

YOUTH ALTERNATIVES

New staff, programs start summer

By Judith L. Balague

Coordinator, and
Gail Jacoby, Clayton Sanders,
Marlene Graybeal, Jack Smith,
Jim Martin, Counselors

A lot has been happening in the Youth Alternatives Program since our last newsletter. We have added on some new staff members and two new programs have started. We would like to welcome these new staff members by saying we are glad you're here and hope you stay. Jack Smith, formerly of the SATS Program started in April. He would like to introduce himself to you by saying:

Hi, all! Some of you may have met me when I worked at Friendship House. This is to let you know that I made it through the worst of the winter and to mention that I am now working with the Youth Alternatives Program. Working

Marlene Graybeal, formerly with Public Assistance, has also joined the Youth Alternatives Program. Marlene has lots of ideas and brings a lot of experience into the program. Welcome, Marlene!

Youth Alternatives has had two Arctic Survival trips in the past month. A total of 10 youth participated in these week-long trips. Reading over their trip reports, one thing was immediately obvious, they all detested Sam Leavitt's (Arctic Survival Teacher) cooking. Seems Sam's idea of breakfast consists of one giant size pancake with the consistency of lead. Sam's solution to this problem is . . . we should hire a cook. The youth were able to get in a little ski-doo riding, some hunting instruction and experience, and storytelling by Sam. We hope to get another trip out in the next day or two,

be used to make up cards and decals for the Youth Alternatives Program. Martha Leavitt, Ian Trent, and Tyrone Okpeaha also received cash awards of \$25.00 and on down. Their posters placed 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Thanks again to all of you who submitted a poster.

Thursday, May 5, 1983, was "Awards Night" at Barrow High School. 123 students were recognized by receiving "Certificates of Appreciation" from various teachers for outstanding work in class. Many students were presented awards for Attendance and being on the Honor Roll. It was really great to see so many of our youth receiving awards. Equally nice was to see the turnout of parents to see their son or daughter receive these awards. Congratulations to all!

On April 2, 1983, the Jail Diversion Program started. Not many people have heard about this program, so we will explain a little about it. When a youth has been arrested and placed in the Department of Public Safety's Correctional Facility, we are notified. After notification a Jail Diversion Counselor will interview the youth to see if he/she would like to participate in the Jail Diversion Program. If so, we transport the youth to the Drop-in-Center where he/she will stay until released by

either the Court or the Juvenile Intake Officer. Being at the Drop-in-Center allows the youth to be away from the adult offenders and be in a more home-like environment.

At the Center they can read, watch TV, assist with household duties, receive good, hot meals. Many activities are being planned for the youth to participate in. In this type of setting, it enables the youth counselors to work with the youth in a more direct manner and assist with any problems they might have. Last month five youth were arrested; all five participated in our program. All five youth agreed that the Center was a better place and reacted in a very positive manner while there. We are still looking for donations of Native food, cooking utensils, pots and pans, and couches for the Center.

April 13, 1983, the Youth Patrol began. Youth Alternatives will have a vehicle on the streets five nights a week, Wednesday through Sunday. We are there to provide rides home or to an alternate location for the youth out late at night. At this time we are providing an average of 15 to 18 rides each night. Our grey Suburban is on the streets from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.

This patrol was designed to encourage the youth to be

home at curfew time and to assist any youth who might be having a problem. A Youth Alternatives Counselor will be driving the vehicle and is there to help. So, when you see our vehicle around town late at night, we encourage you to make use of it. It is there for the youth. Hopefully, we may be getting some of the youth to go home on time.

We have a lot of plans for this summer, when school lets out. Picnics, Scavenger Hunts, 1-day camp-outs, Movie Nights, Car Washes, and many more activities are in the works. We would like to see the youth have some planned activities that they can participate in during these summer months. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with these special activities. Anyone wishing to donate a little of their time to help should call Judy at the Youth Alternatives Office, Greist Family Services Center 852-5600, ext. 333.

