**Age Breakdowns of Participating Youth (N=5795):**

- Under 12: 17.8%
- Ages 12-13: 33.2%
- Ages 14-15: 27.9%
- Ages 15-16: 14.7%
- Over 17: 6.3%

**Race/Ethnicity of Participating Youth (N=5526):**

- White: 4.2%
- Black: 60.4%
- Latino: 32.1%
- Asian: 0.4%
- Multi-racial: 1.7%
- Other: 1.2%

**Annual Family Income Data on Registered Youth (N=3705):**

- < \$10,000: 43.3%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 37.9%
- \$20,000 - \$29,999: 12.5%
- > \$30,000: 6.6%

**Data on household composition of participating youth (N=5258):**

- Residing with Biological Parents: 27%
- Single-parent household: 56.5% (Note: (96% of those residing in a single-parent household are living with their mother)
- Blended Family: 8.3% (Note: 91% of those residing in a blended family are living with their biological mother and stepfather.)
- Residing with Other Relatives: 5.8%
- Foster Home/Shelter: 2.4%

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<sup>1</sup> ASPIRA choose not to submit a report from the Director. Hence, the total number of youth actually served by all of the centers would be somewhat larger than those reported here.

Breakdowns on Staff and Volunteers:

- Total Staff: 195
- Full-time Staff: 85 (44% of the total staff hold full-time positions)
- Part-time Staff: 110 (56% of the total staff hold part-time positions)
- Staff turnover in past 6 months: 51 (this means that 51 of the total of 195 staff-people working at the centers left a position during the last six months).
- Total Volunteers: 314

## **Overall Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters (Number of Centers = 24)<sup>2</sup>**

Total Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 4524<sup>3</sup>

Average Number of Youth Listed on Daily Attendance Rosters: 188.5 (Range: 41 to 681)

Average Daily Attendance for All Centers: 37.2 (Range: 11 to 164)

Total Number of Youth Who Attended a Center At Least Once: 3102

Average Percentages of Youth Listed on Attendance Rosters Who<sup>4</sup>:

- Never Attended: 27.1% (Range: 0 to 58%)
- Attended Infrequently (< 30% of possible days): 43.2% (Range: 18% to 75%)
- Attended Frequently: (> 30% of possible days) 29.7% (Range: 2% to 78%)

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<sup>2</sup> We were not confident in the attendance data provided from one of the centers (Hall – North End). Hence, the information summarized on the attendance rosters is derived from 24 of the 25 possible centers.

<sup>3</sup> The total number of youth registered at the centers is considerably larger than the number of youth listed on the attendance rosters (N=4524 on the attendance rosters as compared to 5797 listed by the directors as being registered at the centers). This makes sense in that we would expect that the total number of youth on the registry at a center would be greater than the number of youth currently and actively involved with the center. However, we also need to point out that when you take into account the participation rates of the youth listed on attendance rosters that the actual number of youth using the centers over the evaluation period drops further (N = 3102 who attended at least once) as a sizeable group of youth listed on the rosters failed to ever attend the center (27% on average).

<sup>4</sup> Attendance patterns were coded into three categories: (1) “Never Attended” representing those youth listed on an attendance roster but never attended the center during the evaluation period, (2) “Attended Infrequently” representing those youth listed on an attendance roster who attended the centers less than 30% of the possible number of days the centers were open in a typical month, and (3) “Attended Frequently” representing those youth listed on an attendance roster who attended the centers greater than 30% of the possible number of days were open in a typical month.

Average Percentages of Youth Listed Who Participated in the Following Activities:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 67% (Range: 3% to 100%)
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 36.7% (Range: 0% to 100%)
- Life-skill Training: 14.4% (Range: 0% to 45%)
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 8.9% (Range: 0% to 44%)

## PART THREE

### Outcome Data: Youth Survey Results

As a vital part of the evaluation of the Neighborhood Youth Centers, youth who participated in the activities of the centers were surveyed in the Fall of 2000 (A copy of the survey can be found in Appendix B). Youths' anonymous responses to questionnaire items help us understand the possible positive effects of the centers on their lives (especially decreased risk for delinquency and substance use and increased opportunities for “connectedness” to peers, center staff, families, and the neighborhood).

In addition to demographic information, the data that we collected from the youth focused on **process measures**, including:

- Level/intensity of involvement with NYC programs
- Duration of involvement with NYC programs
- Perceptions of parental involvement and monitoring (Voydanoff & Donnelly, 1999)
- Social support from family, peers, and staff (Canty-Mitchell & Zimet, 2000)

and the following **outcomes**, which were derived from the research literature of positive youth development:

- Satisfaction with NYC programs, staff, and facilities
- School attendance, grades, and participation in extracurricular activities
- Youth adjustment
  - problem behavior scales from the Youth Self-Report (Achenbach, 1991)
  - rates of substance use (tobacco, alcohol, other illegal drugs; Johnston, Bachman, & O'Malley, 1997)

## Sample

Youth (N=1360) who participated in the activities of the centers completed anonymous self-report surveys. Using the total of 5797 youth registered at the centers, this represents a response rate of 23.5%. One center (Neighborhood Bridges) failed to provide any youth survey data. Only 2982 youth (from the 23 centers who administered youth surveys) actually attended a center during the data collection period. Using this figure of 2982 participants, the youth survey response rate is a respectable 45.6%.

A comparison of demographic variables shows the 1360 (54.4% male, 45.6% female) youth who completed surveys to be representative of the 5797 registered youth. Youth participants were primarily minority (52% African American, 34% Hispanic, 5% White, 9% Other), poor (74% on a reduced lunch program; median household incomes below \$20,000), and from single parent homes (39% lived in mother-headed households; only 28% lived with both parents). The age breakdown of those surveyed was similar to that of the registered youth (7.6% over 17 years; 20% ages 16-17; 22.9% ages 14-15; 34.5% ages 12-13; 15% under 12 years).

## Educational Attainment and Extracurricular Participation

In spite of these risk factors for educational failure, participants attended school (95.9%) or college (1.8%); a mere 1.8% were not enrolled in school or college. The youth also reported academic success, as indicated by their grade point averages (16.3% "A"; 52.5% "B"; 27.8% "C"; 2.8% "D"; 0.6% "F"). Further, 58.1% were involved in an extracurricular school sport or activity.

### EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENT *(most frequent responses are listed)*

Basketball	231
Dance or drill team	43
Football	43
Band	34
Chorus or choir	30
Student council	28
Cheerleading	22
Soccer	21
Track	15

### Social Support and Parental Monitoring

Most participants felt supported by family, friends, and staff (mean = 2.85 on a 7-point scale, where "1" represented "very strong" agreement with the statement of support and "7" represented "very strong" disagreement). Most youth also reported frequent parental monitoring (i.e., that parents knew where they were "most of the time" or "almost all the time" (71.4%) and with whom they were spending time (69.1%)). Like the educational and extracurricular results, these findings of high social support and parental monitoring suggest the presence of protective factors that might buffer NYC youth from community risks.

### Youth Involvement in the Centers

A majority of the youth were involved in athletics (87%), enrichment (66%), skills training (66%), and other activities (78%) at the centers. They spent 1-24 hours/week (mean = 4.9) at the centers, and varied in their length of involvement with the centers (41.5% had attended for 2+ years; 15.8% had attended 6 months to 2 years; 42.7% had attended for less than 6 months).

### Satisfaction with the Centers

Youth were equally happy with the centers, programs, facilities, and staff (mean = 3.2 on a 4-point scale, where "3" was "somewhat happy" and "4" was "very happy", for each of the 4 questions). Open-ended responses to questions about the best things about the center and things that would improve the center provide some further insights into the adolescents' views.

#### BEST THINGS ABOUT THE CENTER (*most frequent responses are listed*)

Basketball	114
The staff	85
Activities	82
The gymnasium	31
Fun	29
Games	23
Friends	18
Chances to help	17
Trips	16

WHAT WOULD IMPROVE THE CENTER? (*most frequent responses are listed*)

More activities	45
Better staff	44
More staff	14
Child behavior	12

Risk Behaviors

A majority of NYC youth reported no tobacco, alcohol, or other illegal drugs over the past 30 day period. Rates of drug usage among NYC youth were lower than national rates for substance use (past 30 days) for the year 2000, according to the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (2001).

SUBSTANCE USE (Past 30 days)

	NYC Youth	National Norms		
		8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> grade	12 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Tobacco	8.1%	7%	14%	21%
Alcohol	10.9%	--	--	--
Alcohol (to intoxication)	5.2%	14%	26%	30%
Illicit drug use	6.5%	12%	23%	25%

Scores on the YSR scales for Anxious/Depressed, Aggressive Behavior, and Delinquent Behavior correlated .25 ( $p < .001$ ) with rates of reported use of tobacco, alcohol, and other illegal drugs. Those involved with drugs or alcohol were more likely to experience problem behaviors.

YSR scores among NYC participants were not significantly different from YSR national norms.



## YOUTH SELF-REPORT (YSR) BEHAVIORS

Youths reported on whether negative behavior items were (over the past 6 months) not true (0), somewhat or sometimes true (1), or often true (2).

	Item Mean	Scale Mean	YSR Scale Norm
Anxious/Depressed Syndrome (16 items)	.37	5.93	5.1
Aggressive Behavior Syndrome (19 items)	.46	8.71	8.5
Delinquent Behavior Syndrome (11 items)	.35	3.80	3.2

Despite the overall favorable percentages, there were some adolescents who reported frequent drug use and exceeded clinical cut-offs on the YSR syndrome scales.

### Effects of Intensity/Duration of Center Involvement

One goal of the evaluation was to determine whether youth who were more involved in the centers (in terms of level of utilization of programs/services and duration of involvement) would show decreased risk/problem behaviors (e.g., delinquency and/or substance use) and/or increased prosocial/protective behaviors (e.g., "connection" with an adult mentor, strong school grades and attendance). There were no effects of intensity or duration of youth involvement. The one exception was that those youths who had been involved with the NYC's for 2+ years were more likely to view staff members as supportive than those who had been involved with the center for less than 2 years,  $F(2, 1228) = 4.55, p < .05$ .

### Effects of Reported Social Support

Social support (overall) and social support derived from center staff (specifically) were correlated significantly with drug use ( $p < .01$ ) and YSR problem behavior scores ( $p < .01$ ), such that adolescents who reported a strong connection with staff were less likely to report drug use or internalizing or externalizing behavior problems.

## PART FOUR

### Results of the Staff Survey

The staff of the NYC's were surveyed as a part of the evaluation process (A copy of the staff survey can be found in Appendix B). This survey was conducted in an effort to get a sense of how the staff view their roles within the center, the strengths and weaknesses of the centers, as well as their satisfactions and dissatisfactions with their work environments and responsibilities. We view this information as an important part of the total picture of how the centers are experienced by the youth that attend them. That is, this basic information is important, in part, because the attitudes and experiences of the staff inevitably impact on the experiences that youth have within the centers.

According to the information provided to us from the Directors of the Centers, a total of 195 individuals work in either a full or part-time capacity at the centers. Staff surveys were sent to the directors of each center who were asked to distribute the surveys to their respective staff. The staff were instructed, on the survey, to complete the questionnaire and then mail it back directly to the evaluation team at the University of Connecticut (stamped return-envelopes were attached to each survey). This procedure was employed to facilitate the response rate and the truthfulness of the staff when responding to the survey questions. That is, we wanted to prevent directors and supervisors from having an opportunity to see the staff responses to the survey's questions.

A total of 115 staff surveys were returned to us at the University. Staff from 19 centers participated in the survey. Considering the total number of staff employed (N=195), this results in a 59% response rate. The number of surveys received from each of these centers ranged between 1 and 18 (the number of actual staff at the 25 centers ranged from 2 to 33). The average number of surveys received from the participating centers was 6. Staff from 6 of the 19 centers did not return any surveys.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Centers that did not participate were: South End Community Center-Bridgeport, Hartford NYC-Blue Hills, Chester Addison Center- Stamford, Walnut-Orange-Walsh (WOW)-Waterbury, and Waterbury Willow Plaza Youth Services.

Ages of respondents ranged 15 and 70 years with an average age of 29. Most were female (61%). Their racial and ethnic background was reported to be Black (39%), White (31%), Hispanic/Latin (24%), Native American (2%) or Other (4%). Staff levels of education ranged from “some high school” (17%) to a graduate degree (8%). Most reported attending “some college or completing an associate degree” (37%). Another 12% reported completing a bachelor’s degree. The majority reported that they were single (71%). Only 19% were currently married.

Twenty-five percent of the staff who participated in the survey reported having between 2 and 5 years of experience working with youth. Another 23% reported having between 5 and 10 years of experience. An additional 20% had 15 or more years of experience. Many respondents (42%) had worked at their current center less than 1 year. Another 39% had worked at their center between 1 and 5 years. Overall, the staff was an experienced group of youth workers. Many had accumulated years of experience prior to starting their present job.

The most frequently reported job at the center was youth worker (28%) followed by program director (19%) and counselor (15%). Other positions listed less frequently included teacher, assistant director, administrator, youth director, and case manager (between 4% and 8% in each category). Other positions were listed even less frequently. They included transportation, life guard, facility manager, security, and cook (1% in each category).

The majority (57%) of staff worked 20 or fewer hours per week at their centers. About 12% worked between 30 and 40 hours per week and another 26% worked 40 or more hours per week. Most listed themselves as part time workers (58%) followed by full time worker (40%) and volunteer (2%). Salaries were reportedly low. Just over 62% reported that they earned \$12,000 or less per year. Others reported earning between \$12,000 and \$24,000 per year (13%) or between \$24,000 and \$36,000 per year (19%). Only 6% reported making more than \$36,000 per year.

## **Findings**

- 1. The majority of staff reported being somewhat or very satisfied with the centers.** The following is a list of what the staff were most satisfied with (percentages who were somewhat or very satisfied are reported in parentheses):

- Freedom of staff to be creative (e.g., initiate new activities (95%))
- Overall quality of the youth programs offered (94%)
- Overall morale of center staff (92%)
- Administration's support of staff (90%)
- Overall quality of the physical facilities (90%)
- How well staff strengths are utilized (87%)
- Staffing levels (enough staff on duty) (84%)
- Opportunities for staff training and development (83%)
- How well grievances are addressed (75%)
- Opportunities for staff advancement (72%)
- How well staff are paid (68%)

**2. What did they like most about the Centers?** When asked in their own words to say what they liked most about the centers, they replied as follows (the percentage of the staff who advanced the following views are in parentheses):

- Safe place for youth to go (20%)
- Friendly/respectful environment (14%)
- Number of youth being served (12%)
- Positive influence on youth (12%)

**3. What needs improvement at the Centers?** When asked in their own words to say what needed to be improved, they replied as follows (the percentage of the staff mentioning the following issues appear in parentheses):

- Improve facilities (16%)
- More activities (15%)
- More funding (11%)

**4. Does the staff need more training?**

- 30% felt adequately trained
- 68% felt they need **some more** or a **little more** training

**5. Are the staff satisfied with their current wage or salary?**

- 21% reported feeling **very satisfied**
- 54% reported feeling **somewhat satisfied**
- 26% reported feeling **somewhat or very dissatisfied**

## 6. Are staff achieving their own professional goals job?

- 78% stated that they have **achieved** or **surpassed** their own professional goals

## 7. Are staff making a difference in the lives of youth?

- 87% felt that they were making a positive difference in the lives of youth

## 8. Do the staff derive personal satisfaction from working with youth?

- 93% reported that they derived **quite a bit** or a **great deal** of personal satisfaction working with youth.
- 97% reported that their morale at work was **somewhat** or **very high**.

With respect to personal satisfaction and morale, here are some comments that were made frequently by staff:

- “I love working here with youth.” (40%)
- “This job is rewarding.” (14%)
- “We need more staff.” (14%)
- “We need more training for staff.” (12%)

## PART FIVE

### Summary and Discussion

#### **Process/Attendance Data**

The centers serve a fairly large number of mostly minority youth from poor, single-parent-headed families. The average number of youth attending the centers each day varied considerably from center to center. There are several centers that appear from the attendance data to have a relatively low number of daily contacts with youth, particularly considering the total number of youth registered at the centers. Not to single out any one center other than for illustrative purposes, Centro San Jose, for example, boasts a roster of 90 youth and yet averaged only 9 youth contacts per day over a typical month. Similarly, Hall East claims to have over 300 youth registered at the center yet averaged only 14 daily contacts with youth over the reporting period.

We hasten, as well, to point out that we are somewhat reluctant to stand too firmly behind any conclusions based upon our analyses of the attendance data because we have a lot of questions about the accuracy of attendance and participation data submitted by the centers. These concerns reduce our confidence in our ability to provide an accurate account of the centers and the activities that occur within them. Many centers, for example, submitted a lot of attendance data in a form that could not be coded and summarized. Furthermore, the rosters submitted by many of the centers do not appear to be consistent with the number of youth either registered at the centers or the numbers of youth attending the centers.

For example, some centers submitted attendance rosters that contained a significantly larger number of youth on them than are actually registered at the centers. Conversely, other centers submitted attendance rosters that contained a significantly smaller number of youth than are registered at the centers. While some variations between numbers of youth registered and number of youth attending daily are to be expected, these large inconsistencies raise some concerns on our part about the abilities of the centers to accurately document the youth that they serve on a daily basis.

For example, and again not meaning to single out any one center for anything other than illustrative purposes, the director of Neighborhood Bridges reports that 172 youth are registered at the center. However, 289 youth were listed on the daily rosters submitted by this center. Conversely, the McGivney center reports over 300 youth registered at the center (and has over 11 individuals on staff) yet submitted a daily attendance roster that listed only 45 youth on average and averaged only 14 daily contacts with youth. It is these kinds of inconsistencies that raise our concerns about whether we have an accurate account of the numbers of youth in fact using the centers.

Furthermore, we have concerns about some of the data on participation patterns as reported on the attendance rosters. If we compare what the youth reported doing at the centers (from the youth surveys) to the picture of participation patterns derived from the attendance rosters, it appears as if the attendance rosters do not accurately capture what the youth do when they attend the centers. In the youth survey, well over 50% of the youth report engaging in activities other than athletics at the centers (e.g., enrichment activities, skill training, etc). On many of the attendance rosters submitted from the agencies, however, fewer than 10% of youth at the centers indicated participating in “enrichment” or “life-skill” activities. For example, on the attendance rosters from ASPIRA and the Boys and Girls Club of Bridgeport, less than 1% of youth reported engaging in skill training while at the centers. Concomitantly, the attendance rosters from Hall-East indicate that 0% of youth engaged in any academic enrichment related activities.

These discrepancies in the accounts of what youth actually do when attending at centers between the self-report data and attendance rosters probably comes about because the youth did not accurately record their activities on the attendance rosters. At the same time, some responsibility for this lack of documentation has to fall to the staff of the centers. And, these discrepancies leave us with little confidence in our accounts of what actually occurs inside the centers when youth attend.

### **Youth Survey**

The NYC model seems to be supported by both the existing research literature and the findings of our evaluation. Despite the risks associated with the poor, urban neighborhoods in which the centers exist, youth participants showed high levels of scholastic achievement, extracurricular involvement, social support, parental monitoring, and satisfaction with the centers. They also exhibited low rates of problem behaviors and substance use.

The youths' level of involvement (i.e., types and amount of current activities) and duration of involvement with the centers had few effects. However, youth who reported staff members to be a source of social support were less likely to report drug use or behavior problems.

There are methodological limitations to this evaluation (e.g., a non-experimental design, absence of a community comparison group, cross-sectional rather than longitudinal data, possible biases in self-report data) that do not allow us to conclude that NYC youth demonstrate few problem behaviors because of their center participation. Youth with personal, familial, or other protective factors may self-select into consistent involvement in centers. At the same time, the data suggest that the centers are well received by the youth and that the youth involvement with the centers seems to function as an additional buffer against negative outcomes.

### **Staff Survey**

Overall, the survey suggested that the majority of staff were satisfied with their centers. They believed that the centers offer a safe, respectful, and friendly environment and that youth are positively influenced by the centers. In general, the staff felt that they can achieve or surpass their own professional goals working at the centers. They derive personal satisfaction from the work, and they feel that they are making a positive impact of the youth they serve. Morale among staff is generally high.

There are areas where improvements can be made. Although the majority of the staff were somewhat or very satisfied with their salaries, about a quarter of the staff felt that they are underpaid. Furthermore, a majority of staff felt that they would benefit from additional training in working with youth.

### **Recommendations**

We believe the Neighborhood Youth Centers provide an important service to youth and their communities. However, it is hard to document this in the absence of reliable information about attendance and participation patterns. Clearly the number of youth registered at the centers has little to do with the actual numbers of youth served by the centers. This being the case, more attention on the part of the directors of the centers needs to be directed to documenting attendance and participation patterns.

Secondly, the population of youth served by the centers is a bit younger than we expected. More than 50% of the youth registered at the centers are 13 years of age or younger. It seems that one thing the centers might consider doing is



implementing strategies for recruiting a larger number of older teens into the centers.

Overall the youth survey indicates that the centers are well received by the youth and that youth involvement with the centers seems to function as a buffer against negative developmental outcomes. However, a stronger case for the positive effect of the centers on youth could be made if future research:

- followed youth longitudinally in order to understand center utilization (process) and effects of participation on key outcomes (e.g., graduation; delinquency; substance use), both in the short-term and long-term;
- used an experimental design (random assignment to center participation vs. not) in order to be conclusive about center effects
- in the absence of an experimental design, used a community comparison sample to determine differences between center participants and non-participants
- compared center effects for younger vs. older teens
- compared center effects for teens who enter at high personal risk (e.g., low educational attainment, low parental monitoring)
- compared staff/center data with youth data across centers in order to learn more about the relationships between variables like staff pay and training and youth involvement and outcomes

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**Appendix A**

**Individual Summaries for Each Center  
Director Reports  
Attendance Rosters**

## **ASPIRA**

**Center Description:** The West End Neighborhood Youth Center is located at 1600 State Street in ASPIRA's headquarters location. The neighborhood comprises three of the city's census tracts that make up approximately 1.5 square miles and lies immediately southwest of Bridgeport's downtown center. The West End area's proximity to the downtown is designated as a "Gateway" to Bridgeport.

The majority of the clientele are low-income Latino and other minority youth and families living in the West End or other areas of the city where APSPIRA offers program services. The ASPIRA Center is handicapped accessible and has a large parking lot for outdoor recreation. There is a large auditorium to accommodate 100 people that can double as a tutoring center, recreation and play space. The first floor of the ASPIRA Center is equipped with seven classrooms, which are used during the day, but serve as after-school classrooms and or counseling space for the NYC program. On the third floor the center has a computer center and space for the video production training room for year-round activities.

The ASPIRA Center is within walking distance from a large city park, called West Field. The center is also within walking distance from all the schools as well as Housatonic Community Technical College.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

#### **ASPIRA Did Not Submit a Director's Report**

#### **Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 199

Average Daily Attendance: 38

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 148

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 26%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 53%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 21%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 51%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 11%
- Life-skill Training: < 1%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 10%

## **Boy's Club and Girl's Club of Bridgeport**

**Center Description:** The NYC Family Support Program is housed in the North End Boy's and Girl's Club located in an area of Bridgeport known as "the Hollow." This area is regarded as the most rapidly deteriorating neighborhood in Bridgeport. The neighborhood's main boundary streets are North Avenue, Main Street, Park Avenue and Washington Avenue. For the purpose of the NYC, the area has been expanded one block north on Madison Avenue to encompass Central High School, the largest secondary school in the city.

The majority of the Hollow's residents are at or below the poverty level. There is one 270 unit public housing project as well as 12 units of scattered site housing and several section eight apartments. There is also a high concentration of vacant and or burned-out buildings in this neighborhood. The area is experiencing a rapid deterioration with drug trafficking, gangs and increasing levels of shooting incidents.

The Boy's and Girl's Club is located at 555 Madison Avenue in Bridgeport. The facility is approximately 34,000 square feet. It is the largest one-floor facility for recreation in the city and is handicapped accessible. It has two gymnasiums, an indoor swimming pool, newly renovated shower and locker rooms, an administrative office and a conference room as well as several rooms, which can be converted for programming. The facility sits on four acres of parkland called Beeches Woods, which has basketball courts, bocce courts and open space for other activities. It is adjacent to Central High School and Kennedy Stadium, which is equipped with tennis courts, soccer fields, baseball diamonds and a football stadium.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 287 (Males = 231 (80%); Females = 56 (20%))

Total Number of Staff: 6 (no information on numbers of full/ part-time staff)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 1 (17%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 10

Total Operating Budget: \$138, 249

OPM Funds: \$81,805

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 59%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=287):

- White: 7%;
- Black (not Latino): 64%
- Latino: 23%
- Asian: 4%
- Multi-racial: 1%
- Other: 1%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=287):

- Under Age 12: 30%
- Ages 12-13: 26%
- Ages 14-15: 28%
- Ages 16-17: 15%
- Over Age 17: 1%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=65):

- Under \$10,000/year: 25%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 31%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 26%
- Over \$30,000/year: 18%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=287):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 41%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 51%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 1%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 7%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: < 1%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 292

Average Daily Attendance: 45

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 213

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 27%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 53%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 20%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 98%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 12%
- Life-skill Training: < 1%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 5%

## **Burroughs Community Center**

**Center Description:** The Burroughs Community Center is housed in a beautifully restored structure originally built as a senior women's home in 1903 on three acres of land located at the corner of Fairfield Avenue and Ellsworth Street in Bridgeport's West End. The center is within walking distance of the three middle schools and one of the cities low-income housing complexes. Its southern border is State Highway Route 1. According to the program director, the youth served from this southern border come from very wealthy homes and are latch key children whose parents work and the youth use the center to complete homework and use computers.

The first floor of the center houses a spacious library/ computer lab, a very large arts and crafts room, a fully equipped kitchen and large lounge area. Except for the lounge area, the rooms are enclosed in glass. The walls of the center are covered with framed artwork. The recreation room was recently redecorated with carpeting and new game equipment in the basement. The three acres of land provides open field space for a great many recreational opportunities.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 139 (Males = 67 (48%); Females = 72 (52%))

Total Number of Staff: 7 (1 Full-time; 6 Part-time)

Total Number of Volunteers: 10

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 3 (48%)

Total Operating Budget: \$40,000

OPM Funds: \$30,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 75%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=139):

- White: 2%;
- Black (not Latino): 59%
- Latino: 30%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 6%
- Other: 3%



Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=139):

- Under Age 12: 7%
- Ages 12-13: 64%
- Ages 14-15: 28%
- Ages 16-17: 1%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=129):

- Under \$10,000/year: 16%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 52%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 13%
- Over \$30,000/year: 19%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=139):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 24%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 64%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 5%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 7%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: < 1%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 112

Average Daily Attendance: 39

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 64

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 43%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 27%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 30%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 85%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 54%
- Life-skill Training: 33%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **Charles D. Smith Foundation**

**Center Description:** The Charles D. Smith, Jr. Foundation Multicultural Youth Center is located at 755 Central Avenue in the poorest and most socially troubled area of Bridgeport. The Foundation's home in the East End of Bridgeport is housed in a renovated Post Office Building directly across the street from the Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA. The Founder, Charles D. Smith Jr., grew up in this neighborhood and became a professional basketball player who wanted to give back to his hometown community. In addition to his financial investment in the youth center, he maintains close contact through daily phone calls.

The first floor of the center opens up to a large open lobby. This floor also houses the administrative offices and three spacious rooms for various youth activities including one with an extensive computer lab. There is one large room down stairs for activities as well as the Saturday night dance for teens. They are currently in the process of renovating part of the room in collaboration with Yale to set up an exercise area to study obesity in minority youths.

The community surrounding the center is plagued with poverty, unemployment and crime including gang activity. Interestingly, 75% of the employees are residents of the community. In the midst of this ravaged community the youth center's vegetable and flower garden thrive and provide fresh vegetables to the community members.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 35 (Males = 22 (63%); Females = 13 (37%))

Total Number of Staff: 3 (1 Full-time; 2 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 40

Total Operating Budget: \$37,244

OPM Funds: \$20,244

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 54%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=35):

- White: 2%;
- Black (not Latino): 98%
- Latino: 0%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=35):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 46%
- Ages 14-15: 31%
- Ages 16-17: 23%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=35):

- Under \$10,000/year: 9%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 17%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 74%
- Over \$30,000/year: 0%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=35):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 0%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 91%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 0%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 9%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 41

Average Daily Attendance: 18

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 30

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 26%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 20%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 54%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 12%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 20%
- Life-skill Training: 0%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 5%

## **Hall Neighborhood House- East Side**

**Center Description:** Hall Neighborhood House East Side Youth Center's target neighborhood is the lower east side of Bridgeport where 60% of the families live below the poverty level in multiple family substandard housing. The railroad tracks on the North End, Yellow Mill River on the east side, Long Island Sound on the south side and downtown area on the west side define the neighborhood.

Hall Neighborhood House is located in the heart of the Lower East Side. The agency has been in existence for over 113 years. The facility has a large gymnasium, outdoor athletic areas and program activity rooms. The facility is equipped with a full size industrial kitchen and locker rooms and is handicapped accessible.

The NYC is housed within the Hall Neighborhood House. This organization is a very large social service agency that provides programs and services from infancy to adulthood. A good deal of space in the building is dedicated to Head Start/Day Care services. The NYC uses a number of rooms for its various activities as well as sharing the gym and outdoor athletic areas. The administration for the NYC is in this building as well.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 341 (Males = 131 (38%); Females = 210 (62%))

Total Number of Staff: 13 (All are listed as holding part-time positions)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 17

Total Operating Budget: \$100,430

OPM Funds: \$60,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 60%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=341):

- White: 1%;
- Black (not Latino): 85%
- Latino: 12%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 1%
- Other: 1%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=341):

- Under Age 12: 15%
- Ages 12-13: 5%
- Ages 14-15: 41%
- Ages 16-17: 26%
- Over Age 17: 13%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=341):

- Under \$10,000/year: 35%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 28%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 23%
- Over \$30,000/year: 14%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=341):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 22%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 49%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 16%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 11%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 2%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 44

Average Daily Attendance: 14

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 26

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 40%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 21%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 39%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 75%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 0%
- Life-skill Training: 45%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **Hall Neighborhood House- North End**

**Center Description:** The Hall Neighborhood House Inc., houses one NYC within its building- East Side Neighborhood Center- and runs another NYC -North End Neighborhood Youth Center- out of Trumbull Gardens low-income public housing project. The North End Youth Center used to be located in the basement of one of the low-income housing buildings. Due to lack of space as well as frequent flooding, a new building was necessary.

The North End Youth Center is now located in a brand new community center located in Trumbull Gardens low-income housing project. The new facilities house a regulation gym, stage area, outdoor play area with planned tennis courts and golf facilities, a small kitchen, locker rooms and upstairs activity rooms as well as the administrative office. Trumbull Gardens has a long history of youth violence, substance abuse and teen pregnancy. The community is continuously battling the drug selling and violence of both youth and adults.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 150 (Males = 79 (53%); Females = 71 (47%))

Total Number of Staff: 10 (All are listed as holding part-time positions)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 17

Total Operating Budget: \$121,961

OPM Funds: \$65,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 49%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=150):

- White: 7%;
- Black (not Latino): 72%
- Latino: 20%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 1%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=150):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 47%
- Ages 14-15: 30%
- Ages 16-17: 20%
- Over Age 17: 3%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=140):

- Under \$10,000/year: 18%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 61%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 21%
- Over \$30,000/year: 0%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=149):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 12%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 68%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 4%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 13%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 3%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

We were not able to summarize the attendance rosters that were submitted to us from the North End Center. This was primarily due to the fact that too many of the attendance rosters appeared to be filled in by staff instead of youth. In addition, upon close inspection, it appeared to us as if the same completed rosters were copied over and over again and presented as representing the attendance data for several different days. As a result of these reporting irregularities (which would only be detected when the data was being entered by coders) we were unable to analyze any of the attendance data with any confidence. That is, there may be some rosters that accurately reflect the attendance of youth on a given day, but because we have concerns about the validity of too many of the submitted rosters we decided that we could not attempt to provide a summary of these data.

## **Progressive Training Associates**

**Center Description:** Progressive Training Associates, Inc. is a community-based center that serves youth from the ages of 14-17 from the West Side Community particularly focusing on the Fairfield Avenue, Norman Street, Iranistain and State Street vicinity including Curiale and Howe Schools. The youth center is located at 965 Fairfield Avenue in Bridgeport in a renovated single-family house bordered by State Street, Park Street and Norman Street. Fairfield Avenue is a main street located directly on a bus line and immediately next door to Fairfield Garden Apartments where many of the families live. The West Side community is predominantly African American and Hispanic. All of the youth activities such as "Sister 2 Sister" and "Drill Team" are held at the center with exception of the basketball team, which holds games at recreational facilities or outside basketball courts. Weekly practice is held at Oliver church and Wentfield Park, both sites being accessible to participants. In addition to the program activities, the staff for the center is also housed at the center. The walls of the center are covered with pictures of groups of smiling youth as well as invitations to join the various programs offered. The main office downstairs is partially decorated by furniture upholstered by some of the youth.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 108 (Males = 53 (49%); Females = 55 (51%))

Total Number of Staff: 5 (1 Full-time and 4 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 18

Total Operating Budget: \$75,575

OPM Funds: \$40,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 53%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=108):

- White: 2%;
- Black (not Latino): 55%
- Latino: 30%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 13%
- Other: 0%



Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=108):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 31%
- Ages 14-15: 19%
- Ages 16-17: 41%
- Over Age 17: 9%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=108):

- Under \$10,000/year: 35%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 14%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 25%
- Over \$30,000/year: 26%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=108):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 9%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 47%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 16%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 19%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 9%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 112

Average Daily Attendance: 14

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 40

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 45%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 40%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 15%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 83%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 84%
- Life-skill Training: 23%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 11%

## **Ralphola Taylor Community Center**

**Center Description:** The Ralphola Taylor Community Center YMCA is located at the corner of Central and Stratford Avenue in the East End of Bridgeport, directly across the street from the Charles Smith Jr. Foundation. This African American neighborhood has the largest population of youth in the city of Bridgeport with a lot of gang and drug related activity.

The Ralphola Taylor Center is unique in that it is a multipurpose human service agency. In addition to the youth programs run in the community center, the center has a fully staffed medical clinic and feeding program for children as well as a Parent Resource Center.

The community center building occupies approximately half a city block. There is only one unlocked entrance to the center, which opens into a small lobby with halls leading to the various rooms. There is a glass showcase to the right in the lobby with a framed picture of Ralphola Taylor who the center is named after, as well as a display of recent community center activities. The community center's activities take place in the Ralphola Taylor Center gymnasium, multi-purpose and dance rooms. Interestingly, the center is attached, through the gymnasium, to the Dunbar School and has use of the Dunbar auditorium and cafeteria. The children from the Dunbar School enter the center directly through the gymnasium without having to go outside. In addition to the Dunbar School, children from McKinley school and Harding High School also attend the center's activities.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 560 (Males = 351 (63%); Females = 209 (37%))

Total Number of Staff: 9 (2 Full-time and 7 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 3 (33%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 27

Total Operating Budget: \$218,575

OPM Funds: \$95,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 43%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=560):

- White: 1%;
- Black (not Latino): 88%
- Latino: 10%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 1%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=560):

- Under Age 12: 52%
- Ages 12-13: 18%
- Ages 14-15: 19%
- Ages 16-17: 8%
- Over Age 17: 3%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=560):

- Under \$10,000/year: 0%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 93%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 5%
- Over \$30,000/year: 2%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=560):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 30%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 70%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 0%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 0%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 378

Average Daily Attendance: 104

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 253

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 33%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 40%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 27%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 72%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 23%
- Life-skill Training: 25%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 8%

## McGivney Community Center

**Center Description:** The McGivney Community Center is located at 338 Stillman Street in the east side of Bridgeport. The east side of Bridgeport has the highest concentration of youth under the age of 18 in the city of Bridgeport.

Bridgeport police crime statistics for a recent two-year period in the east side reveal the following statistics: 26 homicides, 43 sexual assaults, 447 robberies, over 5,000 assaults, 1,700 burglaries, 1,300 thefts, 100 sexual offences, 1,400 drug incidents and 155 arson incidents. A murder took place outside a convenience store located less than 100 yards from the center one-year ago. Nearly all of the population served by this center, live below the poverty level. Over 60% are Hispanic, 25% African American with growing populations of Laotian, Haitians and Jamaicans.

Nearly the entire McGivney Community Center lives within a 1/2-mile radius of the center. The facility includes a 5,000 square foot gymnasium, a fully operational kitchen, an arts and crafts room, a conference room, a darkroom, and media center, which is used for educational programs as well as for board and community meetings. The center accommodates all programs in their current facility, but space is becoming tight. Plans are being developed to acquire land across the street from the center and construct a new building to better meet the current and future needs of the east side Community.

### Summary of Information From the Director's Reports

Total Number of Youth Registered: 328 (Males = 223 (68%); Females = 105 (32%))

Total Number of Staff: 11 (1 Full-time and 10 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 3 (27%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 22

Total Operating Budget: \$70,000

OPM Funds: \$60,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 85%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=328):

- White: 2%;
- Black (not Latino): 31%
- Latino: 59%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 3%
- Other: 5%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=328):

- Under Age 12: 52%
- Ages 12-13: 22%
- Ages 14-15: 12%
- Ages 16-17: 6%
- Over Age 17: 8%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=42):

- Under \$10,000/year: 34%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 26%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 21%
- Over \$30,000/year: 19%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=328):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 27%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 49%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 17%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 7%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 45

Average Daily Attendance: 11

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 40

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 11%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 51%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 38%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 60%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 100%
- Life-skill Training: 0%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **South End Community Center - Bridgeport**

**Center Description:** The South End Neighborhood Youth Center Program serves 250-300 high-risk youth between the ages of 12-19 and those in danger of becoming high risk. The population is a mix of ethnic minority groups with Hispanics constituting the largest percentage.

The South End NYC "STAR" program operates from the South End Community Center at 650 Park Avenue in Bridgeport just across the railroad tracks. The SECC is located adjacent to the Roosevelt School and within walking distance to two public housing projects: Marina Village and Pequonnock Apartments.

The SECC facility consists of three classrooms, a mini-library, computer lab, lobby (used for Karate, aerobic kickboxing and game room), kitchen, and a playground.

The second floor of the SECC consists of operational offices and conference room (also used as a classroom). In addition, the SECC has an agreement with the Cardinal Shehan Center to provide basketball, handball, volleyball courts, a swimming pool and a community room for recreational programming.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 219 (Males = 95 (43%); Females = 124 (57%))

Total Number of Staff: 9 (3 Full-time and 6 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 9 (100%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 32

Total Operating Budget: \$274,250

OPM Funds: \$95,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 35%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=219):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 39%
- Latino: 61%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=219):

- Under Age 12: 14%
- Ages 12-13: 30%
- Ages 14-15: 33%
- Ages 16-17: 19%
- Over Age 17: 4%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=219):

- Under \$10,000/year: 60%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 8%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 18%
- Over \$30,000/year: 14%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=219):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 21%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 52%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 16%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 9%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 2%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 52

Average Daily Attendance: 18

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 52

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 0%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 54%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 46%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 84%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 92%
- Life-skill Training: 8%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **Mi Casa**

**Center Description:** The Mi Casa Youth and Family Development Neighborhood Center's target population are residents of the Central Cluster service area as defined by the City of Hartford Department of Human Services. The Central Cluster is bordered on the north by West Boulevard and I-84, the east by Main Street- Maple Avenue, the south by New Britain Avenue-Zion Street-Flatbush Avenue, and the west by the West Hartford town line. This area is the oldest Latino neighborhood in Hartford.

Many of the youth in this neighborhood attend Quirk Middle School, Bulkeley High School and Hartford Rice Heights Housing Complex. In 1998 the population make-up of the Central Cluster area consisted of approximately 71% Latino/a (primarily Puerto Rican), approximately 14.5% African American, and about 12.5% White, and 2% other. In 1990, approximately 44% of the total youth target population lived below the federal poverty level.

Mi Casa serves approximately 350 youths, 95% of which are Hispanic/Latino and 5% African American. The Mi Casa Family Service Center occupies 3,400 square feet of space situated on Park Street in what is considered the heart of the Latino community of Hartford. The space consists of two big open rooms, including four large group meeting spaces, four offices and three private offices for counseling purposes.

There is a parking lot that is used for outdoors recreational activities. The center also uses space at the Maria Sanchez School, the Burns School and Quirk Middle School for recreational programs and the Pope Park Recreational Center, which houses a swimming pool and an activity room.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 320 (Males = 169 (53%); Females = 169 (47%))

Total Number of Staff: 16 (13 Full-time and 3 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 7 (43%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 11

Total Operating Budget: \$465,208

OPM Funds: \$245,082

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 53%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=320):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 2%
- Latino: 98%
- Asian: < 1%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%



Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=320):

- Under Age 12: 28%
- Ages 12-13: 32%
- Ages 14-15: 20%
- Ages 16-17: 20%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=320):

- Under \$10,000/year: 41%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 59%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 0%
- Over \$30,000/year: 0%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=320):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 43%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 49%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 4%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 3%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 1%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 269

Average Daily Attendance: 51

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 162

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 39%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 41%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 20%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 83%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 58%
- Life-skill Training: 70%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 1%

## Neighborhood Bridges

**Center Description:** Neighborhood Bridges is housed in Weaver High School in the North End of the city of Hartford. The center serves primarily the Blue Hills neighborhood of Hartford. The population in this neighborhood is defined by the predominance of African American and Caribbean/ West Indian populations. The Neighborhood Bridges Youth and Family Development Center is located in a separate wing of Weaver High School, accessed via an outside entrance. The site consists of two large classrooms, a large recreational space, and a group meeting room/lounge, a private staff and administrative offices as well as other available space on an as needed basis. To access programs at Neighborhood Bridges, youth must enter through a separate outside entrance, produce a special photo identification and sign in at the receiving desk. Doors connecting the school to the center are normally locked to provide a self-contained program space. The youth center also has access to the gymnasium, outdoor track and field, tennis courts and baseball field at Weaver High School.

### Summary of Information From the Director's Reports

Total Number of Youth Registered: 172 (No breakdown by sex provided)

Total Number of Staff: 5 (5 Full-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 4 (67%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 2

Total Operating Budget: \$133,883

OPM Funds: \$123,259

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 92%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (No breakdowns provided):

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N= 172):

- Under Age 12: 5%
- Ages 12-13: 0%
- Ages 14-15: 29%
- Ages 16-17: 56%
- Over Age 17: 10%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (No breakdowns provided)

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (No Breakdowns provided)

## **Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 289

Average Daily Attendance: 41

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 199

### **Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:**

- Never Attended: 31%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 51%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 18%

### **Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:**

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 71%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 5%
- Life-skill Training: 3%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 5%

## **SAND**

**Center Description:** The South Arsenal Neighborhood Development (SAND) Corporation operates the SAND Teen Action Center (STAC) that serves the neighborhood in the North End of Hartford known as the Clay Arsenal neighborhood. This combines the Clay Hill and Arsenal neighborhoods. The neighborhood extends from Main Street north to Westland Street, west to Garden Street and south to Albany Avenue. Bellevue Square and Nelton Court, public housing developments are located in the neighborhood and the SANA Apartment Complex, a low-income federal housing project, is located adjacent to SAND. Garden Street borders on the east by Windsor Street and the North Meadows, to the north by Stowe Village, another housing project, to the south by the highway over pass and to the west the Clay Arsenal Neighborhood. The Clay Arsenal Neighborhood houses the City of Hartford's poorest residents.

The SAND Neighborhood Youth Center is located at the SAND Corporation administration offices in a rather small building at 1500 Main Street. The program also uses the old SAND Everywhere School gym, which is 10 feet away from SAND's offices. The building is located off of Main Street next to the SANA Apartment Complex, and one-tenth mile from Bellevue Square. The building is accessible by car off of Windsor Street and by foot from either Main Street or Windsor Street. The building houses the offices of the SAND Corporation, two bathrooms, three classrooms (20 by 20), and the North Hartford Coordinated Senior Center as well as other non-profits that borrow space. The gym is a full size school gym with locker rooms and bathrooms.

The site was selected for its direct access to the population in the SANA Apartment Complex and Bellevue Square. The disadvantage of this location, in addition to the small space available for youth, is that it does not front directly on Main Street so there is no immediate access.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 59 (Males = 35 (59%); Females = 24 (41%))

Total Number of Staff: 3 (2 Full-time and 1 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 2 (67%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 3

Total Operating Budget: \$138,895

OPM Funds: \$110,781

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 80%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=59):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 55%
- Latino: 44%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 1%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=59):

- Under Age 12: 33%
- Ages 12-13: 32%
- Ages 14-15: 27%
- Ages 16-17: 8%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=59):

- Under \$10,000/year: 75%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 25%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 0%
- Over \$30,000/year: 0%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=59):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 34%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 44%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 16%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 6%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 97

Average Daily Attendance: 22

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 90

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 7%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 67%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 26%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 51%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 37%
- Life-skill Training: 1%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 1%

## **New Haven YMCA**

**Center Description:** The New Haven YMCA Center is located at 52 Howe Street in the Dwight Neighborhood of New Haven. The Dwight Neighborhood was designated one of the six poorest neighborhoods in New Haven and is within walking distance of the center of the city of New Haven. The center is bordered on the east by Yale University's "Old Campus", on the west by Ella Grasso Boulevard, on the north by Whalley Avenue and on the south by Route 34. Domestic violence, drug abuse, public disorder and poverty impact the youth of Dwight Neighborhood.

The facilities at the YMCA Youth Center include three gymnasiums, two game rooms, a library-resource center, and a job center, a licensed before and after school childcare area, a mobile health unit, and a 25-yard swimming pool and G.E.D classroom.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 900 (Males = 830 (92%); Females = 70 (8%))

Total Number of Staff: 8 (3 Full-time and 5 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 10

Total Operating Budget: \$134,668

OPM Funds: \$130,000

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 96%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=900):

- White: 3%;
- Black (not Latino): 92%
- Latino: 5%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=900):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 41%
- Ages 14-15: 51%
- Ages 16-17: 8%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=900):

- Under \$10,000/year: 68%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 23%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 9%
- Over \$30,000/year: 0%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=900):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 20%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 67%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 10%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 1%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 2%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 681

Average Daily Attendance: 42

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 521

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 23%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 75%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 2%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 67%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 12%
- Life-skill Training: 11%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## Centro San Jose

**Center Description:** Centro San Jose is a social service agency that concerns itself mainly with youth of Latino origin in the Fair Haven neighborhood of New Haven. The neighborhood is a peninsula surrounded on two sides by the Quinnipiac and Mill Rivers. To the north, the neighborhood is bordered by I-95 and train tracks.

This organization is located in a small storefront building at 290 Grand Avenue across the street from the Columbus Elementary School and is one block from the Fair Haven Middle School. The agency is situated in what is considered the heart of the Latino community in Fair Haven. From 1980-1990, the city as a whole experienced an 80% increase in its Hispanic population and in the past year there has been a dramatic increase in Mexican immigrants. The neighborhood has been plagued in the past, by gang activity by the Latin Kings and crime remains high.

The small building that houses this agency includes a small lobby area, a hallway to the left that houses the administrative offices and one meeting room and one large multi-purpose room. They have recently set aside part of their space as a "drop-in center" for youth. Thus, few youth activities take place on-site with the exception of backyard basketball and backyard volleyball. All other activities take place at other sites such as Farnam Neighborhood House.

### Summary of Information From the Director's Reports

Total Number of Youth Registered: 90 (Males = 68 (76%); Females = 22 (24%))

Total Number of Staff: 4 (1 Full-time and 3 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 1 (25%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 38

Total Operating Budget: \$183,934

OPM Funds: \$150,450

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 82%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=90):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 24%
- Latino: 71%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 4%
- Other: < 1%



Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=90):

- Under Age 12: 4%
- Ages 12-13: 19%
- Ages 14-15: 36%
- Ages 16-17: 29%
- Over Age 17: 12%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=90):

- Under \$10,000/year: 38%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 39%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 17%
- Over \$30,000/year: 6%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=90):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 34%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 41%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 14%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 10%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 1%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 82

Average Daily Attendance: 9

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 34

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 58%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 26%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 16%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 63%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 35%
- Life-skill Training: 29%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **Dixwell Community House**

**Center Description:** The "Q" House Youth Center is part of the Dixwell Community House, Inc. The Dixwell Neighborhood is roughly bounded on the south by Whalley Avenue, on the west by Sherman Avenue, on the east by Mansfield Street and on the north by Munson Street. Traditionally this neighborhood was the center of African American culture in New Haven and for many years was a thriving, vibrant community with a rich cultural and religious life. The de-industrialization of the northeast has hit this area particularly hard and the neighborhood suffers from poverty and unemployment.

The neighborhood youth center is in the Dixwell Community House building which is located on Dixwell Avenue within walking distance for residents of the Greater Dixwell neighborhood. The center is housed in a three-story building that contains classrooms, private conference areas, large meeting rooms and recreational facilities. The youth served also have the use of a gym and auditorium as well as other facilities of the adjacent Wexler Elementary School.

The youth center uses the Dixwell Community House classrooms for life skills training and homework, the private areas for counseling and the large meeting rooms for family and community events and dances. The older teens help run the classrooms for the younger children and have their names on the doors of the classrooms for which they are responsible. The recreational facilities used by the youth center include a fully equipped weight training room, an arts and crafts room, a woodshop, kitchen, game room, computer lab and lounge area.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 150 (Males = 100 (67%); Females = 50 (33%))

Total Number of Staff: 12 (3 Full-time and 9 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 2 (17%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 8

Total Operating Budget: \$183,934

OPM Funds: \$100,450

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 55%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=150):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 67%
- Latino: 16%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 17%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=150):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 60%
- Ages 14-15: 17%
- Ages 16-17: 17%
- Over Age 17: 6%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (No breakdowns provided):

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (No breakdowns provided):

### **Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 195

Average Daily Attendance: 30

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 178

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 9%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 75%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 16%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 50%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 59%
- Life-skill Training: 15%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 44%

## **Hill Cooperative Youth Services**

**Center Description:** Hill Y.E.S.S- Neighborhood Youth Center is a collaborative effort of the Hill Cooperative Youth Services and the Boys and Girl Clubs of New Haven. The Hill is comprised of four distinct neighborhoods: the Upper Hill, Kimberly Square, City Point, and Long Wharf, a business district.

The Hill Neighborhood is a poverty- stricken area- 43% of its residents live below the poverty level. Seventy-eight percent of the population is minority: 35% is Hispanic. Through a recent and comprehensive study, a number of risk factors for youth in the Hill Neighborhood have been identified: poverty, cultural and personal isolation, exposure to alcohol and drug abuse, teen pregnancy, a high percentage of single parent families, high incidence of crime, and lack of access to quality supervised recreational opportunities. Of particular concern in this neighborhood is gun possession and gun violence. Researchers cited the Hill Neighborhood as one of the city's areas of high youth crime and delinquency.

Hill Cooperative Youth Services is located at 158 Carlisle Street between Salem and Cedar Streets in New Haven. HCYS is situated next to a small park, which provides space for outdoors-recreational activities. The building houses a gym in addition to a number of classrooms. The Boys and Girls Club is located in a new building on Columbus Avenue with a gym, game room, and several multipurpose rooms.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 123 (Males = 73 (59%); Females = 50 (41%))

Total Number of Staff: 4 (4 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 2 (50%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 2

Total Operating Budget: \$39,667

OPM Funds: \$29,253

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 74%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=123):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 92%
- Latino: 8%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: < 1%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=123):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 11%
- Ages 14-15: 44%
- Ages 16-17: 25%
- Over Age 17: 20%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=123):

- Under \$10,000/year: 12%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 47%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 37%
- Over \$30,000/year: 4%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=123):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 33%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 53%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 4%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 9%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: <1%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 232

Average Daily Attendance: 29

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 126

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 46%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 38%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 16%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 26%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 8%
- Life-skill Training: 43%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 1%

## **New Haven Boys and Girls Club**

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 282 (Males = 230 (82%); Females = 52 (18%))

Total Number of Staff: 4 (1 Full-time and 3 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 2

Total Operating Budget: \$37,978

OPM Funds: \$28,484

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 75%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=282):

- White: 0%;
- Black (not Latino): 86%
- Latino: 4%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=282):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 7%
- Ages 14-15: 31%
- Ages 16-17: 34%
- Over Age 17: 28%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=113):

- Under \$10,000/year: 9%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 45%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 15%
- Over \$30,000/year: 31%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=282):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 29%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 66%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 0%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 2%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 3%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 136

Average Daily Attendance: 48

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 102

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 25%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 25%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 50%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 91%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 60%
- Life-skill Training: 0%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 27%

## **The New Britain School Programs**

**Center Description:** "Exercise the Right Choice" is the name of New Britain's after school program. This project uses three middle schools; Slade, Roosevelt, and Pulaski, six days a week and turns them into community centers. Each school offers numerous classrooms, computers, gym, library and cafeterias and they are located near large housing projects. Slade Middle School serves Mount Pleasant; Pulaski serves Corbin Heights, Pinnacle Heights and Oval Grove; Roosevelt serves Sunvale Manor and Interfaith Housing. The program targets four specific neighborhoods, as well as the individual middle school day populations.

The impetus for this program was a series of violent incidents involving New Britain Youth. In 1995 a member of the Los Solidos and a member of the Latin Kings were shot and killed, one on the steps of New Britain High School. Another youth was run down and stabbed to death and another five additional shooting incidents were reported to the police. New Britain Parks and Recreation Department developed this after-school program to combat the pressures of violence and gang involvement in youth. The program targets the poor and minority youth who are exposed to negative or adverse activities.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports All Schools Combined**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 774 (Males = 372 (48%); Females = 402 (52%))

Total Number of Staff: 33 (1 Full-time and 32 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 3 (9%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 4

Total Operating Budget: \$420,895

OPM Funds: \$177,515

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 42%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=675):

- White: 17%;
- Black (not Latino): 21%
- Latino: 58%
- Asian: 1%
- Multi-racial: < 1%
- Other: 3%



Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=774):

- Under Age 12: 19%
- Ages 12-13: 68%
- Ages 14-15: 13%
- Ages 16-17: 0%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (These data were not provided in a format that could be summarized for this report):

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=680):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 30%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 46%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 15%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 8%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: <1%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters  
All Schools Combined**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 719

Average Daily Attendance: 164

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 395

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 45%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 25%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 30%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 71%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 69%
- Life-skill Training: 0%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 90%

## Norwalk – NHA Learning Centers

**Center Description:** The City of Norwalk, in cooperation with the Norwalk Housing Authority supports the Computer Learning Center in South Norwalk. The Center activities are more academically oriented than those of most after-school programs available in the neighborhood are, but they do provide recreational activities and skills training for youth. The target neighborhood for this center is known by residents as “South Norwalk.” It is a neighborhood that is often viewed by residents of other sections of Norwalk as a concentrated area with many problems and needs.

The Center targets middle school youth from the neighborhood with a special effort to engage youth who are residents of the neighborhood's public housing developments. The Center, which is owned by the Norwalk Housing Authority, is located at 20 West Avenue in a building, which houses senior citizens and a satellite program of the Norwalk Senior Center. The center was recently renovated. It includes staff offices, a room with computer work stations, another room used for group activities and classes, a large room used for a dining room and other activities, and a reading room furnished with books, couches and students-made furniture and art.

The Computer Learning Center offers opportunities for quiet recreational activities such as board games. The Center makes extensive use of existing recreational opportunities in the neighborhood. For example, the Center participants can use Springwood Park for tennis, which is in the target neighborhood.

### Summary of Information From the Director’s Reports

Total Number of Youth Registered: 87 (Males = 44 (51%); Females = 43 (49%))

Total Number of Staff: 10 (2 Full-time and 8 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 1 (10%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 1

Total Operating Budget: \$166,532

OPM Funds: \$33,225

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 20%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=87):

- White: 3%;
- Black (not Latino): 62%
- Latino: 25%
- Asian: 2%
- Multi-racial: 8%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=87):

- Under Age 12: 8%
- Ages 12-13: 36%
- Ages 14-15: 31%
- Ages 16-17: 20%
- Over Age 17: 5%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=51):

- Under \$10,000/year: 57%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 9%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 16%
- Over \$30,000/year: 18%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=68):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 34%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 53%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 9%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 4%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 62

Average Daily Attendance: 38

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 62

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 0%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 22%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 78%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 3%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 36%
- Life-skill Training: 16%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 1%

## **Stamford – Chester Addison Center**

**Center Description:** The City of Stamford's Neighborhood Youth Center, the Chester Addison Center, targets neighborhoods in the South End/Waterside area of Stamford, which are among the least advantaged in the entire city. CTE, Inc., is the local Community Action Agency that operates and is Interim Manager of the Chester Addison Center. The clientele for the neighborhood youth center program live in the Waterside, Southfield and South End areas of the city and are primarily of African American and Latino heritage.

The site of the NYC is the Chester Addison Community Center, located on Selleck Street in Southfield Village, which is located in the Waterside area of Stamford. Youth living in various sections of the target neighborhood have the means to travel to and from the Chester Addison Center.

Recreational activities take place in the Chester Addison facility in the gymnasium, game room, and/or the outdoor playground. Tutoring and training occur in the classrooms. The facility also includes community rooms used for parental involvement and skill building programs. CTE has received a grant from Citibank to fund a multi-media technology center and will consist of three distinct labs; a training lab, a youth lab and a community lab with internet access.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 19 (Males = 13 (68%); Females = 6 (32%))

Total Number of Staff: 8 (6 Full-time and 2 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 8 (100%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 0

Total Operating Budget: \$144,208

OPM Funds: \$79,056

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 59%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=19):

- White: 5%;
- Black (not Latino): 79%
- Latino: 11%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 5%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=19):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 63%
- Ages 14-15: 37%
- Ages 16-17: 0%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=12):

- Under \$10,000/year: 33%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 33%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 17%
- Over \$30,000/year: 17%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=16):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 13%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 44%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 19%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 19%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 5%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 53

Average Daily Attendance: 11

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 37

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 30%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 42%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 28%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 100%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 43%
- Life-skill Training: 0%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 3%

## **Berkeley-Warner Area Council**

**Center Description:** The Berkeley-Warner Area Council (BWAC), located in the city of Waterbury, is a densely populated area that is home to two major public housing projects and characterized by much drug abuse, drug related crime, wide spread poverty and high rates of unemployment and drop-outs, and teen pregnancy. The Berkeley -Warner Area Council is the designated community group to provide a forum for neighbors and residents. The Berkeley-Warner Center currently serves mostly Black and Hispanic youth with the majority being Black. The BWACNYC is located at 277 Long Hill Road and is the location for the administrative offices and where a majority of the committee's activities are held. This site was chosen as a location for the NYC because of its proximity to low-income housing sites, the center is located on a bus line and has recreational space in an on-site gymnasium and outdoor space.

The BWACNYC functions under New Opportunities for Waterbury, (NOW INC.) - A community action agency for Waterbury and the 22 surrounding communities. The agency has five satellite offices termed "councils/committees" located in Waterbury's low-income communities. The Berkeley-Warner Area Council is one of these five councils.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 72 (Males = 38 (53%); Females = 34 (47%))

Total Number of Staff: 5 (2 Full-time and 3 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 10

Total Operating Budget: \$59,994

OPM Funds: \$45,676

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 76%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=72):

- White: 3%;
- Black (not Latino): 84%
- Latino: 13%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=72):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 32%
- Ages 14-15: 39%
- Ages 16-17: 22%
- Over Age 17: 7%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=64):

- Under \$10,000/year: 78%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 22%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 0%
- Over \$30,000/year: 0%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=72):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 24%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 67%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 8%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 1%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 71

Average Daily Attendance: 34

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 48

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 32%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 18%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 50%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 75%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 36%
- Life-skill Training: 12%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **River Baldwin Recreation Center**

**Center Description:** The Spanish Action Council, Inc (SAC) is located in the South End of Waterbury at 34 Washington Street. The SAC's administrative offices and some of SAC's NYC activities take place at this location. SAC's NYC recreational activities take place at the River Baldwin Recreational Center located at 135 East Liberty Street in Waterbury and at other sites throughout the Waterbury area. All NYC activities occur at the SAC NYC with the exception of field trips and recreation.

The site of the SAC NYC is accessible to the target population by being located on the bus line and being within walking distance to the nearest recreational facility. The Spanish Action Council provides resources and programming directed at the Hispanic community.

SAC is run under the auspices of New Opportunities for Waterbury, NOW Inc., the community action agency for Waterbury and the 22 surrounding communities. By operating under this "parent organization" NOW Inc., SAC is able to take advantage of the services and programming offered by the agency.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 254 (Males = 198 (78%); Females = 56 (22%))

Total Number of Staff: 4 (1 Full-time and 3 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 10

Total Operating Budget: \$67,133

OPM Funds: \$47,133

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 70%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=254):

- White: 5%;
- Black (not Latino): 15%
- Latino: 80%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 0%



Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=254):

- Under Age 12: 0%
- Ages 12-13: 38%
- Ages 14-15: 23%
- Ages 16-17: 23%
- Over Age 17: 16%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (No Breakdowns Provided):

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=254):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 29%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 67%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 0%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 4%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 197

Average Daily Attendance: 35

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 157

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 20%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 58%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 22%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 57%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 2%
- Life-skill Training: 1%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **Walnut-Orange-Walsh Neighborhood Center (WOW)**

**Center Description:** The target population for the Walnut-Orange-Walsh Neighborhood Revitalization Zone, (WOW) is in the north end of Waterbury, bordered by East Farm, Oak, Wall, East Main, Cherry and Vine Streets. Most of the residents are African Americans whose median family income is a little over half the median for the city.

All of the neighborhood Youth Center's activities take place after school at the Walsh Magnet School located in the WOW neighborhood on Dikeman Street. A youth annex is used for the cultural component of the center and is located in the WOW neighborhood on 94 Locust Street. The Walsh Magnet School has a gym for recreational programs as well as other larger group activities and events. The disadvantages to this youth center being located in the school are lack of classroom space and lack of storage space.

Additional athletic and recreational opportunities are held at other centers such as the River Baldwin Recreational Center, as well as bowling centers and roller-skating rinks outside of the neighborhood.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 189 (Males = 110 (58%); Females = 79 (42%))

Total Number of Staff: 4 (4 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 0

Total Number of Volunteers: 4

Total Operating Budget: \$39,148

OPM Funds: \$23,776

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 61%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=189):

- White: 4%
- Black (not Latino): 87%
- Latino: 6%
- Asian: 2%
- Multi-racial: 0%
- Other: 1%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=189):

- Under Age 12: 27%
- Ages 12-13: 14%
- Ages 14-15: 16%
- Ages 16-17: 18%
- Over Age 17: 25%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (No Breakdowns Provided):

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (No Breakdowns Provided):

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 96

Average Daily Attendance: 28

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 66

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 29%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 45%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 26%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 86%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 13%
- Life-skill Training: 8%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 0%

## **Willow Plaza Youth Center**

**Center Description:** Willow Plaza is an urban neighborhood bordered by Pine Street on the south, Wildwood Avenue on the north, Waterville Street on the west and Johnson Street on the east. The neighborhood is comprised of multi-family dwellings and small businesses. Of the 210 abandoned houses in the city of Waterbury, 33 can be found in the Willow Plaza area. Willow Plaza is an economically depressed inner city neighborhood and is home to a 45.6 % minority population including 1,218 African American and 1,609 Latinos.

The Willow Plaza Neighborhood Youth Center is located at 96 Ridgewood Street. The building was once a private residence before the house was converted to a drop-in center for youth and families. The building has large rooms upstairs and downstairs, two kitchens, three bathrooms, and a front yard.

One disadvantage to this site is that it is a duplex. The staff and youth are faced with broken windows and other acts of vandalism whenever the other side of the duplex is not occupied. Another disadvantage is not having a gymnasium. The children have to be transported to the YMCA for swimming, basketball and other gym activities. On the other hand, the advantages of this building are the home-like setting as well as the center's accessible location.

### **Summary of Information From the Director's Reports**

Total Number of Youth Registered: 138 (Males = 60 (43%); Females = 77 (57%))

Total Number of Staff: 2 (1 Full-time and 1 Part-time)

Staff Turnover in 6 months prior to submitting reports: 2 (100%)

Total Number of Volunteers: 0

Total Operating Budget: \$81,691

OPM Funds: \$62,519

Percent of Operating Budget From OPM: 77%

Racial Profile of Registered Youth (N=138):

- White: 9%;
- Black (not Latino): 67%
- Latino: 20%
- Asian: 0%
- Multi-racial: 4%
- Other: 0%

Age Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=138):

- Under Age 12: 53%
- Ages 12-13: 33%
- Ages 14-15: 12%
- Ages 16-17: 2%
- Over Age 17: 0%

Family Income Breakdowns of Registered Youth (N=138):

- Under \$10,000/year: 7%
- \$10,000 - \$19,999: 33%
- \$20,000 - \$29,000: 47%
- Over \$30,000/year: 13%

Breakdowns of Living Arrangements of Registered Youth (N=138):

- Residing with Mother and Father: 33%
- Residing within a Single-parent household: 55%
- Residing within a Blended-Family: 2%
- Residing with Other Relatives: 10%
- Residing within a Foster Home or Shelter: 0%

**Summary of Information Derived From the Attendance Rosters**

Average Number of Youth Listed on the Attendance Rosters: 63

Average Daily Attendance: 14

Number of Youth Who Attended at least once over an average 30-day period: 59

Breakdown of Youth Attendance Patterns:

- Never Attended: 6%
- Attended Infrequently (less than 30% of possible days): 69%
- Attended Frequently (more than 30% of possible days): 25%

Breakdown of Youth Participation Patterns Within the Center:

- Athletic and Recreational Activities: 86%
- Enrichment and Tutoring Activities: 12%
- Life-skill Training: 1%
- Other Center-sponsored Activities: 3%

## **Appendix B**

### **Surveys/Questionnaires Used in the Evaluation**

- **Director Questionnaire**
- **Youth Questionnaire**
- **Staff Survey**

# Neighborhood Youth Center Evaluation

*April 4, 2001*

## CENTER DIRECTORS QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What were the expenses for July 1, 1999 through June 30, 2000 for the Neighborhood Youth Center? This should include information on only the component of your operations that serves the 12 to 18 population. Give the total for all expenses. Break out expenses by the following categories—personnel, supplies, transportation, refreshments, facilities, other (please specify) and by funding source. See below for format.

Table 1

	<b>OPM/NYC Funds</b>	<b>Other Funds</b>
Personnel		
Supplies		
Transportation		
Refreshments		
Facilities		
Other (please specify)		
<b>Total Expenses</b>		

Table 2

<b>Sources of Funds</b>	<b>Amount by Source*</b>
OPM/NYC	**
	Total***

\*Remember the amounts are those expended in 1999/2000, not necessarily grant/contract totals.

\*\*This figure should equal the amount in the OPM/NYC Funds column in Table 1 above.

\*\*\*This total should equal the sum of the two Total Expenses listed in Table 1 above.

2. Staff positions as of April 1, 2001:

Type of staff position	# of staff in position Full time/Part time	Salary range for position (Hourly)	Qualifications for position
<u>Total Number of Staff as of April 1</u>			

3. Staff turnover/changes:

How many staff persons have left since 9/1/00: \_\_\_\_\_

How many total staff did the center have on 9/1/00: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Volunteers at the center:

How many total volunteers did the center have on 4/1/01: \_\_\_\_\_

How many total volunteers did the center have on 9/1/00: \_\_\_\_\_



5. Youth registered at the center as of April 1, 2001

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Male: \_\_\_\_\_

Female: \_\_\_\_\_

White (not Latino): \_\_\_\_\_

Black (not Latino): \_\_\_\_\_

Latino: \_\_\_\_\_

Asian: \_\_\_\_\_

Multi-racial: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Under 12:

12: \_\_\_\_\_

13: \_\_\_\_\_

14: \_\_\_\_\_

15: \_\_\_\_\_

16: \_\_\_\_\_

17: \_\_\_\_\_

Over 17: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother and Father: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother only: \_\_\_\_\_

Father only: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother & Stepfather: \_\_\_\_\_

Father & Stepmother: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Relatives: \_\_\_\_\_

Foster Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Other(please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

AFDC: \_\_\_\_\_

\$0 - \$9,999: \_\_\_\_\_

\$10,000 – \$19,999: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20,000 – \$29,000: \_\_\_\_\_

\$30,000 - \$39,000: \_\_\_\_\_

Over \$40,000: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return by Thursday, April 26, 2001 to:

Valerie LaMotte  
450 Capitol Avenue – MS#52CPD  
Hartford, CT 06106-1308  
FAX: 860-418-6496  
valerie.lamotte@po.state.ct.us

# Neighborhood Youth Center YOUTH QUESTIONNAIRE (Fall 2000)

Remember that all of your answers are anonymous (*that is, your name isn't on this form, and nobody will know any of your answers*). The purpose of this survey is to improve the Neighborhood Youth Centers in the state, so your honest answers are important. Thanks for your help!

**Please tell us a little about you and your family:**

**YOU:**

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female

Year of Birth: 19\_\_

Grade in school: Check the one that applies for September 2000

_____ K	_____ 4	_____ 8	_____ 12
_____ 1	_____ 5	_____ 9	_____ College
_____ 2	_____ 6	_____ 10	_____ Not in school or college
_____ 3	_____ 7	_____ 11	

What are your average grades in school:

\_\_\_\_\_ A (90 - 100%) or (3.3 to 4.0 grade point average)  
\_\_\_\_\_ B (80 - 89%) or (2.3 to 3.2 grade point average)  
\_\_\_\_\_ C (70 - 79%) or (1.3 to 2.2 grade point average)  
\_\_\_\_\_ D (60 - 69%) or (.3 to 1.2 grade point average)  
\_\_\_\_\_ F (0 - 59 %) or (0 to .2 grade point average)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Not in school or college

Race/Ethnicity: Check the one that best applies:

\_\_\_\_\_ White (not Hispanic/Latin)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Black (not Hispanic/Latin)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic/Latin  
\_\_\_\_\_ Asian  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other

**YOUR FAMILY:**

Family Status: Check the line that best describes the adults living in your house right now.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother and Father | <input type="checkbox"/> Foster Parents                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother only       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother and Stepfather                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Father only       | <input type="checkbox"/> Father and Stepmother                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other relatives   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: unrelated (Please describe)_____ |

Household income: It is important to know something about the household income of the families using the Center.

Do you receive free or reduced meals at school?  Yes  No

Please check the income range below that matches your household's income:

- \$0 - \$1,000 per month OR \$0 - \$12,000 per year
- \$1,001 - \$2,000 per month OR \$12,001 - \$24,000 per year
- \$2,001 - \$3,000 per month OR \$24,001 - \$36,000 per year
- \$3,001 - \$4,000 per month OR \$36,001 - \$48,000 per year
- \$4,001 per month OR \$48,001 per year and over

Do you play a school sport or participate in any after school activities (like band or student council)?

- Yes (please tell us about at least 1 activity):\_\_\_\_\_
- No

Tell us about your involvement at the center

How long have you been coming to the center?

- Less than 6 months
- 6 to 12 months
- Over a year; how many years? \_\_\_\_\_ years

Centers offer different programs. Some of the activities at centers include Athletics or Recreation; Enrichment or Tutoring; and, Skills Training. There may be Other types of activities, too. We want to know what kinds of things you do at the center in a typical week.

**I. ATHLETICS or RECREATION**

(sports, exercise, game room, computer games, dance, bingo, drill team, self defense, etc.)

I DO NOT EVER participate in any athletics or recreation activities (skip to section **II**)

I DO participate in athletics or recreation activities (answer questions below)

How many days per week?

- 5 or more days
- 3 or 4 days
- 1 or 2 days
- Less than 1 day per week -- but I have participated at least once

How many hours per day?

- More than 2 hours
- 1 to 2 hours
- Less than 1 hour

## II. ENRICHMENT or TUTORING

(school or work related activities, computer skills, field trips, special projects or classes, clubs, etc.)

I DO NOT EVER participate in any enrichment / tutoring activities (skip to section **III**)

I DO participate in enrichment or tutoring activities (answer questions below)

How many days per week?

5 or more days

3 or 4 days

1 or 2 days

Less than 1 day per week -- but I have participated at least once

How many hours per day?

More than 2 hours

1 to 2 hours

Less than 1 hour

## III. SKILLS TRAINING

(problem-solving, decision-making, drug prevention, pregnancy prevention, leadership development, conflict resolution, mentoring, teamwork and discipline, etc.)

I DO NOT EVER participate in any skills training activities (skip to section **IV**)

I DO participate in skills training activities (answer questions below)

How many days per week?

5 or more days

3 or 4 days

1 or 2 days

Less than 1 day per week -- but I have participated at least once

How many hours per day?

More than 2 hours

1 to 2 hours

Less than 1 hour

#### IV. OTHER

(like watching a movie or a sporting event, having a dinner or dance, etc.)

I DO NOT EVER participate in any other activities at the center (skip to **next** section)

I DO participate in other activities at the center (answer questions below)

How many days per week?

5 or more days

3 or 4 days

1 or 2 days

Less than 1 day per week -- but I have participated at least once

How many hours per day?

More than 2 hours

1 to 2 hours

Less than 1 hour

#### Tell us your thoughts about the center

Overall,

how happy are you with: (1) Very (2) Somewhat (3) Somewhat (4)Very

	Unhappy	Unhappy	Happy	Happy
the center?	1	2	3	4
the programs at the center?	1	2	3	4
the staff at the center?	1	2	3	4
the physical facilities at the center?	1	2	3	4

Would you recommend the center to other kids? Yes No

Does the center do a good job of helping kids stay out of trouble? Yes No

**These questions are about your parent(s)/caretaker(s):**

How often do your parent(s) know what you are doing when you are not at home?

1	2	3	4	5
Almost all the time	Most of the time	About half of the time	Occasionally	Practically never

How often do your parent(s)/caretaker(s) know who you are with when you are not at home?

1	2	3	4	5
Almost all the time	Most of the time	About half of the time	Occasionally	Practically never

**The rest of the questions are about you:** Tell us about the people you go to for support.

Please rate the following comments from 1 "very strongly agree" to 7 "very strongly disagree":

	<i>Very strongly agree</i>			<i>Very strongly disagree</i>			
My family really tries to help me:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I get the emotional help & support I need from my family:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I can talk about my problems with my family:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
My family is willing to help me make decisions:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
My friends really try to help me:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

	<i>Very strongly agree</i>				<i>Very strongly disagree</i>		
I can count on my friends when things go wrong:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I have friends with whom I can share my joys and sorrows:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I can talk about my problems with my friends:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
There is a special staff person at the Center who is around when I am in need:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
There is a special staff person at the Center with whom I can share joys and sorrows:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
I have a special staff person at the Center who is a real source of comfort to me:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
There is a special staff person at the Center who cares about my feelings:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7



**Below is a list of items that describe teens**

For each item that describes you **now** or **within the past 6 months**, please circle the **2** if the item is **very true** or **often true** of you.

Circle the **1** if the item is **somewhat** or **sometimes true** of you.

If the item is **not true** of you, circle the **0**.

		Not true	Sometimes true	Often true
1.	I argue a lot	0	1	2
2.	I brag	0	1	2
3.	I feel lonely	0	1	2
4.	I cry a lot	0	1	2
5.	I am mean to others	0	1	2
6.	I deliberately try to hurt or kill myself	0	1	2
7.	I try to get a lot of attention	0	1	2
8.	I destroy my own things	0	1	2
9.	I destroy things belonging to others	0	1	2
10.	I disobey at school	0	1	2
11.	I don't feel guilty after doing something I shouldn't	0	1	2
12.	I am jealous of others	0	1	2
13.	I am afraid I might think or do something bad	0	1	2
14.	I feel that I have to be perfect	0	1	2
15.	I feel that no one loves me	0	1	2
16.	I feel that others are out to get me	0	1	2
17.	I feel worthless or inferior	0	1	2
18.	I get in many fights	0	1	2
19.	I hang around with kids who get in trouble	0	1	2
20.	I lie or cheat	0	1	2

		Not true	Sometimes true	Often true
21.	I am nervous or tense	0	1	2
22.	I am too fearful or anxious	0	1	2
23.	I feel too guilty	0	1	2
24.	I physically attack people	0	1	2
25.	I would rather be with older kids than with kids my own age	0	1	2
26.	I run away from home	0	1	2
27.	I scream a lot	0	1	2
28.	I am self-conscious or easily embarrassed	0	1	2
29.	I set fires	0	1	2
30.	I show off or clown	0	1	2
31.	I steal at home	0	1	2
32.	I steal from places other than home	0	1	2
33.	I am stubborn	0	1	2
34.	My moods or feelings change suddenly	0	1	2
35.	I am suspicious	0	1	2
36.	I swear or use dirty language	0	1	2
37.	I think about killing myself	0	1	2
38.	I talk too much	0	1	2
39.	I tease others a lot	0	1	2
40.	I have a hot temper	0	1	2
41.	I threaten to hurt people	0	1	2
42.	I cut classes or skip school	0	1	2
43.	I am unhappy, sad or depressed	0	1	2
44.	I am louder than other kids	0	1	2
45.	I use alcohol or drugs for nonmedical purposes	0	1	2
46.	I worry a lot	0	1	2

During the past 30 days, how many days have you used the following substances?

Tobacco \_\_\_\_\_ days

Any alcohol \_\_\_\_\_ days

Alcohol to intoxication \_\_\_\_\_ days  
(5 or more drinks in one setting)

Other illegal drugs \_\_\_\_\_ days

We would be interested in any other comments you have about the center.

What are the best things about the center?

What would improve the center?

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When you are finished, please turn in your survey to the "survey return" box.

**Thank you** again for helping with this survey. Your answers will help us to improve the center's programs!

**NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CENTERS EVALUATION  
STAFF SURVEY**

**This survey is part of the evaluation of Neighborhood Youth Centers being conducted by the State of Connecticut's Office of Policy and Management and the University of Connecticut's, School of Family Studies. We are requesting that all staff in each center complete the enclosed information. We are defining staff as all persons who have regular (at least weekly) contact with youth in at least one of the center's programs. Administrators, van drivers, security personnel, custodial personnel, and others such as volunteers or college interns who work with youth are included.**

**The survey is not intended for youth who supervise activities and also participate in center programs.**

**The following questions ask some basic information about *you* and about *your experiences* as a staff person working in the Neighborhood Youth Center. Please take the time to answer each question completely. Staff play an essential part in the overall operation of a center so your responses are very important.**

**Every individual's answers will be kept strictly confidential. This survey is completely anonymous.**

**Once you have completed answering all of the questions, please put your survey in the attached, self-addressed envelope, seal it, and simply drop it in the mail.**

**Thank you for your help.**

**NEIGHBORHOOD YOUTH CENTERS EVALUATION  
STAFF SURVEY**

1. What is the name of your center? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female
  
4. Race/Ethnicity: *(Check the one that best applies)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ White (not Hispanic/Latino)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Black (not Hispanic/Latino)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic/Latino  
\_\_\_\_\_ Asian  
\_\_\_\_\_ American Indian  
\_\_\_\_\_ Other *(please explain)*: \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. What is your Marital Status? *(Check one)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Single  
\_\_\_\_\_ Married  
\_\_\_\_\_ Life Partner  
\_\_\_\_\_ Divorced  
\_\_\_\_\_ Widowed
  
6. Highest Educational Level Completed? *(Check one)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ Some High School  
\_\_\_\_\_ High School Diploma or G.E.D.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Some College or Associate Degree  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bachelor's Degree  
\_\_\_\_\_ Some Graduate Study  
\_\_\_\_\_ Graduate Degree
  
7. How many years of experience do you have working with youth? *(Check one)*  
\_\_\_\_\_ less than 1 year  
\_\_\_\_\_ 1 year but less than 2 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2 years but less than 5 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 5 years but less than 10 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 10 years but less than 15 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 15 years but less than 20 years  
\_\_\_\_\_ 20 years or more
  
8. What is your primary job at the center? \_\_\_\_\_

9. How long have you worked at this Center? (Check the one that most applies)

- less than 3 months
- 3 months but less than 6 months
- 6 months but less than 1 year
- 1 year but less than 2 years
- 2 years but less than 5 years
- 5 years but less than 10 years
- 10 years but less than 15 years
- 15 years but less than 20 years
- 20 years or more

10. What is your current employment status? (Check one)

- Full Time
- Part Time
- Volunteer
- College Student Intern

11. Approximately how many hours a week do you work at the Center?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. What is your approximate salary at the center? (Please check the category below that matches your salary at the center)

- \$0
- \$1 to \$1,000 per month or \$1 to \$12,000 per year
- \$1,001 to \$2,000 per month or \$12,001 to \$24,000 per year
- \$2,001 to \$3,000 per month or \$24,001 to \$36,000 per year
- \$3,001 to \$4,000 per month or \$36,001 to \$48,000 per year
- \$4,001 to \$5,000 per month or \$48,001 to \$60,000 per year
- Over \$5,000 per month or Over \$60,000 per year

13. What percentage of your time in the center is devoted to each of the following

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
|  | %     |
| running athletic or recreation programs      | _____ |
| running enrichment / tutoring programs       | _____ |
| running life skills programs                 | _____ |
| running parent involvement programs          | _____ |
| running youth leadership programs            | _____ |
| engaging informally (socializing) with youth | _____ |
| administrative work                          | _____ |
| other (explain) _____                        | _____ |

SHOULD TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_ 100%

The following set of questions asks you to give your views about the center in which you work.

14. How satisfied are you with the center on each of the following (*please circle the choice that most closely matches your level of satisfaction with each item*):

	Very Dissatisfied	Somewhat Dissatisfied	Somewhat Satisfied	Very Satisfied
administration's support of staff	1	2	3	4
overall quality of youth programs offered	1	2	3	4
overall quality of physical facilities	1	2	3	4
staffing levels (enough staff on duty)	1	2	3	4
overall morale of center staff	1	2	3	4
opportunities for staff training & development	1	2	3	4
how well staff are paid (salary, wages)	1	2	3	4
opportunities for staff advancement (e.g., promotions)	1	2	3	4
freedom of staff to be creative (e.g., to initiate new activities)	1	2	3	4
how well staff strengths are utilized	1	2	3	4
how well staff grievances or complaints are addressed	1	2	3	4

15. Overall, how effective do you think the center is in working with youth?  
(circle one choice)

Extremely Ineffective

Extremely Effective

1    2    3    4    5    6    7    8    9    10

16. What are the best things about the center?

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17. What would you improve at the center?

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18. Should additional programs be added?     yes     no.

If yes, what?

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This next set of questions asks you to reflect upon your own personal experiences as a staff person at the center. How would you rate yourself on each of the following (please circle the choice that best matches your opinion on each item):

19. How would you describe your level of morale at work?

very  
low

somewhat  
low

somewhat  
high

very  
high

20. How would you rate your overall satisfaction with your work?

very  
dissatisfied

somewhat  
dissatisfied

somewhat  
satisfied

very  
satisfied



**21. How much additional training do you think you need?**

<b>I need a great deal more</b>	<b>I need quite a bit more</b>	<b>I need some</b>	<b>I could use a little more more</b>	<b>I am adequately trained</b>
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**22. How would you rate your level of experience working with youth?**

<b>I am relatively new</b>	<b>I have some experience</b>	<b>I know what I'm doing</b>	<b>I'm a seasoned expert</b>
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**23. How satisfied are you with your current wage or salary?**

<b>very dissatisfied</b>	<b>somewhat dissatisfied</b>	<b>somewhat satisfied</b>	<b>very satisfied</b>
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**24. How would you rate the quality of your relationships with youth?**

<b>poor</b>	<b>adequate</b>	<b>good</b>	<b>excellent</b>
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**25. Are you achieving your own professional goals at this job?**

<b>not at all</b>	<b>somewhat</b>	<b>yes I am</b>	<b>I have surpassed them</b>
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**26. How much satisfaction do you get from working with youth at this job?**

<b>none</b>	<b>a little</b>	<b>quite a bit</b>	<b>a great deal</b>
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**27. Do you think you are making a positive difference in the lives of youth who attend the center?**

<b>no</b>	<b>maybe</b>	<b>yes</b>
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**28. How many of the individual youth that you work with do you have a special, positive relationship that has lasted at least 3 months?**

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**29. Are there any other comments that you would like to make about the center or your own experiences working in the center?**

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**Thank you again for your participation**