



DIAL/SELF

Strengthening Communities through Positive Youth Development and Civic Engagement Since 1977

Summer/Fall 2011

The TeenLine program has been busy this summer and staff have been focusing their attention on outreach efforts.

TeenLine launched a new initiative, the peer-to-peer outreach program, in August. Five youth thus far have completed the four hour outreach training, receiving

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|--|---|
| TeenLine | 1 |
| ACT Volunteer Center | 1 |
| Step | 2 |
| Teen Housing | 3 |
| AmeriCorps/YouthServe Board of Directors | 4 |

Barbara Abraham became Director of the ACT Volunteer Center just as the current Commonwealth Corps members were completing their one year commitment.

Apryl Green has moved on to a position at Community Action, Stacey Elliott is entering the private sector for her employment and Tyanna Normandin is continuing at the ACT Center in a volunteer capacity.

TeenLine

instruction on: engaging other youth in an outreach capacity and speaking about services that DIAL/SELF provides, maintaining professional boundaries while interacting with peers, making sure that all outreach activities are safe, and making sure that outreach activities are provided with cultural awareness and competency.

The peer to peer volunteers are now supporting DIAL/SELF street outreach efforts, helping staff table at community events, and when the school year starts, the youth are excited to table at school lunches and help give presentations about DIAL/SELF services in the schools.

Staff and youth were excited to march in the 2011 Franklin County Fair Parade carrying DIAL/SELF signs, and

giving out TeenLine hotline cards and prizes to community youth watching the parade.

Staff are very excited about new outreach initiatives and congratulate and thank the youth volunteers for the wonderful service they are doing!

TeenLine is also preparing to open a new resource drop-in center in Orange, MA. The new drop-in center will replicate services offered at the current center located at 16 Miles Street in Greenfield, including providing young people access to a safe place where they can socialize and participate in weekly educational groups. Information and Referral services,



DIAL/SELF drop in center

Case Management Services, Clinical services and a food pantry will also be available at the new center in Orange. TeenLine hopes to open this new center in October 2011. Stay tuned for more details!

ACT Volunteer Center

Barbara wishes them all good luck in their future endeavors and welcomes the new VISTA workers joining the center.

Barbara and Tyanna participated in the Greenfield Community College's Community Opportunities Festival on September 8th.

Want to get ACT newsletters? Go to:

<http://actvolunteercenter.net/newsletter/>



Step Program

Step staff and participants have enjoyed an eventful summer and are gearing up for a busy fall.

Staff held a successful bottle and can drive to raise money for the program "activities fund."

The program recognized youth this summer during an overnight adventure-based trip which included recognition events made possible through a mini-grant award through the Communities that Care Coalition. Many



Step Program Participants visiting Boston

program participants are beginning classes at GCC so this was celebrated by bringing these youth to Boston in August.

The program visited the Harvard campus, the Harvard Museum of Natural History, and Harvard Square.

The Step program also participated in the

annual "Youth Speak" in August where young people were able to share their important views with legislators.

This summer's life skills classes have focused on personal care, health, social skills, and safety.

During the summer months the program does not have the added benefit an AmeriCorps member, so the staff at the Step Program have tried to bring in outside

members of the community to support the life skills training.

Youth and staff were excited to participate in the 2011 Franklin County Fair Parade to start off the autumn events.

In September Step is concentrating on welcoming the new AmeriCorps member for the 2011-2012 term, and bringing in new youth to the program!

Staff are planning some new events like apple picking, haunted hayrides, and pumpkin festivals to enjoy harvest time!



Step Program Participants get ready for the 2011 Franklin County Fair Parade

Teen Housing

DIAL/SELF's Teen Housing division continues to be the only developer of affordable supportive housing for young adults 18-25 who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless. Since 2006 DIAL/SELF has completed two affordable housing projects with a total capacity to house 18 young adults.

In March of 2010, the 196 Federal Street project was completed in Greenfield, MA, providing 10 efficiency apartments where youth pay 30% of their income towards rent (heat & hot water included) and pay their own electric bill. The program has already seen several young adults successfully complete a full year of tenancy and move on to larger apartments. Tenants of the building receive supportive services from DIAL/SELF and other area service providers, and give back at least 4 hours a month to the community through volunteer service.

DIAL/SELF is very excited to be working on its next affordable housing project in area that has a very high need. DIAL/SELF plans to renovate the building it purchased in 2009 located at 15-17 E. Main Street in Orange, MA.

The project will be similar to the one completed in Greenfield. The current design will create 9 efficiency units, including one accessible unit on the first floor. It will also create an expanded office and community space for existing DIAL/SELF programs on the first floor.

Funding for the project comes from several sources. Currently the project has commitments from the town of Orange through CDBG funds and is seeking funding from the Federal Home Loan Bank, the Affordable Housing trust Fund, the Housing Innovation Fund, the Housing

Stabilization Fund and private foundations and donors.

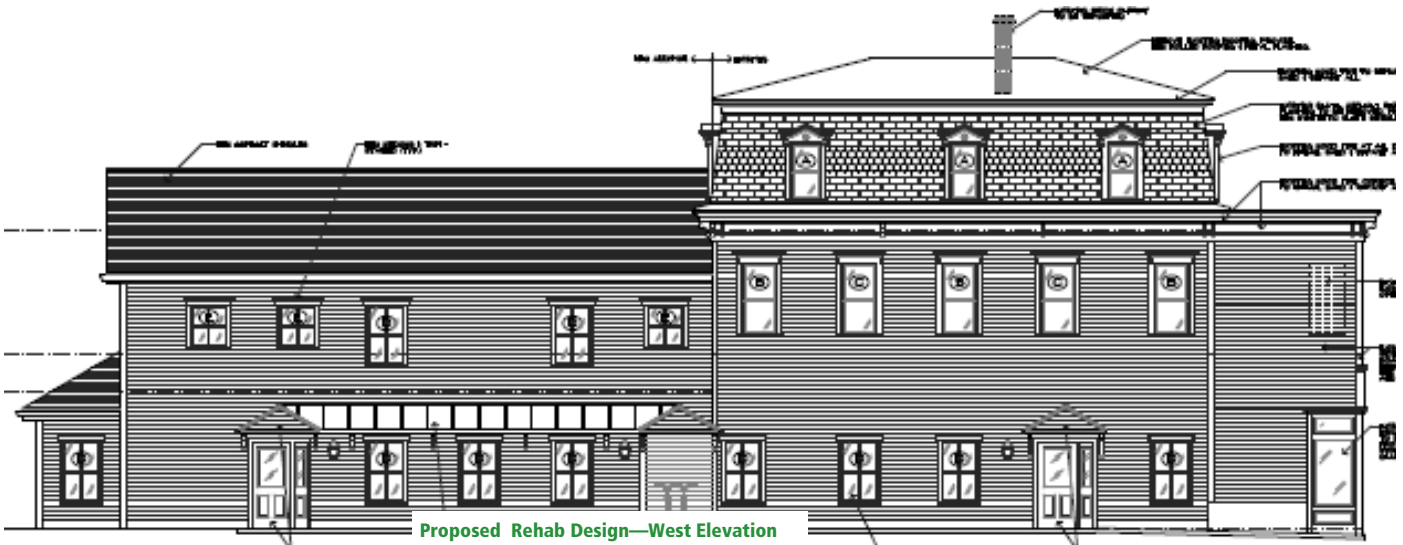
Those interested in supporting the Orange project can contact Phil Ringwood at 413-774-7054 ext 115 or at pringwood@dialself.org



15-17 E. Main Street in Orange, MA



Proposed Rehab Design—South Elevation



Proposed Rehab Design—West Elevation



Phone: (413) 774-7054
Fax: (413) 773-3335
Email: director@dialself.org
www.dialself.org

21 Abbott Street **Check us out on Facebook**
Greenfield, MA 01301

DIAL/SELF's mission is to create opportunities, services, and programs that promote the health and positive development of youth, and the communities in which they live. We believe that youth are more likely to make the journey to adulthood successfully when they are surrounded by a caring community of adults actively serving as guides, providing safe havens, and fostering self-awareness, self worth, self-discipline and self-motivation.

AmeriCorps/YouthServe

The YouthServe AmeriCorps Program is gearing up for its 15th year serving the Franklin-Hampshire-North Quabbin region!



This year, 16 AmeriCorps members placed at 11 different partner sites will create opportunities for young people to be involved in their schools and communities; recruit and support community volunteers to support

youth-focused programming; and develop their own citizenship, civic engagement, and professional skills.

As the program is gearing up for the year, YouthServe would like to give special acknowledgement to its Site Partners. By hosting a YouthServe AmeriCorps member, these non-profits and schools are not only expanding the community's capacity to support young people, but they are also making a commitment to the development of new professionals.

The time, energy, feedback, and support that Site Supervisors offer to each AmeriCorps member are a vital component in the success of the program.

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The 2011-2012 YouthServe AmeriCorps Site Partners:

- Amherst Regional High School
- Amherst Regional Middle School
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hampshire County
- The Brick House Community Resource Center
- Community Action Youth Programs
- DIAL/SELF Step Program
- DIAL/SELF TeenLine

- Northfield-Mount Hermon Upward Bound
- Smith Vocational and Agricultural High School
- United Arc of Franklin and Hampshire Counties
- Youth Action Coalition

