



DIAL/SELF

*Strengthening Communities through
Positive Youth Development and
Civic Engagement Since 1977*

Community Outreach

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There is always so much going on at DIAL/SELF, sometimes we forget to take a moment to reflect on the good work we are doing. As I sat in Greenfield, on the porch of our newest affordable housing development, waiting for the beginning of the Franklin County Fair Parade, I was approached by a familiar face. One of the founders of DIAL/SELF was in town and had stopped by to say hello.

Joyce Thompson, along with her husband and Dr. Maloy, worked very hard to get DIAL/SELF up and running back in 1977, and Joyce was thrilled to see that we are staying true to the initial mission of helping youth help themselves.

Joyce spoke of a moment over 3 decades ago, when she sat on a porch very similar to the one we were having our conversation on at that moment. All those years ago, Joyce watched a young person sitting with a newspaper looking for a job, and doing so with no place to live. She shared with me how that scenario gave her the idea that led to our housing program in Turners Falls. Since then hundreds of youth have been helped by the hard work that made that idea a reality.

I hope you enjoy this first edition of our agency newsletter. It is part of a new outreach campaign to keep the community aware of



David Voegelé
Executive Director

what we are accomplishing and to let you know of upcoming events and projects.

In the near future, as part of this awareness campaign, we will be hosting a series of presentation/ tours. We look forward to inviting our neighbors, local business people and community leaders in for an inspirational look at what we do for youth and our community.

AmeriCorps/YouthServe



AmeriCorps members
and DIAL/SELF staff

The 2010-2011 DIAL/SELF YouthServe AmeriCorps Program is off to a great start with 18 Corps members offering service to 15 local non-profit programs and schools. Some members have local ties, while others have come from all over the United States to serve, and learn from, local community members. All of the members have three

things in common, though: a passion for youth work, a desire to serve, and a love of games!

After a week-long, intensive orientation period, during which DIAL/SELF Corps members learned about National Service and the basics of Positive Youth Development theory and practice, the group took

some time to indulge its' love of games, and went adventuring in Mike's Maze. It was a lot of fun and a wonderful team building experience as members navigated twisting paths through cornstalks. [Mike's Maze](#) donated the entry fee for the whole group, for the second year in a row! Thank you Mike Wissemann and Will Sillin for your continued support and friendship.

DIAL/SELF Parade—Pictorial



For the first time DIAL/SELF staff and youth joined in the Franklin County Fair Parade. "The youth had so much fun preparing for the parade, making signs and talking about the image we portray in the community", says Kelsey Wessels, TeenLine Director.

"It really was a lot of fun and a great way to spend positive time with young people in the community," according to Keleigh Pereira, Director of the STEP program.

We are already looking forward to next year!



ACT Volunteer Center



Face painting at the Community Opportunities Festival

The past few months at DIAL/SELF's Volunteer Center (ACT) have been fast paced and stimulating. We are pleased to welcome aboard three new Commonwealth Corps members. Stacey, our Assistant Resource Coordinator, has been staffing the office, working on our newsletters and connecting volunteers with opportunities to serve.

Apryl and Tyanna, our new Outreach Coordinators, have been busily producing flyers for our many volunteer opportunities and posting them around the Pioneer Valley. They've all been doing great work and have so much enthusiasm for community service; it's wonderful to have them with us. ACT also helped to coordinate the Community Opportunities Festival,

which took place at Greenfield Community College. The event, held in conjunction with numerous other Franklin County agencies, had over 100 community members in attendance.



RISE

A new school year has begun, and with it, a new year of RISE in five local schools! DIAL/SELF has Community Resource Liaisons serving at Amherst Regional Middle, Amherst Regional High, Great Falls Middle, Smith Vocational and Agricultural High, and Turners Falls High.

Throughout the year, DIAL/SELF will be working with students and staff to determine the most pressing needs at each school, engaging volunteers to serve as

speakers, tutors, and club leaders, and coordinating programs that will increase students' success and excitement about their education.

RISE continues to work with ACT on the **Higher Impact** initiative to increase the numbers of Baby Boomers (particularly faculty, staff and alumni of area colleges) volunteering their time in schools. Opportunities to serve can be found on the ACT Volunteer Center website (www.actvolunteercenter.net).

One such opportunity is the *Advice Artist* project, which invites community members between the ages of 45 and 65 to share their college and career advice with local high school students. Advice is being gathered through online submissions, local recruitment events, and interviews. It will be published on the web and in print in late October. If you are interested in this project, simply sign up on our [web site](http://www.actvolunteercenter.net).



STEP Program

This past year, five youth have graduated from the STEP program and have moved forward to lease their own apartments. It is exciting for all of us at DIAL/SELF, to see the progress of young people who have worked very hard to learn the life skills necessary to maintain their own place. It was not long before we were welcoming four new youth to our program. It is inspiring for these new participants to hear about the success of other youth, many who

started where they are now.

Holiday planning begins early at DIAL/SELF, as we provide support to youth who have little or no family. We are working to partner with another local non-profit to provide a Thanksgiving meal. Holidays, when you are young and alone, can be overwhelming. We hope to be able to provide meals, gifts and celebration to our young participants holidays this year.



Dinner after Life Skills class is a great experience for staff and youth.



TeenLine

DIAL/SELF is always looking for new and innovative ways to reach out to youth in our community. We recently moved our TeenLine program to 16 Miles Street in Greenfield. The atmosphere and downtown location of the new store front/drop-in center has encouraged even more young people to stop by and see what we have to offer. Our goal is to help

young people connect to the services they need, and we encourage any young person who has questions, or needs support, to stop by and talk with someone from DIAL/SELF.

We are very excited to share our new space, so feel free to stop by and check it out!



DIAL/SELF drop in center

16 Miles Street Greenfield TeenLine Hours

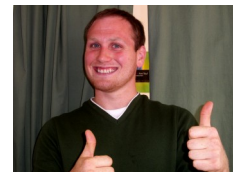
Monday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Tuesday	11 a.m. to 12 p.m. 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Wednesday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Thursday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Friday	11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

North Quabbin

DIAL/SELF - North Quabbin is excited to welcome returning AmeriCorps member, Kelly Kirkwood, and new member, Lowell Greenberg to our program in Orange, MA. A highlight of their work will be facilitating our after school drop-in for teens. Our drop-in, located in the [Wheeler Memorial Library](#), is in its fourth year. Teens

enjoy a safe place to hang out and socialize (and snack), as well as an opportunity to take part in a wide variety of activities, including arts and crafts, games (inside and out), life skills including cooking and eating ethnic foods, communication skills, and field trips. DIAL/SELF really appreciates our library partner, and is happy to

see our collaborative efforts bring smiles to large numbers of teens in the North Quabbin.



Lowell Greenberg



Kelly Kirkwood



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Check us out on FaceBook
Dial Self

DIAL/SELF's mission is to create opportunities, services, and programs that promote the health and positive development of youth, and the communities in which they live. We believe that youth are more likely to make the journey to adulthood successfully when they are surrounded by a caring community of adults actively serving as guides, providing safe havens, and fostering self awareness, self worth, self-discipline and self-motivation.

TeenHousing



DIAL/SELF, downtown Orange.

DIAL/SELF is the only developer in Western Massachusetts of affordable housing specifically for teens and young adults. These supported housing projects include an array of social services, life skills education, case management, and community service responsibilities for the residents.

After successfully renovating a building in Turners Falls in 2007 and finishing a beautiful housing project in Greenfield last year, we are now preparing to renovate a third building. This one will address the housing needs in the North Quabbin area by constructing 8 affordable apartments in downtown Orange.

"The building we renovated

in Greenfield was fully occupied within six months of completion." says Phillip Ringwood, Sr. Administrator of Operations at DIAL/SELF, "The need for affordable, safe housing for youth in this region is great, and we are thrilled to be able to provide this support."

We have purchased the building that we have been utilizing for our Youth Services in Orange. After renovation DIAL/SELF will be able to increase both program space and living space, which now only accommodates three youth, to support up to eight young people at a time.

Nothing speaks stronger about the success of our housing programs than the words of a young person with

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Greenfield High School

whom we have worked:

"When I first found DIAL/ SELF I didn't know what to make of it. ***Could there really be a program that wanted to help me succeed? Where my goals for my life mattered?*** It took nearly a month in the program for me to even grasp just how real it was. Within the first six months I had health insurance, I was attending classes at Greenfield Community College, (Me! In college) I even managed to start saving up for a car. Most importantly, my eyes were opened up to my community. "

For more information on this new development project or any information you have seen in this newsletter, please call us at (413) 774-7054.