

Douglas County Youth Initiative 2016 Annual Report

Dear Community Partner,

It is with great pleasure that we share this 2016 DCYI Annual Report. In the 11 years the Youth Initiative has been serving Douglas County, there has been tremendous growth and success. DCYI is a great example of funders and community members coming together to assist the families of Douglas County. This report will detail the accomplishments of 2016 and highlight the many programs under the DCYI umbrella.

From publishing the 1st ever Douglas County Family Resource Guide, to hosting youth related events, providing a Youth Congress, and hosting a quarterly educational series, DCYI is a community asset serving the schools, the legal system, child welfare, the community-at-large, and most importantly, the children and families of Douglas County.

We hope you enjoy reading this report and learning about the many projects and programs of the Youth Initiative. If you have questions, please contact us any time.

Best Regards,

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DCYI EVENTS:

Outstanding Youth Awards

Each Spring, DCYI selects 10 outstanding youth who have overcome personal adversity and created positive change in their lives. The awards program provides business, community and civic leaders an opportunity to actively demonstrate their belief in, and support for, young people in our community.



Youth Congress

Each Fall, students are invited to work with community members and elected officials in a Youth Congress allowing them the opportunity to share their ideas and give feedback. Participants work on policy development and make presentations on their findings. Held at the State Capitol, 9-12 graders hear from subject matter experts on a variety of issues, and then tackle these complicated problems. From unifying the teen curfew, to working on the prevention of bullying, students learn how challenging it is to write policy.

Educational Series

DCYI hosts quarterly Lunch-n-Learns presenting on a variety of topics. When DCYI learns of a topic or issue that the community may be interested in, we invite speakers to present on that topic. We have offered presentations on, Autism, Mitigating Negative Behaviors, Prevention of Teen Suicide, and Drugs in our Community. Well attended and well received, DCYI is proud to offer these trainings to the community-at-large.

JUVENILE JUSTICE:

Helping the community realize the importance of Teen Court, the Towns of Parker, Castle Rock, City of Lone Tree and DCYI assisted in the development of Teen Court in Lone Tree. Also, through DCYI's efforts of collaborating with various juvenile justice agencies, DCYI helps coordinate service plans, so families can receive support as they go through this system.

WRAPAROUND:

WrapAround is an *intensive, individualized care planning and management process*. Wrap-Around is not a treatment *per se*. The Wrap-Around *process* aims to achieve positive outcomes by providing a structured, creative and individualized team planning process that results in plans that are effective and relevant to the child and family.



In Douglas County:

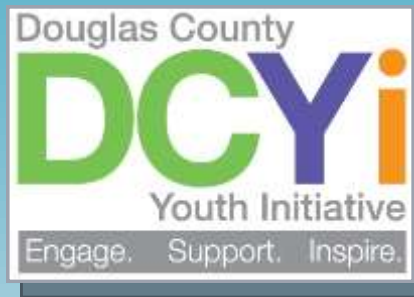
- WRAP is a voluntary program helping families solve difficult issues by identifying family strength and tackling family issues. A child must be between ages of 5-21. Most meetings take place in the home, and the process can last up to 12 months.
- A family can be referred to the program via self-referral, schools, Juvenile Assessment Center, or any number of agencies.
- A WrapAround facilitator meets the family to explain the process and highlight the voluntary and family-friendly nature . The facilitator listens to the family's take on their situation and conducts a strengths-based assessment.
- With support from the WrapAround team, the family develops an action plan. The Facilitator continues to provide advocacy and support services, while the family works on their individual plan.

"By working with WrapAround, our family was able to successfully work through many issues that resulted in greater stability and safety for our family ."

-WrapAround Client

In 2016, DCYI received 150 referrals, and worked with 80 families, representing 200 children, adults, and community partners. WrapAround strives to help families and save the community money, by helping students be less disruptive in school, finishing high school, experiencing fewer law enforcement contacts, and coordinating appropriate and needed services.

WRAP evaluates each family's involvement in 10 areas of importance. Average involvement is 60%. At this rate, we estimate saving the community approximately \$11-15,000 per family.



The Youth Initiative is a county-wide program that coordinates the various youth-serving efforts of Douglas County while determining the needs of its youngest residents. These activities are accomplished through different programs including a Youth and Family Resource Guide, an awards program, Youth Congress, and a WrapAround program. Funding for the program comes from the Partnership of Douglas County Governments. Additional details can be found at <http://www.douglas.co.us/community/partners-and-providers/youth-initiative/>.

Members of the Youth Initiative Advisory Board:

- City of Lone Tree: Council Member Jay Carpenter
- Douglas County Government: Commissioner Lora Thomas, Deputy County Manager Barbara Drake, and Project Manager Maureen Waller
- Douglas County Libraries,: Trustees, Eleanor Brown, Ron Cole, and Sean Duffy
- Douglas County School District: Director Wendy Vogel, and Prevention and School Culture Coordinator Staci McCormack,
- Highlands Ranch Metro District,: Director Renee Anderson
- Town of Castle Rock: Council Member Jason Bower
- Town of Larkspur: Town Manager Matt Krimmer
- Town of Parker: Council Member Joshua Raymond Rivero

DCYI Vision

The Douglas County Youth Initiative envisions a community in which youth are involved, valued, productive, protected and healthy.

DCYI Mission

Our mission is to unite the Douglas County community, including youth, parents, agencies, governments, schools, nonprofits and other adults, in our mutual efforts to serve the families of Douglas County.

For more information about the Douglas County Youth Initiative, please watch the following videos:

<https://vimeo.com/135083402> and <https://vimeo.com/123226792>



To contact DCYI: call the DCYI Program Manager , Marsha Alston, at 303-814-5327