

## Our Mission

To meaningfully involve youth offenders in their community by connecting them to positive opportunities that build on their strengths, develop their social skills and strengthen their relationships.

Our desired outcomes are to have fewer repeat offenders, to support the healthy development of youth, and to enhance community partnerships that support positive youth development.

Diversion to Assets is supported by Maine's Juvenile Justice Advisory Group and grant 2008 JB-FX 0011 from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.



To make a referral or support positive youth development:

Call 782-5783 x1606

Ask to speak to our  
Diversion to Assets Youth Specialist

THRIVE Initiative

124 Canal Street

Lewiston, Maine 04240

Mail to: PO Box 2008 Lewiston, ME 04241-2008

FAX: 207-782-5793

## Diversion To Assets

*A Positive Youth Development Initiative*

*in partnership with the*

*Department of Corrections &*

*The Juvenile Justice Advisory Group*

For more information  
about THRIVE, contact:

Arabella Perez  
Project Director  
207-782-5783  
aperez@tcmhs.org  
www.thriveinitiative.org

Let your voice  
be heard...

## What is Diversion to Assets?

*Communities for Children and Youth*, the Maine Department of Corrections, and the Thrive System of Care Initiative created this program for Androscoggin County youth encountering the legal system for the first time. The program aims to divert them from the juvenile justice process and put their assets (strengths and skills) to work in support of community-based programs and people.

Participants are held accountable through:

- Strengths assessment
- Development of their assets
- Connections made with: caring adults, peers, mentors, after-school programs, community service, non-paid jobs, restorative justice meetings, community service projects, evidence-based curricula & other community-based learning experiences.

Through each successful community-based service relationship, all involved parties hope to deter the young person's further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

## Who is Eligible?

Youth, 9 through 17 years of age, who:

- reside in Androscoggin County
- are charged with a non-violent first offense, and
- are referred by a police officer, juvenile community corrections officer or district attorney who feels the young person will benefit from the program.

## How Does it Work?

- The youth, in conjunction with parents and law enforcement, choose whether he/she wishes to participate.
- Parents and youth sign a consent form.
- A Youth Specialist coordinates a team assessment, develops and implements a community-based activity and follow-through plan,

## How to get Involved

Please contact us if you and/or your organization would like to be a:

### **Community Service Site**

A business, agency or organization willing to provide youth with a non-paid position and the opportunity to learn and develop a strong work ethic within their community.

### **Community Project**

A business, agency or organization needing help with an event or community project that would engage youth in civic service.

### **Citizen Advocate**

An adult matched one-on-one as a mentor committed to seeing a youth on a regular basis to provide support and guidance.