

PROGRAM HISTORY

The Youth Development Program (YDP) was originally founded in 1978 under the City's Department of Human Resources. YDP was initially designed to assist youth who were in trouble legally and their families and was an alternative service to the court system. It was the first diversion program established in Cuyahoga County and a forerunner in this area. YDP expanded its services in the mid and late 1980's offering additional services to the community including intervention for emotional or behavioral concerns, chemical dependency education, and group and parenting programs. In 2006, Charter revisions established the Division of Youth Services transferring the programs for our community's youth to the Safety Department. In 2010 reorganization transferred the division to the Department of Human Resources and service again expanded to include pantry services. The name was appropriately expanded as well to the *Division of Youth & Family Services!*

SERVICE MENU

YOUTH AND FAMILY CRISIS MANAGEMENT

Individual youth and/or family system interventions enables the family to address urgent issues affecting youth as an extension of problems within the family system and to focus on solutions within this same system. Family members are helped to see more clearly how individual attitudes and behavior affect one another and are guided to work on more effective patterns of communication and problem solving. Services are limited to stabilization and referral and advocacy services to guide the family to long term alternatives for assistance and intervention.

GROUP SERVICES

Several group programs focused on issues such as anger management and Insight (Alcohol & Drug education/early intervention) are available throughout the year for juveniles and their families.

COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM (CDP)

The Community Diversion Program is an alternative to the traditional juvenile court system. First time juvenile offenders are given the opportunity to make community based restitution for their actions by engaging in a variety of accountability sanctions and intervention services in lieu of formal charges and a public record in juvenile court. Offenses include first time misdemeanors, and status offenses such as truancy. This program operates with the cooperation and support of the North Olmsted Police Department and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court System.

OX CART PANTRY

Oxcart Pantry services operate year round for emergency food assistance to the residents of North Olmsted. Recipients must meet certain income and residency requirements and are then eligible to receive a healthy variety of food items for their family. The pantry stocks dry non-perishable items, frozen food, refrigerated goods and toiletry/ household items. The Oxcart Pantry also is home to a community garden which residents may plant and harvest in addition to sustaining several plots of its own to serve our clients. Donations are accepted during pantry business hours on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays each week. Volunteer opportunities are available; call for information. The Oxcart Pantry is a member agency of the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. The Oxcart Pantry also provides additional assistance programs throughout the year as resources are made available.

Juvenile Traffic Intervention Program (JTIP)

The Division of Youth & Family Services provides an intervention option for juveniles who have been involved in a traffic stop in North Olmsted for the first time such as a signal or moving violation, speeding or minor motor vehicle accident when, at the officer's discretion, the infraction is handled as a warning and referred to JTIP. The program is designed to offer an intervention alternative to a regular citation and court involvement. Juveniles can avoid a court record, report to the Ohio BMV and points on their license and avert automatic suspensions. Families have the added benefit of preventing soaring insurance costs due to violations of first offenses. Interventions through JTIP make our young drivers responsible, educated and safe!

How it works

Juveniles issued a Traffic Violation Notice-Referral to JTIP will be given the option of participating in JTIP. Cases will be heard by a local volunteer magistrate and a disposition issued for accountability and intervention focused on learning and safety. The case is monitored for 90 days. Pending compliance, the case is closed resulting in no official citation.

Benefits of JTIP

No Points
No Report to BMV
No report to Insurance

A fee does apply for JTIP.
For information call 440-716-4166

**City of North Olmsted
Division of Youth & Family Services**

STAFF

Christine M. Allegra, BS, MA, LSW
Administrator
Division of Youth & Family Services
440-716-4166

Kristen S. Grudzien, BS, MEd
Case Manager
Community Diversion Program
440-716-4167

Georgia Wilder, BS
Outreach/Case Manager
Oxcart Pantry
440-716-4165

Division of Youth & Family Services
North Olmsted Police Station
27243 Lorain Road
North Olmsted, Ohio 44070
Fax: 440-716-4233

Oxcart Pantry
26272 Butternut Ridge Road
North Olmsted, Ohio
440-716-4165
Fax: 440-801-1039

The Division of Youth & Family Services provides community-based social services for the residents of the City of North Olmsted and is dedicated to helping people help themselves.

INFORMATION AND REFERRALS

DYFS staff will assist a youth or family to assess their present situation in relation to available community resources and assist in their obtaining necessary services.

Youth and families are referred to DYFS by schools, family members, police, clergy, other agencies, or community members. Referrals are made to other agencies or services when necessary and/or appropriate.

APPOINTMENTS

Initial appointments or contacts for youth/family programming can be made during regular office hours:

Monday thru Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Oxcart Pantry
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursdays
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

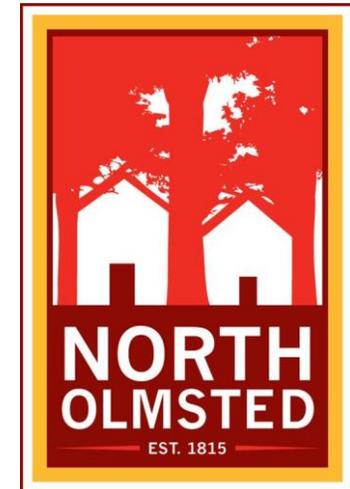
FEES

Most services are free of charge for residents of the City of North Olmsted including the Oxcart Pantry programs. Some fees may apply to group services for materials and registration. Fees do apply for the Community Diversion Program and JTIP.

Funding is provided by the City of North Olmsted, personal or community organization donations, grants and other inter-agency agreements.

CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED

**DIVISION OF
YOUTH & FAMILY SERVICES**



Community Social Services for the
residents of the City of North Olmsted