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Operation Town Reporter

a monthly newsletter *by* our volunteers *to* our volunteers *about* our fight against drugs and crime in Central PA

Volume 16, Issue 1 - January 2024



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Our Town Times 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



Distributed at the Annual Blair County Chamber **Operation Our Town Breakfast and throughout the** year to local businesses and community organizations! SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND COMMUNITY PRIDE!

The 2024 report will provide an update to the readers from this past calendar year. We will hear from law enforcement, treatment providers, healthcare professionals, business leaders and others in our community about the impact Operation Our Town has made over the past 17 years and the importance of prevention.

Get the inside scoop from Operation Our Town Roundtables on their projects and efforts to help keep our community safe!

Please help us...



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10"	10.66"	\$650	
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Grant Recipient Highlight: YES to Kids Youth Empowerment Scholarships

By: Nick Gordon, Operation Our Town Community Outreach Coordinator



While all youth are deserving of opportunities to participate in activities that they love, not all youth are afforded those opportunities, due to a number of socioeconomic factors. YES to Kids aims to change that, improving the lives of disadvantaged children in our community by providing them the means to participate in extracurricular activities of their choice.

Through Youth Empowerment Scholarships, YES to Kids helps to provide financial assistance to underprivileged children experiencing financial hardship who want to enroll in an extracurricular activity that otherwise could not. These activities range from sports and music to arts and academic clubs.

To the best of their knowledge, there are no other nonprofits in Blair County with the same or a similar mission as YES to Kids, meaning they are meeting an unmet need in our community. Extracurricular activities promote positive life skills. Engaging children and youth in activities has an endless list of positive outcomes.

Quality over quantity is a phrase often used to describe impactful work, yet when it comes to YES to Kids, they are striving for both, trying to enrich and improve the quality of life of as many children in the community that they can reach. As a nonprofit, the organization is solely funded by donations, grants, and fundraising efforts, so they can use all the extra support they can get!

YES to Kids has also supported various school clubs and activities. For instance, they helped a high school student with his costs to attend a national competition for his auto club. He won a contest at Northern Bedford High School and was invited to attend, but he was unable to pay the costs, so YES to Kids stepped in to help fundraise and donated money towards his fees for the competition. YES to Kids is pleased to partner with Northern Bedford and Spring Cove School District.

Oftentimes, prevention can be viewed in the sense that our community is only trying to avoid negative outcomes for our youth and the next generation of the workforce. However, when focusing more on the positives, the negative consequences will naturally decline. This is why YES to Kids does whatever they can to help keep kids active and not involved in negative activities. For more information about any of the services YES to Kids offers or to learn more, please reach out at the contact info below.



338 Deer Run Dr Roaring Spring, PA 16673 Website: <u>www.yes2kids.org</u> Contact: Holly Keller, Founder/Executive Director Phone: 814-502-4435 Email: youthempowermentscholarships@gmail.com

