

COI provides a range of comprehensive services with the overall goal of breaking the cycle of poverty by promoting school success and positive youth asset development.

Services include shelter and housing options, as well as direct service coordination between at-risk youth and the school district.

Positive youth development activities are integrated through community connectivity, civic engagement, leadership and entrepreneurial development, with a growing focus on access to cultural, vocational and higher education opportunities.

Families are actively involved through an array of services that foster positive and supportive home environments, parent involvement opportunities, and life skill development.

The mobilization of community resources and coalition building is critical to the success of the children and youth. Through partnerships with local government, community agencies, schools, villages and businesses, the division is committed to maximizing available resources and identifying gaps to provide comprehensive supports for youth.



## CHAUTAUQUA OPPORTUNITIES, INC.

*"Helping People...Changing Lives."*

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Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc's



# Youth Services





**The Safe House** provides safe shelter to at-risk youth under the age of 18 on a voluntary basis.

**Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP)** is an apartment-style living program for displaced youth between the ages of 16 and 21. Youth are provided with a safe and structured environment while they work toward independent living.

Case management is provided to youth in both the Safe House and TILP, including the development of a Youth Development Plan with individualized goals, life skills education, and referrals to needed services. For youth in the Safe House, family meetings include mediation and a transition plan for family reunification.

While in the Safe House and TILP, youth participate in a variety of enrichment activities to assist in Personal Asset Development, including financial literacy education, civic responsibility education, healthy lifestyles education, and community service projects.



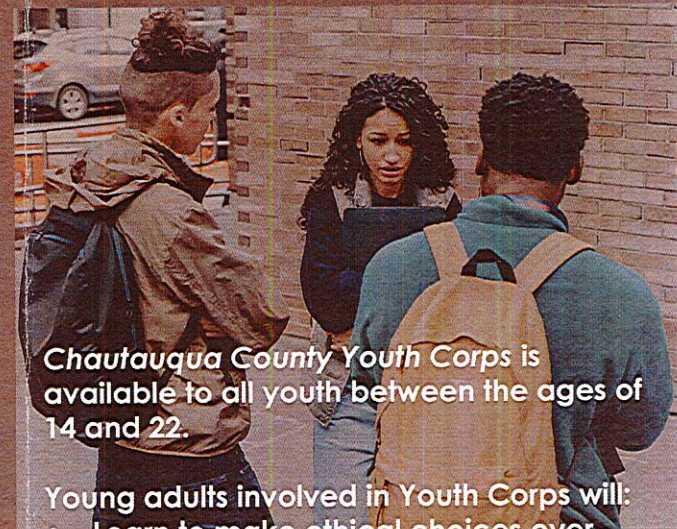
### National Safe Place

Anywhere you see this sign, youth can be assured that there are caring adults there to assist them if they find themselves in crisis.

A youth in crisis often does not know where to turn to get help to solve what often feels like insurmountable problems. By coming to a Safe Place site, each youth will receive immediate help from people who are trained to keep them safe and who are able to link them to the help and services they need to resolve the crisis.

Each Safe Place links the youth in crisis to the Safe House where trained staff will assist each youth to determine the best course of action. COI's services are designed to provide shelter and support to youth who are runaways, homeless, at risk of becoming homeless or in some other type of crisis.

Through the *Street Outreach Program*, Youth Specialists visit places in Chautauqua and Cattaraugus Counties where homeless and at-risk youth are known to gather. Youth Specialists work toward assisting youth with leaving the street, educating them about making healthy choices, and encouraging them to form trusting relationships with caring adults in their community.



**Chautauqua County Youth Corps is available to all youth between the ages of 14 and 22.**

**Young adults involved in Youth Corps will:**

- Learn to make ethical choices over their lifetimes by learning core values of good citizenship.
- Acquire skills in the areas of Financial Literacy, Community Service Learning and Team Work.
- Experience positive leadership from adult and youth leaders and be provided with opportunities to take on leadership roles.
- Have a chance to learn and grow in a supportive, caring and fun environment.