



DIAL/SELF

Strengthening Communities through Positive Youth Development and Civic Engagement Since 1977

Spring/Summer 2011

DIAL/SELF ready for the "Next Step"

In 1977 a small but dedicated group of youth advocates launched DIAL/SELF Youth and Community Services. Nearly 35 years later, it is safe to say it was a successful launch. Having served more than 20,000 youth and young adults over almost three and a half

decades, DIAL/SELF has now embarked on an ambitious community outreach initiative intended to broaden further the agency's reach and service to the Franklin-Hampshire-North Quabbin region. The purpose of the "Next Step Campaign" is to raise awareness of DIAL/SELF's mission, programs, and impact, and in doing so, to increase its service to area youth and communities.

permanent housing to homeless teens. We educate youth regarding life skills and provide them with leadership opportunities.

DIAL/SELF is both a comprehensive youth agency and an accredited regional volunteer center. The organization serves more than 2,500 youth and adults each year, through 16 program locations.

A key component of the Next Step Campaign is a 15 minute narrated presentation called the "Virtual Tour of DIAL/SELF", which is shown at least twice a week at the organization's 196 Federal St. facility. The Virtual Tour is also available to be shown throughout area communities, at meetings of civic groups, public libraries, churches,



DIAL/SELF Board of Directors
Sarah Neelon, Garth Shaneyfelt, Tony Matteo, Dan Rhayne, Al Siano, Starr Pinkos, Jess Pollack (Judith Moman not in photo)

schools, and non-profit agencies. Much of the presentation is in the form of true stories of the youth we have served, in their words. It is very powerful.

Anyone interested in "taking the Tour" at 196 Federal Street in Greenfield, or any group interested in having the Virtual Tour presented at an upcoming meeting, should contact David Voegele at director@dialself.org. Depending upon the extent of questions and answers after the Tour, the entire presentation takes 20-40 minutes.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Next Step Campaign	1
TeenLine	1
ACT Volunteer Center	2
STEP	2
AmeriCorps/YouthServe	3
RISE	3
North Quabbin	4

Many people think of DIAL/SELF strictly as a residential program for high-risk youth, but we are much more than that. We operate the local AmeriCorps program. We reach out to youth in schools and on the streets. We provide both emergency housing and

TeenLine



DIAL/SELF drop in center

TeenLine is very excited about new hours and added programming.

At the drop in center located at 16 Miles St. in Greenfield, TeenLine is pleased to be offering several exciting new groups and classes.

New Open Drop in Hours:

- Monday
- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Friday
- 2-3pm and 5-7pm
- Thursdays
- 2-5pm.

See the TeenLine insert for information on the new classes and groups including; Job Hunting 101, Let's Talk About Sex, Art Group, Game Day and Lifestyles of the Young and Fabulous.

ACT Volunteer Center

ACT once again was a partner in the annual Paragon Awards which offer recognition for outstanding volunteer service.

The Paragon Partnership is a community collaboration between the ACT Volunteer Center, the Pioneer Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Daily Hampshire Gazette and the United Way of Hampshire County and the RSVP program of Hampshire and Franklin Counties

The Outstanding Youth Award was presented to Daniel Dietz, 17, of Florence, who has used his talent with a yo-yo to raise more than \$30,000 for The Smile Train, a program that pays for cleft lip and palate surgeries for children in under developed countries.

Dietz also performs for patients at the veterans hospital in Leeds and in nursing homes, walked the

Relay for Life and served holiday meals at the Edwards Church.

Honorable mention in the Outstanding Youth award was given to nominee Emily Moriarty, of Hatfield, who works to get locally grown food into her school lunch program.

Want to get ACT newsletters? Go to: <http://actvolunteercenter.net/newsletter/>



Step Program

Spring is a very exciting time at the Step Program.

We have worked to collaborate with other youth serving resources in the area. We have just completed a series of life skills classes for our youth in collaboration with Tapestry Health. These classes had focused on STDs, Pregnancy and Contraception, Healthy Relationships, Body Image, General Health, Sexual Violence, Conflict Resolution, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Roles.

Our Americorps member worked with the Brick House and other Americorps sites to hold an "Arts Weekend" for youth in April. This weekend included an "open mic" performance night, all day workshops and trainings, and an overnight event.

Step Program staff and youth presented a workshop on "Team Building" at the Youth Conference on April 13th at Frontier Regional High School, and we are working with a volunteer to prepare our program's garden for spring.

We are planning an overnight wilderness training with our participants to be held in June and have just received a Youth Recognition mini grant from the Communities that Care Coalition to celebrate our youth in an upcoming event.

The Gill Montague Community School partnership recognized the community service efforts of the Step Program's youth during the "Community Awards



Step Program Staff & Participants

Dinner" on April 27th. Some of our youth are completing classes at GCC this semester, one has completed a work study, two youth have held internships with the Thrive Project in Turners Falls, and another obtained an internship with a local merchant.

Our program is interviewing new applicants for the upcoming 2011/2012 AmeriCorps term and planning our next youth advisory council meeting to be held in May.



At the recent Massachusetts Service Alliance 20th Anniversary Breakfast, CNCS CEO Patrick Corvington and Keynote Speaker Victoria Reggie Kennedy exhorted AmeriCorps members, alumni, and program staff to tell their stories. In these economic times, when every dollar of Federal and State budgets is scrutinized, stories help people understand the transformative effect of service on communities and individuals, both those who are served, and those who offer service. Here are a few stories from current AmeriCorps members. Many thanks to all the current and past YouthServe/GAP members who have made such a difference in our Franklin and

AmeriCorps/YouthServe

Hampshire County communities!

Annie Tierney, serving at Community Action Youth Programs:

"Recently, the 84 Project presented to the Greenfield Town Council's Community Relations and Education Committee. The 84 Project is a youth-led movement fighting for a tobacco-free generation in Massachusetts. We were hoping for the Town Council to sign a resolution saying they supported us and our mission. The youth answered questions from the committee and then were invited to present to the full Town Council at a future meeting. The committee signed the resolution proposed by the 84 Project youth, and will recommend that the full Town Council also accept the resolution."

Hannah Fjeld, serving at Youth Action Coalition in Amherst:

"When I first came to DIAL/SELF Youth Serve AmeriCorps and my position as Programs Liaison at Youth Action Coalition, I had no idea whatsoever what goes into running a non-profit. I had studied youth empowerment theories in college, but had had very few opportunities to put them into practice. Stepping into my position, I was nervous - it was challenging for me to talk to new people, to understand what exactly my position was (given it didn't exist before I came), and to see areas that offered potential for growth and change. Through the course of my service I have grown and changed immensely; I have gained new skills, such as facilitating workshops, I have become more outgoing, ready to speak up and express my opinion, and I have gained a wealth of experience that will serve me well throughout the rest of my life. The wide variety of tasks that I undertake each day - from planning an upcoming



overnight retreat to consulting with staff on snack choices for programs to working one-on-one with youth that are struggling to helping supervise youth programs - has nurtured an ability to be adaptable, to prioritize tasks, and to get a lot done in a small amount of time. DIAL/SELF AmeriCorps has made me a better youth worker, citizen, employee, and person as a whole."

YouthServe is currently accepting applications for the 2011-2012 service term. To learn how to get things done for Franklin and Hampshire Counties, please visit www.dialself.org/ameri-corps.

RISE

The RISE Program is entering a new phase.

Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, each RISE school will partner directly with the YouthServe AmeriCorps program. This will allow each school to develop an individualized position that best meets the needs of the school, and to play an active role in the day-to-day direction and activities of the RISE Resource Coordinator.

The need for this increased autonomy has been echoed by school personnel and RISE Resource Coordinators alike.

It will ensure that resources are deployed in the most efficient and effective way possible, ultimately strengthening the relationship between each school and its surrounding community.





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Check us out on Facebook

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.

North Quabbin

Our 3rd Annual DIAL/SELF – North Quabbin Art Show has sprouted roots! We now have two exhibit sites this year. The Patch Office in Athol, MA will be partnering with us and hosting a wide variety of artwork created by area youth on June 3, 2011, from 4pm-7pm, as they have for the past several years.

As the amount of interest in the show and the number of art submissions continues to grow, youth have asked that their work also be displayed in Orange, MA. The recent opening of a new "cooperative, Art For Life Shop, featuring a gallery of

creations from more than 30 of North Quabbin's talented artists and artisans has taken seed in an effort to germinate a new growth of community vibrancy, " was noted in the monthly newspaper, Quabbin Valley Voices. When DIAL/SELF – North Quabbin staff asked next door Art For Life folks to partner with us and host our DIAL/SELF Youth Art Show, they jumped at the opportunity. Our teen exhibit opens at Art for Life, 11 East Main St, Orange, on June 10th, from 4pm-7pm and will remain available for viewing the following week at that location.

In past shows, art included watercolors, acrylics and black and white drawings. Teen's creative talents are recognized in their poignant poetry and profoundly short stories as well as pottery, macro photography, knitted pieces, paper-mâché puppets and displays. We already have numerous pieces for this year and they include the watercolor shown here, oil pastels on slate, and a bull dog intricately cut and finished from wood.

Both shows are open to the public and we encourage you to visit.



Colors of Spring Take Root in Youth Recognition Events

We will continue to be taking submissions from North Quabbin teens until June 1st and pieces can be dropped off at our office located at 15 East Main St., Orange, MA. Please contact us if you have any questions. We can be reached at 978-544-1800 x 7.

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NEW PROGRAMS AT DIAL/SELF TEENLINE MILES ST DROP IN AND RESOURCE CENTER!

Teenline is pleased to be offering several exciting new groups and classes,
beginning **Monday, March 28, 2011**

As of this date we will have open drop-in hours
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 2-3pm and 5-7pm and
Thursdays from 2 to 5 pm

Mondays, 3-5 pm : JOB HUNTING 101

Having a hard time finding a job? Come to this group to find out who is hiring, get help with writing a resume or filling out an application, practice for an interview, and much more!

Not job hunting? You are also welcome to bring your homework and get some help from staff.

Tuesdays, 3-5 pm : LET'S TALK ABOUT SEX

Have questions about sex, sexuality, identity, birth control, STI prevention, deciding to be sexually active, pregnancy, parenting, and additional resources in your community? Come to this group to learn all about how to keep yourself healthy and happy!



Wednesdays, 3-5 PM : ART GROUP

An art, crafts, and writing group. Come explore your creative side! We have the supplies, so just bring yourself and your artistic spirit! Learn how to make a book or a zine, crochet, re-fashion old clothes, or just hang out and doodle....all skill levels welcome.

Fridays, 3-5 pm : GAME DAY!

Come play your favorite board games, card games, and when the weather gets nice, outdoor games!



And Thursdays, from 5 –7 PM we are still holding Lifestyles of the Young and Fabulous.

As always, if you participate in the discussion, we will provide dinner and dessert!

