



Press Release: AHM Annual Report

Submitted by: Joel Rosenberg

AHM Youth and Family Services have released their 2015 Annual Report. Over 40 programs and services provided by this now thirty two year old community agency are highlighted in this year's Annual Report. AHM programs impact every age group living in the regional community from pre-school and school age children through teenagers to working age adults and retired citizens. The agency consists of two program departments, including a youth service bureau and a family resource center. For the past several years Columbia residents have been able to access AHM programs through an agreement between town leaders and the AHM Board of Directors. These programs impact every age group living in the community from pre-school and school age children through teenagers to working age adults and retired citizens.

AHM is one of the most highly respected non-profit youth agencies in the State of Connecticut. The Board of Directors, staff and over 150 community volunteers take great pride in maximizing the most of every dollar as well as the quality of the services the agency provides to local residents. The agency focuses on providing children and families with access to mental health services, juvenile justice programs, youth and family development programs, drug prevention programs and intergenerational programs in partnership with the local senior citizen centers in the four towns.

Last year AHM served more than 600 Columbia residents through programs such as TASKs for Columbia seniors, the Juvenile Review Board, family counseling, community forums, and a host of school based programs and activities.

Many new programs were initiated this year through a ***Drug Free Community Support program*** grant focusing on preventing adolescent substance abuse including marijuana, prescription drug abuse and alcohol. The ***KindeRHAMa*** Preschool at the RHAM High School had two full classes of 3 and 4 year olds getting those enrolled children ready for Kindergarten. AHM's Executive Director has a particular area of focus for this coming year in acquiring accreditation through the National Association for the Education of Young Children for the preschool.

The counseling departments continue to see a multitude of children helping to strengthen families in the region. AHM has also been pursuing a substance abuse therapist for the upcoming year 2016 which is new to this agency.

In order to keep costs of services down to taxpayers in all four towns, the AHM Board of Directors conducts a number of major fundraisers, one of which is an annual Telethon. For the first time since the Telethon started volunteers will reach out to Columbia residents this year. All calls will be made from the AHM Center in Hebron. More than fifty local residents, many of whom will be high school age students will be making phone calls, as they do every year. The purpose of the Telethon is to seek donations that directly support the programs that are described



in the AHM annual report. The Telethon is one of the many fundraisers that help to pay for these community based services. Any questions about the Annual Report or the Telethon, which will take place the last week in March, can be directed to AHM's Executive Director, Michelle Hamilton, or AHM's Fund Development Director, (Retired Executive Director) Joel Rosenberg at 860-228-9488. Copies of the annual report will be available at the Columbia Town Hall. They can also be downloaded by visiting the AHM website at www.ahmyouth.org.