

REACH Division
STRENGTH-BASED MISSION STATEMENT

We view each child as a unique individual with strengths, capacities and challenges. We teach children and families new skills to deal with challenges, and we promote **RESILIENCE—I HAVE, I AM, I CAN.** We emphasize resourcefulness and resilience that exists in everyone. We accept that the solutions will not be the same for everyone. Strengths and circumstances of each individual are different. We follow the person centered approach. Individuals have the capacity to guide, regulate and control themselves, providing that certain conditions exist. **BE GENUINE. USE EMPATHY. FEEL UNCONDITIONAL POSITIVE REGARD.** We identify strengths from the start. We look for opportunities for praise. We encourage mutual appreciation. We share strengths with families and guardians, and we use strength based language, written and spoken.

TRAUMA INFORMED SYSTEM OF CARE

Youth are often exposed to multiple traumas in their lives. Child abuse and maltreatment, neglect and family violence are common sources of trauma. According to research youth may be further traumatized by their involvement in the child welfare system. In this system some causes of trauma include repeated interviews, unnecessary break-ups of family relationships, changes in placement, and confrontations with abusers. There is growing attention that the system needs to be more aware and responsive to the needs of these youth. Based on decades of experience, the Youth Services Division at Community Missions, Inc. concurs with the research and will follow the essential elements necessary to create a trauma informed system of care.

CULTURALLY COMPETENT SERVICE PLANNING

We strive to protect, encourage and educate individuals regarding the unique characteristics which exist among all persons. Every interaction will be seen as an opportunity to provide growth and acknowledgement for how these similarities and differences affect our interactions and lives on a daily basis. We believe that different experiences, backgrounds and points of view add perspectives and increase the possibility to enhance our relationships with others.



CMI MISSION STATEMENT AND CORE VALUES

Mission Statement: Community Missions of Niagara Frontier, Inc., is a community-based, independent, non-profit, religious, service agency providing residential and support services to persons and families in need without regard to race, sex, religion, or national origin; in a way that the persons or families served are respected for and can ultimately fulfill their maximum potential.

Core Values: The following six core values have been selected to operationalize the Mission Statement of the Agency:

Respect: Conduct that demonstrates regard for an individual's path of self-determination

Teamwork: Collaboration amongst all parties designed to creatively and professionally support positive and measurable outcomes

Compassion: Awareness of and empathy for challenges that do not define a person but lead to an opportunity of growth and development

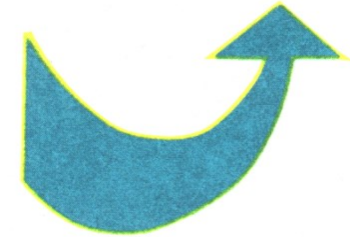
Integrity: A Foundation grounded in the dignity of all persons characterized by an atmosphere of trustworthiness, honesty, and a sincere desire for excellence and ethical behavior

Commitment: Assuring the development and implementation of strength-based interventions, communications, and practices that promote individualized and comprehensive services that are resourceful and effective.

Responsibility: Accountable and reliable behavior and actions that display a commitment to identify and enhance each person's self-defined potential.

CMI STATEMENT OF RELIGION AND FAITH

As a Christian agency, our chosen role in terms of religion and faith is to express our belief that everyone benefits from spiritual growth. We will provide resources, programs, and community linkages, without proselytizing, that will enhance spiritual growth and wholeness in the faith/spiritual tradition of an individual's choice and support them as they seek to grow in that tradition.



REACH

**Restorative Environments
Allowing Children Hope**

YOUTH SERVICES DIVISIONAL OFFICES

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www.communitymissions.org



REACH MISSION STATEMENT

The Youth Services program and staff of Community Missions, Inc. accepts the challenge and commitment of providing services to the needy, troubled, emotionally disturbed, and homeless youth populations under the age of 24, through the current referral and/or placement, processes operating within New York State.

Staff provide a professional, nurturing and supportive structure to allow youth and their families to achieve the most desirable and appropriate level of family reintegration, while providing guidance and encouragement for youth to recognize their full potential and to accept responsibility for their decisions and actions toward the attainment of these goals.

Community based residential settings and outreach-based programs are offered depending on the individual goals and emotional needs of each youth seeking program services.



AURORA HOUSE

Located in Lockport, this community based residential program provides complete care for a total of eight (8) coed children and youth, ages 12-18, for an established period of time. Most youth complete the program in six (6) to twelve (12) months. Youth who have been diagnosed as severely emotionally disturbed (SED) and qualify for a structured community residence environment will be accepted.

Referrals are accepted from local mental health providers and area inpatient psychiatric units, the NYS Department of Social Services, NYS Office of Children & Family Services, families and other area service providers. Referrals are accepted from the eight (8) counties of the Western Region of New York State.

Our guiding principal is to provide a community based structured living setting that relies on competent 24 hour staff and a continuum of support from parents, local service providers, educators and other resources. The goal for every youth is to establish and achieve personal growth that will enable them to return to their families and localities or independent living goal as soon as possible.

**See our program Virtual Tour at
www.communitymissions.org**

Certified and Licensed by:
New York State Office of Mental Health

For further information please contact:
AURORA HOUSE PROGRAM STAFF
(716) 433-1905

J-RISC Family Solutions Program

The Family Solutions Program (FSP) program is completed in conjunction with the Niagara County Probation Department, and is a part of a larger grant designed for Juvenile Risk Intervention Services Coordination (J-RISC) across New York State. The specific target population is youth who have demonstrated that intervention is needed with them and their families, due to crime involvement, violence, substance abuse, gang involvement, and/or truancy issues.

FSP delivers early intervention to at risk youth and their families by working together in groups to strengthen family relationships and prepare youth for successful futures. FSP promotes group social support and community networking, positive parenting practices and skill building such as anger management and improved decision-making. FSP is a short-term (10 week) evidence based, family program that meets together once a week for two hours. Group sessions will be conducted on-site at CMI, for ten consecutive weeks.

Successful completion of the FSP program results in the reduction of formal probation case supervision for the youth, and provides for the ability for families to improve communications and problem solving skills so they are better able to resolve conflicts as a family.

This program is monitored in partnership with the **Niagara County Probation Department** and **NYS Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives**.

NIAGARA COUNTY JUVENILE SUPPORTED CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (JSCM)

The Niagara County Juvenile Supported Case Management Program is designed to provide service coordination, supervision, and support to youth, ages 10 to 17. This program also implements accountability-based interventions, to help these youth avoid further crime and violence. The Niagara County Department of Social Services prioritizes youth and families in need of support services with regard to re-entry from out of home placements, juvenile justice involvement, gang activity, and/or truancy issues.

Youth are required to adhere to established curfew limits, participate in structured group and/or family therapy, and cooperate with random drug screening throughout the (60) day program. Aftercare linkages are provided beyond this period.

This program is monitored in partnership with the NYS Office of Children & Family Services and Niagara County Department of Social Services.

www.communitymissions.org

GIRLS CIRCLE PROGRAMMING

The Girls Circle is designed to foster self-esteem, help girls maintain authentic connection with peers and adult women in their community, counter trends of self-doubt, and allow for genuine self-expression through verbal sharing and creative activity.

The group specifically addresses the growing issue within local schools of how to best address problem behaviors among female students. Often, these students are given out of school suspensions or other punitive discipline for acting out, which may begin or continue a downward spiral of behaviors. This cycle may eventually lead the students to disengage with the school system, and ultimately drop out.

Girls Circle is a national, evidence-based program promoting pro-social behaviors in young women. Students exhibiting behavioral problems, ages 9-18, or those that school personnel identify as having self-image issues, are given the opportunity to participate in the eight- or 12-week program, held at their school.

Currently, the Girls Circle administered by Community Missions is being held in schools within the Niagara Falls City School District. For more information, please call 716-285-3403 x.2253.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS DEMONSTRATION PROJECT—"Falls Street Station"

Transitional Housing (TH) Admission Criteria:

For youth ages 18-24 (single or pregnant/parenting) who are in need of a safe place to reside while they work on social-emotional and independent living skills. This may involve living alone or with a roommate, and staff, community, and peer supports are available.

Youth and Young adults (YYA) who are willing to sign the TH/RRH Admission Contract, and agree to be an active participant in their goals for achieving housing permanence.

Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Admission Criteria:

Rapid Rehousing is designed to help clients to be quickly and permanently housed in their own apartment in the community. YYA residing in the TH portion of the project are automatically eligible for RRH if they choose, as all youth are enrolled in TH-RRH jointly when they enter the project.

YYA ages 18-24 may be referred to the RRH portion if they are either in TH and choose to move to RRH, or are prioritized from the by-name list based on their TAY-VI-SPDAT score and length of homeless history.

This program is funded by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Homeless Alliance of Western New York.