



High Mountain Youth Project NEWSLETTER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Clayton Alred
Rita Combs
Vivian Isaacs
Deanna Oberheu
Luisa Rodriguez
Pauline Staski
Pam Tomlin
Leon Kranz
Joni Stettheimer

LINCOLN COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

www.highmountainyouth.org

February 2019



Event Planner/Emcee Pam Tomlin
and Board President Dr. Clayton
Alred

Second Annual White Apron Society Dinner Benefits High Mountain Youth Project

Eighty-one supporters of High Mountain Youth Project dined on a 10-course, gourmet dinner prepared by the White Apron Society chefs for the second annual "Eat, Drink and Be Mine" Valentine Fundraiser. The event was held at the beautiful Kokopelli Club on Wednesday, February 6th. Local chefs Brendan Gochenour of the Jockey Club and Mike James, chef at the Kokopelli Club and personal chef for R. D. Hubbard, organized the dinner. All of the chefs said they were honored to volunteer for such an important cause and were excited by the opportunity to demonstrate their creative skills. The White Apron Society's manager, Audrey Gochenour, introduced each course while Chris Randall, Noisy Water Winery's distribution director,



introduced the corresponding wine pairing. Nationally known jazz pianist, Michael Francis and trumpeter Charles Gordon provided entertainment for the evening. High Mountain's board president, Dr. Clayton Alred, spoke briefly about the Evening Drop-in Center.

Evening Drop-In Center Staff Hired

In October, High Mountain Youth Project accepted resumes for the position of Program Manager for the HMYP evening drop-in center. Interviews resulted in two extremely qualified applicants applying for the position. As a result, both applicants were offered positions at the evening drop-in center. Ms. Lucy Rodriguez and Ms. Barbara Whipple were hired in November as the Program Manager and the Program Assistant, respectively.



Lucy Rodriguez



Barbara Whipple

Lucy Rodriguez moved to Ruidoso in the fall of 2017 and officially retired from the Federal Government in January 2018. During her government career, she managed a Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program and served as a Family Life Consultant and a Family Advocacy Manager Assistant. Other employment included Case Management with Border Area Mental Health in Deming, NM and Clinical Counseling under supervision in Phoenix, AZ. In addition to working in several states across the United States, Lucy was also stationed in Portugal, Germany, South Korea and Japan during her career with the government. She possesses an under-graduate degree in Psychology and a Master of Science and Arts degrees in Clinical and Professional Counseling from Ottawa University.

Barbara Whipple worked in the private sector in the areas of intervention, prevention and treatment for more than 30 years. Barbara began her career with the West Virginia Department of Corrections writing psychological evaluations for the court while developing and implementing a wide variety of intervention and treatment programming. She also taught basic education Skills and GED programming for the West Virginia Department of Education within the prison system. She earned an undergraduate degree of Science in Sociology and a Master of Science degree in Mental Health Counseling, while holding certification as a Neuro-Linguistic Practitioner and a Master Addictions Counselor. Barbara moved to Ruidoso in 1997 and has worked with various organizations, providing educational programming and substance abuse prevention, intervention and treatment programming.

Visit the new link on HMYP's website, under "About Us", (meet our staff) for complete bios.

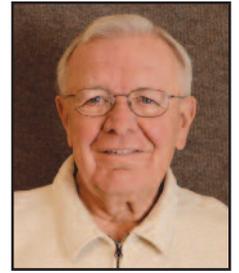
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New Board Members Named:

Two new board members were elected to the HMYP Board of Directors at the December 5th annual meeting. The board welcomes Ms. Joni Stettheimer, who has been a volunteer for the Great High Mountain Bed Race and Green Chile Cook-off since its inception; the board also welcomes the return of Mr. Leon Kranz, who returned to the board after a one-year hiatus. Leon previously served as board Treasurer for High Mountain Youth Project from inception until December 2017. HMYP welcomes both directors and appreciates their commitment of time and energy to the organization and welcomes the knowledge and insight they bring with them. Ms. Stettheimer and Mr. Kranz join returning board members, Dr. Clayton Alred, Rita Combs, Pam Tomlin, Vivian Isaacs, Luisa Rodriguez, Deanna Oberheu and Polly Staski. Dr. Alred will serve as Board President. The Rev. Laurie Benavides retired from the Board of Directors after serving as board secretary from 2014 – 2016 and as board president from 2016 – 2018. Laurie is recognized for her hard work and dedication to High Mountain Youth Project and her leadership during her tenure on the Board of Directors. The HMYP website provides complete bios for all board members at the "About Us" link, (meet our hmyp board of directors).



Joni Stettheimer



Leon Kranz

New Advisory Committee Convener Named

After serving as the Community Advisory Committee meeting "Convener" since May of 2017, Dr. Roy Benavides turned over his duties to Ms. Julie Mader-Cintron, who began serving as the committee Convener in January. The board appreciates Roy's commitment to the HMYP organization and Julie's willingness to accept this important responsibility. The Advisory Committee is a vital part of the HMYP organization by offering ideas and suggestions to the executive board for consideration. The Community Advisory Committee meets the second Friday of the month at 11 am at the Drop-in Center, located at 700 Mechem Drive, #14. Check HMYP's website or Facebook to confirm meeting dates and times.



Julie Mader-Cintron



Spencer Theater Christmas Tree

In case you didn't happen to visit Spencer Theater during December, you probably missed the "Candyland-themed" Christmas tree decorated on behalf of High Mountain Youth Project. Candy canes, gumdrops and other sweet treats decorated a tree that was among the favorites of the younger crowd who visited Spencer Theater. Instead of requesting donations for High Mountain Youth Project, the candy canes on the tree were attached to notes requesting "Volunteers to work with our "Sweet Teens". Thanks to volunteer Beverly Holt for her great ideas and help in decorating the tree.

LCMC "Run for the Mountain"

High Mountain Youth Project received a check from the Lincoln County Medical Center (LCMC) Foundation on December 19th. The check represented a portion of the proceeds from the September 8th "Run for the Mountain" (walk/run) event sponsored by LCMC. The donation will be used to help support the HMYP evening drop-in center. HMYP is especially grateful for the efforts of Mr. Todd Oberheu and Ms. Charla Latham for the generous donation as well as their efforts to help raise awareness of student homelessness in Lincoln County.



Staff and Volunteer Training

A Mental Health First Aid class was offered on January 19, 2019, thanks to the Paso del Norte Health Foundation's "Think.Change initiative" and Crimson Research at NMSU-Alamogordo campus. The training provided a blueprint for understanding and responding to the signs and symptoms of mental illness. ALGEE is the acronym for an action plan in times of crisis: A-Assess for risk of suicide or harm. L-Listen nonjudgmentally. G-Give reassurance and information. E-Encourage appropriate professional help. E-Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

Staff and Volunteer Training (cont.)

HMYP volunteer, Paula Ray-Bates, reported the training was excellent for those who do not have a mental health background and stated she gained an understanding of preconceived beliefs about mental health which contribute to stigma and increased barriers in recovery. She said the training helped her to understand what it means to be a good listener. Barbara Whipple, Program Assistant at the HMYP evening drop-in center, welcomed the emphasis placed on high risk circumstances, supporting a higher level of understanding and encouraging a true nonjudgmental approach, which are at the heart of HMYP.

BEHIND THE SCENES:

Grants Received: High Mountain Youth Project received a \$2000 grant from New Mexico Children's Foundation (NMCF) that will help support the HMYP evening drop-in center. The grant was paid in two \$1000 installments paid in July 2018 and January 2019. The NMCF grant will be used for staff salaries, rent and/or general expenses. HMYP also received a \$6500 Hubbard Foundation grant in December. The Hubbard grant was earmarked to purchase six study carrels and student chairs, five additional student laptops, headphones, motivational DVDs, and a locking storage cart to store and charge the laptops. A "work day" was held on Friday, February 8 to assemble the carrels, chairs and storage cart. HMYP thanks all who helped with assembly.

New Background Check Procedure: Staff, volunteers and tutors who work directly with students at the drop-in center are required to complete and pass a background check prior to working with students. The previous procedure to perform background checks took several weeks and sometimes as long as several months to complete after submitting fingerprints to the FBI for processing. A new procedure for performing background checks is now in place with results provided in two to three days. The HMYP Board of Directors has approved the cost of background checks to be paid by High Mountain Youth Project.

Shoes for Students: Students who visited the HMYP evening drop-in center since it opened in February 2018 (and several students who were recommended by Ruidoso High School Social Worker, Luisa Rodriguez) were contacted in November with an offer of a new pair of shoes or boots. Twelve students and their parents gratefully accepted the offer. HMYP thanks the very thoughtful donor who wishes to remain anonymous.

New Student Trifold: The Community Advisory Committee has formed a new "Promotion Group" that has been meeting since October to update the current student trifold. The current trifold was distributed to Ruidoso High School and Middle School teachers, local churches and placed in Food4Kids backpacks. The committee plans to offer a revised trifold to the Board of Directors for consideration at the February 12th board meeting. The revised trifold will place more emphasis on homework assistance, tutors and snacks available at the evening drop-in center to encourage more students to visit the center.

Make a Difference in Someone's Tomorrow —VOLUNTEER TODAY—

High Mountain Youth project (HMYP) is looking for volunteer Youth Workers to staff its Evening Drop-in Center. The Evening Drop-in Center is open daily and provides services for students aged 14 – 19 who need assistance.

Our Drop-in Center offers snacks and a hot meal, a place to shower and do laundry, and a place to study, use computers and receive help with homework. It provides a safe and healthy environment where students can relax, and interact with other students and trained, caring adults. For more information, email info@highmountainyouth.org or call 575-808-8633 and leave a message.

We envision a loving and caring community where all youth are protected, empowered, loved, respected and treated with dignity.

Our mission is to involve the communities of Lincoln County, New Mexico, in providing a comprehensive safety net for high school students experiencing homelessness.

A Note from the Editor:

If you wish to "unsubscribe" to our newsletter, or if you are receiving the newsletter in printed format and wish to receive it electronically, please email your request to: info@highmountainyouth.org. For additional information about our organization, email the address above, or visit HMYP's website at: www.HighMountainYouth.org.

It is with your kindness and generosity that our organization will meet its goals. You can make your tax-deductible donation by sending your check to: High Mountain Youth Project, P.O. Box 2646, Ruidoso, NM 88355, or by donating online through the website.

The High Mountain Youth Project Community Advisory Committee meetings are normally held the second Friday of each month. Please check our website: www.HighMountainYouth.org to verify date and time of the next Community Advisory Committee meeting. Questions regarding upcoming meetings may be directed to our email: info@HighMountainYouth.org.



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