

## **Statement of Sponsorship and Support**

The mission of Lakes Area Youth Assistance (LAYA) is to strengthen the relationship between youth and their families and reduce child abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency through volunteer involvement.

The core sponsors and supporters who make Lakes Area Youth Assistance possible are the Charter Township of Commerce, City of Walled Lake, Walled Lake Consolidated School District, City of Wixom, Village of Wolverine Lake and Oakland County Circuit Court-Family Division. Principal funding is through the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, business owners, individuals and a dedicated Board of Directors.

The Walled Lake Consolidated School District provides LAYA with an office located in the Educational Services Center. We are very grateful for the generous support of our community sponsors!

LAYA receives casework referrals from school personnel, police/sheriff departments, parents, Department of Human Services and other entities. Our caseworkers provide confidential short-term family-centered counseling services. Through early intervention, more serious problems can be averted. Typical reasons for referrals include intervention, retail fraud, home and school problems, violations of local ordinances, assault and alcohol or drug involvement.

We provide numerous prevention programs that continue to prove successful each year such as: Summer Camp, Skill Building Activities, Family Education Programs, Mentors PLUS, Shop with a Hero and Holiday Adopt-a-Child.

The annual fundraiser for LAYA is our "Taste of the Lakes" event. It is held at Edgewood Country Club in Commerce Township. Many thanks to the board members and staff who give of their time and efforts to bring this event together. We look forward to seeing you all at the event this year, scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7, 2025.**

If you are interested in being a part of Lakes Area Youth Assistance I encourage you to call 248-956-5070 for more information. We meet at 12:00 noon on the second Wednesday of each month at the LAYA office.

*Stephanie Kaplan*

*Lakes Area Youth Assistance, 2024 Chairperson*

### **2024 Board of Directors-Officers**

Stephanie Kaplan, Chairperson  
Nancy van Leuwen, Vice Chairperson  
Joan Sare, Secretary  
Peggy Hawke, Treasurer

### **2024 Board Members**

Ellen Demray, Jodi Gallo, Clarence Mills, Mike Hayes and Jim and Kelly Holubeck-Gotts. **Ad Hoc Members:** Kathy Lyall, Christopher Titus, Shayna Levin, Cindy Scarpace and Hon. David Law. **Police Liaisons**-Deputy Giffin, Deputy Krafft, Deputy Peterson.

**Office Staff**— Stacy Pasini, Caseworker

**Administrative Assistant** - Barb Sprunk

## **Oakland County Commissioners:**

**District #10:** Kristen Nelson (D), [nelsonkd@oakgov.com](mailto:nelsonkd@oakgov.com)

**District #11:** Marcia Gershenson (D), [gershensonm@oakgov.com](mailto:gershensonm@oakgov.com)

**District #12:** Christine Long (R), [longc@oakgov.com](mailto:longc@oakgov.com)

**District #14:** Ajay Raman (D), [ramana@oakgov.com](mailto:ramana@oakgov.com)

**District #15:** Gwen Markham (D), [markhamg@oakgov.com](mailto:markhamg@oakgov.com)

**District #16:** William Miller (D), [millerw@oakgov.com](mailto:millerw@oakgov.com)

## **Judges of Circuit Court Family Division**

*Lakes Area Youth Assistance is sponsored by  
the Circuit Court—Family Division.*

*Hon. Lisa Langton  
Presiding Family Division Judge*

Hon. Kameshia D. Gant  
Hon. Maureen Kinsella  
Hon. Lisa Gorcyca  
Hon. Julie McDonald  
Hon. Lorie N. Savin  
Hon. Amanda J. Shelton



The Probate Court for the County of Oakland does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission or access to its programs, activities or services as required by Title II of the American Disabilities Act of 1990. The court is an equal opportunity employer.

## **Court Administration:**

**Rich Lynch**, Circuit Court Administrator  
Oakland County Circuit Court

**Pamela J. Monville**, Deputy Court Administrator  
Oakland County Circuit Court

**Liz Csizmadia**, Chief, Oakland County Youth Assistance,  
Oakland County Circuit Court

## **Sponsorship and Support:**

Charter Township of Commerce

City of Walled Lake

Walled Lake Consolidated School District & School Board

City of Wixom

Village of Wolverine Lake

Oakland County Circuit Court

Our 24th Annual

## **“Taste of the Lakes”**

Fundraiser will be held  
on **Tuesday, October 7, 2025**  
Edgewood Country Club  
5:00 – 8:00 PM

Without the financial  
support of the community  
we could not offer the  
programs summarized in  
this brochure.

Please come out and  
support this wonderful cause.



Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

## Shop with a Hero

On December 5th, 2024, LAYA was able to pair 20 area youth from the Walled Lake School District with members of the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), Lodge 128, to provide a holiday shopping spree, all sponsored by the FOP, Lodge 128 and the Wixom Meijer. After a free pizza meal, the youths were matched with an officer and were able to shop for clothing, supplies and a few special items for themselves or family members.



On December 10th, 2024, LAYA was able to pair 34 area youth from the Walled Lake School District with local heroes for a holiday shopping experience. At this event, the heroes consisted of Oakland County Sheriff's Officers, Commerce Township Firefighters and EMTs. After a free pizza meal provided by LAYA, the youths were matched with a Hero and were able to shop for clothing, supplies and a few special items, all paid for by contributions from the Commerce Meijer.

At both events, the Meijer Stores sent each family home with groceries for a great holiday meal.

These events were great opportunities for some Walled Lake School children to have a positive learning experience with members of our area law enforcement and local heroes. It also allowed these youths to see through the Meijer Corporation, how two of our local Meijer stores continue to very generously support our community.

*Jodi Gallo*  
*Shop with a Cop/Hero, Coordinator*



## Mentors PLUS

The Lakes Area Youth Assistance Mentors PLUS program is designed to match pre-screened adult mentors with at-risk caseload children in the Walled Lake School system. The "matching" process is designed to help the youth develop both socially and emotionally. A supportive mentor is to be a friend and a positive role model. The mentor's commitment is for one year.

If you know of someone who would be interested in becoming a mentor or volunteering for the Mentors Plus committee, please contact the LAYA office for further information.

We had one (1) "match" in 2024.

*Clarence Mills*  
*Mentors PLUS, Coordinator*



## Skill Building

Lakes Area Youth Assistance strives to provide scholarships to youth for activities that enable them to develop a special interest or talent which they may not otherwise be able to participate in. These skill building activities are aimed at expanding the youth's horizons, increasing skills and building self-confidence. We are pleased that in 2024 we were able to assist 25 youth in the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools in working toward reaching their full potential and experiencing a positive learning opportunity that may not have been possible without assistance. Youngsters were able to participate in football, soccer, swimming, TGA Jr. Golf, track & field, volleyball, and basketball. Our Board will continue to work together with the community in 2025 to keep our youth engaged in activities that develop skills and self-confidence so they may experience a brighter future.

*Jodi Gallo*  
*Skill Building, Coordinator*



## Holiday Adopt-A-Child

The Holiday Adopt-a-Child event was very successful this year. A total of 66 children were adopted and we are proud to say that this was the 24th year LAYA has been able to help families during the holidays. The youth adopted were both LAYA caseload and non-caseload families. Thank you to all of the Walled Lake Consolidated School District principals, secretaries, teachers, counselors and social workers who worked with LAYA to identify and refer families in need.

Our generous donors included **Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Spencer Roofing, Wixom DPW, Wixom Senior Center, Walled Lake United Methodist Church, Crossroads Presbyterian Church, and several individual community members.**

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed. Your willingness to give made for a blessed and joyful holiday for some of our area children.

We look forward to helping many more children in 2025!

*Ellen Demray*  
*Holiday Adopt-a-Child, Coordinator*



## **5th Grade Camp / Summer Camp**

Our objective in sending kids to camp throughout the school year and during the summer months is to introduce or reinforce positive relationships and experiences. New friendships and skill building experiences will always be with them. Accomplishing goals (talking to a new person or completing a skills course) are some of the many positive learning tools.

In 2024, we were proud to send seven children to Basketball, Karate, Gymnastics, and Baseball summer day camps offered through Walled Lake Schools Community Education, American All Stars and Lakes Area Baseball and we were able to provide a scholarship for one child to attend 5th Grade Camp.

We gratefully wish to acknowledge donations received from the 2024 Taste of the Lakes event. Without your help, these kids would not have had the opportunity to have a positive summer camp experience. Thanks to all involved.

*Joan Sare*  
Summer Camp Coordinator



## **Taste of the Lakes**



2024 was a great year for our 23rd Annual “Taste of the Lakes”. With your support we were able to net more than \$28,000! Thanks to all of our sponsors, restaurants, volunteers and supporters who made this year’s event a huge success. Please take a look at each program report to see how your support helped the children and families in this great community.

The Taste was held once again at Edgewood Country Club and 19 of our finest local restaurants provided specialty items from their menu for our patrons to sample and enjoy. When visiting these great establishments, please mention you had seen them at the “Taste”.

Our raffle and silent auction offered an array of unique treasures donated by many local business owners and our school’s PTA/PTSA’s. A big “Thank You” goes out to the staff and management of Edgewood Country Club for hosting the event and helping make the night a huge success.

A special thank you, as well, to those who generously supported our efforts with financial donations.

Lakes Area Youth Assistance is very proud and grateful for the outpouring of the community wide efforts that made “Taste of the Lakes 2024” so successful. Our appreciation goes out to everyone whose generosity helps make the prevention programs and services of Lakes Area Youth Assistance possible for at-risk WLCSD students and families.

*Ellen Demray*  
Taste of the Lakes Coordinator



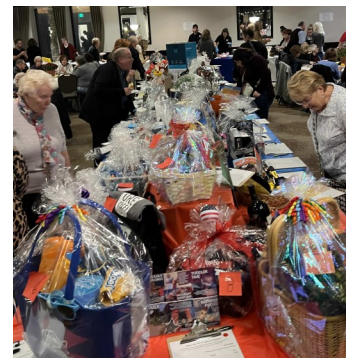
Strengthening Families  
Through Community Involvement

**Make a difference in your community**

**Become a LAYA Volunteer**

**Call (248) 956-5070**

- ✦ Join LAYA’s Board of Directors
- ✦ Join a LAYA prevention program committee





## Youth Programs sponsored by LAYA for 2024

### Family Support

Lakes Area Youth Assistance offers programs to youth and families in the WLCSD to help build skills in: communication, problem solving, resiliency, self awareness and prevention of bullying and drug/substance abuse. Programs can be requested by schools, law enforcement, or families. Funds for these programs come from our annual fundraising “Taste of the Lakes” event, as well as from our community support partners.

### Youth Programs offered this year, for Junior Kindergarten through Middle School included:

- ♦ **Art Therapy:** Small groups of at risk students explore the use of art for emotional expression, self awareness, coping skills and enhanced social skills. These classes are facilitated by a certified Art Therapist. Topics explored may include: absentee parents, family substance abuse, bullying, grief and/or loss. This year our program offered these services to approximately 40 elementary and middle school students.
- ♦ **Stress to Success Yoga:** A certified yoga instructor teaches basics of yoga to small groups of students from preschool to middle school. These tools help build self regulation, mindfulness, resiliency, and self esteem. This program runs 6-8 weeks and has been offered throughout this school year to approximately 200 students.

Our Family Support budget further offered programs on Vaping to 6th, 7th & 8th grade students at two of our middle schools. Additionally, a program on Diversity and another on Bullying were offered at two of our elementary schools.

LAYA volunteers bought, packed and distributed 450 backpacks for a “ Free Backpack Giveaway” at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year.

*Peggy Hawke*  
*Family Support Coordinator*

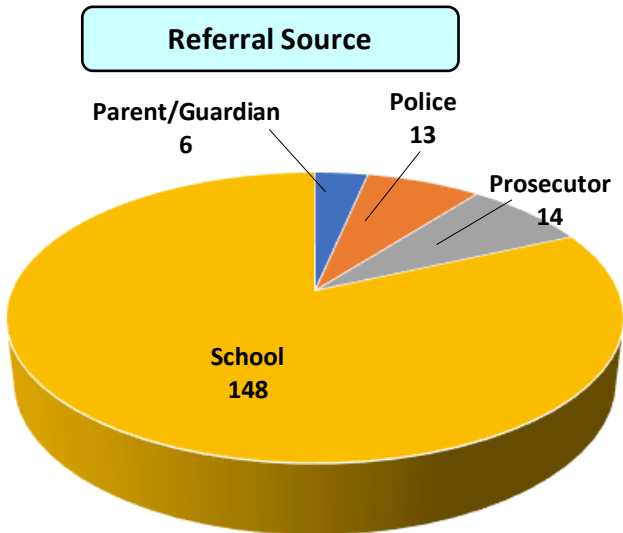


# Caseworker's Report

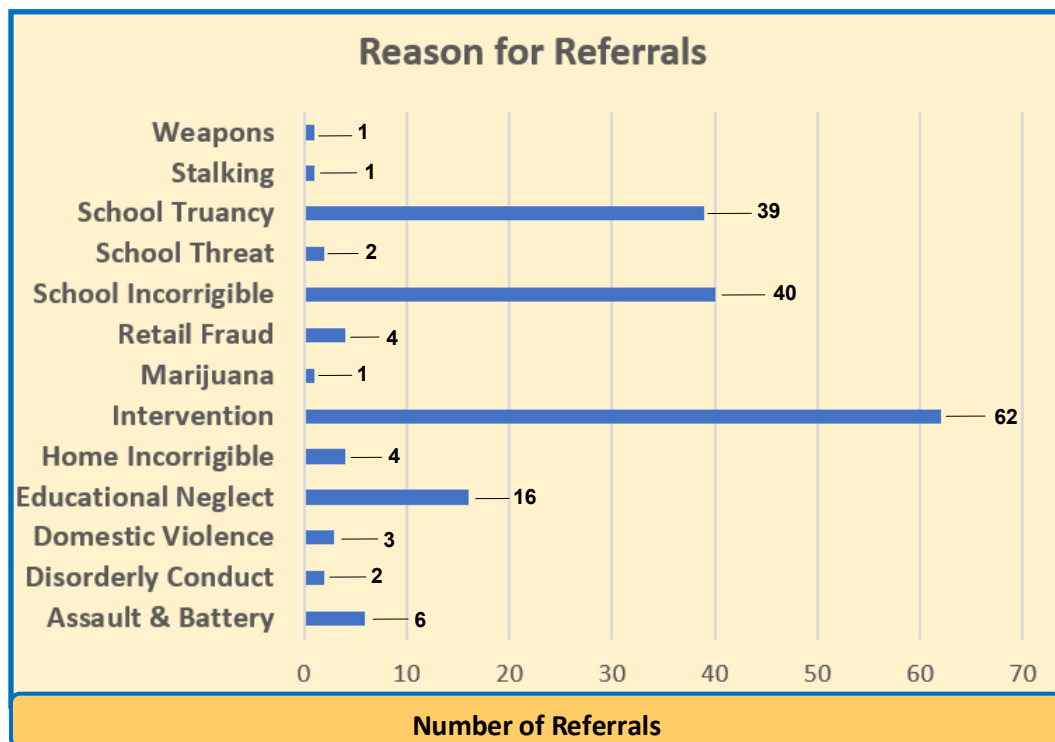
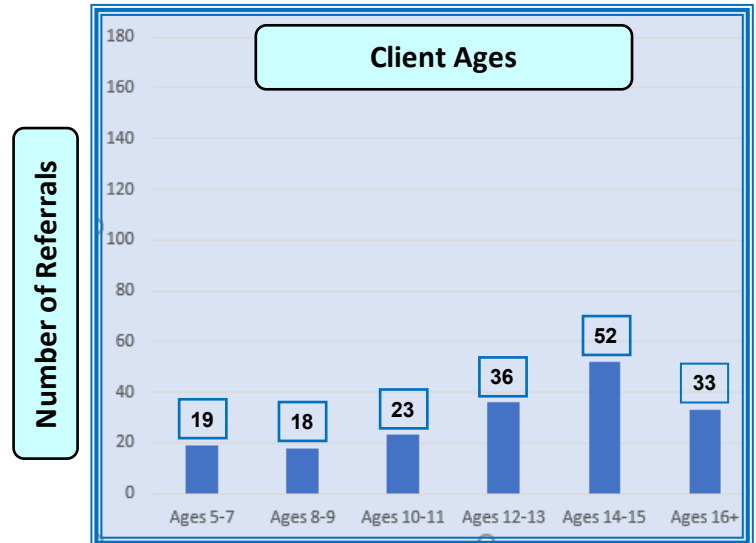
In 2024, Lakes Area Youth Assistance had a total of **181** new cases.

*(Charts depict age, reason, and source breakdowns for referrals)*

The LAYA staff and volunteer board continue to forge strong links with schools, law enforcement, and other community entities to increase awareness of our programs and services. We also welcome collaborations with local businesses, human service agencies, civic groups, churches and others in our community determined to decrease and prevent child abuse, neglect and juvenile delinquency through prevention programs.



**School = 82%   Parent = 3%   Police = 7%   Prosecutor = 8%**



**2024 Caseworker Staff**

**Stacy Pasini**



# Lakes Area Youth Assistance

## *Thank You*

to our community and to all the generous contributors

### 2024 "Taste of the Lakes"

Because of your commitment, our mission to strengthen youth and families through volunteer involvement will continue to grow to meet our community's needs.

#### Gold Sponsors

**\*\* Giffels Webster \*\* Spencer Roofing\*\***

#### Silver Sponsors

**\*\*Hislop & Lepak Family Dentistry \*\* Integrated & Preventative Health Care \*\* KER Engineering\*\*  
\*\*Nedrow Refractories Co. \*\* Walled Lake Education Association \*\* Walled Lake Schools Federal Credit Union\*\***

#### Bronze Sponsors

**\*\* Adkinson, Need, Allen & Rentrop, PLLC \*\* Commerce Ridge, Inc. Energy Saver Homes \*\*  
\*\*Granby Mold \*\*Lynch & Sons Funeral Home \*\*Matrix Group\*\* Shelving & Rack Systems, Inc. \*\***

#### Restaurants

**\*\*Biggby Coffee \*\*CJ's Brewery \*\*Casey's of Walled Lake \*\*Crmbl Cookies \*\*Dickey's Barbeque Pit \*\*Edgewood Country Club  
\*\*Edible Arrangements \*\*Great Harvest Bread Company \*\*Gus's Carry-out \*\*Jet's Pizza \*\*Kickstand Brewing Co.  
\*\*Library Sports Pub & Grill \*\*Lulu's \*\*Olive Garden \*\*Pita Way \*\*Sheldon's Street Pizza \*\*Tim Horton's of Walled Lake \*\*Wing Snob\*\***

#### Generous Contributors

Acorn Farm, Alpine Tavern & Eatery, American All-Stars, American Plastic Toys, Amy Serniak, Ann Arbor Hands on Museum, Annie's Party Store, Applebees Neighborhood Frill & Bar, Aroma Cigar Lounge, Bella Photography, Bennethums Northern Inn Restaurant, Benstein Grill, Blazing Bagels, Blue Cactus Cantina, Blush Salon, Body Language Fitness & Yoga Center, Bogie Lake Greenhouse, Bonaventure Skating Center, Brentwood Golf Club & Banquet Center, Brentwood Grille, California Pizza Kitchen, Camp Bow Wow, Canine to Five, Castell Workspace in Balance, Charlies' Still on Main, Cheesecake Factory, Chris & Christine Titus, Cindy Scarpace, Clarence Mills, Clifford Smart M.S. PTSA, Coaches Corner/ Fox Creek Golf Course, Commerce Elementary PTA, Commerce Fire Dept., Commerce Village Dentist, Commerce Village Veterinarian Hospital, Copper Mug Bar & Grill, Culver's of Commerce, Cutco Kitchen Store, Dairy Queen, Walled Lake; Dairy Queen, Wixom; Dairy Twist Café, Detroit Lions, Detroit Tigers, Diamond Jim Brady's, Double Tree by Hilton Hotel, Dough by Rumi's Passion Bakery, Dublin Elem. PTA, Ellen Demray, El Mariachi, El Nibble Nook, Exhale Tobacco & Vape Shop, 5th Tavern Restaurant, Fancy Nails, Farmer John's Greenhouse, Fork n' Pint Restaurant, Freshway Market, Futuristic Car Wash, Game & Company, Geisler MS PTSA, Glengary Elem. PTA, Gloria Lints, Goldfish Swim School of West Bloomfield, Great Lakes Ace Hardware, Great Lakes Segway/ Pedego of Walled Lake, Haang's Bistro, Hagopian World of Rugs, Hickory Woods Elem. PTA, Highland Hills Golf Club, Highland House, High Tail Grooming Salon, Holy Land, Inc. dba Sinbad Fruit Market, Home Interior Warehouse, Homedics, Honey Baked Ham Co., Howell Nature Center, Indian River Golf Club, Insight Commercial, Inspired Acting, Ironwood Golf Club, JC Penney Hair Salon, Jacobson's Dental Group, Jax Kar Wash, Joan Sare, Jodi Gallo, Kai Photography, Kathy Lyall, Keith Elem. PTA, Kendra Scott, L. George's Coney Island, LaFontaine CDJR of Walled Lake, Lakes Bar & Grille, Lakes Foot & Ankle Assoc., Lakeview Market, Lena's Kitchen, Long Family Orchard, Farm & Cider Mill, Loon Lake Elem. PTA, MH Guest Elem. PTA, Magoos Pet Outlet, Main Street Grill, Market Place Meats & Deli, Mary Moore, Matt Weber, Meadowbrook Elem. PTA, Meadowbrook Hall & Theater, Mel's Grill, Michael Beardslee, Michelle Walkup, Murray's Auto Supply, Music Time of Milford, LLC; Nancy van Leuwen, New Hudson Inn, Nothing Bundt Cake, NYPD Pizza, Oakland County Parks & Recreation, Oakland County Sheriff's Office -Commerce Substation, Oakley Park Elem. PTA, Olympia Taekwondo, Ore Creek Ciders, Parkers Hilltop Brewery, Peggy Hawke, Penny Lake Market, Pine Knob Golf Course, Pleasant Lake Elem. PTA, Pontiac Golf Club, Prime 7 Bar & Restaurant, PureFit Pilates & Yoga, Ripples on the Lake, Salon Agape, Inc., Sarah Banks M.S. PTSA, Sean's Salon & Barbershop, Shag Salon-Broadway Salon Studio, Shear Serenity Salon, Sheila Rose, Siegel's Deli, Skull Island, Sky Zone, Skull Island, Smoke Street BBQ, Sparkies Kitchen & Bar, Starbucks, Stars & Stripes Athletics, Stephanie Kaplan, Susan Sayed, M.D., Swag Kids Gym, TeaserPilates, The Clothing Cove, The Maples Golf Club, Thunder Bay Golf Resort, Top Lube Center, Tree Runner of West Bloomfield, Turtle Creek Farm, Twin's Brunch Family Dining, Uptown Grille, Urban Air Adventure Park, USPBL/Jimmy John's Field, Village Florist, Village Grill, Waldenwoods, WL Central HS PTSA, WL Community Ed., Walled Lake Elem. PTA, WLS Prime Time Care, WL Western HS PTSA, Walnut Creek M.S. PTSA, Watkins Florist, Watsons of Novi-Home Leisure, Wheatfield Valley Golf Club, White Lake Dental, White Lake Inn, Whole Hearted Winery, Wholesale Flooring, Wilson Marine, Windmill Market, Wixom Elem. PTA, Wonderland Lanes, Wynn Berry.

**SAVE THE DATE: 24th Annual Taste of the Lakes  
October 7, 2025 Edgewood Country Club, 5-8 p.m.**