

I. BARRINGTON YOUTH SERVICES

HISTORY

Barrington Youth Service began in 1970 as the Barrington Drug Abuse Committee in response to a deep concern on the part of the community over the abrupt increase in drug abuse by our teen-agers and the young adults at that time.

The original Committee was formed with the help of the Barrington Rotary Club and numerous concerned local citizens and was headed by Dr. Robert Campbell. In 1971 Dr. Campbell stepped aside because of other pressing duties (so) George Van Hagen and Dan Millington were elected Co-Chairmen of the Committee. In 1972 the Barrington Drug Abuse Committee changed its name to Barrington Youth Services and was incorporated under the General Not For-Profit Act of Illinois. The first president was George Van Hagen.

The committee played a significant role in those early days in meeting the drug crisis. Some of the programs offered included: Public meetings to provide the public understanding on the problem, a program to help stimulate drug abuse education within the school system, providing a telephone "hot line" to answer questions on drugs and related problems and the provision of a part-time counselor and outreach, which the committee supplied through a purchase of service contract with the Bridge in Palatine. This program continued through 1974.

In 1975, through the funding support of Barrington and Cuba Townships and continued support of United Fund, B.Y.S. expanded its service greatly by employing a full-time director, Robert Zapata, and secretary, Dawn Caravello. In May a third staff person, Debbie Lewis, was added with the funding supplied through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Program of Lake County. During this year we occupied our first time office, where we are presently located--- 412 W. Main St., Barrington.

During 1976 a formalized set of by-laws and personal policy was created and put into use. Roger Bert, our present Director joined us, replacing Robert Zapata, and a fourth staff position was filled when John Mason joined us to handle the increasing demand on the agency. An agency brochure was designed and distributed to the Community on programs and services offered. They include: Crisis Intervention, Outreach, "Hot Line", Outer Circle, police and court referral, Dawn House, Youth and Family Counseling, Special Youth Discussion Groups, Special Activities, Drop-In, Youth Work Project, and Information Seminars.

B.Y.S. has made great strides in its area of service to the young people in the community and 1977 offers even more challenges. Our success in the past has been the result of our continuing effort to listen with a positive

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attitude to the needs of the youth in our Community and to try and adapt our services to these needs as they change. We are, and will continue to be a Committee of people helping people and to do that end we rededicate ourselves in 1977.

George E. Van Hagen
President

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