

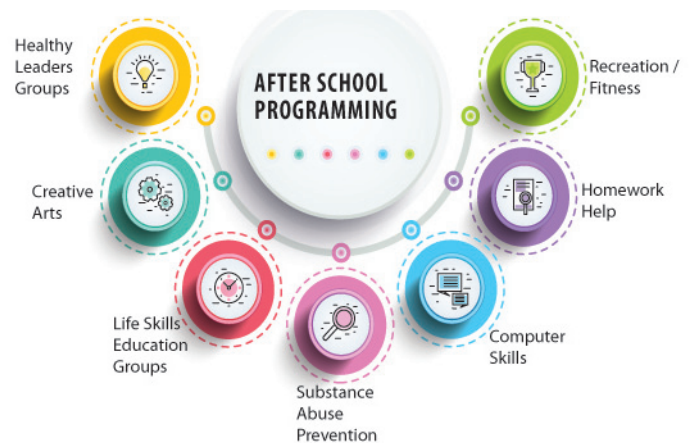


## Our Youth Centers

Directions for Families & Youth has been providing a safe, positive environment for kids at our Youth Centers since 2006. At risk youth - ages 8 to 17 - in our community come to our Youth Centers and are encouraged to:

- Think Creatively
- Try New Experiences
- Develop Tools for Self-Expression
- Give Back to their Community

Currently, DFYF operates two Youth Centers - one on Ohio Avenue; and the Crittenton Center in the Kimberly Parkway neighborhood. In these high risk neighborhoods with few opportunities, DFYF's Youth Centers offer a safe and trusting environment where positive relationships are built. All our Centers' activities are provided **free** of charge.



The programs we offer at our Youth Centers are comprehensive and unique to DFYF. The programs are designed to strengthen self expression, self confidence, emotional regulation, and self-discipline. We focus on the core competencies of reading/math, provide opportunities to engage in music, dance, arts as well as recreational sports and healthy nutrition.

As a part of our Healthy Leaders program, youth participate in discussion groups with highly trained professionals to address the following:

- Anger management
- Conflict resolution
- Decision-making and problem-solving skills
- Consequences of substance use and delinquent behaviors
- Qualities of a good leader
- Personal goal-setting, and much more



Youth proudly show the results of their service learning project - hand-sewn pillow case dresses for girls in Africa.

All staff at the Youth Centers are trained in trauma-informed care. They are trained to recognize and assist youth experiencing emotional or behavioral health issues. A staff member may refer youth to the Outreach Counseling Program ensuring one of the DFYF licensed counselors provide prioritized counseling services. These services may be provided in their home, community setting or the Youth Center. Our youth have access to all counseling programs we provide. Our therapeutic services allow us to ensure a “no eject” practice.