



REGION 5 NEWSLETTER Adolescent Leaders Of Tomorrow/Youth of Mid-Hudson JULY, 2007

REGIONAL GROUP UPDATES

This year was our best attended meetings ever! For both the LI and Mid Hudson region, we typically had an average of 10-15 youth and mentors at each group. At the April Mid-Hudson meeting we had 30 youth and mentors. Although we are happy at our success, we are still recruiting and working on getting more youth, mentors and agency involvement in YIP.

We had consistent attendance from many of our current Long Island YIP leaders/mentors throughout the year and as a result we have had made great progress as a team.

Finally, this July, 2007 we are happy to welcome Bill Hatfield to our Region 5 YIP team. Bill will be the new ASRN advisor to Mid-Hudson and LI group.

CHILDREN'S SUMMIT, NYC, March, 2007

Manny, our Region V YIP statewide leader, attended and served as panelist at the Children's Summit in NYC this past March (with Amir from Region 4) and it was a wonderful experience for all who attended! It was an opportunity for Manny and Amir to talk to a room FILLED with family court judges, law guardians, lawyers and other family court and child welfare professionals and administrators from around the country. Our youth panelists shared their experiences, insight and opinions about the family court and foster care systems.

Because of this experience, we made a GREAT contact in Nassau Family Courts and will be planning to have a similar panel discussion and /or meeting with Family Court professionals and our regional YIP leaders to help them understand what the court experience has been like for our LI foster care youth. This person from Family Court was at the summit in NYC and is extremely interested in helping to give YIP a voice in Family Court. She will be attending our next regional meeting to start planning a Fall 2007 event.

MAY 2007: FOSTER CARE MONTH AND LIVE TELECONFERENCE

Region V had a great foster care month this year. We gave out fact cards with national and NYS statistics about youth in care along with bracelet/pens that had sayings on it “destined for greatness” and “we have a voice”. We gave them out to agency youth, staff and community members.

Manny and our Region V YIP mentor, Anne were also involved in the statewide Live Teleconference about helping youth in care connect with and develop adult relationships. They had a great experience- we thought the teleconference was excellent and should be incorporated into current ASRN trainings.

JUNE 29, 2007 : REGION V YOUTH SPEAKOUT

We held our annual Regional Youth Speak out on Friday June 29th, 2007 at Stony Brook University and it was a wonderful day and event. We were honored to have the Commissioner of OCFS, Gladys Carrion, attend, as well as Bill McLaughlin, and our Regional OCFS Director. The Commissioner of Social Services for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties also were panelists. We were so proud that a panel of such high administrators took part in our speak out and the result was really noticeable. All the youth who spoke really took the opportunity to talk about their important experiences in foster care and their recommended suggestions on how it should be improved. Through the panelists replies, it was evident that they were all moved by what they had heard. They all promised to take this experience and do whatever they possibly could to make significant changes.

Our YIP leaders, Manny, Shawn, Gabe and Farel did a WONDERFUL presentation in the morning of the mission of YIP, their personal experiences and we showed the Stereotypes DVD for the entire audience.

Our YIP mentors, Anne, Cathy and Elaine were at our “YIP” vendor booth giving out the remaining handbooks, YIP pens (thanks Region 6!), info about our regional groups and recruited youth, mentors and agencies.

One of our local agencies provided a fashion show during lunch where the girls modeled the dresses they designed and made and it was viewed by a “celebrity” George Simonton, from the TLC reality show “I have nothing to wear”.

Congratulations Summer 2007 REGION V STATEWIDE YIP LEADERS AND

MENTORS!!! You have been selected to represent Long Island in our All-American Foster Care Youth Program

Manny Anne

Gabe Cathy

Farel Elaine

Xavier

Thank you all for your hard work this summer and throughout the year

Upcoming events...

We are planning a social luncheon/dinner for August, 2007. We will continue developing our youth as co-trainers program, and work on the relationship building with Nassau Family Court and (hopefully!) eventually Suffolk Family Court. We will continue to support the activities of the statewide YIP group and continue with our recruitment efforts.