Community Service Program

Providing meaningful service and symbolic restoration to the Chester County community for over 20 years.

Community Service Program Mission:

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:

Accountability
- 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.

Types of Community Service
- Sites: Various non-profit agencies providing after school “work site” opportunities. Primarily juveniles 16 years of age and older learn skills of searching for work and having a job schedule.
- Projects: Juveniles with offenses that need to be supervised while completing hours and juveniles learning competency development skills, One-time and on-going weekend projects
- Presentations: Based on need for education on specific topics, “Creative” assignments based on individual circumstances
- Partnerships with community agencies to provide educational presentations
- Coordination with Residential Placement Facilities

Restitution Program
Provides opportunities for youth to make direct financial reparation while developing competencies in a non-traditional work environment by issuing 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.
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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.

History/Evolution
Prior to 1999, Probation officers assigned community service individually as they saw fit.
1999- JPO received a grant to implement a community service program. Developed a matrix to assign hours more consistently, staff developed relationships with community members and solicited partnerships with non-profits. Streamlines the reporting and verification of hours. Developed programming.

Highlights:
December 1999- present:
Number of Hours completed as of 2019 - 371,894 (average 18,600 hours per year)
Number of Juveniles participating as of 2019 - 7811 (average 390 per year)
Average number of hours per youth 48 hours/year
Number of actively participating sites in Chester County - 50

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:

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