

Briarpatch Youth Services 2018 Annual Report

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Briarpatch Youth Services has been the primary provider of services to runaway and homeless youth in Dane County for nearly fifty years.

The services we offer are designed to address a wide array of challenges youth and families may encounter or are already experiencing. Some of our services include:

- Parent support groups
- Support and crisis intervention for homeless youth and young adults
- Temporary shelter for runaway and homeless youth
- Case management
- 24-hour helpline providing access to counseling whenever needed
- Mentoring
- Youth employment programming
- A weekly support and social group for LGBTQ+ youth
- Restorative justice programs for youth

“...What a warm and friendly experience we had dealing with Briarpatch staff. They came to us.....in a very difficult and scary time in our lives.....I can't even explain in words how important and helpful it was to all of us.”

~Briarpatch client

Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY)

It is estimated that as many as 300 youth (ages 12-17) in Dane County are homeless each night. Briarpatch's Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) program works specifically with this population. Our professional staff and trained volunteers are committed to meeting the unique needs of each youth and family we support. RHY services include:

- Temporary shelter for 12-17 year olds
- Individual and family counseling
- Street outreach

Briarpatch staff actively work to reunite runaway and homeless youth with their families whenever possible. When family reunification is not possible, our staff assist youth with finding other safe housing.

2018 Runaway and Homeless Youth Data

- Our Street Outreach Program team connected with 4,720 homeless individuals throughout the community
- 97% of youth receiving shelter services returned home or to a safe alternative
- 819 calls were made to our 24-hour Help Line
- 1,247 nights of shelter were provided
- 8,215 referrals were made to partner agencies
- Our Street Outreach Program team screened, assessed, and provided case management and housing placement assistance to 90 homeless young adults



"I have been participating in parent support programming for about five years, after first learning about it seven years ago. Initially I was hesitant to attend, but once I started I never wanted to stop. I have gotten huge amounts of support, made good friends, learned about resources, and helped other parents by listening and by sharing my experiences as a parent of a now adult child with mental health issues and multiple drug addictions. I have laughed, cried, felt hopeless and hopeful over the years. I hope other parents going through struggles with their children will come and share their stories."

~ Participating Parent

Youth Employment

Briarpatch provides youth with supported employment opportunities through our Madison Summer Team and Support For Success programs. Youth participating in these programs are given the tools needed to develop employment skills through an evidence-based curriculum. Training topics include completion of job applications, effective interviewing techniques, financial literacy, effective communication skills, how to write a first-rate resume, and job search techniques.

What Peer Court participants had to say.....

“Definitely made me rethink my past actions and want to change my ways.”

“Youth Peer Court gives you another way that is more meaningful than a ticket, you learn from your mistakes.”

“It made me wake up and I am glad I have a clean record.”

“Thank you so much for teaching me to stand up for myself and not be peer pressured.”

“Great alternative and teaches kids about the law, etc.”

Court Involved Youth

Briarpatch believes in restorative justice for youth, a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by illegal behavior. Briarpatch works with youthful offenders in a variety of ways depending on the type and circumstance of the offense. Programs include:

- Youth Restitution
- Intensive Supervision
- Youth Peer Court

Briarpatch partners with several local agencies to serve youthful offenders. Youth are referred to the appropriate Briarpatch program and staff work to help these youth meet their court-ordered obligations.

2018 Court Involved Youth Data

- Youth performed 3,338 hours of community service and made \$20,080 in restitution payments.
- 91% of teens referred to our Youth Restitution Program successfully completed their court-ordered obligations.
- 29 volunteer jurors heard 155 cases in our Youth Peer Court Program.

Our Mission

Strengthening the Lives of Youths and Families

COURT INVOLVED IMPACT

Our Supporters

Briarpatch Youth Services is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. We are deeply grateful for the generous donors who support our mission of Strengthening the Lives of Youth and Families. Listed below are granting organizations who supported Briarpatch during 2018. We are extremely grateful to all our donors, who, for the sake of confidentiality, are not listed in this report.

Grants received from:

- Alliant Energy Foundation
- By Youth For Youth
- Capital Times KIDS Fund
- City of Madison
- City of Sun Prairie
- Covenant Presbyterian Church
- Cremer Foundation
- Dane County
- Epic Systems Corporation
- Eppstein Uhen Foundation
- The Evjue Foundation
- John J. Frautschi Family Foundation, Inc.
- Good Family Foundation
- Jack DeLoss Taylor Charitable Trust
- Kiwanis – West Side
- Madison Community Foundation
- Madison Rotary Foundation
- Magic Pebble Foundation
- Mid-West Family Broadcasting
- National Guardian Life Insurance Co.
- New Harvest Foundation
- The QBE Foundation
- Thomas S. Kemp Foundation
- U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Services
- United Way of Dane County
- Village of Cottage Grove
- Village of Oregon
- Willy Street Co-op
- WI Dept. of Children & Families
- WI Dept. of Health Services

Solicitations are made through direct mail appeals, grant proposals, sponsorships and verbal requests.

All contributions are used to support the agency's mission of providing services to youth and families. Donors may designate to restrict their contribution for a specific use.

From the parent of an Intensive Supervision client:

"...what a warm and friendly experience we had dealing with Briarpatch Youth Program. They came to us through the court system in a very difficult and scary time in our lives. [They] took our son under their wing and became a mentor to him when he truly needed just that. They talked to him about everything. Showing him how to fish, the importance of getting along with people, they took him to the library and showed him and helped him study. He gave great resources to use. I can't even explain in words how important and helpful it was to all of us."

2018 Financial Summary

Revenue total: \$ 2,997,101

Expense total: \$ 2,746,631

Program Operations: \$ 2,358,745

Administration and Fundraising: \$ 387,886



24-Hour Help-Line
608.251.1126 or 800.798.1126
Text 608.285.2776