

# NYAC

## Semi-Annual Report

### Successful Spring Rewarded by a Teambuilding Day of Fun.

The Norwich Youth Action Council began its activities in the May of 2010 and since then, has expanded under the continued direction of its tireless young members! Our Spring was very busy this year as we gained traction in the community. We held our Quarterly Family Fun Night at the Senior Center for 65+ parents and kids and led a cleanup day at the Marina, all in April of 2011. We also led a Craft Group for the kids at Thames River Family Program. The Blood Drive that we sponsored through the American Red Cross in June was the first time donating for two of our group. But the most fun of all was our "Flocking Flamingos for Summer Fun" fundraiser. We

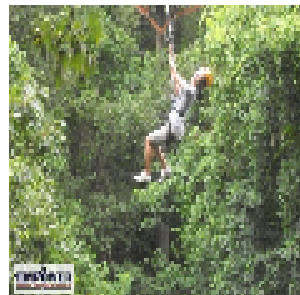
raised closed to \$1800 for summer camp activities for underprivileged Norwich youth. Who knew that moving flocks of plastic flamingos all over town could be so much fun.

We were well rewarded by our mentors with a trip in August to Empower Team Building in Middletown. This zip lining and ropes course challenged us all, as many of us were afraid of heights! But no one was left behind and we all supported each other. We problem solved and made it through each challenge. This experience let us know that we can do anything!

Stay tuned for a GREAT NEW YEAR!



The NYAC Team



Na Li

### Flipping Pancakes for Seniors its own Reward

The NYAC fall fundraiser was fun and filling! Pancakes and sausages were just the beginning. The real fun was the silent auction. Unusual items, such as the antique brass samovar (congrats to Councilwoman Laurie

Popovitch) to the tickets to Spirit of Broadway (thanks for the donation, Brett!), all combined to bring in a total, after supplies, of \$1453.84!! We decided to donate all the money the Senior's "Golden Wishes" Fund.

Lesson learned: Ask for stores to donate the supplies as well...it ups your profits!



**Norwich Youth and Family Services**  
Norwich's municipal agent for youth

Presented to the NYFS Advisory Board - the Mayor and Norwich City Council

July 1, 2011-December 31, 2011

#### Highlights

- 62% Membership increase
- Spring fundraiser a "Flocking" success.
- Flying high at Empower Team building in Middletown
- 1st Annual Holiday Toy Drive nets over 500 items!
- Flipping Pancakes for Seniors

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## A Holiday Family Fun Night for all.....

Family Fun Night is an original idea first executed by a NYFS Teen Leadership group. Raagan Wicken and Aracely Reyes thought it was so great that they created the concept of the Norwich Youth Action Council so they could continue doing FFN regularly and, well.... you can see where that has led us!!

This Holiday FFN was STUPENDOUS!

145+ parents and kids joined us at the Senior Center for food, games, crafts and Zumba. Thank you, Alexa Franchetti, for volunteering your time and your great dance moves!

There were so many people, we had to

get extra pizza. Play and family interaction is the name of the game at FFN, no TV, have a laugh and enjoy!

We look forward to our next FFN and are looking forward to collaborations with SADD, NPC and SERAC.



## Bowling Takes Team Work

All work and no play makes NYAC a dull group. Every once in a while, we do fun stuff. On Christmas break we went for pizza and then went bowling...some of us for the first time. Sometimes it's fun just to be goofy and we're kids...so we can!

It was great to get together with our new members and brain storm ideas for future projects...and two of our team have started getting their acceptances to college..Congrats to Na Li (Rutgers

*"I can't believe I got a strike!  
Now let me try it backwards!"  
Na Li*

and UCONN) and Aracely (Wheelock College and Colby-Sawyer)!!



*Angeliz, Sorna and Loriann*

## What's coming down the pike?

One of the fun things about NYAC is sometimes things come up unexpectedly. Here are the planned items that are coming up next:

- MLK "Youth Engagement Brunch" where we will watch the movie "Foodstamped", discuss poverty, hunger and homelessness and brainstorm a project with other Norwich youth.

- Our Spring Family Fun Night (of course)
- Cooking a meal at the Hospitality Center
- Kid's movie night with an Anti-Bullying theme. "AntBully" rocks
- National Youth Service Day!
- Teen Leadership training for some

of us.

- 2nd Annual Flocking Flamingos for Summer Fun (awesome)

And who knows what we will plan. STAY TUNED!

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**Norwich Youth and  
Family Services**  
Norwich's municipal agent for  
youth

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*Norwich Youth and Family  
Services*



## Purpose

**Norwich Youth and Family Services** serves as the City of Norwich's municipal agent for youth. We are a division of the City of Norwich Department of Human Services and have been a community resource since 1974.

We are a partnership between the City of Norwich and the State Department of Education. There are 99 Youth Service Bureaus across the State. They were originally designed to provide the planning, evaluation, coordination and implementation of a network of resources and opportunities for children, youth and their families in each community

Norwich Youth and Family Services today works collaboratively with our local school system, police, juvenile court and other youth program providers in a continuing effort to develop quality and comprehensive services for Norwich youth and families.

## What NYAC Means to Me *...by Raagan Wicken*

Every time I read a newspaper article about us, it always says a "group of hard working teens" or it describes how we've devoted our time, or it says that we're exceptional adolescents. It's all good press. However, I've never read an article that talked about our drive. Sure, NYAC as a group exhibits all of those qualities the articles say: we are all hard working, devoted, and "exceptional", but what really makes us stand apart is our passion and drive for what we do. To me, NYAC means helping people, and bettering our community. NYAC means surrounding yourself with people that have the same drive and passion to just help everyone and anyone they can. To me, NYAC is a way for

exceptional people, to do exceptional things, exceptionally.

