Camp Oakland Youth Programs Incorporated



41 Years of Success



U.S. Department of Justice National Institute of Justice

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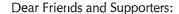
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HELPING CHILDREN IS OUR MISSION

Camp Oakland Youth Programs, Inc. is a not-for-profit, multi-dimensional agency serving Oakland County, other surrounding counties and the State of Michigan.

The agency's purpose is to help children, adolescents and their families develop emotionally, behaviorally, educationally and socially.



This year we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Camp Oakland Youth Programs, Inc. with a ceremony of rededication to our goal of helping children and their families.

We also marked our anniversary year with the opening of the tough but non-punitive Camp Oakland Adolescent Boot Camp. This is Michigan's first military-style boot camp for adolescent males.

The new boot camp drew the attention of press, radio and television after it was dedicated in May. Two platoons, a total of 15 trainees, have been graduated. We believe these young men have gained a level of self-discipline and responsibility for themselves they didn't have before.

As we rededicate Camp Oakland, we are focusing on prevention of delinquency through earlier intervention with children with behavior problems. We want to deal with family situations before these children reach adolescence and seem to be out of control.

We are developing programs that truly are prevention. We hope to start by providing services on a contractual basis to elementary and middle school students with behavior problems in an Oakland County school district.

Our belief is that schools should concentrate on education, and let agencies such as Camp Oakland handle behavior problems when they become insurmountable. Our staff can accomplish a lot when they can develop a close relationship and good communication with young people and work directly with their families.

Another preventive measure is to make a significant change in our summer camp program to meet the developing needs of more and more children. We will be doing more family intervention, instead of focusing merely on the individual summer camper. Our plans include a return to our family camping program, which in 1989 won a national award for excellence from the American Camping Association.

Throughout this report, we are covering the Camp Oakland emphasis on education in every program that we operate.

For Camp Oakland to be able to carry out important new programs and continue our present services for children, we must reach out to the community for a greater level of funding support. Consequently, your executive director will be focusing more on new programs and development, while Assistant Director Cassandra Bowers will take over more of the day-to-day supervision of existing programs.

On behalf of the board of directors and executive committee, and on behalf of Camp Oakland's dedicated and professional staff, we thank you for your past support. We look forward to your continuing help as we work toward changes that will meet the needs of the troubled children of today's world.



Gary J. Baumann President & CEO



David E. Ballenberger Executive Director

Sincerely,

Gary J. Baumann President & CEO

David E. Ballenberger Executive Director

DE Bollenberger

Boot Camp

The Camp Oakland Adolescent Boot Camp, the first in Michigan for adolescent males, opened in late February in Commerce Township.

The military-style boot camp was opened with the encouragement and support of Barry M. Grant, Chief Judge of Oakland County Probate Court.

The program's goal is to provide up to 25 adolescents at a time with a structured regimen stressing physical and mental fitness, as well as good work habits and academics.

While other boot camps are for adults 18 and over, the Camp Oakland program serves ages 15 through 17. All are referred by juvenile divisions of the probate courts of Oakland and nearby counties, including Genesee, Lapeer, Midland and Macomb.

The trainees usually are referred after violations that may have been felonies if the offenders were 18 or older.

The uniformed youths conform to strict military discipline during full days that begin at 5:30 a.m. with calisthenics and include school and work crew details.

No television is allowed and little time is allotted to recreational breaks. The daily routine also includes therapy group discussions.

"We felt there was a group of boys out there who would benefit from a regimented, fourmonth stay that emphasizes self-discipline without being punitive," says Camp Oakland Executive Director David Ballenberger.



"The program," he adds, "improves selfesteem and teaches boys to do things they didn't think they could do."

Following the graduation of the first 15 trainees, Ballenberger said, "These boys have a level of self-discipline they didn't have before. They have learned to do things they don't want to do, because they know they are necessary."

At the end of their stays, five of six boys who tested for the general educational development (GED) certificate were able to pass.

Camp Oakland follows each graduate's progress through an aftercare program. A community service worker stays in touch with each boy and his family for at least six months.

Judge Grant states, "The success of the boot camp will result in a reduction of recidivism. It will save the taxpayers money and help these youngsters lead a productive and positive life."

The boot camp is located at the Proud Lake State Recreation Area on acreage formerly used as a NIKE missile base. The property is leased from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and is also the site of one of Camp Oakland's Daniel T. Murphy Day Student Centers.

Speaker at graduation ceremonies for the first platoon is Barry M. Grant, Chief Judge of Oakland County Probate Court, who was instrumental in the boot camp's founding.

BOOT CAMP GETS MEDIA ATTENTION

At a ceremony in May, the Camp Oakland Adolescent Boot Camp was dedicated by U.S. Representative Joe Knollenberg of Michigan's 11th district. With a boot camp color guard, the Congressman presided over the raising of a flag that formerly flew over the U.S. Congress Building.

The dedication drew the attention of the press, radio and TV. The new boot camp was featured on page one of The Detroit News, on Channel 2 news and by Jerry Hodak on Channel 2's "Eyewitness Morning".

After U. S. Senator Carl Levin read about it in the Detroit Free Press, he visited the boot camp. The Michigan Senator is a believer in the boot camp concept.

The press again covered the graduation of the first platoon of eight trainees in late August.









Day Student

Among the three innovative Day Student Centers operated by Camp Oakland, the one in Dryden, Michigan is unique because it operates in a high school.

A maximum of 12 adolescents, ages 14 through 17, attend the Dryden Day Student program in Lapeer County. A maximum of 20 each attend the Daniel T. Murphy Day Student Centers at Camp Oakland's locations in Oxford and Commerce Township.

The 12-hour-a-day Day Student programs began in January, 1990 as alternatives to expensive and sometimes less effective 24-hour-a-day residential care.

All students are referred for up to seven months, or one school semester, by their respective probate courts. Most have been having trouble in their homes, their schools or their communities. Many are labeled "incorrigible." Those at Dryden are referred by Lapeer County Probate Judge Clayton E. Preisel.

The students are transported, usually by van, to their respective day student centers about 8 a.m. six days a week, for 12-hour regimens of work, school, therapy and recreation. The young people are returned home at about 8 p.m.

Living at home helps the students and their families work out problems, with the aid of group therapy and counseling for parents as well as students.

The program emphasizes that the students are responsible for their own behavior and cannot blame others for their problems. It utilizes peer pressure "through kids helping kids," says David Monroe, social worker/supervisor of the Day Student center at Dryden High School. "The students learn to confront one another on their behavior."

The cost to the counties is approximately half the \$132-per-day cost of keeping adolescents in 24-hour-a-day residential care.

The effectiveness of the program is illustrated in a report compiled in spring 1993 by David Monroe.

Of the 25 students in the Dryden program since it began in April, 1991, 18 successfully completed it. Of those, only one got into further trouble and was sent to residential care. The remaining 17 are back in school or working and doing well, for a 68% success rate.

Every Thursday night, parents of the students are expected to attend a support group meeting at the Lapeer County Courthouse, held jointly with parents of students in the Intensive Probation program (see page 6.)

The sessions cover parenting issues, such as how to get a boy to clean his room or how to handle stress.

"I emphasize to parents that weekly meeting attendance is part of their acceptance of their son's participation in the program," says David Monroe.

In addition, Monroe meets individually with parents twice monthly, in the home or at the school.

"We have found that the kids who don't make it have failed because their parents didn't participate," adds Monroe.

Both students and parents join in hayrides, picnics and other family activities scheduled by Camp Oakland staff.

After students are released from the Dryden program, Camp Oakland's aftercare program stays in touch with the boy (girls are enrolled only in the Oakland County programs) and parents for about six months. During the first 60 days of aftercare, parents continue to attend Thursday night meetings.

The Dryden Day Students are from communities throughout Lapeer County.

DAY STUDENTS HAVE TRAVEL CAMP

In June, 1993, eight boys and staffers from the Dryden Day Student Program went backpacking for 12 days and hiked 90 miles at Isle Royale National Park, where moose visitors walked onto their campsites.

Later a group of eight and staff went to the Pigeon River wilderness area for fishing, canoeing, and hiking.

Program Supervisor David Monroe tries to schedule three trips yearly. "We are very big on wilderness experiences," he says. "They can build confidence and self-esteem."









TO THE TENENT OF THE TENENT OF

Intensive Probation



Ed Stotts, Sr.

"The program in which you are involved is Camp Oakland's Intensive In-Home Probation. Welcome," says a program guide for parents of children under jurisdiction of the Lapeer County Probate Court.

The guide continues, "For the next three to six months, your family and our Family Worker will be working together to make things better."

Camp Oakland started the Intensive In-Home Probation program in Lapeer County in 1991 as a high-impact way to help at-risk children while they attend community schools and remain at home.

"The preventive program's purpose," says Cassandra Bowers, Assistant Director of Camp Oakland, is "to deal with the causes of the children's problems."

The program provides the close supervision and family counseling that can steer troubled young people in new directions.

Since February, Ed Stotts, Sr., unit therapist, has been the guide who leads the way. The probationers with whom he works are both boys and girls, ranging from fourth and fifth graders to high school students, ages nine years to 17.

They have been placed in the program by Lapeer County Probate Court Judge Clayton E. Preisel because they are status offenders. Their acts of delinquency include truancy and incorrigibility.

Stotts now works with eight families, with a goal to see each family four or five times a week.

"If there is a problem in school, then I go to the school twice a week. If it's at home, I go to the home twice a week," he says.

He stays in touch with teachers and counselors to be sure the child succeeds in school. Sometimes he hires a tutor for the student who needs special help.

When they join the program, parents and the child are requested to sign a "family contract." They agree to put their best effort into making the necessary changes, and acknowledge that failure in the program "may/can result in a new court hearing and a change of placement." Families also acknowledge that there will be meetings they are expected to attend.

For 90 minutes every Thursday night at the Lapeer County Courthouse, Stotts leads the meetings, officially called The Parents' and Step-Parents' Therapeutic and Support Group.

The sessions are both educational and therapeutic. "I always have an agenda," Stotts says. "After about 15 to 20 minutes of my teaching about parenting, people begin to open up about their problems. Others offer suggestions, so they help each other."

A lot depends on the family's cooperation, he adds. "Many families have a serious problem. We work with the families and the kids together."

A probationer who doesn't make it after three to six months may be referred to the Dryden Day Student Program (see page 4).

Stotts tells of a boy who completed Intensive In-Home Probation in late summer. "Now that school has started, he won't get up and go to school. So he is being referred to the Day Student program.

"They will pick him up every morning and he will be there."

To his Thursday night family support groups, Stotts recently added the parents of newly-graduated boot camp trainees who live in Lapeer County. The sessions also are attended by parents whose youngsters have been placed in aftercare following completion of the Day Student program.

In addition to the weekly parents' meetings, Stotts schedules picnics, hayrides, parties and other family activity events five or six times a year.

Stotts says his work could be called "crisis intervention." He is redirecting behavior so that costly residential care for a child can be avoided. He also sees a benefit to younger children in families with whom he works.

"If we can change things now," he says, "maybe we can help avoid problems later with the younger children."

Boys and Girls Ranch enjoyed summer adventures in what Camp Oakland calls "Travel Camp."

Eight boys collected returnable bottles and held a bake sale and car wash to fund their 6300-mile round trip to Grand Canyon National Park.

The boys went door to door in Oxford Township, soliciting bottles and cans from willing residents. In one month, they netted \$1300 from their drive.

They also raised \$500 from a car wash at a Rochester Shell station and got a donation from Oxford Village Hardware. Each boy donated an additional \$200 from summer job earnings to make the two-week camping and backpacking trip.

Six Girls Ranch residents and child care worker Lisa Lowe camped overnight at Neebish Island, where they were joined by a tour guide.

From there, they visited Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Traveling by van, they parked the vehicle daily and backpacked to campsites in remote wilderness areas for their overnight stays.

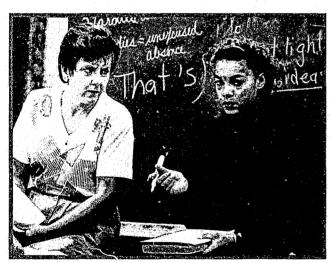
Boys Ranch and Girls Ranch provide residential care for a maximum of 15 boys and 16 girls between the ages of 12 and 17.

The youngsters have been referred to the programs following hearings before the probate court because of abuse, neglect or delinquency.

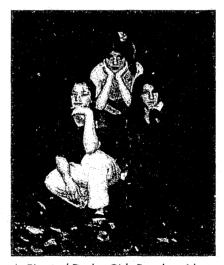
Their individualized programs of treatment and care include group therapy to learn to resolve issues, and family therapy. Stress is placed on the importance of school.

Some residents are not yet ready for regular school because of lack of academic progress or behavior problems. For them, Camp Oakland provides an on-grounds school taught by board-certified teachers who prepare them for the transition to regular classrooms.

In addition, Camp Oakland operates a special transitional classroom at Oxford High School. It helps to motivate each youth to work toward attending regular high-school classes.



Instructor Judy Locke listens to Girls Ranch resident in the Camp Oakland transitional classroom at Oxford High.



At Pictured Rocks, Girls Ranch residents (from left) Crystal, Holly and Amy.



Jose and fellow travel campers found the Grand Canyon awesome.

Work Education



Debbie Shipman checks the work of Nykaji, a day student.

Learning how to check in and out of a hotel was one of the educational benefits of a Travel Camp trip for ten boys from Camp Oakland's Work Education program.

The boys, ages 14 through 17, also learned how to enjoy dining at a good restaurant, not a McDonald's.

During their five-day trip to Washington, D. C. the young men visited the Lincoln Memorial, the grave of John F. Kennedy, the Washington Monument, the National Capitol and several museums. They stayed at a Holiday Inn in Virginia, where they enjoyed nightly swims.

The Work Education program provides education, counseling, work experience and work preparation training to 20 young men, ages 14 to 17.

They are wards of either the Oakland County Probate Court or the Michigan Department of Social Services. They reside at the Work Education center for an average of eight months.

In 1993, two former residents of the Work Education program entered Michigan colleges. A third was graduated from Oakland University and announced plans to work toward a master's degree.

(Left) Travel Campers from Work Ed pose for a picture outside the National Air and Space Museum, Washington. (Below) Marie Schneider makes a point for Scott of the Day Student program.



TWO TEACHERS GET REWARDS FROM THEIR STUDENTS

The same pair of special education teachers have been working as a team with boys in the Camp Oakland Work Education program for the past nine years.

It was 1984 when Marie Schneider and Debbie Shipman accepted transfers from Oxford middle school to classrooms in the Work Ed building. Every year they have the option to go back, but elect to stay.

"We love it," says Shipman. "We work extremely well together. It's team teaching."

Their students, from Wayne and Oakland counties, are reading on levels that are "anywhere from second grade to 12th grade." Most of the students have performed poorly in school previously.

Recently, each of the teachers added a group of Day Students to her workload. Now, each woman teaches eight to 10 Camp Oakland Day Students (see page 4) in the morning, and the same number of Work Ed residents in the afternoon.

"The Work Ed students are older and more serious," says Schneider. "They have been more involved with the courts and are more tuned into the consequences of their behavior."

The result is that some Work Ed students have made remarkable progress, particularly those who had not been attending school. Some cover as much as three grades during their six to eight month stays in the Work Ed program.

"For some," Schneider points out, "this is the first time they have attended regularly. We often hear them say that this is the first time they have ever done well in school and they liked it because of that.

"That," says Schneider, "is because the students constantly hear from staff that school is the most important thing they are doing here."

Keeping a daily journal, the teachers agree, is one of the most valuable things their students do.

"We write back to them in their journals every day and they look forward to reading our comments," says Schneider. "They know what they say is confidential, and only between themselves and us."

"We feel good about what we are doing," says Shipman. "We see a lot of progress in all of them when they are getting ready to be released.

"But if it were only once a year that you felt you had an impact on somebody's future goals," she adds, "it would still be worth it."



William J. Matus speaks at 40th anniversary event.

Camp Oakland was visited by William J. Matus, who directed the agency for its first 30 years, for June ceremonies rededicating the Adventure Center and the agency's goals.

U.S. Representative Dale Kildee, of the 9th District, which includes Oxford, also joined in the event marking the 40th anniversary of Camp Oakland Youth Programs, Inc.

Matus was honored with the renaming of Girls Ranch as the William J. Matus Girls Ranch Program. A plaque now hanging at the Ranch entrance states it is affectionately dedicated to Matus for his "inspiration to countless numbers of troubled girls and boys and their families."

Matus spoke at Kresge Hall to an audience of board members, friends and about 100 summer campers. Afterward, the children asked him questions for 20 minutes. "These are the most precious children in Oakland County," Matus said.

Rep. Kildee also spoke before presenting the Adventure Center with a flag that once flew over the U.S. Capitol Building.

The Adventure Center hosts 500 children, ages eight to 13, for eight days of summer camping each year. The children are referred by Oakland County Youth Assistance, an arm of Probate Court, when it is felt that a summer camping experience for a child would benefit the entire family.

Youth Assistance pays a portion of the expense and Camp Oakland subsidizes the remainder through fundraising activities.



Counselor and summer campers have a heart-to-heart discussion.

A visitor gets his coloring critiqued by Mary Bogardus, director of the child day care center.



A child day care center began operating at Adams House on Camp Oakland's grounds in Marcly, 1993.

The Camp Oakland Child Care Center is open to ages six weeks through six years. It was opened to meet an Oxford-Orion community need for quality, year-round service for children and working parents, and for those who need weekly or hourly care.

The center is part of Camp Oakland's program of early prevention of problems that can disrupt children's lives later at home and in school.

Building self-esteem is a major goal of the program, says Mary Bogardus, director.

"From the beginning," says Bogardus, "we try to teach children they can be independent, that there are things they can do." Preschoolers in the program are learning practical skills such as how to pour their own milk, hang up clothes and otherwise help at home.

"If you build self-esteem early," says Bogardus, "there is a good basis for retaining it. It's difficult to teach that when a child is 11 and has a poor self-image."

The center operates from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and has registered 43 children. It can accommodate up to 11 children of toddler age and below, at \$3 per hour or \$115 per week.

Up to 15 preschoolers, ages two and a half to six, can be enrolled at \$100 per week, or \$2.50 per hour.

Adams House, just behind the big red barn, was a gift to Camp Oakland from the Carman Adams family.

Supervised Independent



Ruie (right) likes living at the home of Camp Oakland volunteers Vanessa and Terry Rush.

The strains from a classical music station can be heard in a neat two-story white house in Pontiac, where two outstanding Camp Oakland volunteers live.

The twosome are Mr. and Mrs. Terry Rush, who provide a home for Ruie, age 15, under Camp Oakland's Supervised Independent Living program.

Ruie lived at Girls Ranch until January. But when it was time for her to leave, Camp Oakland's staff searched for an alternative to sending Ruie back home, where the neglect sometimes even included failure to provide adequate food.

The alternative was the Rush household, where a vivacious and excitable Ruie says, "I like it here."

"Ruie and I are great friends," says Terry Rush, a Metro Airport skycap who is the father of four by a previous marriage.

Adds Teri Kennedy, coordinator of the Supervised Independent Living program, "Rule and Terry have a good relationship."

Making a home for Ruie was Vanessa Rush's idea. She had heard about the troubled girl through a cousin of Ruie's. A friend asked if Vanessa Rush would be interested in sharing her roomy house.

She met Ruie last October, even before she met her husband-to-be, Terry Rush. "I could see Ruie was reaching out for something," says Vanessa, mother of two grown sons.

Meanwhile, Ruie attends the Day Student program at Camp Oakland, 12 hours each day. Earlier, she had attended Pontiac Central High School, but there were difficulties. "Being a Day Student is easier for me," says Ruie. "Concentrating on my work is easier." She believes she is getting a lot out of therapy groups at the Day Student center.

Under the Supervised Independent Living Program, families like the Rushes provide a room and minimal supervision until a teenager is able to live on his or her own.

The Rushes receive 24-hour support in case of a crisis, when Kennedy has always been there via her beeper.

Kennedy also makes periodic home visits and earns the praises of Vanessa Rush, who says "she is everything we could ask for."

Of the two Camp Oakland volunteers, Kennedy says, "These people are great to work with. It's a pleasure."

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Hundreds of people who care about children donate their time to helping Camp Oakland's programs succeed.

Volunteers who have made a difference in the past year include:

Oakland County service club members who maintain Adventure Center buildings through the Adopt-A-Cabin program.

Chairman Phil Cartwright and 132 golfers at the annual Camp Oakland Golf Classic in June, emceed by volunteer Brooks Patterson, Oakland County executive.

The 28 members of COAT (Camp Oakland Action Team), headed by Carrol Falberg, who assist with the golf classic and hold birthday parties at Boys and Girls Ranches.

The Christmas party givers: Birmingham Alumnae of Kappa Alpha Theta at Girls Ranch; the Veteran Motor Car Club of America, Birmingham chapter, at Boys Ranch and Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Glover from the Detroit Lions, Work Education.

Co-chairmen Nancy and Chuck Gilbert and the volunteers who staged the September barn sale, though thwarted by a fire that nearly destroyed the barn.

Bob Halsted and others who worked and/or golfed in the Women's Golf Outing in October. Oakland County Young Republicans, who annually spend a day entertaining summer campers.

Ken Wilson, who donated materials and helped Work Education boys build a new cabin for the Adventure Center.

Bob Jueckstock, who takes Boys Ranch residents fishing and helps the Adventure Center maintain its boats.



Volunteer Phil Cartwright gives a Camp Oakland lapel pin to U.S. Representative Dale Kildee.

Treasurer's Report



Edward H. Nolan

Edward HAdan

During its 1993 fiscal year, Camp Oakland continued to enhance and expand its programs to meet the growing community needs for cost-effective remedial care to the area's troubled youth and their families. Total program services and other costs increased 16% during the year due in large part to the ongoing expansion of the day care programs (up 44%) and the initiation of the boot camp program. These results were achieved while supporting service costs as a percent of total expenses decreased by nearly 2%. Funding of total operating expenses by government sources remained materially unchanged at 77% during 1993, as compared with 1992.

Camp Oakland's community-based activities such as the day care programs and boot camp have struck a responsive chord with government in their efforts to fund necessary services during these current times of rigid budget constraints. These programs have resulted in substantial reductions in the use of more costly training school and residential care alternatives. We continue to work closely with county and state government officials to ensure that our programs are economically as well as clinically responsive to community needs.

We extend our sincere thanks to all of you who helped in the past year with your financial support. Contributions and bequests increased 36% during 1993, but there is still an urgent need to raise the level of private donations to Camp Oakland.

Our support from the private sector, which is so essential to the successful conduct of our mission, comes from many sources. As a case in point, consider the deeds of Camp Oakland employee Grek Risak, supervisor at the Camp's Boys Ranch and Presidents Club donor. He inspires us by his example in the many ways of serving Camp Oakland.

The factors discussed above contributed to the \$243,000 deficit recognized by Camp Oakland for its 1993 fiscal year. Below is selected data from Camp Oakland's 1993, 1992, and 1991 financial statements which include unqualified opinions from KPMG Peat Marwick as independent auditors. A copy of the full financial report is available upon request.

Year ended June 30, 1993			
	1993	1992	1991
upport from government agencies	\$3,485,130	\$3,024,31.7	\$2,634,318
rogram and other costs	4,500,366	.3,864,706	3,377,683
Operating loss	(1,015,236)	(840,389)	(743,365)
ontributions -	563,499	415,435	810,225
vestment income	88,962	133,879	137,085
ealized gains on investment sales 💝	59,823	78,419	108,560
Other income (net).	60,449	18,862	25,853
Other (ncome (net)_ Excess (deficit)	60,449 \$(242,503),	18,862 \$(193,794)	25,853 \$338,358

Donors

The Presidents Club was established in 1989 to recognize those individuals and groups who made gifts of \$1,000 or more during the year.

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