



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Hope For Youth

Website:
www.HFYNY.org

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HOPE
FOR YOUTH

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Message from Dr. David Hegarty



Dear Friends of HFY,

This Spring, I retired from my position as Executive Director & CEO after 40 years of service to HFY. The opportunity to serve as Executive Director for the past 32 years has been the pinnacle of my professional life. Together with our dedicated Board of Directors and outstanding staff, we have grown HFY from a group home agency serving adolescent boys into the preeminent Long Island provider of complex, integrated care for cross-system children, youth, and families. Our success would not have been possible without the support of our public agency partners and our many foundation, corporate and individual donors. My thanks to each of you for your belief in our mission and your willingness to help build better tomorrows for the thousands of lives we have touched. Please join me in welcoming Irma Edington, LMSW, as HFY's next Executive Director & CEO, as she leads HFY into the future.

Message from CEO & Executive Director Irma Edington



On February 13, 2023, I was given the distinct honor of being appointed the Executive Director and then became the Chief Executive Officer on March 31, 2023. My predecessor, Dr. Hegarty actualized the vision of making Hope For Youth a leading child welfare agency. I have a tough act to follow but am moving forward in paving our road alongside the incredible staff and Board that are dedicated to our mission.

As a Long Island based organization, we understand the ever-changing needs of the youth and families we serve. Hope For Youth continues to work on meeting those needs with innovative programs and working collaboratively with our state and county partners.

In 2022, Hope For Youth was the first agency to be licensed and to operate an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Youth Team in the nation. As we approach the one-year anniversary, we are successfully providing these intensive mental health and case management services and are being seen as the blueprint. Our Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter Services is one of its kind which provides wraparound services to our most vulnerable population on Long Island.

None of this meaningful and impactful work would be possible if it were not also for our residential care, foster care, preventative and outpatient programs that strive every day to do the best that they can for the youth and families we service.

Hope For Youth is and will continue to be a leading agency in its mission to facilitate positive change in the lives of children, adolescents and families.

We are excited about what is yet to come in our array of services.

Irma Edington, LMSW
Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director, Hope for Youth

ABOUT US

Mission Statement:

Hope For Youth is dedicated to facilitating positive change in the lives of children, adolescents, and families. We provide stable, nurturing, residential care, foster care, preventative and outpatient programs that educate, motivate, and empower individuals to become self-sufficient and achieve their full potential.

Hope for Youth Holds Contracts with:

- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- New York State Office of Mental Health
- New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports
- New York State Office of Court Administration
- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- Nassau County Department of Social Services
- Suffolk County Department of Social Services
- Suffolk County Department of Probation
- Suffolk County Youth Bureau
- Suffolk County Department of Health, Division of Mental Hygiene
- Leading Health Insurance and Managed Care Organizations

Hope for Youth Holds Licensing from:

- New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- New York State Office of Mental Health
- New York State Department of Health
- New York State Office of Addiction Services and Supports

Hope for Youth Residential Services Accreditation

- Council of the Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities

NEW PROGRAM: SUFFOLK COUNTY YOUTH ACT PROGRAM

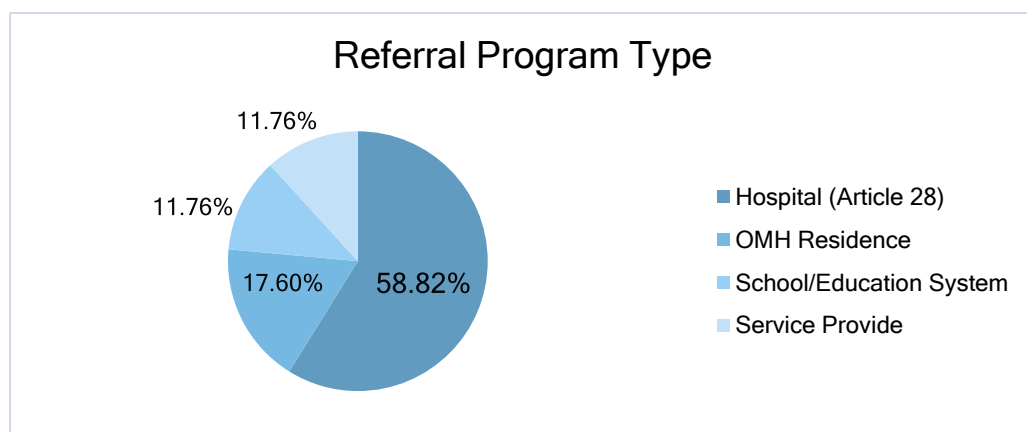
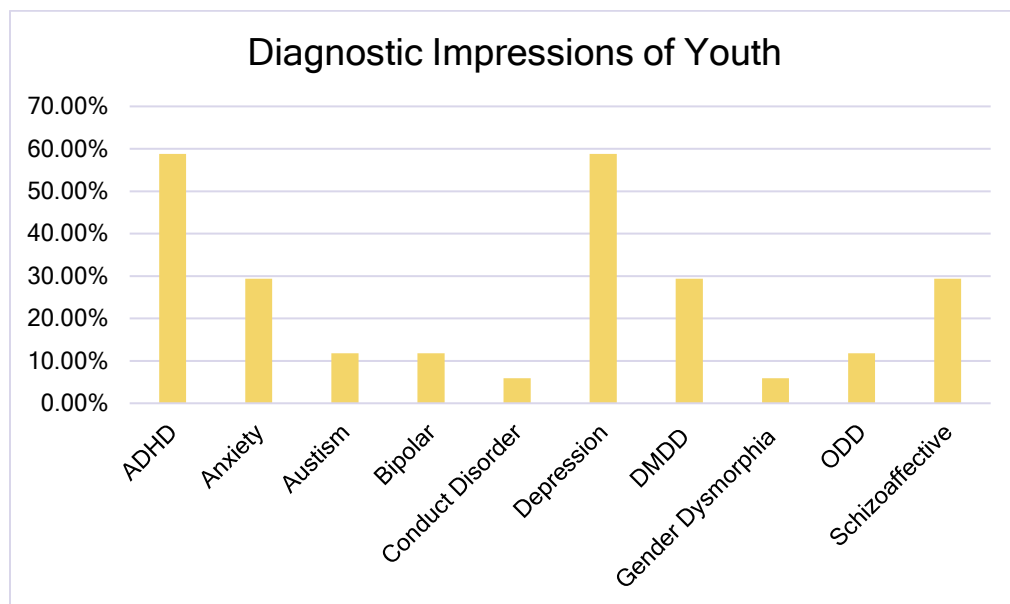
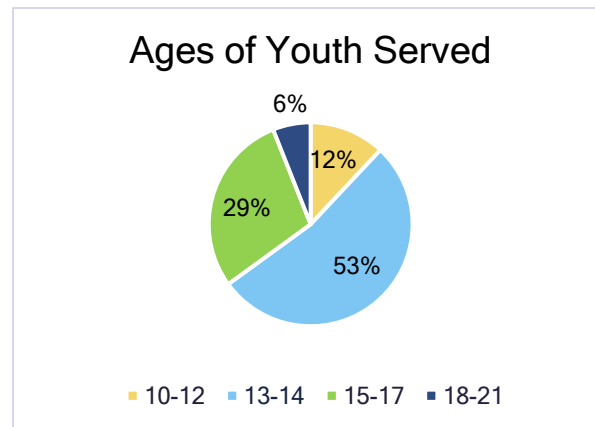
In March 2022, Governor Hochul announced \$21 million in funding for the nation's first Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams dedicated to children and their families. Governor Hochul was quoted as saying, "When at-risk young people are suffering hardships, it is imperative that families stay together." She went on further to say, "In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, New York is leading the way in developing new and innovative ways to provide behavioral healthcare to vulnerable individuals. With the help of this new program, children across the state will have the opportunity to remain with their families and receive the services they need."

Hope for Youth is the first agency to be licensed and to operate such a team. Hope for Youths ACT team is licensed by the New York State Office of Mental Health and serves Suffolk County children from 10-21, providing support in home and community settings.

Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone said, "Suffolk County is pleased to be able to host the first Youth-Assertive Community Treatment Team in the State of New York. As we strive to provide and improve access to behavioral health services for our residents, we embrace new opportunities and seek to lead by example. The unique structure of the ACT Team will provide a multidisciplinary team approach bringing mental health services to the youth and their families through a community/home-based model"



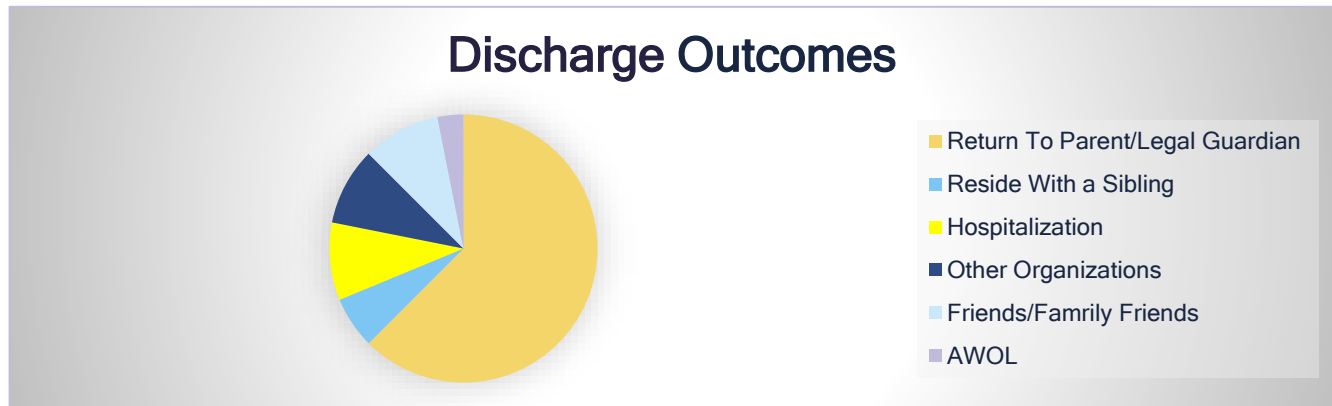
A Look at ACT's First Year



RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH SERVICES

Hope for Youth staff provides services to youth under the age of 18, by engaging with them on the street and in community settings through safety screenings and needs assessments and providing aftercare services. Transportation and continued care coordination post-discharge from our RHYS programming is available. RHYS Staff provides intensive services through the Basic Center Programming for the initial 21 days a youth resides in our RHY Shelter Program.

Working with these youth entails supporting them and their family network through the crisis that necessitated their entry into the shelter. This work requires a high level of specialized skills and necessitates providing the youth with the physical and emotional space needed to drive a discharge plan that they feel would best support them.



83% of youth served expressed satisfaction with the program.

960 total days of care in 2022

SPOTLIGHT: KINSHIP CAREGIVER PROGRAM

Since 2020, the Kinship Caregiver Program has been serving families in Nassau and Suffolk Counties who have informal or legal custody of children between the ages of 0-18. The Kinship Caregiver Case Manager conducts monthly home visits for the first 3 months and will continue for up to 6 months. Case management services focus on the long-term objective of increasing the caregiver's capacity to care for the children and reducing stress. The needs of the family are assessed and the Kinship Caregiver Case Manager will make appropriate referrals and connect the family with local supports and resources. Families have access to Hope for Youth for services such as mental health, Child-Parent Psychotherapy, Children and Family Treatment Support Services, and Health Homes. If the caregiver is interested in becoming certified as a Kinship Foster Parent, Hope For Youth will coordinate with the respective county to see if this is a possibility. If approved by the county, HFY can certify the kinship home as a foster home and provide therapeutic services to the family.

Hope for Youth partners with Cornell Cooperative Extension, which provides:

- 1 Support Groups – Groups for both adults and children
- 2 Education – Parenting A Second Time Around (PASTA) workshops
- 3 Family Engagement – Monthly social activities planned for the families in the program in each county

Last year, the Kinship program exceeded its goals for the number of children and total families serviced! The goal for the number of children served is 60, and the Kinship program served 78 children. The goal for total number of families served is 40, and the program served a total of 48 families. The Kinship Program had a 93% success rate of children remaining with their kin or being reunited with their birth parents.



SPOTLIGHT: THERAPEUTIC FOSTER CARE

The TFC program has been in existence at HFY since 1999. Currently, TFC is staffed with a Director, Program Supervisor, and four Case Workers. In addition, we have two Homefinders who are responsible for certifying and managing our therapeutic foster homes.

Being a therapeutic program, the youth who are placed in our foster homes come from backgrounds that include significant traumas such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, abandonment, neglect, and emotional abuse. Each Caseworker is trained to assist our foster families by providing support, which can include home visits, phone check-ins, attending all meetings related to the child (re: education, medical, mental health, etc.), assisting with transportation, supervising family visits, and so on. The Case Worker's ability to establish a good working connection with the foster parent is an integral part of maintaining the child in the home. The foster parent is likely to be more successful with a child if they feel supported by the agency.

Foster Parents are provided with training to prepare them for the child that will be placed in their home. This training includes certification training such as MAPP or Deciding Together, as well as the monthly trainings that are provided on different topics related to child welfare. Recently, the HFY Clinic and TFC partnered to start a monthly support group focusing on trauma and managing different behaviors in the foster home. Our Clinic team will lead this support group. This is an exciting addition to the support services provided to our foster parents.

In addition to the new support group, our foster parents continue to work collaboratively with our Clinic for therapeutic services that can include individual sessions and family sessions, clinical support in the community through our CPST (Community Psychiatric Supportive Treatment) services, access to Health Homes, and a connection to our medical staff that includes our Registered Nurse, Nurse Practitioner, Psychiatrist, and Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner.

In the last three years, HFY has had six adoptions! We are always excited to celebrate permanency for a child! In addition to the adoptions, HFY gets excited when children have the opportunity for a safe reunification with their birth families!



VOLUNTEERS

Milan Event Experience

Milan Event Experience has been providing us with beautiful balloon art. The Grinch holiday sculpture was the backdrop for many client photos. Having balloons in our lobby makes it a more inviting experience for our clients.



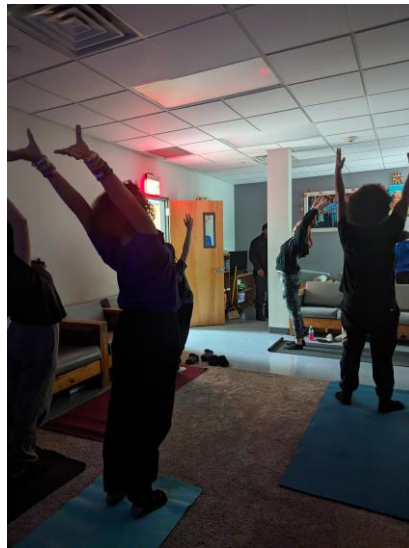
Pet Partners of Long Island

Our sites have received visits from volunteers from Pet Partners. The organization has brought therapy dogs to visit clients at multiple Hope for Youth sites. Pet therapy has many benefits, including increasing mood and reducing anxiety symptoms. Pet Partners also visits our staff; it is a great morale booster.



United We Om

United We Om provides yoga classes at our Amityville location for our youth. According to *Psychology Today*, the benefits of yoga for kids and teens include improved fitness, reduced levels of anxiety and stress, improved optimism, and improved self-esteem.



Splashes of Hope



Huntington-based non-profit Splashes of Hope donated two murals to make our nurse's office feel less clinical and more colorful.

EVENTS

SummerFest



SummerFest took place at Ivy League in Smithtown. Our families enjoyed an activity-filled day of swimming, fun, and games. 100% of the participants said they would like to attend this event again!

School Supply Drive



775 items were distributed to Hope for Youth clients with enough left over to cover ongoing school supply needs for the rest of the year.

Run for Hope 5K



A rainy but successful event, with 31 finishers. All proceeds went to the Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

Our Thanksgiving food drive brought relief from the pressures of food insecurity and allowed some of our most vulnerable families to enjoy the holiday.



Wrapping Party



Our holiday wrapping party brought staff, volunteers, and community partners together to wrap donated gifts for over 250 children.

Youth Holiday Party

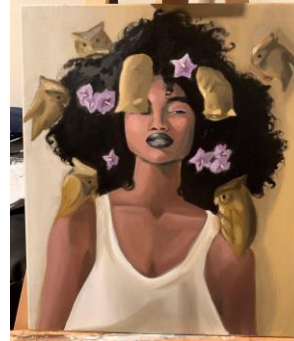


Our youth holiday party at Dave and Busters was an amazing experience. The youth who attended had a great time. It was also a great way for families to connect.

SUCCESS STORIES

Youth in Foster Care Continues Attending The School of Visual Arts

A 20-year-old young lady in our foster care program attends the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan. She was accepted into this prestigious school at the end of her junior year of high school; she is in her second year and has been getting excellent grades. This youth is lucky enough to have a strong foster mother who pays half of her college tuition. She has also been able to reconnect with her birth mother, whom she was previously estranged from. She will be moving in with her when she ages out of foster care at the end of the year. We are so proud of her and cannot wait to see what her future brings.



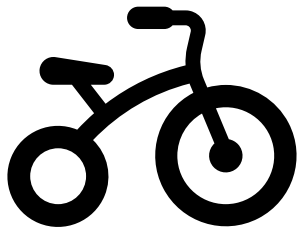
Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Success

Client G was referred to Hope For Youth's Juvenile Drug Treatment Court Program (JDTC) by Probation and Judge Camacho due to severe marijuana use, experimentation with Codeine, Xanax, Percocet, Psilocybin Mushrooms, alcohol, being physically aggressive with his family members, refusal to attend school, unmanaged symptoms of depression, anxiety and intense history of suicidal and homicidal behaviors. Client G and his mother received Multidimensional Family Therapy (MDFT) for 6 months where both identified individual and family goals that were necessary to achieve for Client G to remain out of placement from home and to comply with probation and court mandates. Due to Client G's history of clinical services, refusal engagement phase was challenging. However, soon Client G was able to connect how MDFT model approach was different from what he had experienced in the past and actually tailored to all the needs he was able to prioritize he needed to feel and become a successful young man.

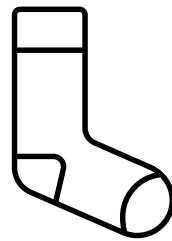
Client G engaged with MDFT therapist in individual sessions, however often remained guarded during family sessions. He struggled with being open and honest with his mother about situations in his life and often presented as angry or indifferent to the direction his life was taking. He had difficulty with accepting his parents' divorce and held significant feelings of abandonment by his father and resentment towards his mother. Client G also struggled with identifying any positive relationships in his life and presented with little to no self-love and confidence. Throughout treatment, Client G became more aware of situations in his life and how his family dynamics were affecting his functioning. He developed a healthy therapeutic alliance with his therapist and allowed himself to be vulnerable with both the therapist and his mother. Client G actively engaged in treatment to work through issues in his life including building self-confidence, better understanding of family dynamics, and acceptance of his parents' divorce. He learned to utilize healthy and socially acceptable coping skills to manage his symptoms of anxiety and depression. Instead of aggression he began to utilize effective communication, negotiation, and conflict-resolution skills. In addition, he achieved sobriety with occasional relapses through the duration of treatment, complied with probation and court mandates, and successfully began Youth Build Career Program to obtain an auto mechanic license. Upon the discharge from JDTC Client G and his mother are maintaining their achieved family cohesion, Client G attends his carrier program daily and in his spare time he writes poetry and lyrics, which he is hoping to publish on his upcoming 18th birthday.

In-Kind Impact

We distributed:



\$17,500 worth of Trek bicycles



5,000 Pairs of Bombas Socks



775 School Supplies



Holiday Gifts for 250 Children

2022 Event Sponsors



THE ACKERMAN FOUNDATION

2022 In-Kind Donors



Almaseer Court #226	Madeline Callahan	Peter Anderson
Joe of Dough Boyz	Janice Pulisic	Julia Takats and Family
Liz Schmalz	Alison Leigh	Allison Brecher
Cait of Allstate Nesconset	Betti Ann Catino	Bryan Ficklin
Al's Cycle Center	Heather Spanfelner	Janelle Goberdhan-Murphy
Babylon Bicycle Shop	Kerri Sherwood	Jenny Jared
Jodi Langevin	Kim Kozlowski	Leticia Pickett
Lindsay Mirable Madrigal	Mary Bergmann	Melissa Potuzak
Lori Johnson	Pamela Concannon	Sanada Bailey
Sharieka Mason	Susan Levine	Nicole Wall
Sophia Rumbea	Vincent Icolari	Claudia Sierra
Ken Williams	Michael Ilardi	Sean Surdow
Mike Fitzmaurice	Vanessa Icolari	Erin Dunn
Pierre DeBono	Angela Rocchi	Brenda Alexander
Taylor Pugliese	Coleen Carboine	Samantha Basile
Melissa Webster	Dorian Caccamo	Kate Garvey
Jennifer Capps	Maria Governale	Kaitlin Handley
David Gonzalez	Zachary Mizrachi	Allys Alley Daycare
Linda Morales	Samantha Persaud	Ina Richards
Danielle Antalfy	Jenna Mannino	Thais Yamauti L. Apostólico
Monique Brewster		

Foster Parents Needed!



Hope For Youth Foster/Adoptive Parents Needed!

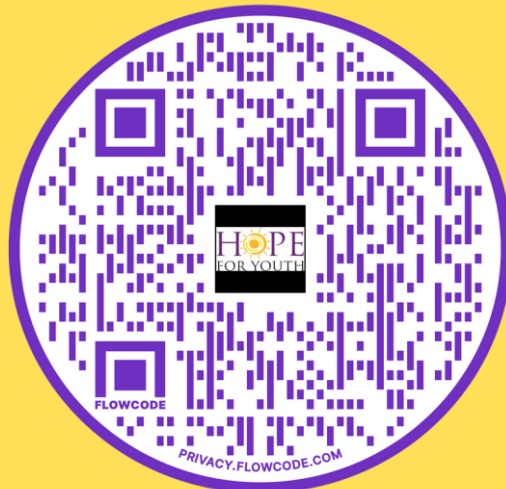
Therapeutic foster care and adoption programs are for youth in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

New foster homes for all ages are needed.

If interested, please call (631) 782-6515!

Make a Donation

Make a one-time donation today or join our monthly giving program and make a lasting impact!



Simply scan the QR code above with your mobile device.