

**Oneida County Office for the Aging/Continuing Care
Oneida County Youth Bureau
Application to
Albany Guardian Society
2010 Great Ideas in Aging Contest**

Sponsoring Agency:

Oneida County Office for the Aging/Continuing Care
Michael J. Romano, Director
235 Elizabeth Street
Utica New York 13501

Oneida County Youth Bureau
Robert Roth, Director
209 Elizabeth Street
Utica New York 13501

Initial Problem to be addressed:

Older persons continue to struggle to remain living independently in our community and maintain their homes. One identified need of seniors is for general yard maintenance such as leaf raking, brush trimming, refuse bagging, planting, cleaning, and sweeping. At the same time many older and younger persons living in the community lack positive interaction with individuals of differing age groups. This intergenerational project is meant to encourage quality interaction between the young and old as well as assist in addressing this unmet need of older community residents. To accomplish interaction of our seniors and youth, the Oneida County Office for the Aging and Oneida County Youth Bureau have created a strong and recurring partnership called the *Intergenerational Spring and Fall Clean Up*.

Brief Program Description:

The Oneida County Youth Bureau recruits youth volunteers from area schools, colleges, and other community organizations, while Office for the Aging/Continuing Care works with Senior Centers and case managers to identify older community residents who can utilize the services of the young volunteers for yard clean-up.

How does the program help/why do you like the program?

The *Intergenerational Spring and Fall Clean Up* helps hundreds of older Oneida County residents by matching them with young volunteers to perform services such as yard work. The assistance provided during this annual project is greatly needed and appreciated by the individuals whose quality of life is improved by this initiative.

The young volunteers who cheerfully participate in this outstanding community engagement initiative not only help those who are in need, but also build relationships that span across generations.

Total program Cost and major income sources:

One year cost (Spring and Fall projects)

<u>Rakes- 50@ \$10.00</u>	\$ 500.00
Push Brooms- <u>50@\$14.00</u>	\$ 700.00
Heavy duty lawn bags- 100@ \$10.99	\$1,099.00
Paper, printing, postage	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$2,799.00

Donations and In-kind:

Lowes (supplies)	\$ 600.00
Donations-community and civic org.	\$1,000.00
Volunteer Hours (400 volunteers @ <u>3hours@\$18.77</u> per hr. Natl.ratex2	\$45,048.00
TOTAL	\$ 46,648.00

Special Issues/Characteristics:

The Oneida County Intergenerational Spring and Fall Clean Up stimulates a sense of community engagement with unique component of bridging generational gaps between both young and older Oneida County residents. The project is operated by donations from many community and civic organizations and requires no additional departmental funding to implement and coordinate. County Department heads of both the Office for the Aging and Youth Bureau volunteer two weeks each year to supervise and oversee the project. Leaders from area scholastic sports teams, youth groups and colleges also donate their time to supervise and coordinate this project.

Further Information Contact/Website

Oneida County Youth Bureau 2010 Fall Clean Up:

<http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/youth>

Oneida County Youth Bureau 2010 Spring Clean UP:

<http://www.ocgov.net/oneida/youth/2010SpringCleanup>