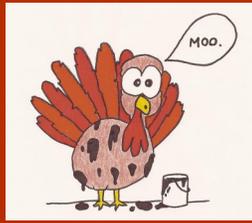


YWCA IS ON A MISSION

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **YWCA Annual Meeting**
5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 6
- **Staff Holiday Party**
Noon Thursday, Dec. 22



YWCA of Genesee County

Update

DECEMBER 5, 2016

Pre-turkey turkey!

Kids at Batavia Middle School enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast a few days before the big day, thanks to Child Care Lead Courtney Mowers.

She brought in a fully cooked bird and asked the After-School Adventure Program students to help out with all of the fixings. There was stuffing, potatoes, cranberry sauce, and home-baked desserts of snickerdoodles, Oreo cream pie and apple pie.

“The room smells amazing,” Courtney said. “They love it. I think they love more the fact that they get to do it, and it’s not just another day.”

This is the second year that Courtney has treated her fifth and sixth graders to this family-style feast. It’s a “full-on team effort,” she said. The group uses a Home Economics room equipped with four ovens. Everyone is assigned a task to do, which includes dealing with the mess left afterward.

Do they help clean up?

“They have to,” she said.

Thanksgiving is one of three major projects that she offers throughout the year. Christmas will bring a cookie fest and red, white and blue tie-dye T-shirts are hand-crafted in the spring.

Courtney would like to some day own and operate a 24-hour facility to help those parents that work odd shifts yet still need child care.

Photos above are of the kids getting busy in the kitchen at BMS.



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Program Numbers to Date ...

659.....new DV clients

189.....children in Adventure Program

694volunteer hours at the Children's Center in the Courts

13,447.....calls taken at Care+Crisis Helpline

61Live Chats at CCH



One Call or Chat at a Time

A Care+Crisis Helpline listener got the call at 4:50 in the morning and asked how she could help.

Visitor 4:51:02 AM

I'm honestly not even sure. Just saw this when I was looking for help in the batavia NY area

Visitor 4:52:21 AM

I'm with an alcoholic who is just rude and nasty 24/7. Walking on eggshells...don't dare speak...everything is my fault

Listener 4:52:57 AM

I'm sorry to hear that. That is a tough situation to be in. Are you in a safe place now?

Visitor 4:54:20 AM

He's passed out. Started a ton of stupid shit earlier...mainly just extremely emotionally and verbally awful. Hasn't laid a hand on me in a couple years

Visitor 4:54:58 AM

Everything I do to better myself or my situation he puts down and sabotages

Listener 4:55:23 AM

How long has this been going on?

Visitor 4:56:00 AM

15 years together...been super bad probably 5 or 6

After a few more minutes, the Listener discovers that the Visitor has children.

Visitor 4:57:55 AM

Kids won't come around because of his drinking

Listener 5:00:11 AM

I can understand why this is so emotionally draining. Have you ever talked with anyone regarding the abuse you are dealing with?

Visitor 5:00:56 AM

My doctor...who suggested I talk to domestic violence

Visitor 5:02:34 AM

I have depression issues ... bipolar...and dissociative episodes made way worse when he pulls his crap

Visitor 5:03:21 AM

So I'm not exactly thinking straight but I know I need help

Listener 5:04:06 AM

It sounds like you have a lot on

your plate right now. We have a group of wonderful advocates here at the YWCA that would be willing to talk with you and maybe go over some options and services available.

Visitor 5:04:50 AM

That would be amazing. Does it take a long time to see someone?

Listener 5:05:36 AM

Not at all. You can walk in Monday-Friday from 8am-5pm and you can be seen right away.

Visitor 5:06:12 AM

OK. That would be great.

Listener 5:09:52 AM

I'm glad to hear that. It can't hurt to meet with someone. Even if it just to talk and then from there you can decide which steps to take.

Visitor 5:10:28 AM

That's definitely what I could use help with. Thank you very much

Listener 5:10:55 AM

You're welcome. We are here 24/7 if you ever need to talk.

Discount Elf

If you're in My Sister's Closet Boutique before Christmas, be on the look-out for that little guy who likes to perch on the shelf in charming fashion.

Yes, Elf on the Shelf will be helping to promote surprise bargains in the Closet throughout December!

Specials include:

- 70% off all bottoms from Dec.5-10
- BOGO sweater Dec. 12-17

- 50% off anything that is red, green or blue Dec. 19-23
- 40% off all outerwear Dec. 26-30

Our volunteer staff was quite busy and did very well during our Black Friday "Fill-a-Bag" deal. So if you've got clothing and/or accessories that you no longer wear or need, bring them in to the Closet. It's for a good cause: proceeds benefit YW's Domestic Violence Crisis & Prevention Services program.



Ben There, Done That

Ben Lippa just completed his internship at the Care+Crisis Helpline after 11 months. The Chili resident will be graduating in May 2017 with an Associate's in Human Services and plans to pursue business administration at Roberts Wesleyan next fall. He came to us to fulfill some volunteer hours as part of his studies and caught the eye of CCH Program Manager Holly Baxter. She wanted to offer Ben an internship but wasn't sure how to contact him. While walking through the kitchen, she saw his name and number on a piece of paper. They both feel it was meant to be. He did the primary research for a crisis and referral software program that makes Holly salivate. Called iCarol, it is "an all-encompassing system" to organize



It's nice making a difference; it's not just serving coffee every day."

the Helpline's phone lines, text and Chat services and maintain a digital database. Sweet. It is now "on our wish list," Holly said, and awaiting funding. Ben is in progress with making a list of prospective grant resources.

After working at other fast-paced jobs, including a barista at a coffee shop, he learned an important lesson here.

"The thing I learned was to slow down, things don't change overnight," he said. "It was mind-opening. It's nice making a difference; it's not just serving coffee every day."

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

YWCA of Genesee County

301 North St.
Batavia, NY 14020
(585) 343-5808

YWCA's mission is to eliminate racism and empower women and the vision is to implement sustainable programs that foster healthy, balanced living for women and families.

Our three primary programs are:



The big picture. How often have you heard someone use that term to describe the entire scope of an organization or project? Don't get bogged down in the details, but look at the big picture. It can be hard sometimes to get past all of the nitty gritty of varying personalities and styles, problems and challenges. But if we can all look beyond those seemingly never-ending details, the big picture comes out of the shadows to display success stories of victims becoming survivors, volunteers pitching in to help a cause, families getting quality care for their children and people in need having some place to turn.

And that truly is something to smile about!

