



ONTARIO COUNTY YOUTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

CONDUCTED JULY 12 - 27, 2011

FINAL REPORT

REVISION LEVEL 1.5

SCOTT A. WARBURTON
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS
JULY, 2011

METHODOLOGY

The United Way of Ontario County commissioned this survey to study what the people who live and work in Ontario County perceived were the primary needs and issues of youth in the county as well as their recommendations of what issues should take priority to receive program funding.

3,255 invitations were distributed to known United Way donors who either lived or worked in Ontario County. In addition, people with key roles in workplaces and agencies in the county were invited to participate. People were encouraged to share the survey website link, most likely incurring further input.

SURVEY RESPONSE

982 survey site visits produced 759 completed surveys making the results representative for the Ontario County population and determining a confidence level of 95% with a margin of error at $\pm 4\%$.

COMPOSITE POPULATION YOUTH NEEDS

MOST IMPORTANT YOUTH ISSUES

Respondents were first asked to select what they believed were the five most important issues concerning youth in Ontario County today from the following list of twenty (20) topics:

- Access to mental health services
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- Availability of child care
- Bullying
- Child abuse / neglect
- Gambling abuse / addiction
- Health services availability for youth
- Hunger
- Lack of access to safe housing for youth
- Lack of after-school programs
- Lack of before-school programs
- Lack of evening and weekend programs for youth
- Lack of family structure and parenting skills
- Low graduation rates
- Obesity
- Poverty
- School drop-out rates
- Teen pregnancy
- Violence / crime / vandalism
- Youth needing professional supervision (PINS)

In a clearly defined list, respondents determined their top ten (10) issues in Ontario County with their accompanying percentage of all responses:

Rank	Youth Need by Ontario County Importance	% responses
1	Alcohol and substance abuse	67%
2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	67%
3	Bullying	46%
4	Obesity	36%
5	Child abuse / neglect	34%
6	Violence / crime / vandalism	30%
7	Lack of evening and weekend programs for youth	27%
8	Lack of after-school programs	23%
9	Access to mental health services	22%
10	Poverty	21%

.No other issue received more than 20% of the selections.

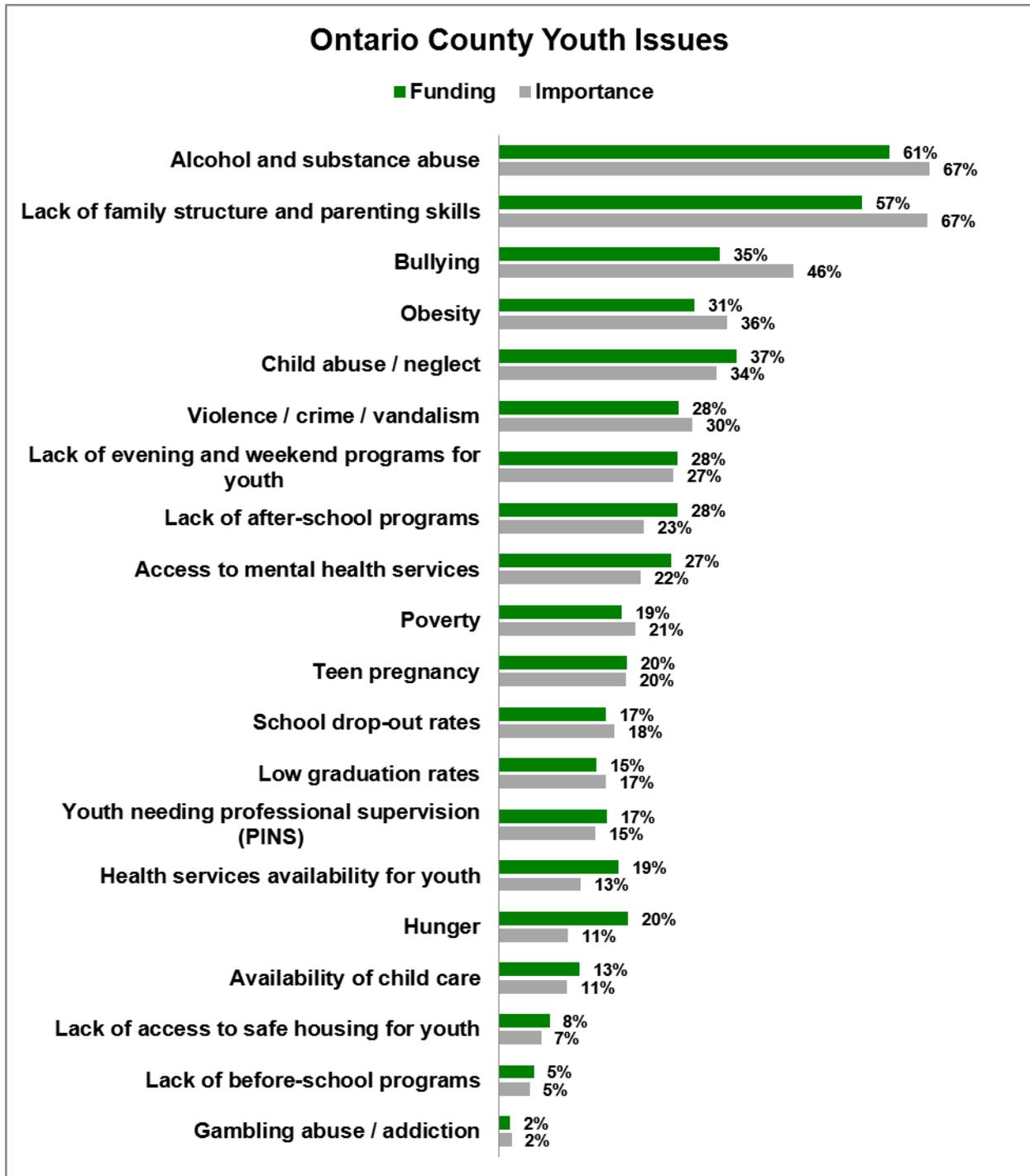
Second, from the identical list of issues, respondents were asked which should receive priorities and funding for corrective programs. The results, again with the accompanying percentage of all responses:

Rank	Youth Need by Program Funding	% responses
1	Alcohol and substance abuse	61%
2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	57%
3	Child abuse / neglect	37%
4	Bullying	35%
5	Obesity	31%
6	Violence / crime / vandalism	28%
7	Lack of evening and weekend programs for youth	28%
8	Lack of after-school programs	28%
9	Access to mental health services	27%
10	Hunger	20%

The lists, although similar and correlating to a surprising .970, included the following primary differences:

- 1) CHILD ABUSE / NEGLECT became more important on the funding list
- 2) HUNGER replaced POVERTY at #10 but was virtually tied with TEEN PREGNANCY, POVERTY, and HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABILITY FOR YOUTH
- 3) In general, people had a harder time determining which issues deserved the most program funding since the percentages “flattened out” and became more closely grouped

The comparative graph showing results for all issues for both importance and funding:

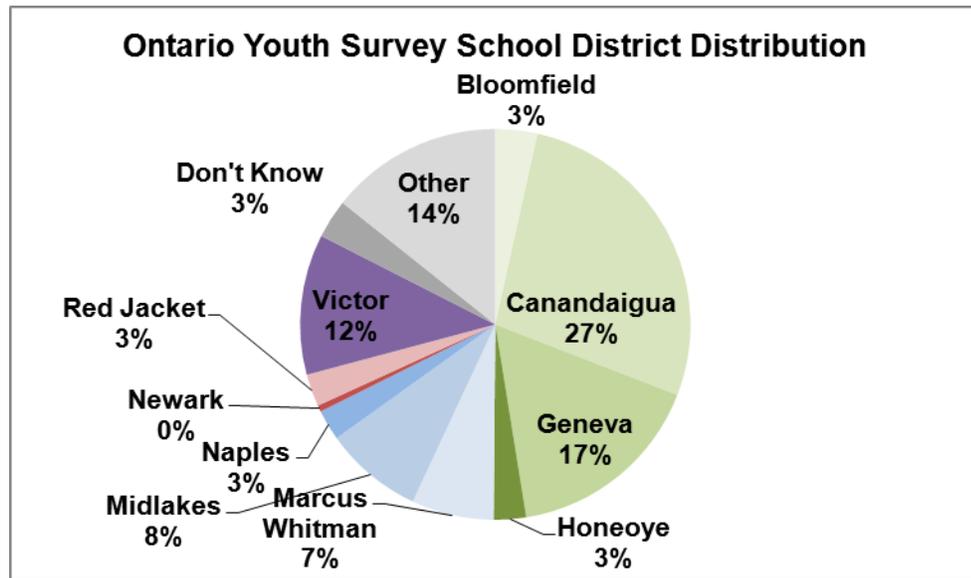


SUMMARY OF RESPONDING POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

Survey respondents provided information about themselves for school district, family status, and age.

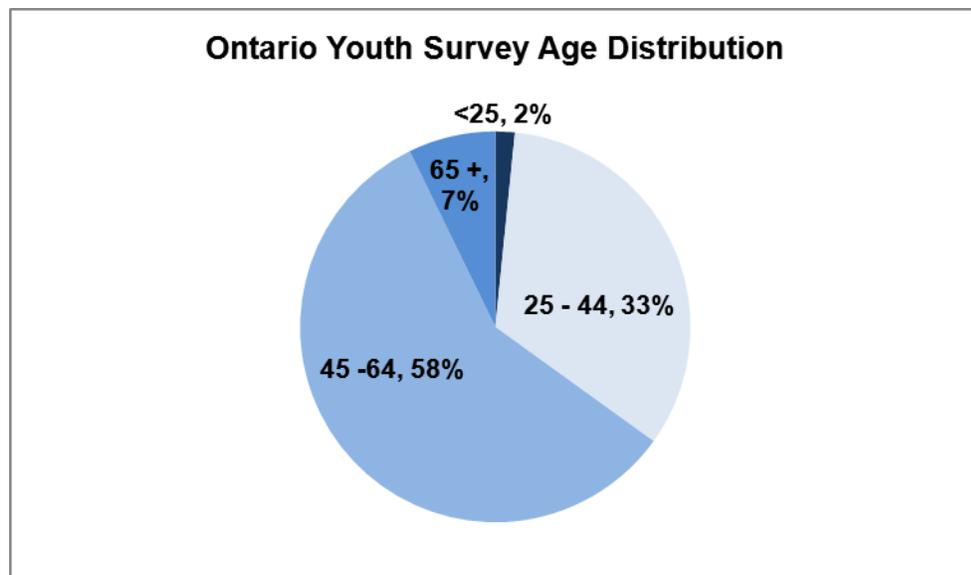
SCHOOL DISTRICT

While the larger school districts had the majority of responses, all districts were represented:



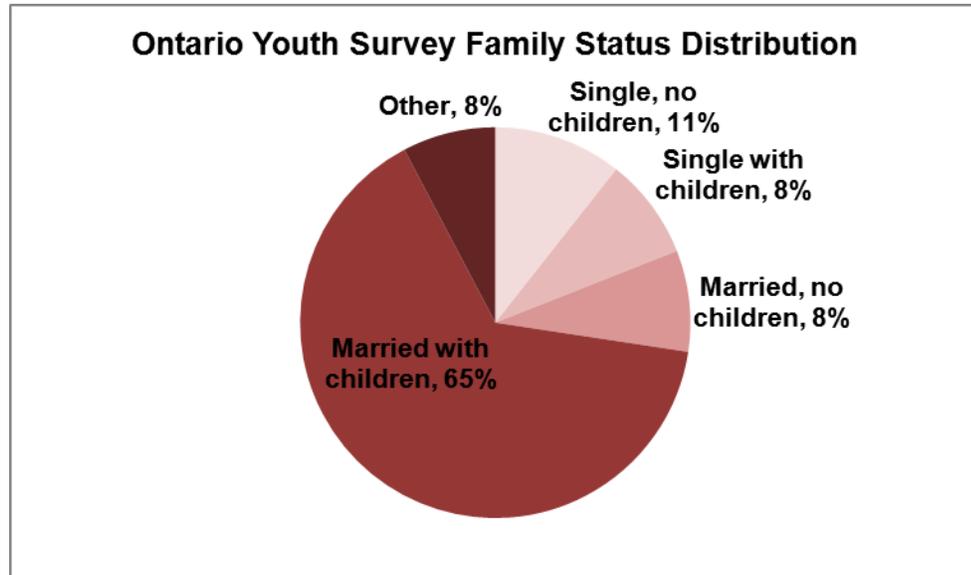
AGE

Typically, the middle age ranges provided the majority of responses:



FAMILY STATUS

Married with children provided the most responses:



Homogeneity of the stack ranking of youth issues was pervasive throughout each of the demographic categories. With very few exceptions, the leading issues were ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCES ABUSE and LACK OF FAMILY STRUCTURE AND PARENTING SKILLS. The remaining issues of the top five for almost all demographics came directly from the top ten list of the combined county results.

The following section reports the top five Ontario County issues and priority program funding issues for each of the primary demographics subsets.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

School District: Canandaigua	N = 207	27.5% of responses
-------------------------------------	---------	--------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Bullying
#4	Obesity	Obesity
#5	Lack of evening /weekend programs	Access to mental health facilities

School District: Geneva	N = 126	16.7% of responses
--------------------------------	---------	--------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#3	Low graduation rates	Violence / crime / vandalism
#4	Violence / crime / vandalism	Child abuse / neglect
#5	School drop-out rates	School drop-out rates

School District: Victor	N = 87	11.6% of responses
--------------------------------	--------	--------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Child abuse / neglect	Bullying
#5	Obesity	Access to mental health facilities

School District: Midlakes	N = 61	8.1% of responses
----------------------------------	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Obesity	Lack of after-school programs
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Violence / crime / vandalism

School District: Marcus Whitman	N = 62	6.9% of responses
--	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#3	Bullying	Bullying
#4	Obesity	Child abuse / neglect
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Obesity

School District: Bloomfield	N = 26	3.5% of responses
------------------------------------	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Hunger
#4	Youth needing professional supervision	Youth needing professional supervision
#5	Lack of evening /weekend programs	Lack of evening /weekend programs

School District: Red Jacket	N = 20	2.7% of responses
------------------------------------	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Alcohol and substance abuse
#3	Child abuse / neglect	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Violence / crime / vandalism	Violence / crime / vandalism
#5	Bullying	Bullying

School District: Honeoye	N = 20	2.7% of responses
---------------------------------	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Lack of evening /weekend programs
#4	Child abuse / neglect	Child abuse / neglect
#5	Violence / crime / vandalism	Health services availability for youth

School District: Naples	N = 19	2.5% of responses
--------------------------------	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#3	Bullying	Obesity
#4	Obesity	Child abuse / neglect
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Bullying

School District: Other / Don't Know	N = 131	17.4% of responses
--	---------	--------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Obesity	Obesity
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Bullying

AGE

Age: Up to 25	N = 12	1.6% of responses
----------------------	--------	-------------------

Ontario County Issue		Program Funding Priority
#1	Bullying	Bullying
#2	Teen pregnancy	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Obesity	Access to mental health services
#4	Poverty	Teen pregnancy
#5	Access to mental health services	Child abuse / neglect

Age: 25 to 44	N = 249	33.3% of responses
----------------------	---------	--------------------

Ontario County Issue		Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Obesity	Bullying
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Obesity

Age: 45 to 64	N = 432	57.8% of responses
----------------------	---------	--------------------

Ontario County Issue		Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Obesity	Access to mental health services
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Bullying

Age: 65 and older	N = 54	7.2% of responses
--------------------------	--------	-------------------

Ontario County Issue		Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Health services availability for youth
#4	Obesity	Access to mental health services
#5	Violence / crime / vandalism	Child abuse / neglect

FAMILY STATUS

Family Status: Married with Children	N = 490	64.5% of responses
---	---------	--------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Obesity	Bullying
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Obesity

Family Status: Married no Children	N = 65	8.6% of responses
---	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Child abuse / neglect	Lack of evening and weekend programs for youth
#4	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#5	Obesity	Violence / crime / vandalism

Family Status: Single with Children	N = 63	8.3% of responses
--	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Bullying
#4	Violence / crime / vandalism	Child abuse / neglect
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Lack of after-school programs for youth

Family Status: Single no Children	N = 81	10.7% of responses
--	--------	--------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#2	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#3	Bullying	Bullying
#4	Obesity	Child abuse / neglect
#5	Child abuse / neglect	Obesity

Family Status: Other	N = 61	8.0% of responses
-----------------------------	--------	-------------------

	Ontario County Issue	Program Funding Priority
#1	Lack of family structure and parenting skills	Lack of family structure and parenting skills
#2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Alcohol and substance abuse
#3	Bullying	Child abuse / neglect
#4	Child abuse / neglect	Bullying
#5	Obesity	Violence / crime / vandalism

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

20% of respondents took the time to submit additional comments, amplify selections, or voice their supplementary opinions. Their unedited, alphabetical comments were:

- 1 All adults in the community need to come together to guide and assist our youth in attaining physical health, an education and a positive outlook on life.
- 2 All of the issues that were listed could be potential areas of concern. I am thrilled to see the United Way reaching out to make a difference.
- 3 As a mental health professional working exclusively with children and families I see a dire need for more child care for behaviorally challenged primary and elementary aged school children. The parents of these children get burned out easily and need respite to gain a minimum level of stress management. I have also noticed more and more families choosing alternatives to a public education primarily due to bullying. I also feel our community is unaware of the high level of poverty for women and children in our county.
- 4 As a retired teacher in the county, the role of the United Way is becoming even more important due to funding cuts for education. Your services and programs are critical; keep up your wonderful efforts.
- 5 As a teacher, I feel powerless at times because of the lack of safe housing for homeless Ontario county teens. I have students who do not have a home, and it is extremely difficult for them to focus on education. something needs to be done.
- 6 As identified above, the issues concerning youth are important to address, but I also believe it is important for United Way to see the importance of leisure activity as a way to combat these issues in a safe, positive environment. Curriculums are a good tool to use for discussion with youth, but I find the more curriculums that are offered, the more we lose the youth that only want to have leisure recreation. Even those who participate in the curriculums with pre and post tests, do not always do well because they do not take the tests seriously even though they have positively engaged in discussion and activity. Youth need more time for recreation activity
- 7 Basically Children are not taught any self reliance and graduate from high school with no ability to solve problems and are taught to be proud it's not there fault and thier problem will be solved by and agency or program.
- 8 Being honest and sincere and that the money will actually go to the programs intended. Not someone's pockets
- 9 Being involved in the school system, I see students daily that need guidance-I believe parenting should be taught-Have seen at least three teenage pregnancies this year-why? Kids need things to do to build their skills and give them self worth instead of walking up and down the street smoking to be important. Of course there are many,many more who have good parenting and do very well. It just seems that we give lip service but really don't care about those in need.
- 10 Bullying culture in he schools especially for those not able to buy the ltest trends.
- 11 Bullying is huge right now, especially since face book has become so popular. I believe teen depression and even suicides are resulting from this. Parents need to learn to be parents and not buddys.
- 12 Child Care for parents tring to help themselves.
- 13 Children are becoming more disrespectful of adults and peers. They expect to be handed everything and work for nothing. They have high demands in school, which is leading to the drop out rates increasing and test scores decreasing. Children used to respect their teachers. Today they yell, hit, spit at, and tell off their teachers. More needs to be done to ensure parents are bringing up their children to be respectful.
- 14 Children having children is a big issue, sets young people AND their children back economically, educationally. Big need for practical education - how to budget, how to plan, how to parent, how to use common sense to stay out of trouble and make your way forward in life.

- 15 Children will succeed only if they have parental help/structure/standards and love.
- 16 Children having children is a serious problem. Unfortunately it is acceptable with no ramifications to either biological contributor. The county and state continue to hand out assistance with no expectation of any copayment or society/ social service contribution and repayment. We contribute to a mentality that this irresponsible behavior is acceptable. Often these young women are on living the life they were exposed to and need to know that it is the responsibility of the parents of the child, regardless of age to take care of, provide for and be accountable for their child and their actions. That those who do work, take responsibility for their action and offspring, contribute to society and the tax rolls, and may I say, usually do not get any assistance, for their own kids college tuition, or grants, etc. because they are in the working middle class, are not responsible for providing for their poor decisions and irresponsibilities. We are sick of it! There has to be a break in this cycle and it needs to happen soon. Unfortunately there will be a generation that will take the brunt of all the others, but for change to occur, someone has to take the brunt and I am tired of being the one to take the brunt for something that I had not part in creating and would never expect another to be responsible for my own carelessness and irresponsibility. But you are sorry you asked my thoughts! I work hard for my money, as does my husband. We take care of our family and responsibilities, pay our bills and way too many taxes, and it seems we just get nothing back for it...
- 17 Comments related to Ontario County
- 18 Educating young/low income parents RE: developmental milestones, how to play with their children, importance of reading to them, etc. is key to their children's success in school!!! A "Healthy Baby/Child" program or "Parenting Mentors" that make home visits are desperately needed in our area.
- 19 Educational opportunities to meet their needs and interests and that they have enough educational and emotional support to be successful in school.
- 20 Even though I live in Livingston and not Ontario County..I have raised two children past the youth and teen years to the early twenties, I have seen the challenges facing not only the parents and the education system, but the pressures put upon the youths themselves, by their peers and even the schools system.. I have also seen how alcohol and drug abuse in the youth can follow them into adulthood and affect them for years and years.. I feel law enforcement needs to be increased and the levels those can reach needs to be brought back to a stricter level..The youth today, if they so choose, can enter into a life of crime with little fear of authority..The United Way is an important safety net allowing other issues facing the youth to be eliminated or at the very least..lessened. Allowing the children a fighting chance to face all those other problems they have to deal with on a daily basis..Of course..parenting is and will always be the most important issue dealing with the youth of today and the future.
- 21 Every issue you list is worthy of funding but I understand you have limited resources. Hopefully you can help to fund other organizations that can cover all these issues on a community-wide basis.
- 22 Families need an advocate to get appropriate services and supports from their schools. At a time when schools are being asked to make tough budget choices, children with special needs are often forced to bear an unreasonable share of that burden. Youth and families in those situations need an advocate to help them obtain/retain necessary services and supports.
- 23 Family support structures are needed in all our school districts. A referral to a support center when problems first present can go a long way in preventing escalation. The centers typically use a strength based approach and are short term. Referrals to other needed services can be made as well. They are designed to work with the whole family, not merely one child at a time. Use of these centers could make a huge impact on all the problems listed on the survey.
- 24 Family unity and belief in God are a very important aspect for proper raising youth. This ties in to good education and parental guidance for schooling. It is a very difficult issue but can be solved!
- 25 Family values, care, nurturing.
- 26 Focus should be on keeping families together, decreasing the # of newborn children to unwed / welfare state mothers, strengthening the family unit (marriage counselling, etc.)&

getting kids educated (stay in school). A high % of our problems in society are due to the breakdown of the family unit & more children being born into single parent/welfare homes. Kids without a sound family structure & educated parents tend to become an anchor on the community.

- 27 For the most part, I think Ontario County does a great job.
- 28 From my perspective it comes down to making good decisions, kids need counseling on exactly what good decisions, these bad decisions influence their whole life.
- 29 Fun, engaging, monitored after school and weekend events, would keep the kids off the streets, away from drugs and busy
- 30 Getting youth connected to existing services and support
- 31 Good Mental Health services targeted towards Teens and their special needs are a huge priority in Ontario County.
- 32 Help me understand why the first question doesn't answer the second question.
- 33 I am a firm believer in youth are looking for direction and just need someone besides their parents affirming what are the right and correct career paths to choose. Mentoring
- 34 I am actually from the Seneca County Area but have elected programs in the Ontario County area, only because they have programs that help out all area kids, even in Seneca County... Rasing 3 kids ranging from 8-13-17 I have seen all the items I listed above. We need more for our children today, and more resources and communication out to parents to educate them. Letting them know by having these programs and them utilizing them will only benefit the entire family in the long run. Bullying and kids not having a decent up bring, can affect many youths today, and is a huge issue in the Seneca County area.
- 35 I am an anger management facilitator and would like to see more funding so I can continue providing my services at after-school programs. I would also like to be able to bring more awareness to the community on the stigma of anger management and that we all need to learn about it. For more information I also provide free community awareness information packets and set up booths at events. Contact me for further information. Rachel Bruzee 315-759-3741
- 36 I am told by teens they feel there is no way they can afford college so there's no need to go to school. These children come from homes where parenting is poor. they are neglected, the parents are under educated and offer few parenting skills.
- 37 I am very concerned about the cuts by the State in all our Youth Programs.
- 38 I beleive kids need to be held accountable. for their actions. Kids need guidance and structure.
- 39 I beleive that you need to also focus on building self-esteem so that kids to not become prey to adult/peer predators and lead them to other diseases such as anorexia or bulemia or drug/alcohol abuse.
- 40 I beleive the biggest issue facing today's youth is the instability of the family unit, assuming one exists. Some families need more assistance than others learning how to cope with each other as well as their environment.
- 41 I believe fixing the school systems, making sure that students attend and enjoy classes will help fix all other problems. An educated society will be able to finacially support themselves, and the more educated they become the more aware they will be in regards to other social issues, such as bullying, drugs, and abuse. As the saying goes "knowledge is power"!
- 42 I believe that we need to help parents be parents and not their child's friend. Parenting courses of some kind would be helpful. With so many single parents we need to show them how to be strong and in control.
- 43 I believe there is a huge problem with mental health resources for both youth and adults in our community. These people need help!
- 44 I believe we have to provide assistance to youth regarding values. Apparently these are not be taught in the home. Teaching children values (honesty, integrity, etc. right from wrong) guides them to be successful teens and adults.
- 45 I didn't think Bullying was an issue in the Academy until I heard it "announced" during the Graduation ceremony this year. THAT'S a problem, when the Srs. are joking about the Freshman being "fresh meat." And I have since heard about Ginger day, when Red heads are beat on. Where do kids come up with this stuff? They have deep seeded anger issues

- when they have to LOOK for differences and hurt someone physically or verbally to make themselves feel "better." It's sad. So sad.
- 46 I feel lack of parenting skills is a huge issue that leads to the other problems. Thanks for investigating!
- 47 I feel that a good portion of youth issues could be solved within the family unit. A supportive, disciplined background would go a long way toward helping today's youth.
- 48 I feel that most of the problems stem from poor parenting. Lower income families have a tendency towards poor living conditions & the adults are not skilled in making better choices for themselves, therefore the children tend to follow in their footsteps.
- 49 I feel the biggest issue facing youth today is alcohol & substance abuse. If there were more programs for youth to participate in it might cut down on some of this. The youth have nothing to do and use the alcohol & drugs to occupy their time. If you are not in sports or music, there are not many other opportunities for participation for our youth in school or out.
- 50 I have worked in a number of venues that have involved young people, schools, coaching, etc.. I have found that determining factors for success or failure in life covers all aspects of our community. Having access to good preschool programs, family participation through out the formative years, accountability and respect are key to the success or failure of our youth.
- 51 I notice a lack of proper knowlege of performance expectations on the job. Many students and young adults are not aware of attendance, proper attire, acceptable vocabulary. many lack a work ethic.
- 52 I own a home over by charter homes in Geneva it is very difficult seeing the amount of children that are wandering the streets all hours of the night. It also seems like in Geneva the rates for teen pregnancy is going up. Weekends are especially bad due to no programs running for these youth to attend. I heard so much about the boxing program that was funded by extreme home makeover but there is no advertisement. I also give kudos to a parents who was trying to raise money for his child in our area to attend a sport. It is difficult for the youth in our area to attend do to the costs of these programs. I know this first hand because I sponsored a child for baseball. This is a huge need.
- 53 I really think bullying and lack of parenting are top issues, both of my children have had various problems with being bullied and have told me about others who have had this problem and I believe it ties in with parenting.
- 54 I think a huge problem in Ontario County, namely places like Geneva, is parenting skills, or lack thereof. Children are brought up in homes where parents have no idea how to raise their children. Schools can only do so much; it is up to the parents to stress the importance of education, class, courtesy, etc. And, yes, it is hard when the parents themselves are struggling, but some just do not put in the effort to take care of their children. There should be mandatory classes or something along those lines to get parents into gear.
- 55 I think affordable child care is more the issue than available child care. Also with increased unemployment health care for youth becomes a major issue.
- 56 I think Drugs are the root of almost all problems for our teens. The drug "Spice", the "legal" pot, needs to be banned. They sell it at the Parkway Plaza in the tobacco store.
- 57 I think Geneva lacks programs for teens and training / educational opportunities for young people who drop out of school and/or arrive from other areas/countries and do not necessarily incorporate themselves to the school district.
- 58 I think having a school resource officer at the schools is very important and lessens the burden on the school officials.
- 59 I think our school systems are doing a better job in getting youth involved in volunteer activities, but I think this really needs to be pushed hard - youth who see the needs in their communities and help become better, more caring adults.
- 60 I think teens need a safe non judgmental person or organization they can go to for guidance. Small towns are very discriminatory and teens that are gay or being bullied need support just like everyone else.
- 61 I think with the change in school funding your audience is going to grow considerably. The cancellation of all modified sports at Red Jacket saved \$6.600 in the athletic budget but ended soccer, wrestling, basketball, baseball for 100's of students in the 7/8 grade at the same time they are most likely to experiment with drugs, smoking, sex. In a couple years we could be in a real pickle. Matt Schaertl 289-9594

- 62 I volunteer in the community to help with youth, and it's sad to see these kids with no family structure or family members who care about their well being.
- 63 I work in Geneva. I continually see students especially in the evenings what appears to be wandering the streets. These could very well be young adults out of school age. There is very little, if anything, for them to do. We need to come up with some projects that at least attempt to engage the young.
- 64 I work with E.D. kids at Red Jacket Education Center. I see poor parenting skills everyday. Parents that need more respite help. Kids that need more activities than vidio games and T.V.. Kids with poor eating habits,and poor Hygiene habits.
- 65 I would also like to see you address dysfunctional family life and lack of employment opportunities for youth 14-21.
- 66 I know it sounds goofy.. but youth of today are our future... without adequate guidance, struture, nurturing, education.. we as a society have a future that doesn't look so bright.
- 67 Issue the united way has help lot of people in this community
- 68 It is a perception that our city, town surrounding areas are perfect; this isn't the case. There are hungry people, hungry kids, kids being abused, etc. etc. in this area. It needs to stop being masked and we all need to open our eyes to what is going on around us.
- 69 It is very important for children to learn about respect. Children today have no real concept of respectng other people and their possessions.
- 70 It would help if more went to church. School sports/activities helps too and I appreciate how the schools try to keep as many kids in the sports & activities as they can.
- 71 Job skills, parenting so youth are not on streets and getting into trouble, tutoring, volunteer opportunities perhaps even to acquire job skills
- 72 Just give them a skate park!
- 73 Just the laziness and lack of responsiblity of parents to teach values, morals, etc. I dont have any children but I am around neices and nephews all the time and just in general the disrespect kids have is sad.. the anger and hatred toward so many .. I think too much TV and cell phones and cyber bullying etc. is out of hand..
- 74 Keep the Youth Court-it is vital. Implement programs for after school and week-ends for those not involved in school activities. They need a place to go.
- 75 Keep up your work. It's very important.
- 76 Kids today have no respect for anyone now a days and they think that they should get everything given to them on a silver platter.
- 77 Lack of activities for teenagers
- 78 Lack of parenting skills for people with kids entering puberty and beyond.
- 79 Lack of supervision. I see young children walking the streets in the evening hours.
- 80 Lack of supportive parenting is frightening.....leads to major issues in adulthood.
- 81 Many kids get into trouble outside of the normal hours of official programs, in the evening hours. Many are bored and find things to do that are not good for the community at large. They need something safe and interesting to do in the later hours.
- 82 Many of the youth I see in my community do not come from stable households or have parents who have let them live like adults. Some parents even participate in illegal activities alongside their teens. These are not the type of parents who will attend family counseling or even recognize their actions have affected their child.
- 83 Many youth issues would be resolved if parenting improved. Youths suffer when parents do not take responsibility for their children.
- 84 Mental health services are limited and hard to acquire. Parents need more say in each situation since they know their child best.
- 85 Most after school programs are for regular attending school. Program starts at the end of their day. No need to go home, then bus takes them home at end of program. for example big brother/big sister. What about the children that have to be bussed out of district due to unable to service them. a child with a disability. Then these children would be driven straight home and nothing. Due to if they were taken to home school district - the program would already be over. Then child is left with nothing to participate due to the bussing / transportation. What about a program that is on the Weekend for these children and transportation is provided.

- 86 Need for parenting education groups for young teen parents.
- 87 Need more quality, inexpensive activities for families and children.
- 88 Need to have a program that teaches youth respect for others of all ages and that parents do not owe them fancy things. If they have shelter, food, clothing and love and guidance, parents are doing their part to raise them properly and they need to respect that.
- 89 Neglect is reported over and over again and nothing is ever done to remove children from the toxic home environment.
- 90 Number of youth on city streets after dark is alarming.
- 91 Number one problem: lack of proper in-home parental guidance. Both parents forced to work. Many latch-key youth. Need educational programs for parents.
- 92 Ontario County has vast differences from town to town with the needs of their youth based upon the financial ability of each community to offer programming. It would be nice if the United Way could help level the playing field for the smaller, less affluent towns.
- 93 Parents need to provide supervision, structure, boundaries and help their children grow into functioning adults. I believe educational programs on Parenting should be available and encouraged for all prospective and current parents. It takes more preparation to get a driver's license than it does to be a parent!!
- 94 Please contact new officers at Salvation Army to partner in worthwhile projects. They sincerely wish to help!
- 95 Poverty is the root of all youth issues in the county. Parents are not working and are not able to provide food, clothing, medical care, and shelter; this leads to violence, crime, child abuse, and poor performance in schools.
- 96 Pretty much have covered it. Finding the interest of the youth sometimes is the hard part, and also the follow through from the youth and or family.
- 97 Prevention is the key. Keeping the youth active with non traditional sports. Arts, skateboarding, bike tricks, things like this with good male role models. I teach in Honeoye and there is a lot of hanging out after school. Middle School kids need a safe place to go when school activities end from 3 to 6PM.
- 98 Promoting family life with clarity to the role of the adults - both mother and father - encouraging healthy marriages. Most of the problems listed result in factual data of negative consequences from single parent homes without fathers.
- 99 Residents in Victor don't think there are any problems with the youth. You only know this if you experience it. Most parents turn a blind eye to their own children until their names turn up in the newspaper. Victor Schools also ignore drugs & alcohol. They even had a senior that has been a repeated offender give the speech to athletes on code of conduct.
- 100 School attendance issues are rarely addressed by CPS(educational neglect). Keeping them in school could solve a lot of other problems!
- 101 Schools need to be stricter. Parents need to be parents. Children need guidance, discipline and direction. It isn't a Village that raises a child it is a structured family.
- 102 Seems like the youth coming through the system right now is exposed to things that kids that age have never been exposed to before. It's getting a bit ridiculous
- 103 Skateboarders need a specific place to use their skills with their sport rather than in the City public areas.
- 104 Skateboarding concerns me and I'm not sure where that fits in -- I'm worried that someone is going to get hurt because there's no where for kids to safely skateboard. Specifically, I'm referring to Canandaigua.
- 105 So many of my students do not get the proper parental support at home with homework, etc. Parents are hard to contact and talk to. I'm not sure what can be done, but these issues are affecting how these children learn.
- 106 Some children do not respect anyone or anything. They want to do what they want and refuse to listen to adults. They resent authority. Just they are always in trouble.
- 107 Stop charging so much for families to enroll their children in sports such as baseball, soccer, etc. Families with young ones cannot usually afford these costs even though they are not classified as needing assistance.
- 108 Strongly recommend long range view on any programs, absent short range emergencies, of course. Anything you can do to encourage consistent development over time would be helpful.

- 109 Substandard foster care system
- 110 Teach at Red Jacket. Live in Monroe Cty.
- 111 Texting while driving-distracted while driving
- 112 Thank you for doing this! I hope it helps with directing your money to top area of needs in our county. Keep up the great work!
- 113 Thank you for what you do for kids.
- 114 Thanks for the opportunity to comment. Programs that I am involved in and/or are aware of that empower youth, help them with resource acquisition and teach them how to use those resources seem to be the programs that have the most success. Programs that replace abusive parents/caregivers with abusive professionals are worthless, they make no appreciable gains in youth issues that I am aware of.
- 115 The # 1 concern is to strengthen families and parenting skills. Programs for youth also very important.
- 116 The bad economy is hurting our schools and our students.
- 117 The Boys and Girls Club and Geneva Community Center are an incredibly valuable resource for youth in Geneva. Youth receive homework assistance and have a positive place to go after school, during the summer and weekends. Without this resource, many of these children would be on the streets and/or without the support they need to be successful in school. The United Way's support is critical to ability to continue to provide these services.
- 118 The children living in lower income families need help with school preparedness. They do not have the proper family support to succeed in school.
- 119 The correct language ...respect toward all adults
- 120 The drug problem and crime must be addressed by first involving the parents to make sure they are educated on these issues and provide the children with basic common sense and the ability to make sound decisions
- 121 The effects of domestic violence on children
- 122 The kids in this community need to have something to do, this will keep them out of some trouble.
- 123 The lack of parental control and supervision is everywhere you go in Geneva. From parents not participating in school events- or sporting events, movie theatre, local restaurants- kids run wild. Nobody takes responsibility for these children's actions, so we are discouraged with attending events where the actual event becomes the behavior of these kids. No respect from children to adults or even each other, the majority are bullies because their parents are also. You don't want your children to be associated with these events and students,
- 124 The need for family-centered/provided activities. Many children need a sense of purpose or opportunity.
- 125 The pressure to conform drives many students to engage in dangerous behaviors. Celebrating individuality - via art, music, dance, dress, lifestyle choices, etc. - should be incorporated into whatever services are provided for teens.
- 126 The problem is not teen pregnancy - but teen sexual activity..... do not address the wrong problem.... also, everything is pointing to an epidemic of alcohol and drug abuse - this really is #1 !!!
- 127 The youth of today are up at all times of the night wandering the streets with no parental structure. Parents are living in a cycle of poverty that continues into further generations. There needs to be programs to stop this from continuing. These families lack respect, have not enough education and some have language barriers that prevent them from becoming successful in the community they live in.
- 128 There are not enough agency's willing to work together for the children in Ontario County. Instead of addressing the issues regarding youth agency's want to blame it on mental health instead of behaviors. There is a lack of skill building for both the children and the parents. If agency's would think outside the box and come together united as one it would be so helpful.
- 129 There are after school programs available but the need continued United Way Support
- 130 There are far too many children and youth who skateboard, ride bikes, etc. without helmets! on a daily basis, kids go down the middle of my street (Chapin), and are at risk for accident or injury. I firmly believe we need to build an all-access skate park for these kids, because otherwise they are going to end up needing services as a result of accident or injury!

- 131 There are many worthwhile programs already available- I don't know how to better help kids access these programs already in existence.
- 132 There have been a disturbing number of child abuse cases reported in the news in recent months in Ontario County. I would say that is the number one issue to focus on.
- 133 There is a lack of Sexual Education for today's youth. Oral sex, etc. is not considered "having sex" and no thought is given to disease that may be transmitted through oral sex. Youth of today have a high acceptance of "Pot" useage and many adults are okay with that. No thought is given to the fact that it is still an illegal drug, addictive and leads to other drug useage. Parental monitoring of their children's whereabouts & activities lends itself to criminal activity and dangerous situations that many adolescents aren't mature enough to handle. Example - facebook pages where teens cyber bully each other and teenage girls post sexually provocative pictures of themselves and teenagers have thousands of "friends" that have access to their personal information.
- 134 There is one such youth that helped us here at the food pantry for the past three years. His father is in prison, he has a brother who just got out of jail, and a mother how has a hard time keeping a job. We heard this past week that they were evicted for failure to pay rent. It is sad as for three years now we have tried to support this family with food,etc. Encouraging the young lad to stay in school, go out for sports, and summer programs. We can only hope that the love and support he was given will carry him through any ruff days ahead.
- 135 There needs to be more basic character education done as many youths do not have a decent foundation at home; hence the social/academic issues
- 136 There really isn't much for the kids to do.
- 137 These are my thoughts on current youth problem's, not youth's thoughts.
- 138 These kids have access to stuff we never had access to including the internet. I know that we can't prevent our children from experiencing life but we should be able to show them that there are alternatives. Sports activities are a good outlet. But we have to look at the big picture and those kids that don't have an interest in sports or the arts. We also need to get parents involved and the community. But sometimes we neglect our elderly and they should be involved too.
- 139 Too many youths are unsupervised for long periods of time. Parents don't seem to care in some cases. Lack of supervision often leads to bad choices. There re a lot of bad/poor role models around.
- 140 Unsure if youth would support and take part in activities even if there were more programs in place. There is a definite lack in parenting skills among our young people who continue to have children that they can not support.
- 141 Victor needs a community center-like Town of Perinton has, Lyons, Palmyra, etc. Residents of Victor School district have only what Victor School allows access to, which many programs, activities, most require a fee. It would be nice for everyone to have access to fitness & activities in a community setting NOT involving the School campus.
- 142 We need more mentoring program in the area in which we live. We also need to come up some type of after school activities for our youth.
- 143 Well in our community I believe the weekend and after school activities are limited. The skate park is to be re-done however it was torn out and the kids that love to skate are forced now out in the community skating on the very streets they are banned from because thier park has been a slow moving project. The YMCA provides Y night however, you must be a member of the YMCA to get in for cheap and some people cannot afford to send there kids at 7 dollars a pop every friday. There really is no community center. Parents can put their kids in sports that that too cost money and not all people can afford to keep up with the expenses. It justleaves the kids in a place where they are more apt to get into trouble in my experience with youth!
- 144 We're considered a rural area and I believe young people today do not have enough after school places to go or things to do. Yes, we have a great Y and Salvation Army & even some church programs but we believe it's not enough to serve the population of youngsters who need healthy, supervised outlets.
- 145 With the state cutting school budgets, there are going to be fewer activities for teens to participate in through the school. A unified effort should be made in each community through churches and public and private groups to support families as a whole and teens

- themselves. After school is a vital time since few households now have a parent present when the teens get home. Clubs, sports, and employment keep teens productively occupied and help build confidence. Please keep supporting these activities.
- 146 Would like to see the school district re-engaged to focus on bullying, especially on school buses.
- 147 You REALLY need to do a random sample of the youth themselves to understand what the most prevalent issues are.
- 148 Youth and adult obesity will create huge medical issues in the future if we don't find a way of involving young people and some adults in more physical activity. Fund programs as well as facilities to combat this now.
- 149 Youth are experiencing the same problems as the rest of our communities: lack of parental involvement and lack of moral foundation.
- 150 Youth Living in Poverty - a joint project including community [private] employers, local business development groups and The United to find ways to bring in more jobs for teens and their parents. Maybe a grant program for women to begin their own small businesses to include 'classes' on 'how-to' given by women who have been successful - possibly in partnership with Genesee Valley Women's Foundation. Youth Offenders For 11 years Ontario County Youth Court has successfully brought youthful offenders to account for their actions and provided appropriate 'sentences'. They have reduced recidivism among these offenders and helped any to become contributing members in their communities.
- 151 Youth need the basics first to have a good foundation. This includes food, clothing, housing, consistent and caring caregivers. Second they need purpose through activities that they can be successful with and gain self esteem.
- 152 Youth today have no respect, too much vandalism, no curfews, parents are not held accountable for them, Geneva is no longer a safe place to live and the youths are what is driving homeoners to leave this area
- 153 Youth who are in serious trouble with alcohol and addiction many times have to say they are suicidal before they can get immediate help such as an inpatient stay for rehab. No one should be denied admittance to a facility if they are seeking help. Insurance requirements need to be addressed. I have heard of kids who have said, I want to kill myself just to get some help. Or you have to fail three times before you can get help. Maybe the third time will be one time too late. You have to try it at home and then if you can't make it you can be admitted. Even then the time they keep you in rehab is too short.
- 154 Youth who get in trouble once need support and guidance so that they stay out of trouble and the court system.
- 155 Youth with no family structure and lack of motivation on the parents part. Our young needs love, respect and taught the golden rule.