

FISHERS
youth
Assistance
PROGRAM



2019
ANNUAL REPORT

OUR VISION

Building a healthy community for tomorrow by investing in the youth of today through advocacy, connection to resources and empowerment to change.

OUR MISSION

Fishers Youth Assistance Program (FYAP) serves as an early intervention advocate for youth ages 3-17 who are facing challenging life circumstances. Formed in 2014 to help strengthen youth and families through community involvement, we take a holistic approach to coordinate our community's vast array of talents, services and resources to help youth and empower parents and caregivers.

Casework services to our families are completely confidential and provided at no cost to the recipients. FYAP works in collaboration with the Hamilton Southeastern School District, City of Fishers, and Hamilton County Courts. Youth and families are often referred to our services by the schools, police, court officials, community partners and parents with concerns about their child. FYAP is one of six offices serving students and their families in Hamilton County, Indiana.

ADVOCATES triage referrals with a consideration of both the whole child as well as entire family structure to consider needs in the following areas:



PREVENTION strategies are a regular consideration for Advocates. Youth who are referred to FYAP for at-risk behaviors can include:

- Incurrigibility
- Run-away
- Curfew violations
- Truancy and Attendance issues

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Tricia Akers

Executive Director, Hamilton County Youth Assistance Program

Dee Chandler

Early Intervention Advocate, Fishers Youth Assistance Program

Trisha Straus

Early Intervention Advocate, Fishers Youth Assistance Program

Shannon Vierling

Office Coordinator, Fishers Youth Assistance Program

Community Engagement

Throughout 2019, board members and Staff of the Fishers Youth Assistance Program were busy around Fishers and throughout Hamilton County supporting various community events:

- Drive Away Stress Event at K1 Speed
- Adult Career Fair at Ivy Tech, Noblesville
- Summer Meals Program Volunteer Training
- Hope for Happiness Event, hosted by HSE & Fishers Mental Health Clubs
- Mayor's State of the City Luncheon
- Summer Meals Food Drives
- Pack the Cruiser food drive to benefit Summer Meals Program
- Fishers Farmer's Market
- Vibenomics Fundraiser
- Spark!Fishers Food Collection
- Shoe Drive, Sponsored by Schlafer Wealth Management
- Volunteer Appreciation for Summer Meals Program
- Adopted the Snack Attack Program
- Mayor's Top Golf Event benefitting Fishers Youth Assistance Program
- Cops & Kids Holiday Shopping Event
- Holiday Assistance Program



Board members Lynda Carlino, Lisa Allen, and Sneha Shah, along with FYAP staff, Dee Chandler represent Fishers Youth Assistance Program at the Mayor's State of the City Luncheon.

215 New Referrals

23% Increase from 2018

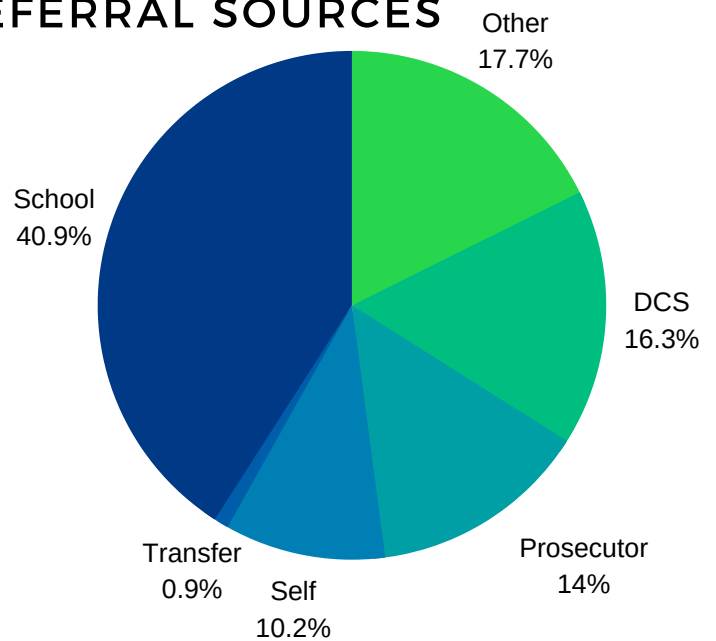
GRADES

Pre K	1%
Elementary	29%
Intermediate	12%
Jr. High	17%
High School	41%

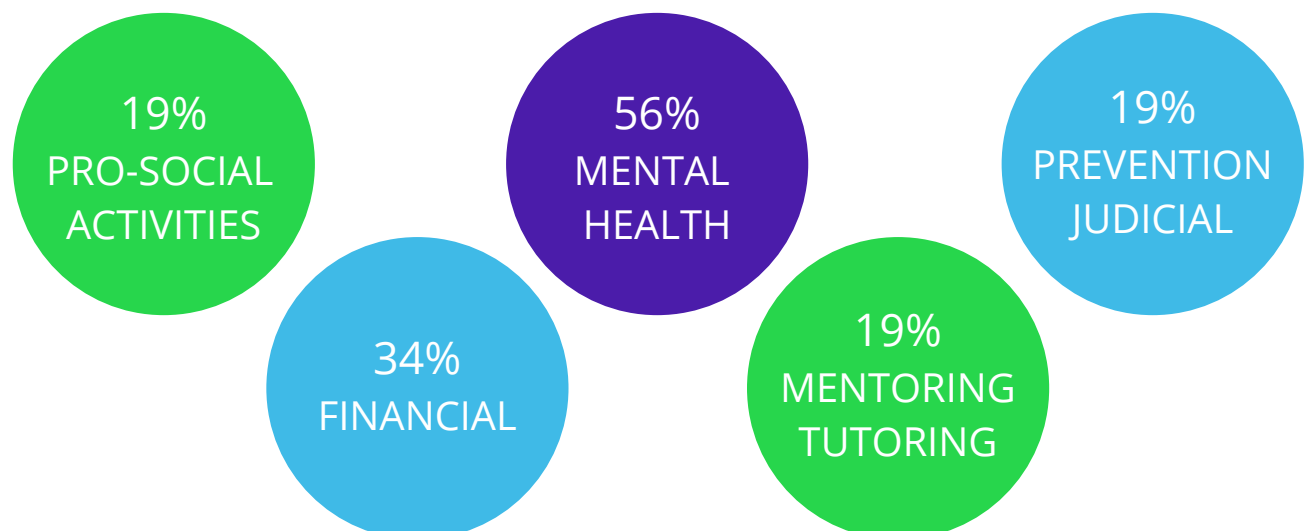
Male 51%

Female 49%

REFERRAL SOURCES



REASONS FOR REFERRAL



(Based on current school year)

Youth ages 3 – 17 are eligible to be referred to Youth Assistance. Hamilton Southeastern Schools has 13 elementary schools, four intermediate buildings, four junior high schools, two high school buildings, one alternative high school, and a FOCUS building. Students are referred from all buildings, as well as from private, charter, and homeschool programs.



Additional Schools We Served This Year

Bishop Chatard High School
Geist Montessori
Heritage Christian
Hoosier Academy
The Independence Academy
Indiana Connections Academy
Options Charter School
University High School



HSE Schools: 22,183 students

Ethnicity

Caucasian: 71.9%
Multiracial: 5.6%
American Indian or Other: 0.2%
Black: 7.6%
Asian: 7.3%
Hispanic: 7.3%
Native Hawaiian or
Other Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Free/Reduced population: 15.3%

Free: 11.1%
Reduced: 4.2%

Graduation rates: 96%
Dropout rates: 1.2%

Attendance rates: 96.3%

Partner Highlight

From the outset of FYAP opening, HSE SPORTS, now Mudsock Youth Athletics, has been a foundational partner. Providing access to sports nearly year-round, this program remains a staple for youth sports by providing families with an affordable means to receive quality sporting experiences. Parent coaches serve a role models and mentors for young athletes. Programs serve all ages of FYAP clients and, through a generous scholarship program, financial challenges do not prevent a youth from participating. We thank Mudsock Youth Athletics for helping us to keep FYAP clients happy, healthy and engaged!

Impact Partners

Connection to resources is by far the core effort provided by FYAP Staff. As every family's need are different, so too are the resources required to bridge the family and get them moving on a positive path. Every youth supported by FYAP, as well as his/her caregivers, are connected, as needed, to the following resources:

About Special Kids	Harrison Parkway Elementary PTO
Aspire Indiana, Inc.	Heart and Soul Clinic
Autism Parent Care	Holy of Spirit of Geist Catholic Church
Axon Health	HSE Foundation
Behavior Analysis Center for Autism (BACA)	IN SOURCE
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana	Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide
Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre	Indiana Troopers Youth Services
Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville	Indianapolis Yacht Club
Brooke's Place	Ivy Tech
Camp Tecumseh	Janus Developmental Services
Camptown	Ji-Eun Lee Music Academy
Center for Hope	Kids Psych, Inc.
Cherish Center	Kroger (116th and Olio Road)
Children's Bureau Community Partners,	Mathias Counseling & Consulting
CCDF and Post-Adopt Programs	Merciful Help Center
Christ Savior Lutheran Church	Mudsock Youth Athletics
Collaborative Change	Mustard Seed
Community Behavioral Health	Newcomers of Fishers
Delaware Township Trustee	Noblesville Parks & Recreation
Englishton Park Camp	Nspire Church
Fall Creek Intermediate PTO	Options School
Fall Creek Township Trustee	Paige Music Rentals
Fishers Eye Care	Paws and Think
Fishers Optimist Club	Peyton Riekhof Foundation for Youth Hope
Fishers Parks and Recreation	Prevail Inc.
Fishers Police Department	Rural Urban Access to Health
Fishers Rotary Club	Safe Families for Children
Geist Elementary PTO	Salvation Army of Central Indiana
Geist Montessori School	St. Louis de Montfort
Good Samaritan Network	St. Vincent de Paul Noblesville
Grace Care Center	St. Vincent Stress Center
Grace Community Church	Strada Education Network
Hamilton Boone Madison Special Services Cooperative	Trinity Free Clinic
Hamilton Co Harvest Food Bank	Wayne Township Trustee
Hamilton County 4H County Fairgrounds	Work One
Hamilton County Health Department	YMCA
Hamilton County Humane Society	Youth Mentoring Initiative
Hamilton Southeastern Schools	

Adult-led, prosocial activities are among the most productive means by which to contribute to bettering the life of a child. Recreational activities are well-known to help support positive mental and physical health, teach a youth how to time manage as well as build self-confidence, and expose participants to peers and adult role models. The role of Advocates is to ensure each youth working with the program has the opportunity to benefit from prosocial activities. Access to sports, music lessons, dance or other arts, as well as connection to youth service organizations such as Boy and Girl Scouts are all only possible through collaboration with community partners and financial support from the Fishers Youth Assistance Board.

Partner Highlight

Since opening the doors in 2014, Camp Tecumseh has been a key partner in providing the families of FYAP with a unique summer experience. Every summer Camp Tecumseh welcomes 10 campers for a week of swimming, crafts, singing and campfires! Entering our sixth summer as partners, FYAP has enjoyed sending nearly 60 youth ages 8-15 on 100% scholarship at a savings value of over \$4,500.00! A very special thank you, Camp Tecumseh, for giving these children memories that will last a lifetime!



When youth are out for the summer, Advocates seek out opportunities that further allow for enrichment for the youth involved in the program. While many families need assistance with childcare, others are looking to fill the summer break with fun activities, unique opportunities, or even academic support. Advocates offer opportunities to families throughout the summer that include half and full-day camps as well as overnight opportunities. In 2019, FYAP clients combined with youth from other Hamilton County Youth Assistance Programs and headed to Tennessee for a week in the woods. Many clients enjoy the generosity through our partnerships with the Fishers YMCA and the Noblesville Boys and Girls Clubs to be able to spend the summer days having new experiences and making great friends!

Well Supported

Building on the success of 2018, FYAP faced 2019 with two key financial goals: ensure continued financial support for existing programs and prepare for deeper capacity to develop new programs that can respond to emerging needs. Thanks to the hard work of the Fishers Youth Assistance Development Committee, FYAP enjoyed another year of generosity and support.

2019 saw sustained and continued growth in finding ways to share with the community, volunteers and donors what the Board and Staff of the Fishers Youth Assistance Program are accomplishing. Encouraged by concerted efforts in 2018, FYAP continues to connect with the community in many impactful ways using social media. Whether it is tweeting about an event hosted by HSE Schools, using Facebook to invite the community to a mental health program or simply sharing a volunteer need for Summer Meals by email, FYAP is using social media to welcome community involvement and support.

Financial Highlights for 2019

- Revenue increased by 24% to \$133,100 largely due to the in-kind donations for the Summer Meals Program.
- Administrative Expenses remained relatively constant at slightly over \$16,000 but reduced as a percentage of Revenue from 16% to 12%.
 - The Summer Meals Program more than doubled in expense to serve more children, and 2018 had significant carry-over from 2017 that reduced the 2018 expense. The 2019 expenses are expected to stabilize in 2020.
- All program and assistance categories were expanded and spending on the children grew from \$53,396 in 2018 to \$121,066 in 2019.
- The FYA Fund Balance grew at year-end by \$12,034 to a Year End Balance of \$78,395, which places the organization in a strong financial position to enter into 2020.



Total Fans **474**
 Posts Made **122**
 Impressions **6,076**
 Engagements **73,677**



Total Followers **420**
 Number of Tweets **147**
 Organic Impressions **154,200**
 Engagements **3,250**

VIBE FEST

Vibe Fest 2019 kept attendees moving all night long! For the second annual event, Vibe Fest drew upon the bright lights of the 70's for a Silent Disco-themed night designed to engage and welcome guests while raising awareness of FYAP programs and services. Many ended the evening on the rooftop deck of the Braden building enjoying the end of a Fishers Summer Concert Series event. Raising nearly \$24,000, the event was a huge success! The night would not have been possible without the continued support of host and partner Vibenomics!



MAYOR'S EVENT AT TOP GOLF



Taking a swing for the kids, supporters joined Mayor Scott Fadness on October 10, 2019, for the 2nd annual TopGolf fundraising event to benefit FYAP. Whether it was a hole in one or a line drive, our supporters enjoyed an evening of food and fun to raise more than \$20,000 for the Fishers Youth Assistance Program.



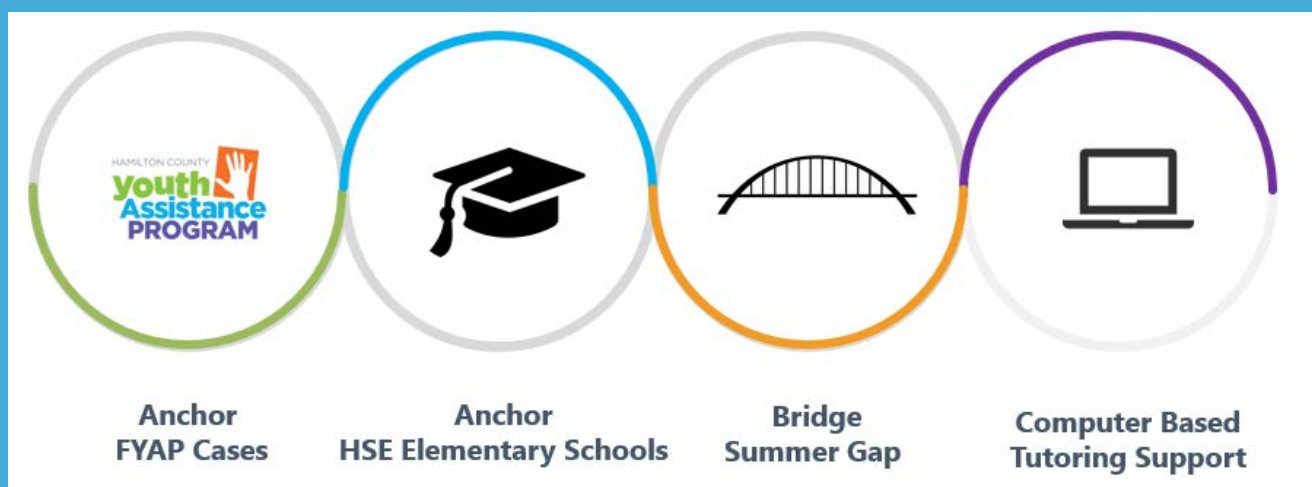


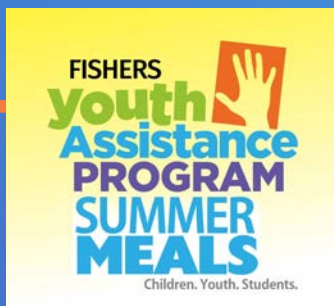
The Anchor program provides tutoring/mentoring to elementary students throughout the Hamilton Southeastern School district. Over the last year through the efforts of Cathy Worrall, board member, and Andrea Burow, community volunteer, the Anchor program has continued to grow and expand to additional elementary schools.

During the 2018/2019 school year the Anchor program provided tutoring/mentoring to elementary students at New Britton and Sand Creek Elementary. The elementary students were identified by the school counselors and then paired with a Fishers High School senior. The high school Anchors provided over 400 hours of tutoring/mentoring to NBE and SCE students during the 2018/2019 school year. There were also several adult Anchors who worked with students in the district.

At the start of the 2019/2020 school year the Anchor program expanded to Thorpe Creek and Fall Creek Elementary schools. There are 40 high school Anchors from both Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School who are working with almost 80 elementary students. This year the high school Anchors will provide over a 1000 hours of tutoring/mentoring to elementary students.

The Anchor program is also expanding to include more adult volunteers. Tutoring sites will be established throughout the community to provide academic support outside of the school day. Finally, the development of a "Summer Bridge" program will support elementary students through the summer break.



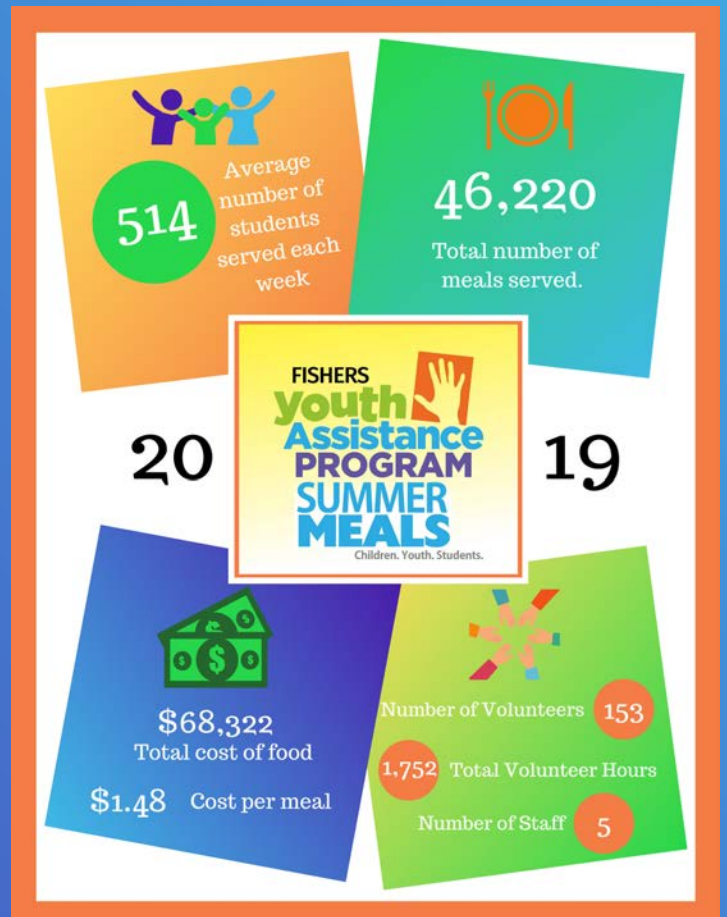


The mission of the Summer Meals Program is to provide breakfast and lunch during the summer months to students in the HSE school district who qualify as food insecure to ensure that no child goes hungry.

The program was initiated in the summer of 2017 with the assistance of several community partners including FYAP, township trustee offices, local churches, Good Samaritan Network, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank as well as individuals and sponsors. The initial summer saw 185 students served.

Food was donated through food drives organized by the Fishers Police Department (Pack the Cruiser), School Classrooms, Neighborhoods, Local Businesses, Government departments, Good Samaritan Network, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank and individuals. These donations accounted for close to 1/3 of the food used for the summer. Food that was not donated through food drives was purchased from Kroger (116th and Olio) with donated dollars or dollars raised by FYAP through fundraising events. Food was sorted and organized at Fall Creek Elementary by local volunteers each Monday morning.

Participating families picked up food and menus Monday afternoons/evenings. This continued for a 9-week period during the summer.





Volunteers included elected officials, city employees, first responders, educators, corporate officers, choirs and many, many individual community members. It was an amazing outpouring of community support.



The 2019 Summer Meal Program was very successful in providing summer meals to over 600 students in the HSE school district. This was accomplished without city funding and was run by a local, not for profit, volunteer organization.

One comment from a participating parent summed up the program better than statistics can:

"Thank you from the bottom of my heart! I have tears in my eyes even writing this. What a blessing it has been for our family. Mostly, it showed our kids the beauty of giving hearts, the importance of helping others...that people do care?"



FYAP welcomed Snack Attack at the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Previously ran by Indy Snack Attack, FYAP was pleased to take over providing supplemental nutrition to students on weekends. As the founder looked to retire from the program, she turned to FYAP to carry it on and in an unanimous vote, the Board of Directors decided to take on the program. With that, planning and preparation began to take over the program at the start of the 2019/2020 school year. At its core, the program is simple: food is bagged every other week, delivered to participating schools on every Thursday for the building to distribute on Fridays to students.

By the school year's end, over 70,000 food items will have been distributed to an average of 380 students over the course of 33 weeks.

Support for the program has come in various ways. "The beauty of Snack Attack is that anyone can help at any level. We have had children from kindergarten on up help us bag food up. We have book clubs and athletic teams, small schools and large companies hosting food drives for us. When inventorying food drives, people have even sent in one or two snacks from their pantries in order to give - when you see support like that for a program run entirely by volunteers, you know you're a part of something really special." says Snack Attack Chairperson and FYAP Board Member, Sneha Shah. Organizations like Crafting with a Cause, Regency Windsor Properties, and St. Vincent - Ascension in Fishers have hosted food drives, while other groups like the Northview Church Life Group, Durbin Elementary PTO, and Indy Premier 08G Predators have purchased food and then bagged it as well.

Looking to the future, FYAP aspires to provide support to students in all 22 buildings of the HSE School District, as well as merging the Summer Meals Program and Snack Attack into one large program which supports students with meals and snacks anytime school is out. Gwen Keller-Lusk, founder of Crafting with a Cause supported FYAP Snack Attack through her craft club. When asked what motivated her to collect over 3,100 snacks, Gwen stated "I just want the kids that receive them to know there is a whole community that loves them."





The youth-cannine program returned to Hamilton County after a nearly 18 month pause. With continued partnership and support from Paws & Think, The Hamilton County Humane Society, and the Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds, the return in 2019 operated 3 programs which benefitted 25 youth and 15 dogs.

The focus of the program is to offer interventions to youth struggling with at-risk behaviors and mental health challenges, as well as clients who could greatly benefit from the cross-exposure to peers and adult mentors. Following evidence-based outcomes, the curriculum developed by Paws & Think focuses program outcomes that foster growth for youth in areas of self-esteem, empathy, optimism, compassion, and self-worth, as well as work to reduce pessimism. Taking data collected from programs ran in April, June and December 2019, participants showed benefit from participating in the program in the particular areas of: self-esteem, compassion, and empathy.

Self-esteem was assessed during the program by direct observations of the Adult Mentor working with the youth. Data was assessed in two areas: the ability to build healthy relationships with both the animal and the team and recognizing positive feelings while working with the team. While the program totals five days, only four days are spent working with an animal, in a team environment. Despite such a short amount of time participants saw an improvement in self-esteem. Participants realized an increase of 29.38% in ability to build healthy relationships and 25.75% increase in the ability to work in a team.

Impact to one's ability to express empathy was the second assessment considered by the program. To assess this trait, participants were evaluated in their ability to read and react to the body language of their teammates as well as the dog they are working with. Participants saw an increase of 32.33% in their ability to read the body language of a teammate or animal.

Additionally, youth found themselves responding both positively and correctly to the body language of others with a 30.4% increase.

Finally, the demonstration of compassion for an animal, peers and adults was considered by the program. While youth objectively showed a moderate improvement in compassion of 8.19% when under direct observation, their self-reports and comments shared at the end of the program showed much positive change. When allowing them to put things in their own words, participants demonstrated a significant and developed level of compassion:

"I loved working with Mr. Perfect. I connected with him very fast. I really enjoy the thought of me helping with anxiety. He surely was a perfect, and he will forever be in my mind and heart."

"I enjoyed hanging out with a new dog and knowing that I was helping them get a home."



"I most enjoyed getting to know the dogs. At the beginning of the week, everyone said that I would be connected to the dogs at the end of the week. I didn't agree at first, I would only know the dog for 4 hours; however, I will miss seeing Roscoe everyday at 5pm."

Building on these skills of self-esteem, empathy and compassion are a lifelong process for everyone. Youth involved in this program saw a very quick increase in these skill sets that, hopefully, will continue to grow as they do.



New to the FYAP Board for 2019, the Holiday Helpers Committee set out to ensure that the holiday season was one of joy and excitement for so many. This past holiday season had one common theme: community. From churches, businesses, a hospital, a bank, a neighborhood and an individual family, FYAP Advocates were overwhelmed with community outreach from those wanting to provide families a wonderful holiday season. Beginning in early fall, Advocates connected families to the holiday support offered by the Good Samaritan Network. With so much interest in groups wanting to adopt an individual family, several families were selected to receive their own private holiday support. In total, FYAP connected 12 community entities to 27 families totaling 79 individuals for direct holiday assistance. Community partners included a bank, hospital, HSE Schools, a church, several businesses, a neighborhood, and an individual family. The City of Fishers also joined the efforts through a gift card collection that provided a family a new Christmas tree. For so many families, the true spirit of the holiday season was felt and enjoyed thanks to the generosity of others.

2020 EVENTS

Adult Career Fair at Ivy Tech Noblesville, for all Hamilton County Youth Assistance Programs

Screenagers: The Next Chapter. Collaborative showing with YMI and Peyton Riekhof Foundation, focusing on mental health.

Hope for Happiness Event, hosted by HSE & Fishers Mental Health Clubs.

Summer Meals Food Drives at various locations in Fishers.

Pack the Cruiser. Fishers Police Department will be working with Kroger to host a "Pack the Cruiser" event to benefit our Summer Meals Program.

Fishers District Fundraiser, to raise funds primarily for summer meals program & other FYAP programs.

Thank You Event for FYAP Summer Meals volunteers.

Cops & Kids Holiday Shopping Event