

Juvenile Detention and Alternative Programs Best Practices Award Official Entry Form

Attach the form to all entries. Entrants must complete all sections for the entry to be considered complete. A copy of this official entry is available electronically at www.pacounties.org. Please indicate if this is a secure detention or alternative program award entry.


Owner /Contracting County Chesler County County Class _____
Address 505 S. Wagonet Rd City West Chester Zip 19382
Contact Name Carmie Arvey Title Program Coordinator
Department Chesler County Youth Center Phone (610) 793-6910
Fax (610) 793-4338 Email cavemy@chesco.org

PROJECT INFORMATION

Title Teddy Bear Drop Start Date 2015, ongoing

Each application must be submitted with two signatures. Place appropriate signatures on two of the lines below:


Chair of the Board of County Commissioners


Facility Chief Executive Officer

Oversight Board (where applicable) _____

PROGRAM NARRATIVE

Attach a separate program narrative document to the form that addresses each of the following subject areas, and does so in the order presented below. *Entries must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type.*

A separate program narrative document must be attached to this form that addresses each of the following subject areas, and does so in the order presented below.

- A description of the identified need and the background including what programs were in place before the current project, if any, and how it led to this effort
- A description of the project, including any evidenced-based approaches to divert individuals from further penetration into the juvenile or adult justice system, community involvement strategies, formation of stakeholder groups, county-wide planning strategies, etc.
- A description of expectations and measurable goals, including supporting data
- A brief description of how the project was evaluated and any lessons learned
- A brief description of the community, including a description of key stakeholders, organizations, and county departments that were involved in the project
- A description of how the activities described in a project started in the past were altered or will be continued based on experience, including plans for leveraging additional resources
- A description of any costs associated with the project and how it was funded; cost savings, if any, and any change in community acceptance, reductions in insurance costs, or inspection improvements that resulted from the program

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please attach any supporting documentation to demonstrate the impact of the project in cost or population outcomes, or other data to demonstrate the considerations utilized in determining the scope or design of the project. Scoring will be based on factors including the entrant's description of the problem, the soundness of the approach, and success in meeting goals and objectives. Award submissions will receive consideration for outcomes or best practices supported by data.

Entries must be typed in a Word-document, Times New Roman, 10-point type. Entries must be received by close of business on February 12, 2016. Winners will be announced during the CCAP Spring Conference, March 13 - 15, 2016.

More information: Brinda Carroll Penyak, bpenyak@pacounties.org

2016 CCAP Best Practice Award Nomination

The Chester County Youth Center (CCYC) proudly nominates our “Teddy Bear Drop” program for the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania Best Practice Award (CCAP). Every year, our center brainstorms ideas to solve the problem of how our residents can accomplish “meaningful” community service inside the walls of a detention center. Our Chester County Community has been so generous to our center with programs, collaborations, donations, etc. and we wanted a way to be able to pay it forward. How can this be done by youth who are detained?

Program coordinator, Carrie Avery, reached out to Chester County Hospital to see what needs they had with the focus being youth. Carrie was invited to speak at the Hospital Knitting Tea to a group of incredible hospital volunteers. These dedicated volunteers shared their beautiful craftsmanship of crocheted blankets, knit caps for infants and cancer patients, and hand sewn teddy bears for children in the hospital. Immediately, the thought of our Center and how we could contribute to the teddy bear donation which the volunteers had shared was dwindling because of the demand.

Our residents in our Detention Center and Shelter were extremely excited to begin this project. We purchased 100 animals that needed to be stuffed and sewn. In July, we began this project. Thinking this would take weeks, maybe even months to complete, our youth surprised us all by completing this daunting task in just 3 days. Both shelter and detention residents stuffed the variety of animals, and our shelter girls completed the project by sewing up the bellies.

Our “Teddy Bear Drop” project has helped to bring community service inside the walls of a detention center all while paying it forward to our Chester County Community. It is difficult for detention centers to be able to provide “meaningful” community service and this project has shown that we can achieve this goal which directly falls under the Balanced and Restorative Justice Accountability Goal. Our residents were awarded community service credit through our Juvenile Probation Department Community Service Program. Despite our current life situations, instilling a “pay it forward attitude” in youth is something we try to do daily here at CCYC. This project has truly achieved that goal. Our youth are constantly asking “when are we going to make teddy bears again?”

To date, we have completed two “Teddy Bear Drops,” supplying over 200 bears to the Chester County Hospital; one on August 6th and the other on December 17th. On both dates, CCYC staff and Shelter Residents delivered the stuffed animals to the Hospital. Kathy Stocker, Director of Volunteer Services, was there to greet us at the front entrance of the hospital with a gracious heart. Kathy showed extreme gratitude to our shelter girls for the donation and explained where the animals would be going. This was a great life lesson for our youth to see a project through that they themselves had completed for other youth in need.

Submitted by Carrie Handy Avery, B.A., M.S.
Chester County Youth Center Program Coordinator
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610-793-5910 ext. 5014

Attachments included: 2 pictures, email from Kathy Stocker, and letter from “Izzy”



Special Commendation - Teddy Bear Drop and the Chester County Youth Program

The Chester County Commissioners honored the Chester County Youth Center in Pocopson Township as its **2015 Juvenile Detention Center and Alternative Program's Special Event of the Year** for the "Teddy Bear Drop." The project, which has also received state recognition, was created in consultation with Chester County Hospital's volunteers, who make hand-knitted and hand-sewn items for young hospital patients. To boost that effort, residents at the center made 100 cuddly, stuffed animals in just three days, and a group of the young people even got to distribute their creations at the hospital, reinforcing the value of community service.



I gave out two stuffed animals this afternoon & the little girl wrote me the most adorable thank you note. I will send it to you. They were here waiting for her grandfather to have surgery. It was a 5 yr. old girl and her baby brother. Her mom was extremely grateful bcz she did not have anything for the kids to play with. The stuffed animals and then writing the note kept the girl quiet and occupied while they waited.

What a great story!!!!

Kathy Stocker MSA, BSMT(ASCP)

Director, Volunteer Services

The Chester County Hospital

Tel: 610-431-5191 | Fax: 610-738-2449

Kathy.Stocker@uphs.upenn.edu



FOR THE STUFFED
ANIMALS AND THE NOTE
FROM FLIZZY