



Youth Programming Needs Assessment For Rhinebeck, NY

Results
January, 2008

Commissioned by Young Rhinebeck, Inc.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

What's old is new again in Rhinebeck. Nearly 13 years ago Rhinebeck Connections (now known as Young Rhinebeck) was formed to address the problems of drug and alcohol use among local teens. One strategy was to pursue the development of a teen center. Today, drugs and alcohol, along with boredom, are viewed as the biggest problems among Rhinebeck teens, and calls for the development of a teen center still resound from community leaders and parents; it is the most frequently mentioned need for local teens.

The 2007 *Youth Programming Needs Assessment* identified those and other issues as it examined programs and activities currently available, and surveyed community leaders, parents, and youth regarding existing activities and types of activities needed/wanted.

The majority of Rhinebeck teens are involved in some sort of after school activity as well as summer time programs/camps. Parents indicated having some difficulty finding local activities, especially in the summer. For working parents, transporting their child to and from summer activities has often been problematic, particularly those requiring drop-off or pick-up during work hours.

Past surveys have uncovered a need for programming for middle school youth in particular. In the current survey this need has now expanded to early high school, as teens from 13-15 were perceived as having the least programming available to them. In general, both parents and students felt that more could be offered locally.

Sports seem to be "the only game in town" when it comes to youth programs, a number of Rhinebeck parents observed. But when given a choice of programs to enroll in, the majority of students made athletics/team sports their first choice. Surprisingly, parents still ranked it high, making it their second choice topped only by programs focusing on art/music/dance.

While those may be activities other groups and organizations might pursue, Young Rhinebeck's youth programs would center on programs that focus on helping people in need or programs exploring jobs/careers. Those two choices were among the top three of both parents and students. Locally, there is a definite community-based gap in this type of programming. The potential exists here for collaboration between YR and the schools, businesses, service organizations and others.

It is anticipated that the data collected in this assessment will fuel an informed discussion. It is hoped that discussion will ultimately result in the implementation of programs that provide opportunities for promoting the development and growth of Rhinebeck youth.

METHODOLOGY

There were three primary categories of data collected for this assessment: an inventory of currently available youth programming; interviews of key community leaders to gain insight into their perspectives on youth issues and programming needs; and, written surveys of both parents and students. Data was collected during the period of July – mid-December, 2007.

Current Programs

Information about currently existing programs and activities was gathered from several sources. These included printed promotional material, internet searches, a survey of local churches, and interviews. An attempt was made to provide a broad overview of available programs and to have the information serve as a potential basis for a community directory. *A listing of programs identified can be found in Appendix A. (Note: Additional programs and activities may be available that were not identified during the data collection process.)*

Community Leader Interviews

Determination of community leaders to interview was based on the following: leaders interviewed for a Young Rhinebeck needs assessment in 2003; recommendations made by members of Young Rhinebeck's Board of Directors; recommendations made by interviewees as part of the interview process; and, this researcher's own knowledge of the community. A total of 21 individuals were interviewed, including one who provided information via a questionnaire. *A complete listing of their names and affiliations can be found in Appendix B.*

Parent and Student Surveys

The survey instruments were designed by researching similar-type surveys for reference as well as developing original questions. Of significant assistance were the questionnaires developed by the organization Public Agenda, and included in their 2004 report entitled All Work and No Play . Both surveys were pilot tested and revisions made based on pilot test results.

Parents of middle school and high school age children were surveyed, with the surveys available online as of October 1. They completed the questionnaire via a link to the survey website, Survey Monkey, or a link to Young Rhinebeck's website. The questionnaire contained 34 questions. Of the 197 parents who started the survey, 139 (70.6%) completed it.

To promote the survey to parents, several organizations agreed to use their sizeable e-mail lists to forward information and a link to the survey. These organizations included: Rhinebeck High School and Buckeley Middle School, SOARHawks (**S**upport **O**ur **A**thletes **R**hinebeck), CISPE (Community in Support of Public Education), and Rhinebeck Town Supervisor Steve Block's e-mail list. Approximately 1,000 e-mails were distributed in this manner. Additionally, five village churches were asked to place an announcement about the survey in their church bulletins.

Promotion of the 21-question student survey involved a different approach. A handout describing the survey and YR's website address (to access the survey), was distributed by teachers to middle school and high school students in class at the time the survey became available online on October 1. Arrangements were also made with Rhinebeck Village Pizza and the Starr Library to display a poster and flyers about the survey. Additionally, both the parent and student surveys were promoted in an announcement aired on Panda TV.

These strategies proved to be minimally successful in reaching students; only 39 took the survey online. Therefore, permission to administer a "paper" survey to students at the middle and high schools was sought and granted in November/December. On December 14, a table was set-up in the high school lunch room promoting a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to Village Pizza. To enter, students needed to complete a survey during their lunch period. A similar promotion was also held at the middle school cafeteria on December 17. At each school the winning name was pulled following the last lunch period and the winner was announced over the school intercom.

This was a very successful strategy which resulted in 107 high school and 126 middle school students completing the survey and entering the drawing. These 233 students, plus the 39 who took the online survey equals 272 respondents and represent 38% of the 713 students enrolled in the two schools. Of the 272, 265 (96.7%) completed the survey.

CURRENTLY AVAILABLE PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

A variety of programs and activities are available in Rhinebeck after school and during the summer, the majority of which focus on sports. Is it an adequate amount of programs? Not according to 47% of students surveyed who indicated that not enough programs were offered locally. Fifty per cent of the parents surveyed felt it was *somewhat* to *very* hard to find age-appropriate after school activities in Rhinebeck, and 68% indicated the same for summertime activities.

The schools, of course, are a great resource for after school activities. For older students these include a variety of school-based clubs, athletics, and community service opportunities. For elementary school-age children there are several after school programs based at the school.

Sports Activities

A total of 60% of the students surveyed indicated that participating in sports was one of their regular after school activities. Sports teams/activities that are available include a combination of school-based programs as well as club sports and leagues. For younger children, for example, there is Little League baseball, Pop Warner football, and the Rhinebeck Soccer League (for both younger and older children) and CYO basketball.

For middle and high school students the schools sponsor an intramural sports program, as well as varsity, junior varsity and modified sports programs. The sports played in these programs include football, basketball, softball, baseball, volleyball, field hockey, outdoor track, tennis, golf, cross country, soccer, etc. In addition to school sponsored sports programs, local youth may also participate in the basketball program sponsored by the local Lions Club. The Town of Rhinebeck's Recreation Department sponsors winter basketball (ages 5-18) and gymnastics (ages 4-12) programs, and swim team (ages 6-18) and swim lessons (all ages) in the summer. The Rhinebeck Tennis Club also offers tennis lessons after school (ages 4 and up) as well as a summer tennis camp for experienced players.

Non-sports Activities

After School: For both younger and older school-age children, non-sports after school activities may include Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, 4-H clubs or church youth groups. Performing arts classes/workshops are also offered to these age groups by both the Cocoon Theatre and the Center for Performing Arts.

For younger students, there are several after school programs held at Chancellor Livingston Elementary School. These include the YMCA Childcare Program, Rhinebeck Electives (sponsored by the school's Parent/Teacher/Student Organization) which offers a variety of educational and arts and crafts programs, and Young Rhinebeck's own Life, Learning and Language Program. Additionally, the school sponsors a math club as a *before* school activity. In Rhinecliff, the Morton Memorial Library & Community Center provides an after-school rec program for school-age children which offers games, arts and crafts, etc.

For older (middle and high school) students, school clubs offer a variety of after school options and 25% of students surveyed participate in these clubs. Examples include the Environmental Club, Peer Leadership Club (middle school), and the Art Club. The high school also offers an after-school homework study hall, staffed by teachers, where students can work on homework and get assistance when needed.

Summer Programs/Camps: There are a number of day camps in Rhinebeck as well as several sleep-away camps. Probably the most well-known of the day camps is the one sponsored by the Town of Rhinebeck.

The Town's Day Camp is for children in grades K-6th and offers full day or half day camps at the Rhinebeck Community Park. Three, 2-week sessions are held from late June to early August. Fees range from \$50-\$300 for a child and scholarships are available to eligible families.

Summertime performing arts workshops are offered for both younger and older students at the Performing Arts Center and the Cocoon Theater. Southlands offers a summer day program, an art camp is offered by Ginger Glynn and Hudson Valley Pottery provides a Pottery Camp.

Northern Dutchess Hospital has offered a four week program for teens entitled, Fun, Food & Fitness. It's focus is nutrition and exercise.

Vacation bible schools are also offered in the summer. The Grace Bible Fellowship Church offers a one-week bible school for children ages 3 yrs.-teen in July. The Church of the Messiah, the Third Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Rhinebeck Reformed Church also co-sponsor a vacation bible school.

Of the local sleep away camps, two are specialized camps: Camp Rising Sun is for gifted and talented students (ages 14-16) who are competitively selected to attend. Ramapo Camp For Children is a camp for at-risk and special needs children and teens ages 4-16. The third local sleep away camp is offered at the Omega Institute. This is a camp for teens, ages 13-17, and offers both traditional and non-traditional (fire walking, massage classes, Reiki, etc.) activities.

Cost

Although many school sponsored activities/clubs may be offered at no or minimal cost, most other after school activities and all of the summer activities involve a registration fee, weekly fee, or tuition fees charged per lesson or class. A number of activities cost well over \$100, making them unaffordable for many families.

WHAT COMMUNITY LEADERS HAVE TO SAY

Community leaders, for the most part, are in agreement that more after school and summer activities are needed for middle school and high school youth. This was also a finding in Young Rhinebeck's 2003 needs assessment and has historically been an issue locally. Both structured and less structured activities that are academic, recreational, and skill/character building in nature, are viewed as being desirable.

Many young people are involved in sports, but there is a definite group that is not. The families of these children who can not afford to pay for private lessons, workshops or other activities, have little to choose from outside of school sponsored clubs and events. As noted by some school officials, there's an awareness among some students of the growing gap between the "haves" and the "have-nots" in Rhinebeck.

There is another group of young people (some of whom may be a subset of the group described above), who tend to hang out in and around the Village—a popular spot being the municipal parking lot. Engaging this group was also seen as important. In warmer weather, many 13, 14 and 15 year olds are just walking around the village with nothing to do, according to a local law enforcement representative who feels there is a particular need for programs for middle school students.

It was also reported that local youth crimes mainly involve traffic stops, marijuana use and malicious mischief. However, there has been an increase in vandalism of personal property in the past two years. Underage drinking is also a problem and it was noted that very often young people obtain the alcohol from their own homes.

How do we go about addressing these issues? Our community leaders had suggestions that fell into five categories: a teen center, a skateboard park, the arts, academic support and job/skill development.

Teen Center

When asked about their perspective on the program needs of local youth, the most frequently stated need was a teen center. (As noted in the Executive Summary, this suggestion is not a new one--it was one of Rhinebeck Connection's original goals.) A place that provides both structured programs as well as an opportunity to "hang out" with friends was described as ideal. A problem, as one government official pointed out, is that currently there is no space available for year-round programs. However, school personnel and administrators indicated that a teen center, done right, would provide an alternative to alcohol and drugs, especially for younger students who might otherwise be tempted. A community building or teen center would also be especially beneficial for students whose parents are working. These sentiments were echoed by many of the people interviewed.

Skateboard Park

There has been an unwavering interest in this since YR's 2003 needs assessment, and quite possibly even prior to that. It was pointed out by community leaders who work closely with middle and high school students that this is still a big interest. One

suggested that youth should be involved in the planning of a skateboard park. A government official sounded a note of caution, however, that such a park would pose both safety and liability issues.

The Arts

Community leaders also observed that young people are very creative and need artistic outlets. One suggestion was to tap into the many talented, local people who could be approached to volunteer to run an after-school program. Parents have shared with the pastor of a local church the need for an after school art program for teens encouraging things like painting and sculpting. In a survey following a town recreation program, parents of middle school students also indicated an interest in the development of art and cultural programs for their children.

Academic Support

School administrators indicated the importance of programs that impact academic functioning as well as social skills. It was pointed out that parents state they have difficulty helping their children with homework because they don't understand it themselves. Several other interviewees agreed with the need for this type of programming.

Job/Skill Development

Both the middle and high schools offer courses on home & careers (middle school) and college & careers (high school). School personnel expressed interest in working with Young Rhinebeck on a program linking these classes with opportunities in the community to experience various jobs. Related suggestions include a program that exposes young people to local government and a counselor-in-training program for summer camps. A program about computers, it was thought, may be of interest to middle school students. (This may be supported by the fact that Starr Library staff noted a summertime increase in the use of library computers among middle school students.)

PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Who took this survey?

A total of 197 took the online survey; 139 (70.6%) completed it. These parents were predominantly white (94.9%) and well-educated (75.9% had four or more years of college). Most were in two-parent families (86.3%) in which both parents worked full-time or full-time and part-time (66%) with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more (71.6%).

Persons of color taking the survey represented 3.6% of the respondents. In addition, 24.1% of the parents have a two-year college degree or less, and 10.9% represented single-parent households. A little over 10% of the parents had annual incomes of \$50,000 to less than \$75,000, and 9.5% made less than \$50,000 annually.

Selected demographics of survey respondents are compared to U.S. Census data in the chart below. (Keep in mind that the Census data includes the entire town population and is not limited to parents of middle/high school students.)

Comparison of Selected Characteristics of Survey Respondents to Demographic Data on Rhinebeck Residents from the 2000 U.S. Census

Characteristic	Survey Respondents	Census Data for Town Population
Race: White	94.9%	93.2%
Persons of Color	3.6%	8.0%
Education: Four or more years of college	75.9%	38.9%
Two-year college degree or less	24.1%	87.3%
Annual Income: \$75,000 or more	71.6%	32.0%
\$50,000 to □ \$75,000	10.2%	22.6%
Less than \$50,000	9.5%	45.6%

What do their children do after school?

Nearly all the parents (88.5%) indicated their child (or children) was involved in some sort of after school activity. Although these activities ran the gamut from various lessons to school-based clubs to religious groups, nearly two-thirds (64.8%) reported that their child was involved in sports. When asked about finding age-appropriate after school activities, half the respondents felt it was *somewhat to very hard* to do so. In a comment section for that same question, many parents noted there's "not many choices except sports."

Other popular after-school activities (although none as popular as sports) included school-based clubs (30.8%); music or voice lessons (25.3%) and religious groups/clubs (18.1%). Not all children participate in after school activities--11.5% of parents reported their child did not.

Many parents (79.2%) would prefer their child has an after school routine that offers a combination of relaxing at home, doing homework and socializing, as well as having scheduled activities and a place to go after school. Although 75.8% of the parents indicated their child currently has such a routine, over half of the parents (55%) stated that their child was busy with after school activities four or more days a week. Sixty-eight per cent of the parents noted their child's activities took place on both school days and weekends.

With regard to existing activities, parents brought up several issues: 1) there is no community site at which kids can go to be with their friends, participate in activities and/or just hang out. These parents were in agreement with those community leaders who indicated a need for a youth center locally; 2) transportation is an issue for parents who work; 3) several parents indicated a lack of enough notice about available activities; 4) many more activities were available if one can afford it--there are too few low cost or free programs; and, 5) available activities did not interest their child (when activities are of interest then participation seems likely, as 91% of the parents described their child as somewhat willing to eager to participate in organized activities/programs).

What do parents look for in after school programs?

Parents want what's best for their children, and that was no exception when asked *why* they would want their child participating in an after school program or activity. Asked to check all choices that applied, they answered as follows:

Improve school performance	43.9%
Develop interests/hobbies	87.1%
Develop character/sense of responsibility	82.6%
Keep busy/out of trouble	38.7%
Have a place to go because no one is home	15.5%
None of the above	1.3%

Their views about the *purpose* of after school programs are evenly split between:

⇒ Kids get more than enough academics during the school day, so after school programs should focus on other things that capture their interest (46.4%).

⇒ Kids need after school programs that offer a combination of activities that capture their interest and activities that focus on academic skills (47.9%).

What do their children do in the summer?

Middle school and high school children primarily split their time between a family vacation (77.3%), sports activities (29.9%), and day camps or sleep away camps (94.9%). A little over half (55.9%) are kept busy with these activities for 1-4 weeks. Nearly that same number of parents (55.5%) generally feel there are not enough good options for their children; 50% find the summer months the most difficult in terms of making sure their child has things to do. This is especially true locally—68.1% of parents indicated it was *somewhat to very hard* to find age-appropriate activities located in the Village or Town of Rhinebeck.

What do parents want in programs/activities for their child?

Parents were also asked to rank their top two choices in the following list of programs: exploring different types of jobs/careers; extra academic preparation/skills; helping people in need; reinforcing religious faith; art, music or dance; and athletics or team sports. The list below shows the order in which the programs were ranked. The program *most* frequently selected as a first or second choice is at the top of the column, and the *least* frequently selected as first or second choice is at the bottom of the column:

FIRST CHOICE	SECOND CHOICE
Art/music/dance	Helping people in need
Athletics/team sports	Athletics/team sports
Exploring jobs/careers	Art/music/dance
Helping people in need	Exploring jobs/careers
Academic support	Academic support
Reinforcing religious faith	Reinforcing religious faith

This question was followed by an open-ended question in which parents were encouraged to describe other programs of interest. A wide range of answers were provided, but two of the most frequent were suggestions for a program involving community service/volunteer work and suggestions for a teen program/center. (For a complete listing of the responses see survey, attached.)

Parents indicated they would like the programs to be offered both after school and in the summer at a frequency of two to three times a week after school and 3 to 4+ times a week during the summer. And, nearly 60% are willing to pay a fee for their child to participate in an after school program or a half-day/full-day summer program.

What are other issues that parents see?

Finally, parents feel that the biggest gap in programming, both after school and in the summer, is for 13-15 year olds. In addition, parents are divided on the topic of what is the biggest problem among Rhinebeck teens. Equal numbers ranked drug & alcohol use (36.7%) or boredom (35.3%) as the biggest problem. However these views may not be so far apart as it could easily be argued that boredom can lead to many problems, including drug and alcohol use.

STUDENT SURVEY RESULTS & COMPARISONS TO PARENT SURVEY RESULTS

Who took the survey?

Middle school and high school students who took the survey were equally divided between male and female (50% each). There was representation from every age group and every grade, with slightly more middle school students taking the survey. In the chart below, note that over half of the respondents are 13-16 years old, which includes the subset of 13-15 year olds for whom parents indicated a lack of programming.

AGE & GRADE OF STUDENT SURVEY RESPONDENTS, BY PERCENTAGE

	11-12	13-14	15-16	17-19	6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th	11 th	12 th
Age	31.5	30.4	22.0	16.1							
Grade					18.7	15.8	17.2	12.5	11.4	12.5	12.1

As with the parent survey, the majority of student survey respondents were white (78.8%). The remaining respondents were divided between Hispanic (2.25%), Asian (1.8%), Black/African American (0.7%), Native American/American Indian (0.4%) and other (4.8%).

Seventy eight per cent of the students lived in two-parent homes; 9.2% came from single-parent homes. A total of 38.9% of the students came from families in which both parents worked full-time. Students with one or more siblings represented 87.7% of respondents. The majority of the students (77.1%) said their parents were college graduates, with a similar number in the parent survey (75.9%) identifying themselves as such.

Although students were not asked about family income levels, one economic indicator that was included was the question, "Do you get free or reduced price lunches at school?" Participation in the National School Lunch Program is based on income eligibility. A total of 8% (21 students) answered yes to that question. Comparatively, 2.4% of parents reported an annual income under \$25,000, with 7.1% reporting an income of \$25,000 to under \$50,000 a year.

What do students say they do after school?

The majority of students are busy with after school activities, 58% of which participate in them five to seven days a week. Yet, 57.4% stated a desire for an after school routine that included both time to relax, do homework and socialize, as well as participation in scheduled activities.

The most frequently reported after school activities were sports (59.9%), school based clubs (24.7%) and music or voice lessons (19.9%). These were the same top three activities reported by parents. Volunteer work, the fourth most common activity

reported by students, followed closely at 18%. A little more than 12% of students do not participate in after-school activities (11.5% in the parent survey).

What do students say they do in the summertime?

As in the parent survey, students reported family vacations, attending sleep-away or day camps, and sports activities as the most popular summertime pursuits. They differ, however, when it comes to the time spent on these activities. Whereas 60% of the parents report their child is occupied for 1-4 weeks, just under 31% of students reported 1-4 weeks of activities. The greatest number of students (43.8%) felt their activities kept them busy the entire summer. Most students were satisfied with their summer activities, with only 6% expressing dissatisfaction.

When offered several choices, what type of programs interest students?

Students were provided the same list of program choices as the parents were given and were asked to pick their top (first) choice and a second choice. Their responses, compared to parent responses, are as follows. They are listed in order from most to least popular:

	<i>STUDENTS</i>	<i>PARENTS</i>
First Choice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Athletics/team sports 2. Art/music/dance 3. Exploring jobs/careers 4. Helping people in need 5. Academic support 6. Reinforcing religious faith 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art/music/dance 2. Athletics/team sports 3. Exploring jobs/careers 4. Helping people in need 5. Academic support 6. Reinforcing religious faith
Second Choice	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Athletics/team sports 2. Exploring jobs/careers 3. Helping people in need 4. Art/music/dance 5. Academic support 6. Reinforcing religious faith 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Helping people in need 2. Athletics/team sports 3. Art/music/dance 4. Exploring jobs/careers 5. Academic support 6. Reinforcing religious faith

Students were also asked an open-ended question in which they described other programs (not listed in the previous question) that may be of interest to them. They parted ways with their parents on this question. For students, programs about cooking, animals and acting were the most popular (parents suggested community service and a teen center/program). Students and parents were most interested in having programs

offered after school and in the summer, at least twice a week. Almost 47% of students felt there are not enough programs/activities available locally.

Problems Among Teens

Although both students and parents agreed that boredom and drug/alcohol use are the biggest problems among Rhinebeck teens, there was a much wider gap between the students' views than the parent's views. Of the students, 41.3% feel drugs and alcohol are the biggest problem; 28.8% feel it's boredom. For parents, these numbers were 36.7% and 35.3%, respectively.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, ACTION ITEMS, AND CONCLUSION

Summary of Findings

The Current Picture

- The majority of students are involved in both after school activities and summer programs. On average, approximately 11% of students do not participate in after school activities and 12% do not participate in scheduled activities or programs in the summer.
- Nearly two-thirds of students are involved in sports after school; about 40% during summer months. School-based clubs and music/voice lessons are also popular, as is attendance at camps in the summer.
- Over half of the students participate in after school activities four or more days per week.
- Parents want their child's after school routine to include relaxing/socializing and structured activities; 76% indicate that is their child's current routine.

Desirable Program Characteristics

- Want programs targeted to 13-15 year olds (approx. 7th – 10th grade)
- Want programs that develop a child's interests/hobbies and build character and sense of responsibility
- Interested in programs focusing on art/music/dance; athletics/team sports; exploring jobs/careers; and helping people in need (these were the most popular program topics identified by both parents and students).
- Other popular program topics suggested by students: cooking; programs involving animals; acting. Topics suggested by parents: teen center (also suggested by community leaders); community service/volunteer program.
- Want programs offered after school and in the summer
- Want programs offered a minimum of 2 days a week.
- Many parents willing to pay some sort of fee for the program

Issues

- Transportation is problematic for working parents, especially summer programs that may run one or two hours during the day, requiring midday drop-off and pick-up.
- Not enough low-cost program choices available.
- A lack of variety and a predominance of sports programs
- Boredom and drug/alcohol use a problem among local teens
- Widening gap between the "haves" and "have-nots"
- Not enough notice is provided about available programs

Action Items

A number of the findings in this report are beyond the realm of Young Rhinebeck, but may well be addressed by other organizations and institutions. For example, although many children are involved in sports, there is a desire for more sports activities. Additionally, many community leaders noted the need for a skateboard park. Programs with a focus on art, music and dance were also high on the list of desired activities. Perhaps the schools, the town, or other organizations may wish to explore these further.

Several findings, however, fell well within the mission of Young Rhinebeck. Thus, its board and staff have prioritized these findings into the following action items that the organization will pursue:

Action Item #1: Become an information clearinghouse for parents and youth regarding locally available programs, workshops and classes, by developing and maintaining a "Kids' Kalendar" on YR's website.

Action Item #2: Investigate the potential for a school/community collaboration in the development of a program that offers students the opportunity to explore various careers.

Action Item #3: Pursue the possibility of developing a youth run program, supervised by YR staff, that focuses on community service, volunteering and helping people in need.

Action Item #4: Enter into any existing community discussions about a teen/community center or invite key people to enter into a discussion coordinated by YR.

Conclusion

If drugs, alcohol and boredom are indeed the biggest issues among Rhinebeck teens, then engaging them in interesting and useful pursuits can be a powerful antidote to these problems while having a positive impact on our children.

There is now opportunity to address many of the unmet program needs of Rhinebeck youth. Through leadership, collaboration and hard work we can come together to make Rhinebeck a model community for youth programming.

**LIST OF PROGRAMS FOR SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH IN
RHINEBECK, NY -- 2007**

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Grades K-5

Center for the Performing Arts: Offers workshops in basic stage craft for children ages 8-15, classes in fencing for ages 6-15. Fee charged.

Cocoon Theatre: Offers a variety of performing arts classes & workshops for children and teens (also offers a community service opportunity for high school students). Fee charged.

Cub Scouts: There is one Cub Scout Pack in Rhinebeck, consisting of approximately 25-30 boys. Cub Scouts are for boys in grades 1-5. Dues charged.

4-H: There are between three to four 4-H clubs in the Red Hook/Rhinebeck area. These consist of general interest clubs and rabbit/guinea pig clubs. A new horse club may be forming soon. 4-H is for children ages 9-19, with a division for younger children (ages 5-9) called Cloverbuds. Dues charged.

Girl Scouts: There are currently 8 troops in Rhinebeck: 1 Daisy troop, 3 Brownie troops (1st thru 3rd grade), 1 large Junior Troop, 3 Cadet troops (various grades). Dues charged.

Morton Memorial Library and Rec Center: Afternoon Rec Program M-Th 2:30 – 6:00 p.m., provides table games, arts & crafts, videos, etc. No fee charged.

Rhinebeck Electives: A program sponsored by the Chancellor Livingston Elementary School's PTSO. Held at the school, it offers both academic and arts and crafts courses. Fee charged.

Rhinebeck Tennis Club: Offers after-school tennis lessons for novices (4-5pm) and experienced players (5-6 pm). Classes meet twice a week for four consecutive weeks (May-November) and are for children ages 4-12 years and up. Fee is \$40/session novices; \$80/session experienced.

Town of Rhinebeck Recreation Department: Community basketball (grades 2nd -12th) and gymnastics program (grades K-6th) on Saturdays during winter months. No fee charged.

YMCA School-age Child Care: The YMCA offers a before and after school program at Chancellor Livingston Elementary School that provides indoor and outdoor activities, creative arts, homework assistance, sports and group games, daily snack. Fee charged.

Young Rhinebeck's Life, Learning & Language Program: Provides tutoring for children from families whose primary language is not English. Tutoring is conducted by trained, volunteer Bard College students. Also provides indoor and outdoor playtime and snacks. No fee charged.

Sports Leagues: Many sports leagues are available to younger children, including the following: Little League (softball and baseball), Pop Warner Football, Rhinebeck Soccer League, CYO basketball, and Lions Club basketball.

Grades 6th – 12th

Boy Scouts: There are two Boy Scout Troops in Rhinebeck, for boys in grades 6-12 and consist of approximately 30-40 members. Dues charged.

Center for the Performing Arts: Technical Theater workshops are offered for high school students and adults. (Also see above.) Fees charged.

Cocoon Theatre: Offers community service opportunities for teens. (Also see above.) Fees charged.

4-H: (see above)

Girls Scouts: (see above)

Rhinebeck Tennis Club: (see above)

School-based Clubs: Buckeley Middle School and Rhinebeck High School offer a variety of after-school clubs. Some examples include the Environmental Club, Art Club, Peer Leadership Club, Quiz bowl, Yearbook, and Student Council. Additionally, the high school offers an after school homework study hall.

School Sports: A wide range of intramural, modified, junior varsity and varsity sports are offered through the middle school and high school. Sports offered include: football, basketball, baseball, softball, volleyball, field hockey, outdoor track, cross country, tennis, golf, crew, pole vault and ultimate Frisbee.

SUMMER PROGRAMS K-12

Art Summer Camp with Ginger Glynn: Summer Art Camp Session 1: Portraiture and Figure Drawing, June; Session 2: Local Landscapes July; Grades 3-5 and Grades 6-8 AM: 9-Noon; PM:1-4pm., 121 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck

Camp Rising Sun: A competitively selected, international, full scholarship, 8-week sleep-away camp for boys and girls. It offers a leadership program for gifted and talented students (ages 14-16) operated by the Louis August Jonas Foundation.

Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck: Summer Camps -- **Little Kids on Stage** for children ages 5 to 7; **Kids on Stage Intermediate** for children ages 7 to 10 **Kids on Stage Performance** for children ages 10 to 15; **Teens on Stage** for young adults ages 14 to 18; **Stage Combat** for ages 12 and up and **Tech Workshops** for high school students and adults.

Cocoon Theater: Young Actors Summer Workshop. Two workshops are offered: one for children 6-12 and the other for children 13-18. Each workshop focuses on a specific production which is performed at the end of the session. Session length runs from one month (younger children) to one and a half months (older children). Tuition is \$400 (\$500 for the older group). Unlike other productions at the theater, auditions are not required.

Hudson Valley Pottery: Pottery Camp for Kids will introduce students to the craft of ceramics. For summer 2007 offered 4 two-week sessions and one, one-week session. Some sessions are for children ages 5-8 and others are for children ages 8-12. Average cost is \$350 per session. The studio is located at 6423 Montgomery St., Suite 17.

Northern Dutchess Hospital: Fun, Food & Fitness 4 week program for teens. Meets twice a week, focusing on nutrition and exercise. Parents encouraged to attend. \$120. Registration required. Northern Dutchess Hosp. Wellness Ctr., Rhinebeck.

Omega Institute: Omega Summer Teen Camp is for youth ages 13-17. This sleep-away camp is owned and operated by Omega but the camp itself is located in Holmes, NY. Campers can register for 2 or 4 weeks. The summer camp program is designed to help teenagers gain personal power, build self-confidence and self-esteem while developing deep and lasting friendships. It offers many traditional summer camp activities like swimming, canoeing, basketball and the high ropes course; teenagers also have the opportunity to explore activities that are unique to Omega Teen Camp. Some of the most popular teen camp activities include, The Sweat-Lodge, Yoga, Fire Walking, Henna Tattooing, Tarot Card Reading, Massage Classes, Spa Treatments, Reiki, Tai Chi, Meditation and Astrology. Fee ranges from \$1,650 - \$3,000. Camp runs from late July through mid-August.

Ramapo Camp for Children: A sleep-away summer camp for at-risk and special needs children and teens ages 4-16. The camp offers three 2 to 3 week sessions.

Rhinebeck Tennis Club: Summer Tennis Camp is for experienced and serious tennis players only. Permission by Bob Myerson is necessary. Daily camp schedule is 11:00 a.m.-3:00 pm. Cost per session: \$199/week or \$50 per day.

Southlands Summer Day Programs: Southlands Summer Day Programs involve nature, live animals, games, arts and crafts, nature walks and more. June: Voyagers (ages 5 & 6); July: Early Explorers (age 4); and Adventurers (ages 7+).

Town of Rhinebeck Recreation Dept. 1) Summer Day Camp for children in grades K-6th. Three, 2-week sessions are held from June until late July/early August. Activities include sports, arts and crafts, swimming, games, trips and special events. Full days or half days available. Fee charged. Scholarships available. 2) Swim Team open to children who demonstrate consistent swimming ability. Members participate in swim meets. Fees charged.

Vacation Bible School: 1.) Co-sponsored by the Church of the Messiah, the Third Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Rhinebeck Reformed Church. Cost is \$20 for one child; \$35 for 2 and \$50 for 3+. Scholarships available. 2.) Grace Bible Fellowship Church sponsors a one week vacation bible school in July for children ages 3-teens.

APPENDIX B

COMMUNITY LEADERS INTERVIEWED*

Steve Block, former Supervisor, Town of Rhinebeck
Richard Cunningham, Mayor, Village of Rhinebeck
Dr. Ed Davenport, Principal, Rhinebeck High School
Sgt. Peter Dunn, Officer-in-Charge, Village of Rhinebeck Police Department
Carmella Fountain, Guidance Counselor, Buckeley Middle School
Rena Genter, Community Service Coordinator, Rhinebeck High School
Robert Heywood, Guidance Counselor, Rhinebeck High School
John Kemnitzer, Principal, Buckeley Middle School
Jeff Levenson, Guidance Counselor, Rhinebeck High School
Ray Oberley, former Supervisor, Town of Clinton
Joe Phelan, Superintendent, Rhinebeck Central School District
Rhinebeck Clergy Association
 Fr. Jeffery Galens, Church of the Good Shephard
 Fr. Jeffrey Gallagher, Church of the Messiah
 Rev. LeRoy Ness, Third Evangelical Lutheran
 Rev. Luis Perez, Rhinebeck Reformed Church
 Rev. John Williams, United Methodist

Sharon Rushton, former Director, Morton Library & Community Center Rec Program
Brooke Stevens, Children's Librarian, Starr Library
Louis Turpin, SOARHawks
Karri Wolfe, Town of Rhinebeck Recreation Director
Richard Zipp, School Psychologist, Rhinebeck High School

*Interviews were conducted in-person, by phone, or via questionnaire.