

Lawrence Hall Youth Services

150 years

Making a difference since 1865

Lawrence Hall Youth Services



Spring 2015 Newsletter

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friends:

I am honored to be the Chief Executive Officer of Lawrence Hall Youth Services, effective January 2015. I joined Lawrence Hall in 2013 and served as the Chief Operation Officer and most recently, as Interim CEO since June 2014. I am passionate about the mission of Lawrence Hall and look forward to continuing to advocate for our youth.

This year, we are celebrating the agency's 150th anniversary. Reaching this historic milestone is an extraordinary accomplishment, and I am grateful to all who have supported us over the years. We have an exciting time ahead of us, and I look forward to celebrating with each of you.

As we continue to make a difference in the lives of our youth, we continue to strengthen our innovative and evidenced-based programming and services. Recently, we have implemented a new strategy to help engage loved ones towards family reunification by hosting family and friends events. Since they began, the events have grown in attendance and brought volunteers, staff, and most importantly, our youth and their families together. Events such as these help heal wounds and strengthen bonds. You can read more about positive opportunities provided by our programming, community partners and more throughout this newsletter!

Thank you to all the donors, volunteers, and staff who have helped Lawrence Hall carry out its mission. Because of supporters like you, Lawrence Hall has been making a difference since 1865.

Sincerely,

Kara Teeple, MSW
Chief Executive Officer

Success in Workforce Development

MY TIME (Mentoring Youth to Inspire Meaningful Employment), one of our Workforce Development Programs, began in 2013 to help at-risk young adults learn the necessary skills needed to be obtain employment. MY TIME's first two years focused heavily on obtaining employment for the youth as its number one goal. Today, MY TIME emphasizes its career-readiness success by assigning a supportive adult to every participant, known as a mentor. Mentors help youth develop skills to be successful in all aspects of life including work, school, home and in relationships.

Sean McGinnis, Vice President of Specialized Services, states, "The greatest benefit to providing a mentor is providing youth with much needed support. Yes, mentors help participants prepare for questions and take them on their first job interview, but, more importantly, they are there for them to say, 'I believe in you' or 'better luck next time' as some of these youth do not have the support from loved ones to hear those positive messages." MY TIME's purpose is to assist young adults in becoming contributing members of the work force, and to allow the participants to see the value from working in regards to one's self-worth and self-esteem.

2015 MY TIME Program Highlights:

- 95% of youth completed at least one interview
- 93% Program attendance rate
- 80% Program graduation rate
- 75% of youth have sustained employment for +90 days

Participant Spotlights:

Jaime (photo right), 18 years old, has been working at Potbelly Sandwich Works for two months and is in the process of becoming a manager!

Kelsey, 17 years old, has been working at White House Black Market retail shop for more than 500 days!



Above: Jamie, age 18, MY TIME Program participant with LHYs staff and program supporters

Austin goes to *The Second City*

With the help of *One Simple Wish* and the generosity of *The Second City - Chicago*, Austin, an 18 year old in Lawrence Hall's Older Adolescent Program, was able to take his improv talents to the stage! Austin has been a resident at Lawrence Hall since August 2014. During his time, he has successfully completed Lawrence Hall's MY TIME program and is pursuing a career in acting/voice comedy.



Above: Austin, age 18, Older Adolescent Program

Through his experience at "The Second City's Improv Class," Austin learned how to be creative, think on the spot, and notably, how to work together on a team. Austin said, "Some of the best skits are when you mess up because you get to think on your feet and have fun with it." Austin looks forward to continuing class as he describes it as a "10/10 experience."

About Austin:

Favorite Actor: Robin Williams

Best Impersonation(s): "The Joker," in the movie *The Dark Knight* and Arnold Schwarzenegger

Dream Job: To work at *The Second City*

Join Team Lawrence Hall

Team Lawrence Hall hit the city streets in October 2014 for their debut as an official charity in the Bank of America Chicago Marathon. Four Lawrence Hall staff ran a memorable 26.2 miles, raising nearly \$10,000 for the children and families of Lawrence Hall! Join us this year as we continue to transform lives and heal hearts one step at a time.



Above: Kiel Galland, 2014 Team Lawrence Hall runner

Meet Vernon

Kara Teeple, Lawrence Hall Youth Services CEO, had the pleasure of visiting with former Lawrence Hall School for Boys resident, Vernon Buelteman. Vernon and his brother were residents at the Lawrence Hall School for Boys from 1938 to 1945. Vernon moved from Chicago to California in 1953 and currently resides Vista, CA. Both of their parents were deaf, and his mother was killed in a car accident in 1935. During that difficult time, Vernon's father worked hard for their family and placed his brother and him at Lawrence Hall to ensure the boys received the proper support and schooling needed.

Vernon reflects fondly on his memories at Lawrence Hall. He remembers living at Belmont and Racine near Wrigley Field, their family's primary residence. He gives credit to Father Norris, Director of Lawrence Hall School for Boys at the time, for providing the care needed for him and his brother during that challenging period of their life.



From left: Vernon Buelteman, LHYs Alumnus, and Kara Teeple, CEO

Vernon served as a camp counselor for eight summers at Camp Hardy. He cheerfully recalls leading canoe trips down the Muskegon River and the fun he and the other kids had. Vernon states, "My time at Lawrence Hall was an experience of a lifetime. The greatest thing I took away was learning how to get along with people."

Family and Friends Event

Lawrence Hall implemented regular family engagement activities for the youth in care at Lawrence Hall in June 2013. Through Lawrence Hall's family and friends events, loved ones are invited to make crafts, play games, share a warm meal, and most importantly, spend quality time together. These events have played a crucial role in helping heal wounds and building bonds with loved ones.

1865: Chicago Erring Women's Refuge for reform is incorporated

1867: Chicago Newsboys and Bootblacks Association is founded

1869: Creation of the Chicago Home for Boys, associated with the Episcopal Church

1914: Chicago Newsboys and Bootblacks Association merges with the Chicago Home for Boys and Judge Mary Bartelme opens the Mary Clubs for girls from Juvenile Court

1943: Randall House is founded by Rev. Leonard Anderson

1960: The Chicago Home for Girls merges with the Mary Bartelme Clubs, creating Mary Bartelme Homes and Services

1968: Lawrence Hall merges with Randall House

1972: Lawrence Hall opens a private on-campus special education school for residents (accredited 1974)

1975: Lawrence Hall changes its name to "Lawrence Hall School for Boys"

1988: Lawrence Hall School for Boys and Mary Bartelme Homes and Services merge to form Lawrence Hall Youth Services

2008: Lawrence Hall Youth Services opens its new Child and Family Treatment Center on its Main Campus

150th Anniversary Celebration | Saturday, September 26, 2015 | Harold Washington Library Center | http://www.lawrencehall.org/150gala



Celebrating 150 years of serving children and families...



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