

Chester County Juvenile Probation Community Service Program

The mission of the Chester County Juvenile Probation Department Community Service Program is to engage juvenile offenders in productive partnerships with the community, to promote accountability, foster empathy for victims, develop competencies and build self-esteem as the juvenile restores losses to their victim and the community.

The Community Service Program supports the goals of Balanced and Restorative Justice; the mission of Pennsylvania's juvenile justice system.

- **Accountability**
 - Crime victims can make recommendations as to how and where juveniles complete their community service obligation.
 - Direct service to victims is coordinated whenever possible.
- **Competency Development**
 - Juveniles practice skills that are required and valued in the workforce.
- **Community Protection**
 - Juveniles are engaged in service during peak crime hours; after school and on weekends.
 - Juveniles are supervised by responsible adult members of the community.

Chester County Juvenile Probation Restitution Program

The mission of the Restitution Program is to hold juvenile offenders accountable to their victims and communities by providing opportunities to make direct financial reparation while developing competencies in a non-traditional work environment.

Juvenile offenders, who reside in Chester County, have the opportunity to earn credit towards their restitution obligation through the performance of community service work that is *in addition* to any community service hours ordered for their offense or costs and fines owed.

Juveniles over 16 are encouraged to obtain employment in order to pay their debt. If an older juvenile demonstrates an inability to obtain or maintain employment, they may be considered for the program on a case by case basis.

As a juvenile completes community service hours, they are accumulating credits which are then converted into dollars, up to a maximum of \$1000. This money is then paid directly to that juvenile's victim through the Juvenile Court Restitution Fund.

The Restitution Fund is sustained by the diversion of juvenile court fines into the fund as well as the imposition of fees for juveniles under supervision of the Juvenile Court.

Chester County Juvenile Probation Community Service Program

Educational Community Service Programs

Impact of Crime (IOC) Group

An educational group facilitated by Juvenile Probation and the Crime Victims' Center of Chester County, Inc., designed to help juvenile offenders understand the human consequences of crime. Youth are exposed to feelings that victims may have and how crime may have affected the victim and community. Juveniles learn that there are no victimless crimes and subsequently write an apology letter to an identified victim. The goal of this program is for juveniles to gain empathy and a better understanding of the ripple effect of crime and the impact their behavior has on others

Cruisin' Smart

This award-winning program is sponsored by Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital and supported by the Chester County Department of Drug and Alcohol Services. It is designed to prevent injuries among teenagers and young adults from alcohol and drug-related automobile accidents. This program brings teenagers face to face with survivors of drinking and driving who recount their accidents and their journey back from the debilitating injuries that limit them physically, mentally and socially.

Community Partnerships

The Community Service Program has developed collaborative partnerships with a variety of community non-profit organizations for ongoing service opportunities. These partnerships provide valuable assistance to community organizations and provide juveniles with the ability to symbolically repair the harm they have caused to their victim and the community.

Participating juveniles are supervised by community agency staff members, volunteers and/or probation staff.

If your organization is interested in providing community service opportunities for juveniles, please contact the following for more information:

Gary Purfield
Community Service Supervisor
610-344-4564
gpurfield@chesco.org