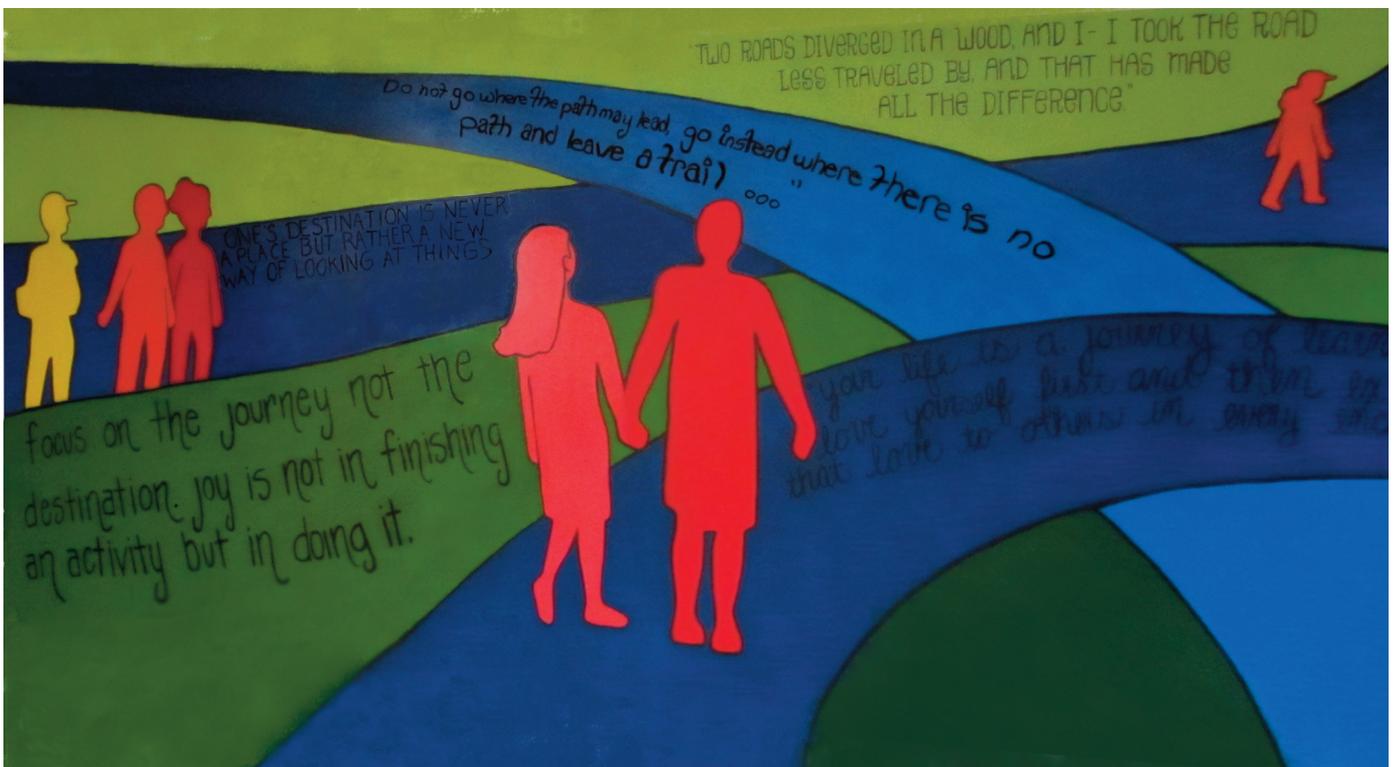


## Lawrence Hall Youth Services

Fall 2012



## Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Over the last year, Lawrence Hall Youth Services and the youth and families we care for have been on a journey, and we are excited to share some of the highlights in the following pages of Lawrence Hall Fall 2012 newsletter.

It has been a journey to grow the organization, utilize best practices, and ensure we are doing everything we can to stay on the leading edge of the child welfare field and provide the best opportunities to the youth we serve.

This year, we continued to prepare youth for the workforce, teach them critical employment skills, and provide them real world job opportunities, when we expanded our Workforce Development Program and launched a new employment program called MY TIME. The dynamic program provides capable youth with community-based employment experience with leading Chicago businesses.

Program leadership also worked tirelessly to re-imagine the treatment of young children in foster care. This year we opened a Treatment Family Foster Home with two full-time foster parents. They are providing a safe, stable, and loving home environment, including specialized treatment which focuses on the trauma our youth have experienced.

We continue to educate youth about the importance of civic engagement and the role they play in giving back to their community. This year, our older youth became environmental ambassadors in LaBagh Woods, as part of the Cook County Forest Preserve District's Litter Obliterators program.

Read about these journeys we have taken, as well as our international reach, technological advancements, and more, in the following pages. Moving forward, we welcome you to join us on our journey, as we continue to empower youth, and provide them with opportunities to heal, flourish, and succeed.

Thank you,

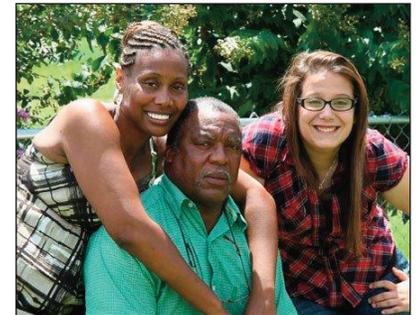
*Mary H. Hollie*

Mary H. Hollie, MSW, ACSW  
Chief Executive Officer

## Leading Edge Practices in Foster Care

Our commitment to serving Illinois' most at-risk youth requires constant innovation, and we are pleased to announce our latest project, the opening of an agency owned single-family home on Chicago's south side, where licensed foster parents provide around-the-clock care for up to four boys ages 6 to 11 years old. It is one of several Illinois Department of Children and Family Services sites throughout the state working to develop new methods of care for younger children with greater emotional and behavioral needs than other youth in foster care.

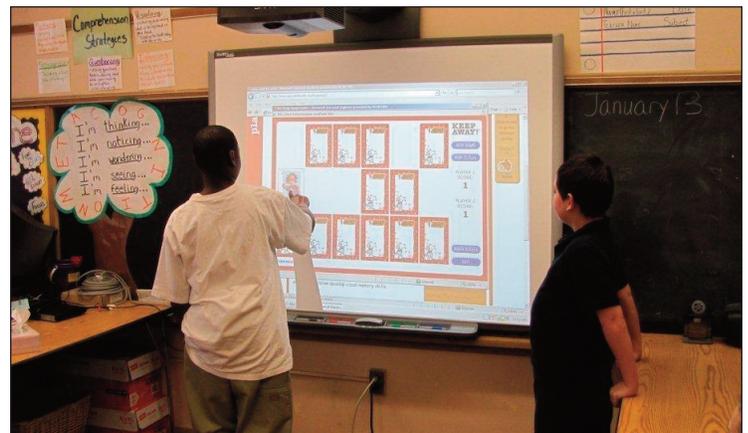
By living within the home, the foster parents are able to provide a safe, stable, and loving environment, in addition to the children receiving regular visits from their families. By re-imagining the treatment of young children in foster care, we are on our way to our goal of reuniting the youth with their families within 12 months.



To learn more about becoming a Foster Parent, contact Kristin Miller at (312) 456-6502 or [kmiller@lawrencehall.org](mailto:kmiller@lawrencehall.org).

## Using Technology in the Classroom

As the ways students are being taught changes, our Therapeutic Day School is keeping up with the latest trends in technology to educate youth in innovative ways. Teachers in all seven classrooms are now using Smartboards - interactive whiteboards, which combine touch screen technology with computer projections- as a way to reach students with special education needs. The hands-on approach engages students and helps them to invest themselves both in class and their own growth.

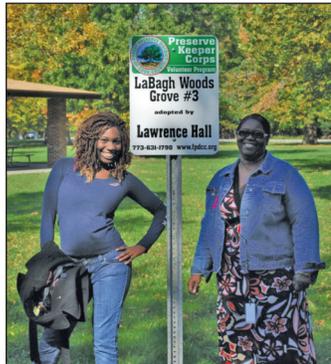


## ON THE FRONT COVER: YOUNG

The Child and Family Treatment Center continues to be a center of artistic expression with a vehicle to express their emotions. While several inspirational quotes have been shared, "This is our journey, and this is the direction we are moving." This is their journey.

## Making a Difference with Civic Engagement

For the last three years, Therapeutic Day School teacher Patrick Underdown has been connecting students with service learning opportunities at volunteer clean-ups in LaBagh Woods, a Forest Preserve site in Chicago. The work has inspired students to be better stewards of the environment, seeing first-hand the environmental problems that littering causes, and the value of giving back. By empowering our youth to make a difference in their communities, we help them to understand their own value and voice.



## Thought Leadership Leads to Best Practices

Lawrence Hall Youth Services' Vice President of Foster Care and Family Support Tracy Levine represented the agency and shared its expertise and best practices in Foster Care with delegates from around the world at the second annual Chicago Sister Cities International Paris/Chicago Social Service Exchange.

The program served to open cross-cultural conversations and develop relationships within the increasingly global community, all the while engaging the challenges of serving children and youth in need. With a rich and varied mix of presentations, conversations, and site visits, delegates got to know the particulars of child welfare in both cities. The information sharing and unique experience has benefited the agency, with Levine using new best practices to address the challenges youth in care face.



## Expanding Workforce Development

Lawrence Hall Youth Services is pleased to see our innovation manifest itself in MY TIME (Mentoring Youth to Inspire Meaningful Employment), a first of its kind employment program for youth and leading Chicago businesses.



This unique collaboration between the agency and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is a new approach to job readiness, training, and supported job placement for disadvantaged, yet capable youth in Chicago. Over the next year, LHYS is

*“This is an opportunity for business leaders to have hard-working youth on their team, and for all of us to contribute to developing a skilled, educated, and vital workforce of the future.”*

training and placing 60 young adults in supported employment. All youth will have the support of an Employment Mentor.

“We are so excited to partner with reputable businesses across Chicago, as we expand our vocational program to include critical community-based employment experiences for our youth,” said LHYS CEO Mary H. Hollie. “This is a dynamic opportunity for

business leaders to have hard-working youth on their team, and for all of us to contribute to developing a skilled, educated, and vital workforce of the future.”

The on-the-job training program is part of an expansion of the current vocational program at LHYS. For more information about how your company may play a key role in the MY TIME program, and in developing the workforce of tomorrow, please contact Sean McGinnis at (773) 360-5113 or [mytime@lawrencehall.org](mailto:mytime@lawrencehall.org).

## YOUTH MURALS

...sion, with newly painted murals adorning the walls. The murals engage youth and help them to cultivate natural artistic talents, as well as provide them ...en painted on the mural, one in particular expresses the journey our youth take while in our care: “What matters most is not where we stand, but in what

# Snapshots



Staff members **Janice Gould, Samantha Orbach, Renee Melton, and Jill Watson**, with LHYS youth artist **Antwan**, who came in second place out of over 80 high school students in the Country Financials 5th Annual Chicago Farmers Markets Reusable Bag Design Contest.

CEO **Mary H. Hollie** with **Dan Coyne** accepting a generous donation from Perkins Coie in celebration of their 100 years of service. They chose LHYS because of the tremendous difference we make in the lives of Chicago's young people who are facing some of the most extraordinary challenges.



A young lady from the **Older Adolescent Program** and a staff member from Neuberger Berman are all smiles for a day of professional development, job shadowing, and networking, sponsored by the Neuberger Berman Foundation.

# Save The Date

**HAMBINGO -- NOV. 12th**

**Hamburger Mary's**

5400 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60640

Contact Kiel Galland at [kgalland@lawrencehall.org](mailto:kgalland@lawrencehall.org) or (773) 769-3500 for more information.

**A CHRISTMAS CAROL -- DEC. 27th at 7:30 p.m.**

**The Goodman Theatre**

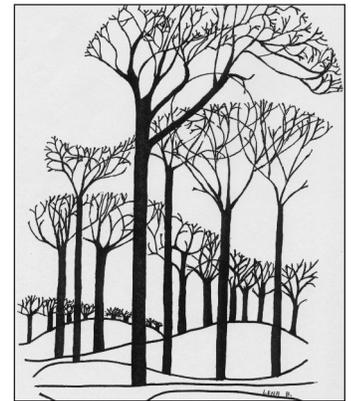
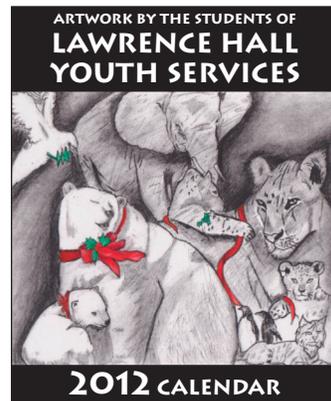
170 N. Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60601

Tickets: \$75 - \$50 - \$30

To purchase tickets visit [www.eccsonline.net](http://www.eccsonline.net).

Holiday cards available for purchase at [www.lawrencehall.org](http://www.lawrencehall.org)!

2013 Coming Soon!



# Ken Oberlander: A Flashback

In its century and a half lifetime, Lawrence Hall Youth Services has changed the lives of generations of children, and undergone its own changes. Recently we sat down and talked with **Ken Oberlander**, a 98-year old former resident who lived on our Lawrence Avenue campus from 1922-32, about his memories.

**What was Lawrence Hall like in those days?**

**Ken:** Very different from what it is now. Used to be a mother or a father had a boy they couldn't take care of, financially, and so they'd take him to Lawrence Hall School for Boys. There was almost a 2-year waiting list. But it was a great place – it was about as normal as you could get and not live at home.

**What would you do for fun?**

**Ken:** You name it, we did it. All the boys in the neighborhood were jealous of us. And in the summer, they'd get us out of the city and up to Camp Hardy, in Michigan, for the whole summer! It was fabulous – our own lake, wooden units. Everyone always wanted to be the first in the lake to have a dip.

**Was that true on campus too?**

**Ken:** Oh, of course. It was a much different time. No courts or judges or caseworkers, just a couple matrons in the dormitories, and the director, Charlie Hauk. He really got us boys flying right. It's all so different these days. And maybe I'm picking on today's kids, they're just as tough. But it's all different.



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