



**Orion Area**

Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

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**Executive Board**

Dawn Ames, *Chairperson*  
Jillian Nolan, *Treasurer*  
Nicole Quandt, *Secretary*

**Board of Directors**

Julie Monroe  
Lauren Smith  
Jesse Sampson  
Jennifer Vezina  
Hailey Reighard, *Student Board Member*

**Staff**

Amber Kish, MA  
Caseworker

Lisa Gdowski  
Office Manager

**Sponsors**

Charter Township of Orion  
Lake Orion Community Schools  
Oakland County Circuit Court –  
Family Division  
Village of Lake Orion

**Programs**

Camp Scholarships  
Enrichment Scholarships  
Family Education  
SPLAT camp  
Youth Recognition

Dear Orion Community Member,

**Orion Area Youth Assistance (OAYA)** is a local organization which seeks to strengthen youth and families and to prevent and reduce delinquency, neglect, and abuse through community involvement.

OAYA is funded in part by Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division, Orion Township, the Village of Lake Orion and Lake Orion Community Schools. However, community donations and help are needed, now more than ever, to support the casework, counseling, scholarships and programs provided by OAYA.

For more details on OAYA, our work and our programs, please see the following pages and view our Annual Reports through the included QR Code.

We are currently soliciting donations and sponsorships from local businesses, such as yourself, for the OAYA programs listed below:

- |  |                                |                                |                                |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Camp Scholarships       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enrichment Scholarships | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Recognition       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Education/Events | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SPLAT – Summer Camp     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use for greatest need   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
- (general sponsor)

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of one of the above programs, please check the box next to the program and the donation amount. You may also choose to be a general sponsor of the OAYA program where your donation will be used in an appropriate manner decided by the Board of Directors based on the needs of families in Orion.

Checks may be made out to Orion Area Youth Assistance and mailed to:  
Orion Area Youth Assistance  
CERC Building Room 8  
455 East Scripps Rd.  
Lake Orion, MI 48360

Businesses/donors who donate \$500 or more will be designated a Platinum Sponsor. Those who donate \$250 - \$500 will be designated a Gold Sponsor and those who donate \$100 - \$250 will be a Silver Sponsor.

As a donor/sponsor your business logo and link to your business website will be listed on our website along with the Platinum/Gold/Silver Sponsor status. Your business logo and web link, where appropriate, will also be included on all website, social media and any other promotional material and documents associated with specific programs.

Thank you so very much for your consideration. Any and all donations are used for our Orion youth and stay right here in Orion! We could not continue the programming that we do without our community's support!

## **About Orion Area Youth Assistance**

Orion Area Youth Assistance (OAYA) is a community-based program whose mission is to strengthen youth and families and to prevent and reduce delinquency, neglect, and abuse through community involvement. This program, and others in Oakland County, exists due to a unique intergovernmental partnership with the local government, the local school district and the Oakland County Circuit Court - Family Division.

OAYA has a full-time caseworker and part-time clerical support staff. The caseworker is compensated fully by the Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division while the support staff person is paid with operating funds from OAYA donations and sponsorships. The rest of the organization is made up of a volunteer Board of Directors whose purpose is to coordinate services and resources through the involvement of local citizens in order to strengthen youth and families to help prevent delinquency, abuse and neglect. Its membership is composed of a cross-section of local citizens in various capacities of community leadership, business and professions.

The purposes of Oakland County Youth Assistance Programs are:

1. Mobilization of community interests, skills and forces on behalf of children and families.
2. Involvement of local citizens in developing/improving services designed to control, treat, eliminate and prevent delinquency, abuse and neglect.
3. Identification of social, psychological and environmental factors producing antisocial behavior.
4. Creation of programs to assist individuals in developing skills which will decrease the likelihood of delinquent, abuse and neglect behavior occurring.

## **Our Services**

- Casework services: All Youth Assistance counseling and referral services are offered to Orion Area residents for free. The participation of youth and their family is voluntary.
- Counseling Services: Our caseworker also provides short-term counseling to young people and families in need of supportive counseling and behavior monitoring, when other services may be beyond the family's resources. Participating families may also choose to participate in Youth Assistance community programs, such as Family Education, Camp, and Recreation Programs.

## **Our Programs**

OAYA has in place a number of programs to support Orion youth and we are consistently looking to develop new programs that support our mission and goals.

- Camp Scholarships: Each year, Orion Area Youth Assistance sends dozens of youngsters to summer camp through a scholarship fund known as our "Adopt A-Camper" program. Funding includes an annual contribution of \$5,000 from the Charter Township of Orion. This critically important program provides a wonderful camp experience to children who would otherwise not have the opportunity to attend camp. OAYA receives applications from families who meet financial guidelines as well as referrals from school personnel and local leaders for students who could benefit from a summer camp experience.
- Enrichment Scholarships: Enrichment scholarships of up to \$100 are available to students who demonstrate a need for financial assistance in order to participate in extra-curricular activities.
- Family Education and Family Events: These vary year by year depending on the perceived needs of our Orion youth and their families. Each year there is also a Family Fun Fest put on by OAYA and Lake Orion Schools Enrichment Services which is free for all families to attend and includes free activities and food.



- Youth Recognition: Every year OAYA holds an event to recognize youth in our community who have gone “above and beyond” – those who have helped an individual, an organization, or have performed a heroic deed without compensation. We also recognize students who have demonstrated a dramatic positive change in attitude or behavior, overcome a significant obstacle (health, family situation, etc.), or have made a strong, positive academic turnaround. We recently also added a category to recognize students who demonstrate good citizenship in their schools and community.
- SPLAT (Study, Play, Learn And Talk): SPLAT is a 6-week summer camp program for incoming K- 6<sup>th</sup> grade students who are identified as having one or more risk factors that interferes with school success. SPLAT is a FREE program hosted in two at-risk Lake Orion neighborhoods serving a total of 68 elementary students this past year. SPLAT provides academic instruction and a camp-like experience to students for 16 hours weekly over the course of 6 weeks during the months of July and August. SPLAT is fun, engaging and focused on individual student academic, behavioral, social and emotional growth while building necessary skills in teamwork and cooperation. Students receive 2 meals daily and strong relationships are built with students and families which helps to reduce barriers and build lasting support for families in need.

While OAYA receives some funding from Oakland County Court, Orion Township, the Village of Lake Orion and Lake Orion Community Schools, community donations are invaluable in making available the additional programs to all who need them.

Scan the QR code to learn more about  
OAYA and our programming through our Annual Reports

