

Education Services Ministry Team Annual Report October, 2009

First I'll thank Diane Venzera, Kids Consultant, Eileen Patra, Uniteen Consultant, Jo Horn, YOU Consultant Dave DeAngelis, our present Next Generation Unity (NGU) Consultant, and Keith Mitchum, our previous NGU Consultant for their spiritual leadership, commitment, creativity, guidance, energies, organization skills, and more. Thank you.

I'll add that my report is a very condensed version of this past years' activities. A more detailed description of our Education Consultants' activities were provided you in your welcome packet. I suggest you utilize them to remind or perhaps enlighten yourselves and your boards, as I am sometime asked how to respond to board's questions such as "why should we support (spelled "tithe to") the Great Lakes Region.

I'll begin by stating that all of our consultants provide frequent, at times daily phone or email support to those they serve. Those communications could be associated with response to an almost infinite variety of issues such as:

- Curriculum planning
- Crisis intervention
- Specific training issues
- Background screening
- Classroom facilitation
- Leadership training ideas
- Starting or restarting a youth ministry program
- Creating a new vision for youth ministry
- Prayer support
- Resources available
- Activity ideas
- Volunteer issues
- Reinforcement of policies
- Disciplinary actions
- Other issues associated with organizing and facilitating trainings, retreats and rallies

Each of our consultants provide some form of website information in addition to newsletter/electronic information on a regular basis.

They attend the Annual Consultants Conference.

When possible, they attend the People's Convention.

Eileen and Jo attend Diane Venzera's Spirit's Light Foundation's National Youth & Family Ministry Conference in the spring of the year.

Diane Venzera

This year Diane Venzera, our Kids Consultant created two new trainings that were offered this year

- "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child"
- "The Enlivened Lesson Plan"

Her seven regional trainings served 128 individuals from 35 different ministries. An eighth training was canceled due to lack of sign ups.

Diane also served on Unitreat staff for both the Fall 2008 & Spring 2009 Unitreats

As a result of budget adjustments, Diane will be offering fewer trainings in this coming fiscal year.

Eileen Patra

Our Uniteen Consultant, Eileen Patra, served 37 individuals from 18 different ministries through three regional trainings.

This is in addition to serving 329 Uniteens and 45 ministries by organizing and facilitating two regional Unitreats. Some of those served appear twice, as they attend both Unitreats.

The pre-production and “at the event” and post-production responsibilities for Unitreats cover about a page and a half to describe. Imagine if you will what it takes to accommodate about 160 teens over a weekend and the volunteer staff to support them. All of this is described in the report you received in your welcome packet.

As a result of budget adjustments, the number of Unitreats will fall from two to one in the coming fiscal year.

Jo Horn

One of our YOU consultant, Jo Horn's, responsibilities is to work with the two Y.O.U. Regional Officers that are elected each year at our June Rally. This would be like a Minister having two Associate Ministers that they coach and mentor for the year. These regional officers are the presenters at the Fall Retreat and June Rally. Jo coaches and mentors them through the process of preparing Family Material, event schedule, and their presentations.

Served a total of 90 individuals through two events: Eastern and Western Team Trainings

Served 85 individuals through the Western Sub-Regional Event hosted by Fox Valley Chapter held at YMCA Camp Duncan in April 2009.

Organized and facilitated the Fall Retreat in October, 2008, at YMCA Camp Duncan, Ingleside Illinois - attending were 200.

Organized and facilitated the June Rally, June 2009, Hillsdale College, Michigan – 225 in attendance.

Dave DeAngelis

Having come into the position of our Next Generation of Unity Consultants Position in June of this year, Dave spent the first months organizing his leadership team. One of their first accomplishments was to create a facebook page.

A new NGU group has been started at Renaissance Unity.

Dave and his team organized a retreat in Toledo, OH, on October 9-11 at which 13 attended.

In conclusion, I'll restate that I have briefly touched on the responsibilities and accomplishments of our Education Consultants. Please take the time to read and share with your church leadership the hard copy reports provided in your welcome packets.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Tom Wendt