



Oak Park Township Services

www.oakparktownship.org or phone (708) 383-8005

Information and Referral provided in all service areas

Senior Services* (708) 383-8060

Services for seniors, 60 years and older

Case management, Meal programs, Caregiver support, In-home chore services, Money Management, Will preparation, and Assistance in obtaining benefits

Services for seniors, 60 years and older and persons, 18 and older, with disabilities

Transportation Services, Abuse investigation, Home energy assistance, Health insurance assistance, Key Box for emergency entry, Benefit Access for license plate discount and free ride pass, and Options Counseling to assist remaining in the community.

Special Services (708) 383-8005

Adult Financial Aid – for single adults, unemployed or applying for Social Security Disability Insurance

Food Assistance information

Links to Health Care – referrals to State and County assistance

Medical Equipment – free loan of donated, gently used, medical equipment

Services to Citizens with Disabilities

Assessor Services – help with appeals, homeowner and senior exemptions and freezes, records of residential sales and trends, and other tax-related information.

Voter Services – help with registration, absentee ballot forms, and information

Community Mental Health Board

Provides guidance and funding to agencies; funds **The Network of Care** guide to mental health and developmental disabilities services. See <http://oakpark.il.networkofcare.org/mh/> or contact the CMHB Office at (708) 358-8855, located 1010 Lake Street, Suite 616

* Also serving River Forest Township

Youth Services* (708) 445-2727

Youth Interventionist Program

The Interventionist Team helps youth make better life choices. *(See article on reverse side.)*

T.I.M.E.– community service

Youth offenders fulfill village adjudication or school discipline requirements.

Mentoring Programs

Goals are literacy, substance abuse prevention, and S.T.E.M. job readiness. Mentoring is a part of all direct services and contracted programs.

FACE-IT Program

Substance abuse prevention education – youth attend with a parent sessions on the effects of drugs and improving communications

Peace Circles

Peace Circle Keepers are trained to provide for conflict resolution and restorative justice.

Scholarships

Provide youth from low-income families access to other organizations' fee-based programs.

Contracted Programs

Funding for local programs including: Tutoring/mentoring, Volunteer service, Summer work/study, Arts enrichment, Pregnancy prevention/teen parent support, After school intramurals, Evening/weekend recreation, Substance abuse prevention, Youth conference, and Holiday Food and Gift Basket.



Volunteers mentor and tutor youth in a recreational setting at the contracted Friday Night Place at Julian Middle School.

Youth Services continued on reverse side

Youth Interventionists mark 20 years of serving youth and families

The creation of the Youth Interventionist Team in 1996 was an initiative of leading citizens from Oak Park and River Forest. They met to provide a unified community response to a 1995 drive-by shooting at Julian Middle School. In a follow-up action on Madison Street, a teen lost his life.

Supported by all taxing units in both villages – school and park districts, libraries, townships and village governments, the three Interventionists:

- Monitor and respond to youth behavior challenges across both villages
- Provide counseling, intensive case management, substance abuse and other needed services to youth and their families
- Consult with and train partner unit staff on youth communication and guiding behavior.

The goal is to guide youth, who are often suffering from trauma, toward more productive, pro-social life decisions. Family participation is essential, since other family members may be facing life challenges that also influence client youth.

Trends in referrals are toward more mental health issues, often associated with substance abuse, some involving hospitalization, and assistance to youth in alternative schools and to youth not living with parents, often enrolled in school as "homeless." The ongoing registered client base is typically 45-50 youth and families, and cases may be active for years.

The program has served over 600 registered youth clients and their families and thousands of youth through informal daily contact and guidance, organized presentations, and programs with various taxing units and non-profit agencies.

The Township reports monthly to all 11 taxing unit board members and chief administrators and

annually to the two Councils of Governments. In addition, a 16-member citizen committee from both villages meets monthly to advise on goals, activities and funding of all Youth Services.

Interventionist Team



Bert Patania
Service: 18 years



Melissa Potrawski
6 years



Rob Simmons
10 years

Testimonials – Youth: "Youth Services has always been there for me when I needed them," and, "Thank you for everything. I couldn't have done it without you," and, "Thanks for supporting me through my hospitalization. The words you said to me really impacted my view on life."

Parents: "Youth services has become like family," "Thank you for not giving up on my child," and, "My family has been very fortunate to receive the services of the Youth Intervention program. The staff member had great expertise and empathy, and was a role model."

A River Forest parent spoke to a common theme: "One of the greatest strengths of the program is that the services do not stop at the school door, but cover the community at large. This gives the Interventionists great knowledge of young people – their lives and activities. They understand the their challenges, the opportunities open to them, and how to work effectively with them. I have recommended the program many times."

See reverse side for listing of Township services.



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General (708) 383-8005
Senior Services (708) 383-8060
Youth Services (708) 445-2727
www.oakparktownship.org
for news and more detail.