

FISHERS
youth
Assistance
PROGRAM



2020
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

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Anderson Schoenrock

Treasurer

Paul Count

Secretary

Jessica Billingsley

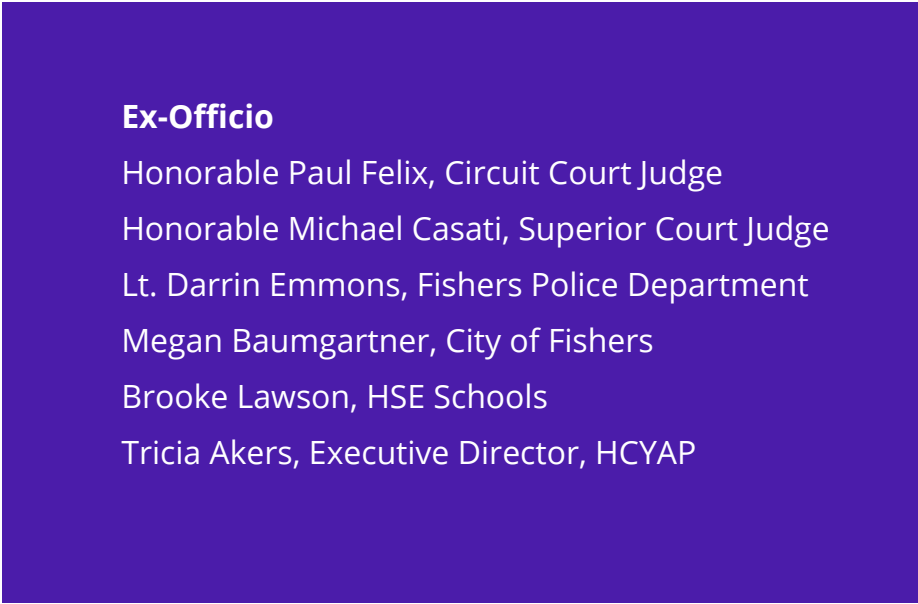
Past President

Leah McGrath



Lisa Allen
Andrea Burow
Lynda Carlino
Bryn Cieciora
Nick Duvall
Robert Ellis
Ty Gerig
Denise Huston
Susan Knight
Mekey McAllen
Carolina Rashidfarokhi
Denise Retzner
Sneha Shah
Jill Troha
Cathy Worrall

Ex-Officio



Honorable Paul Felix, Circuit Court Judge
Honorable Michael Casati, Superior Court Judge
Lt. Darrin Emmons, Fishers Police Department
Megan Baumgartner, City of Fishers
Brooke Lawson, HSE Schools
Tricia Akers, Executive Director, HCYAP

STAFF

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



As with so many organizations during 2020, the Fishers Youth Assistance Program was faced with unique challenges that required creative responses. The ability to successfully meet the needs of our community can be attributed in great part to one invaluable asset: amazing board members! All members of the Fishers Youth Assistance Board realized the hardships suddenly facing families in our community and in an unanimous voice asked, "What can we do and how can we help?" From clothing drives for families who suffered catastrophic loss in house and apartment fires, to holiday assistance adoption of individual families, all board members rose beyond the call to meet the needs presented before them. Enjoying the largest board membership since establishment in 2014, the Board also worked through transition in 2020 as it welcomed in new members and thanked outgoing ones for their invaluable service.

We welcome...

Joining the board as an Ex-Officio member representing the City of Fishers, Director of Economic Development **Megan Baumgartner** welcome to the FYAP family.

Serving as the voice of the Fishers Police Department, we are pleased to have **Lieutenant Darrin Emmons** join onto the board as an Ex-Officio member.

Already serving as Co-Chair of the Anchoring Program, **Andrea Burow** furthered her commitments to the Fishers community by joining the board. Thank you for sharing more of your time and talents Andrea to better our efforts.

Finally, originally introduced to FYAP through the Summer Meals Program, we are overjoyed that **Denise Houston**, **Bryn Cieciura** and **Susan Knight** joined the board to play increased roles among the FYAP Program. Their Summer Meals contributions have been invaluable and we can't wait to see how they further the FYAP board.

We say thank you and goodbye...

After a year serving as the Ex-Officio Member representing the City of Fishers, former Deputy Mayor **Elliott Holtgren** departed the FYAP Board as his duties with the City concluded. Elliott came onto the board with energy for the FYAP mission. We were sorry to see his time end, but wish him well in his further endeavors.

After a full term as a board member, we thank **Dave Compton** as he ends his tenure and returns his focus back to his work with Pulte Homes. Dave greatly aided in opening doors in our corporate community that paved the way for funding of critical programs.

It was with gratitude that the FYAP family said goodbye to **Dr. Bijender Kumar**. Dr. Kumar hosted fundraisers for FYAP, shared his medical knowledge with our advocates in need of resources for families, and opened his heart to the FYAP mission. Celebrating his wife's esteemed accomplishments in her medical training, Dr. Kumar resigned his position with Hancock Regional Hospital and joined his family in Ohio for her residency. We wish the entire Kumar family well and hope they return some day as Hoosiers once again.

FYAP was first introduced to **Deb Polise** through her personal passion to provide bicycles to children. Deb had a generous heart and genuine smile that radiated the first time she delivered three bicycles to a FYAP family. Deb provided much direct assistance to several families served by FYAP with her knowledge of and connections within the local real estate market. Whether helping a family facing foreclosure to find a compassionate lender or connecting with fellow property managers in the real estate industry to find housing for a family facing eviction, Deb was ever giving and caring in her support of FYAP families. We wish Deb all the best as she enjoys the next phase in her life with her family!



Thank you!

After nearly seven years of service as board members and Ex-Officio Officers representing Fishers Police Department, it is with much esteemed gratitude that we thank **Captain Michael Johnson** and **Lieutenant (Retired) Dave Dunbar** for their service and devotion. Serving as a voice of support and encouragement in the schools and community, Lt. Dunbar and Capt. Johnson opened doors to the City and Schools for FYAP. Mike and Dave, without notice, would show up at a community event, provide guidance to our advocates on best responses to home challenges, and overall gave tirelessly of themselves to recognize and further any FYAP effort. Both gentlemen with families and other personal and professional responsibilities, gave countless hours of their time, all with a smile and very sincere heart. The families, staff and board are all forever indebted and grateful for the service of Mike and Dave. You both will be missed beyond words and your lessons shared will continue on as your legacy.

After two years of venerated leadership, **Leah McGrath** transitioned away from her role as President of the Fishers Youth Assistance Board. Started in 2014, the leaders in early years took on the daunting task of establishing the FYAP board. With Leah's transition, however, the time was ripe to move into the next phase for FYAP. It is only through the vision, heart, dedication, and selfless sacrifice given by Leah that the FYAP Board is where it is today. New committees and faces emerged to meet the ever-changing needs of families. Programs, such as Snack Attack, Summer Meals and Anchoring, were established to meet gaps in current community capabilities. New partnerships flourished with the business community, bringing in needed financial support to better assist families. Leah brought in a collaborative spirit, revived membership with new community members ready and willing to serve, and vetted every need, requested at any time of day, for FYAP families with an unmatched level of openness, compassion, and respect. Leah's legacy to the program will resonate for years in perpetuity. She never asked anything of anyone that she did not also do herself. She is a true leader, inside and out. Thank you, Leah, for seeing FYAP for what it is and what it can be. We wish you and your family nothing but happiness, health, and success in your next journeys.



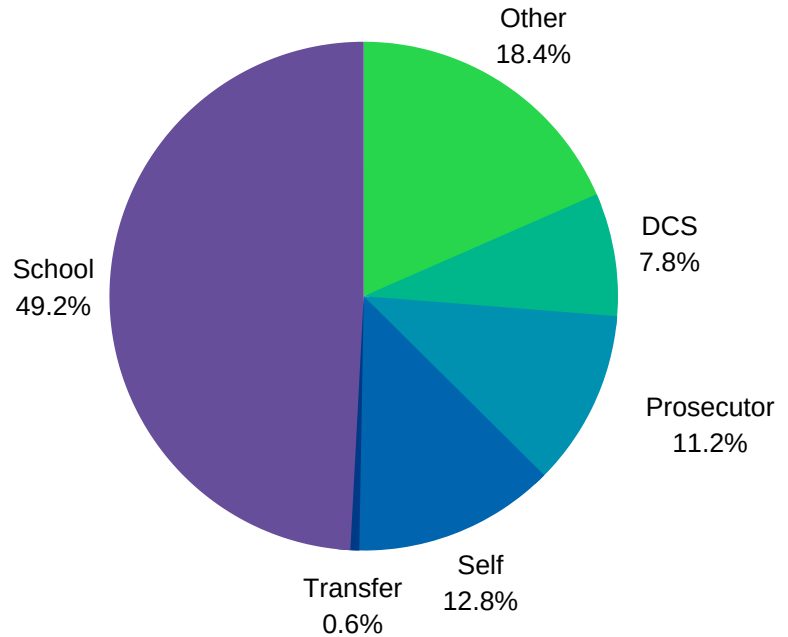
196 New Referrals

GRADES

Pre K	3%
Elementary	40%
Intermediate	11%
Jr. High	13%
High School	33%

Male	51%
Female	49%

REFERRAL SOURCES



Additional Schools We Served This Year

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



HSE Schools: 21,760 students

Ethnicity

Caucasian: 70.2%
 Multiracial: 5.9%
 American Indian or Other: 0.2%
 Black: 7.8%
 Asian: 8%
 Hispanic: 7.8%
 Native Hawaiian or
 Other Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Free/Reduced population: 15.3%

Free: 11.1%
 Reduced: 4.2%

Graduation rates: 97.6%
 Dropout rates: 1.2%

Attendance rates: 96.3%

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	Hamilton County Systems of Care
Aspire Indiana, Inc.	Hamilton Southeastern Schools
Autism Parent Care	Harrison Parkway Elementary PTO
Axon Health	Heart and Soul Clinic
Behavior Analysis Center for Autism (BACA)	Holy of Spirit of Geist Catholic Church
Bethel Lutheran Church and Food & Baby Pantry	HSE Foundation
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Indiana	IN SOURCE
Booth Tarkington Civic Theatre	Indiana Center for Prevention of Youth Abuse & Suicide
Boys & Girls Club of Noblesville	Indiana Troopers Youth Services
Brooke's Place	Indianapolis Yacht Club
Camp Tecumseh	Indy Premier Soccer Club
Camptown	Ivy Tech
Center for Hope	Janus Developmental Services
Cherish Center	Kids Psych, Inc.
Children's Bureau Community Partners,	Kroger (116th and Olio Road)
CCDF and Post-Adopt Programs	Life Solutions Counseling Associates
Collaborative Change	Mathias Counseling & Consulting
Community Behavioral Health	Merciful Help Center
Conner Prairie	Mudsock Youth Athletics
Delaware Township Trustee	Mustard Seed
Early Childhood Alliance Network	Newcomers of Fishers
Englishton Park Camp	Nickle Plate Arts
Fall Creek Township Trustee	Noblesville Township Trustee
Family Promise of Hamilton County	Nspire Church
Fishers Eye Care	Options School
Fishers Fire Department	Paige Music Rentals
Fishers Non-Profit Coalition	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
Fishers UMC and Food Pantry	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	Shepherd's Center of Hamilton County
Hamilton Boone Madison Special Services Cooperative	Strada Education Network
Hamilton County Community Foundation	Trinity Free Clinic
Hamilton Co Harvest Food Bank	Walker Dixon Orthodontics
Hamilton County 4H County Fairgrounds	Wayne Township Trustee
Hamilton County Health Department	White River Church and Food Pantry
Hamilton County Humane Society	Work One
Hamilton County Juvenile Probation	YMCA
Hamilton County Sheriff Department	Youth Mentoring Initiative

Partner Highlight : Conner Prairie

Used to the hustle and bustle of daily crowds from school classrooms, families, and individuals, the grounds and indoor museum of Conner Prairie were silent much of 2020 due to COVID. Regular events such as Symphony on the Prairie, Headless Horseman, and A Merry Prairie Holiday, were faced with either cancellations or ticket limits to ensure the health and safety of all staff and guests. Recognizing that now more than ever Conner Prairie had a critical role to play in the continued education of history and science, a unique curriculum was developed aiming to meet the needs of at-home learning. Digital programs were developed that reached learners through social media platforms and educated on topics ranging from Indiana history to agriculture. At-home kits were developed and distributed to FYAP and across Hamilton County Youth Assistance families. The kits were geared to meet various age ranges starting as young as infants and going up through elementary and intermediate students. Realizing the possibilities offered by the resources, the FYAP Anchoring Program used these materials as the basis for the 2020 Summer Bridge Program. Bug catchers and model plan kits were the inspiration for a 4-week curriculum that was actualized on Zoom between Fishers High School students and HSE Elementary students. Conner Prairie's generous collaboration with FYAP inspired a unique summer experience for all involved and is the foundation for the 2021 program as well. Finally, once doors were reopened Conner Prairie welcomed in FYAP families for a daily visit or attendance at a special holiday event. Coming out of the stay-at-home orders and many facing financial strain, families were able to enjoy the beautiful grounds and educational enrichment, all in a safe environment. FYAP remains inspired by the unique experiences offered by Conner Prairie and is indebted for the generous and collaborative contributions to our families.



Partner Highlight : Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County

The Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County (GSN) has been at the foundation of non-profit services provided in Hamilton County since March 1995. Under the lead of Executive Director Nancy Chance, GSN provides clients with direct support in the areas of financial, housing, utility, and medical assistance, as well as indirectly by serving as a critical connection among the vast array of non-profit organizations within Hamilton County. At the outset of the COVID outbreak, GSN stepped up to facilitate a central voice within Hamilton County.

Organizing weekly and monthly communication sessions under the Hamilton County COAD, service providers were able to efficiently communicate updates, needs, and challenges. Continuous update by GSN on local, state, and federal supports afforded organizations within Hamilton County a solid platform upon which to carry out their missions. GSN has continued during this difficult time to be a critical partner to FYAP, collaborating to meet the individual needs of families who lost employment or wages, faced eviction, risked food insecurity, and experienced the inability to pay for utilities. Through GSN, FYAP families enjoyed holiday assistance at Thanksgiving and Christmas, received back-to-school supplies as well as clothing and essential needs, and obtained assistance with automotive needs. Finally, GSN continued to serve as an essential partner to the Summer Meals Program by assisting with key logistical needs throughout the entire summer and exploring unique food resources when the supply in many local stores was scarce. Looking into 2021, GSN continues to foster a collaborative, supportive response to this continued challenge faced by all individuals and organizations due to COVID. The staff and families served by FYAP are indebted to the Good Samaritan Network for its leadership, collaboration, and heart during such a difficult time.



Well Supported

Like many, we entered 2020 with plans and strategies that had to be modified (and in some cases entirely delayed/abandoned) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite these challenges, we found alternate ways to ensure that FYAP remain well funded. This year was a continuation of 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.

Financial Highlights for 2019

- Revenue increased by 78% to \$236,779 largely due to grant dollars awarded to FYAP as well as the in-kind donations for the Summer Meals Program.
- Administrative Expenses remained relatively constant at slightly over \$18,250 but reduced as a percentage of Revenue from 12% to 7.7%.
- With community need expanding dramatically this year due to COVID-19, the Summer Meals Program nearly than doubled in expense to serve more children
- All program and assistance categories were expanded and spending on the children grew from \$121,066 in 2019 to \$157,786 in 2020.
- The FYA Fund Balance grew at year-end by \$78,395 to a Year End Balance of \$156,031, which places the organization in a strong financial position to enter into 2021.



Total Fans **755**
 Posts Made **129**
 Impressions **97,554**
 Engagements **7,309**



Total Followers **492**
 Number of Tweets **78**
 Organic Impressions **105,610**
 Engagements **3,577**

2020 Grants Received

CDBG Grant	\$50,000
Care Institute Group	\$25,000
Lilly Grant	\$22,000
CIC Grant	\$10,000
Navient Grant	\$5,000
JDAI Grant	\$500.00

Community Give Back Event



FISHERS DISTRICT



THOMPSON THRIFT
RETAIL GROUP

We were fortunate to be selected as a recipient of the Community Give Back Event put on by the Thompson Thrift Retail Group at the Fishers District.

During the month of September, businesses in the Fishers District were encouraged to collect donations for the Fishers Youth Assistance Program.

We are greatly appreciative of the continued support from the City of Fishers, local businesses, and members of our community, who see the value in what FYAP does for the students and families in our school district.





The Anchor program provides tutoring/mentoring throughout the Hamilton Southeastern School district. While 2020 has required adaptations to the Anchor program, board members Andrea Burow and Cathy Worrall initiated new practices of working with and supporting students in HSE.

In January of 2020 the Anchor program provided tutoring/mentoring to students at New Britton Elementary, Sand Creek Elementary, Thorpe Creek Elementary and Fall Creek Elementary. Almost 30 high school seniors from Fishers High School and Hamilton Southeastern High School provided support to almost 50 elementary school students. When HSE schools switched to e-learning in March due to COVID-19, the Anchor program concluded for the school year.

After months of eLearning, the summer of 2020 offered a unique opportunity to provide virtual Anchoring to elementary school students through the Summer Bridge program. Using kits donated by Conner Prairie that were full of STEM and history-related materials, a curriculum was developed to combine reading activities with hands-on activities. High school students were matched with second grade students and through twice weekly Zoom meetings were able to encourage reading and enjoy activities together. The high school students as well as the elementary school students and their parents who participated in the 2020 Summer Bridge program gave very positive feedback about their experiences. The summer program ended with Anchors and students making ice cream together! We look forward to expanding the Summer Bridge Program in 2021.

During the fall of 2020 the Anchor program expanded to begin training and using adult volunteers to provide tutoring/mentoring. Taking it further, for those students struggling with balancing academic assignments in the eLearning environment the Anchor program introduced a check-in/check-out support for students. This program will continue to provide support to all students in 2021.

As we begin 2021, the Anchor program will continue to provide virtual support to elementary students. We will also continue to expand our Community Anchor program with adult volunteers. Looking forward to the 2021/2022 school year we will plan to start the high school/elementary Anchor program again.



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.

Like the rest of the world, the Summer Meals program was affected by Covid 19. Food was donated by larger organizations (Good Samaritans, Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank, Good Samaritans, Saxony Health) while small companies, organizations and individuals contributed dollars so that food could be purchased and distributed safely to the families. We are hoping to return to food drives again in 2021!

Food was sorted and organized at Sand Creek Intermediate School each Monday morning by hundreds of local volunteers. We utilized more prepackaged food for safety and were the recipients of FDA produce boxes that the families enjoyed.





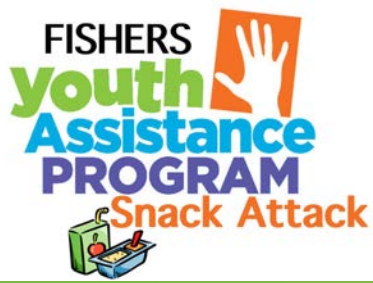
This year, erring on the side of safety for both families and volunteers, food was handed out using a drive through system each Monday afternoon or evening, again utilizing many volunteers. It worked very well and we are strongly considering continuing family pick-up in this manner. We were very fortunate this summer that, in addition to food, there were additional items to hand out to the kids and their families. These included books (donated by Basket of Book and Tri Kappa), STEM kits (donated by Conner Prairie), School backpacks and supplies (donated by Good Samaritans) and family meals (as opposed to just those for the children) provided by FYAP and generous contributors. Finally we were able to provide individual hygiene bag (including toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, etc.) to each child and household cleaning supplies (including masks, hand sanitizers, laundry detergent, toilet paper, etc.) to each family. All items, food and non-food) were greatly appreciated by the families. The program continued for a 9-week period during the summer (June 1 through July 20).

Volunteers included elected officials, city employees, first responders, educators, corporate officers and many, many individual community members. As in the past, it was an amazing outpouring of community support. We initiated new safety procedures including mask wearing, social distancing, limiting the number of volunteers inside the school and thorough hand washing and sanitizing. Our goal was to make everyone feel safe!

The 2020 Summer Meal Program was very successful in providing summer meals to 650 students in the HSE school district each week. This was accomplished without city funding and was run by a local, not for profit, volunteer organization. The community has come to depend on this program, especially as many face very challenging financial times. The Summer Meals Committee is already hard at work planning for the summer of 2021.

We like to end our annual report by including a comment from one of our participating parents as they can describe the impact much better than we can.

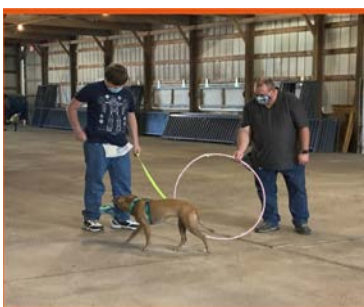
"It was our first time in need of assistance and it was so much than we could have asked for. The volunteers were great, communication was outstanding and quality of what we received was so far above what we could have hoped for."



Snack Attack has continued this year and expanded to serve all schools in the Hamilton Southeastern School District. We are distributing over 2900 snacks to 426 students every week. There is continued support from our generous community. We have created an Amazon wish list that we can update with our needs and donors can purchase items and have them shipped directly to the FYAP office.

In addition to donations of both food and funding, we have a wonderful volunteer base that assists in packing up the snack bags each week and helps deliver them to the schools for distribution.





Faced with many unknown changes and challenges caused by COVID-19, the future of the Hamilton County Youth Canine Program was unsure for much of 2020.

Moving animals to and from the Humane Society with volunteers, working as teams in close proximity, and adjusting to the reality that the 4H Fairgrounds was closed for most of the year were just some of the logistical hurdles faced by the program. Prior to the pandemic the goal set for 2020 was to hold four programs, serving approximately 50 youth across Hamilton County and bettering the lives of nearly 25 dogs. With much hard work behind the scenes securing program and staff funding, arranging for PPE, and modifying curriculum and protocol, Paws & Think worked hard to ensure that 2020 was not a lost year. Programs were held in September and October 2020 and, while scaled down, still had a great impact on all participants – both two and four-legged! By the numbers here's the impact of the 2020 Hamilton County Youth Canine Program:

2 programs

9 dogs – all of which found their 'forever' homes as of the end of 2020!

9 youth participants from across Fishers, Westfield and Carmel

16 adult volunteers

+200 volunteer hours served to ensure completion of two successful programs

In looking towards 2021 there continues to be many unknowns as to how many programs will occur or how many youth will be able to participate. What we can be sure of, however, is the lasting impact this program has on the youth involved. Following the September program, one participant was so enriched that she signed up as a community volunteer with the Hamilton County Humane Society and achieved part-time work in a doggie daycare facility. Two participants, who had been nominated by a local therapist, saw improvement in school, community and family engagement following the program. Each of the participants grew in self-confidence, teamwork, and empathy. Finally, as we look towards 2021 we are excited at the future of the program as the Hamilton County Humane Society will be looking towards its new home in Fishers! We celebrate the successes enjoyed by everyone in 2020 and express our sincere gratitude to our partners:

Paws & Think: <https://pawsandthink.org/>

Hamilton County Humane Society: <https://www.hamiltonhumane.com/>

Hamilton County 4H Fairgrounds: <https://www.hamiltoncofairgrounds.com/>

For more information about the program, to donate, or get involved please look to Paws & Think at: <https://pawsandthink.org/programs/youth-canine/>



The Holiday Helpers Committee set out to ensure that the holiday season was one of joy and excitement for so many. 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 community members and businesses to 105 children who are actively involved in our program for holiday assistance. Community partners included HSE Schools, several businesses, a neighborhood, and many individual families. For so many families, the true spirit of the holiday season was felt and enjoyed thanks to the generosity of others.

"Good morning. I wanted to thank you for helping [my daughter] and my grandsons. You have given her peace of mind during the holidays and throughout the year. This has been quite a year, again thank you for all you do.



"Well, I am speechless. I just cried when I opened everything. Thank you so much!



2021 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Summer Meals Food Drives at various locations in Fishers.

Anchor Tutoring Summer Bridge Program

Multiple Youth Canine Programs

Thank You Event for FYAP Summer Meals volunteers.

Fishers Police Department Cops & Kids Holiday Shopping Event

Holiday Helpers Program