



ROCHESTER AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

Rochester Area Youth Assistance (RAYA) is a prevention-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to strengthen youth and families in the Rochester community and to reduce the incidence of delinquency, abuse and neglect through community partnerships. We pursue our mission with the steadfast support of our primary sponsors: Oakland County Circuit Court – Family Division; Rochester Community Schools; and the area municipalities of Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township.

RAYA CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD REPORT - Debbie Jones, Chairman of the Board

I feel honored to be in the position of Chairman of the Board for an organization that has served the families of the Rochester Area for over 60 years.

We have passionate board members who are enthusiastic to meet the needs of our community through our Financial Assistance, Family Education, Camp Safari, and many other programs and services. We appreciate the input from the school and community partners who bring their expertise and serve as liaisons. We honor our mission statement to prevent juvenile delinquency, child neglect, and abuse in everything we do.

My goal continues to be partnering with other community agencies that serve the same population.

I want to thank Lindsay Wood who served as Vice Chair, Kristin Landis-Piwowar as Secretary, Maria Willett as Membership Chair, and Charlie Rewold as Treasurer. I appreciate all of the Board Members who give so freely of their time and are dedicated to strengthening families in the Rochester Area. We look forward to another year of serving this community.



YOUTH RECOGNITION RECEPTION – Jan Wilhite-Iserman, Committee Chairperson

Our 48th annual Youth Recognition Dessert Reception was celebrated on March 21, 2023 at the Calf Barn at Van Hoosen Farms. The Calf Barn always serves as a warm and welcoming place to gather and honor outstanding young people from our community. This past year we recognized 20 honorees for their dedication and charity to our community and beyond. These kind and passionate honorees from elementary to high school age gave of their time and talent to area charities as well as dedicating themselves to overcoming personal challenges.

Congrats to student Jon Fogler who was the recipient of the Coats Family Memorial Scholarship, donated by the Coats Family in honor of Judy Coats, who was a longtime supporter of RAYA.

We were also blessed to have area individuals and businesses contribute to the success of our event. Thank you again to Vern Pixley, Colleen Marshall, Busch’s, Cold Stone Creamery, and Nothing Bundt Cakes!



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE – David Murphy, Committee Chairperson

One of RAYA’s primary goals for youth is prevention of delinquency. Statistics have shows that there are numerus benefits to children and teens who participate in extra-curricular activities. The Financial Assistance Committee was created to assist families with the cost of skill-building activities such as sports, dance, tutoring, and for summer camps. Requests for assistance are approved by the committee after parents have submitted appropriate financial information showing need and eligibility. Families qualify by meeting income guidelines provided by Oakland County or by participating in the free and reduced lunch program offered through Rochester Community Schools. We review each request with the goal of opening doors and creating opportunities which otherwise might not be possible.

FAMILY EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT – Lindsay Wood, Committee Chairperson

The purpose of the Family Education Committee is to facilitate ongoing school and community-based parent and family education programs which will enable parents to acquire knowledge, skills and techniques that will assist them with their children.

In 2022-2023, RAYA offered the following programs:

- * *“Girls Stand Strong”* - Facilitated by Samantha Walters, MSW. This is a 4-week life skills group program for middle school girls
- * *“Childhood Grief”* - Presented by Peggy Nielsen and Leah Bengel from Henry Ford Sandcastles Grief Support Program in partnership with Rochester Hills Public Library
- * *“Overcoming Anger and Frustration”* – Facilitated by Joe Lilly, LMSW, at Chief Financial Credit Union, in Rochester. The program consists of 4 - 90 minute sessions with 5-10 boys in grades 4-6. The first three sessions are for the children, and the last one is for the parents only.

YOUTH AND FAMILY CASEWORKER – Paul Tiseo, MS, LLP

Casework services are an essential part of Youth Assistance. I am privileged to work directly with young people and their families regarding a wide range of issues. In the tables below you will see a snapshot of the reasons for referrals and their sources.

Referral Reason

Reason	Total	Female	Male
ASSAULT AND BATTERY	9	3	6
MALICIOUS DESTRUCTION OF P	1	1	
PREVENTION	35	18	17
RETAIL FRAUD	11	11	
SCHOOL INCORRIGIBILITY	1	1	
TRUANCY - SCHOOL	4	1	3
WEAPONS VIOLATION	2		2
CURFEW VIOLATION	1		1
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	2		2
POSESSION OF MARIJUANA	7	4	3
SEXTING-EXPLICIT MESSAGING	6	3	3
MALICIOUS MISCHIEF	1	1	
DISTURBING THE PEACE	1	1	
THREATENING BEHAVIOR	3	1	2
HARASSING COMMUNICATION	3		3
VAPE RELATED OFFENSE	10	3	7
SCHOOL THREAT/THREATENING	1		1
TOTALS	98	48	50

Referral Source

Source	Total	Female	Male
POLICE	51	21	30
PARENT/GRD	3	2	1
SCHOOL DISTRICT	18	9	9
DHS/CPS	12	9	3
INTAKE DEPARTMENT	3	3	
OC PROSECUTOR	11	4	7
TOTALS	98	48	50

CAMP SAFARI REPORT – Makayla Kroening, RARA Recreation Supervisor

We had another successful year for Camp Safari 2023 this past summer! Camp Safari ran for 8 weeks, June 19 to August 18, 2023.

We continued to pick up campers at Northridge Apartments and Rochester Estates, which encouraged and aided campers to come to our camp even if they didn't have their own ride to camp. On average, we had around 15 campers per week and the out of pocket cost was \$40 per child per week which breaks down to \$8 per day per camper. Families were able to pick and choose which weeks they wanted their children to attend, whether it was for 1 week, 4 weeks, or the full 8 weeks. We had tons of fun and got to go on some adventurous field trips! Exciting field trips the campers got to go on included the Outdoor Adventure Center, Rolling Hills Waterpark, Metro Beach, Blake's Orchard, Urban Air, the Ann Arbor Hands On Museum, and more! Some of our most memorable activities included walking to Yates Cider Mill, going to 711 on 7/11 to get slushies, daily swimming at Spencer Beach, movies at Emagine Theater, and our end of the year Camp Carnival Celebration! We were able to hire 2 counselors, both male and female, to work exclusively with the Camp Safari campers as well as our full time Day Camp Supervisor and CITs (Counselors in Training) who spent a lot of time with the campers. Camp Safari campers got to hang out with and interact with the rest of the RARA Day Camp campers daily throughout the entire summer.



FROM THE TREASURER’S DESK – Charles N. Rewold, CPA

We appreciate the steadfast support of all of our sponsors as we continue the mission to provide multi-faceted assistance to at-risk youth in our community. In addition to the financial support provided by Oakland County Family Court and the municipalities of Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township, Rochester Community Schools provides in-kind resources and services such as office space, computer services, custodial services and utilities at our office located inside Rochester Adams High School. We are dedicated to demonstrating fiscal responsibility while still striving for higher quality services and programs for the area community.

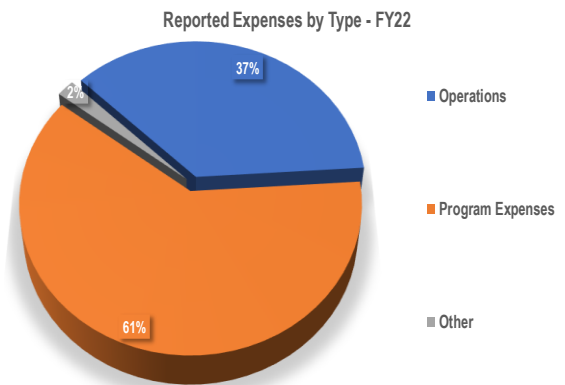
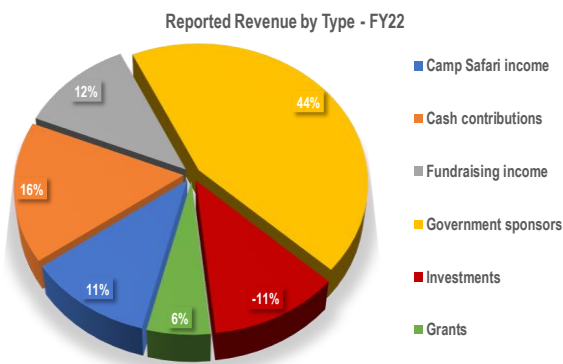
Revenue	Amount
Government sponsors	3,725
Government sponsors	6,717
Government sponsors	18,578
Government sponsors	6,370
Cash contributions	-
Cash contributions	11,021
Cash contributions	2,100
Grants	4,000
Grants	500
Grants	-
Fundraising income	9,529
Investments	(9,252)
Camp Safari income	9,000
Total	62,287

Expenses	Amount
Operations	28,248
Program Expenses	47,150
Contributions	-
Other	1,427
Total	76,824
Net income	(14,537)

Source (14,537)

Row Labels	Sum of Amount
Camp Safari income	9,000
Cash contributions	13,121
Fundraising income	9,529
Government sponsors	35,390
Investments	(9,252)
Grants	4,500
Grand Total	62,287

Row Labels	Sum of Amount
Contributions	-
Operations	28,248
Program Expenses	47,150
Other	1,427
Grand Total	76,824



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE - Maria Willett, Committee Chairperson

RAYA is always looking for people with a passion for our mission to join our board of directors! Our team works collaborate with the Rochester Community School Districts, local businesses, and nonprofits to strengthen youth and families in the Greater Rochester Community. Through financial assistance, counseling, informative and educational programs, and more we continue to make a difference in the lives of our community.

Responsibilities of board members include:

- Attending meetings which are held the fourth Tuesday of each month (excluding June, July & December)
- Participating in committee and fundraising efforts

Starting last year, RAYA has invited selected high school students to participate in board meetings as youth liaisons. These young leaders provide a fresh perspective to the team and allow us to have a better understanding of what our students need.

Interested? Please contact Maria Willett at willettm@rochesterhills.org to discuss this leadership opportunity. Potential board members must fill out the application at <https://www.raya-mi.org/>

2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Debbie Jones, Chairman of the Board

Charlie Rewold, CPA, Treasurer

Kristin Landis-Piwowar, Secretary

Michelle Bueltel

David Murphy

Kate Condon

Ryan Smith

Marilyn Trent

Theresa Mungiola

Bryce Wood

Lindsay Wood, Vice Chairman

Maria Willett, Membership Chairperson

Laura Bagley

Jan Willhite-Iserman

Brittany Iserman

Kimberly Russell

Sergeant Kirk Simpson

Brendan Johnson

Jennifer Thor

Madelyn Parsons

RAYA Office Staff:

Paul Tiseo – Caseworker

. Mihaela Becker – Admin. Assistant

Rose Cordero – Former Admin. Assistant

**Rochester Area Youth Assistance
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