



RAILROAD STREET YOUTH PROJECT

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rsyp.org

MISSION

Railroad Street Youth Project empowers young people by supporting youth-inspired projects that promote responsibility, self-worth and intergenerational communication.

HUMANITIES EXPERTISE

Railroad Street was created to ask youth a simple question: What do you want? A decade later the organization has a proven track record of providing youth with the resources to channel their energy, creativity and idealism in order to transform their lives.

EXISTING COLLABORATIONS CONTINUED

- [South Berkshire Community Health Coalition](#): the Coalition consists of a wide range of organizations, schools, businesses and individuals working to develop a strategic plan for a community-wide approach to reducing risk factors and enhancing protective factors that reduce the high rates of alcohol and drug use among South County teens.

CONTACT

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HUMANITIES RESOURCES & PROJECTS

PROGRAMS

- [Apprenticeships](#): Launched in 2006, the Railroad Street Apprenticeship Program (RAP) matches the inspirations of young people to the resources of the community, creating a successful model of community collaboration. RAP is designed to meet the unmet vocational and educational needs of South Berkshire youth and prepare them for the workplace.
 - [Mentoring Program](#): RSYP's Mentoring Program creates interest-based matches for youth with volunteer adult mentors from our community. It is the only mentoring program in southern Berkshire County for young people ages 14-25. The program provides an opportunity for youth to be supported in meaningful relationships with caring adults to expand their horizons and reach self-identified goals in their lives.
 - [Sexual Health Education](#): RSYP provides comprehensive sexual health education in local high schools that focuses on preventing risky sexual behaviors, unhealthy relationships and unintended teen pregnancies.
 - [Counseling & Advocacy](#): RSYP staff and a social worker provide advocacy and counseling services to young people facing a range of challenges including: homelessness, eviction, food assistance, court involvement, unsafe home conditions, challenges in their family life (divorce, addiction), substance abuse or addiction, unsafe, unhealthy, or challenging relationships, pregnancy, grief, suicidal thoughts or other mental health issues and issues related to school.
 - [Weekly Clubs](#): Youth host weekly drop-in clubs and meetings at the Drop-in-Center on select days. Club offerings and details are listed online.
- * *Community events are listed [online](#).*

RESOURCES & EXISTING COLLABORATIONS

- [Community Resources](#): RSYP provides direct links to a number of valuable resources with Berkshire County. RSYP affirms: Despite the natural beauty of the Berkshires, youth are nevertheless confronted with complex social challenges. Understanding that substance abuse, neglect, isolation, lack of available transportation, and other systemic challenges will never disappear, Railroad Street creates a life-affirming community of peers and intervenes by equipping youth with choices, resources and support structures.
- [Youth Operational Board](#): The Youth Operational Board (YOB) is the core of RSYP, and has been since 2000. YOB is comprised of young people who meet weekly at our Drop-In Center to review and approve proposals, and help facilitate youth-based projects submitted by community member and/or youth constituents. In the last few years, YOB has sponsored over 300 youth-inspired projects and activities.
- [Drop-in-Center](#): RSYP's Drop-in Center is a place where youth aged 14-25 meet, develop projects, attend meetings, find a staff person to talk to, receive help with crisis situations, or just hang out. The space is flexible and open to new people and ideas. Events such as dances, ping pong tournaments and discussion groups are hosted in the drop-in center. Groups interested in cultural diversity, LGBTQ identity, etc. have also used the drop-in center to conduct meetings and events.