## Annie Lisowski

*Teen Court Co-Coordinator* 4-H Youth Development Educator Buffalo County UW-Extension Buffalo County Courthouse 407 S. 2nd St PO Box 276 Alma, WI 54610 Voice: 608-685-6256 annie.lisowski@ces.uwex.edu

### **Marie Ritscher**

Teen Court Co-Coordinator 4-H Youth Development Agent Pepin County UW-Extension Pepin County Government Center 740 7th Avenue W Pox Box 39 Durand, WI 54736 Voice: 715-672-5214 marie.ritscher@ces.uwex.edu



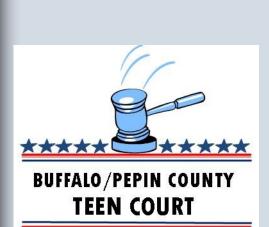
An EEO/AA employer, UW-Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming, including Title IX and ADA requirements. Please make requests for reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to educational programs as early as possible preceding the scheduled program, service or activity.

## **2014 Monetary Contributors**

(As of 6/26/2014)

Alliance Bank-Mondovi Jackson A. Keller, DDS Alma Knights of Columbus Marten Transport Animal Wellness of MH Smith Insurance Mondovi Agency, Inc. Bauer Built, Inc. Mondovi High School Bauer's Auto Service Nelson Telephone Coop. Pepin Community Club Bautch Insurance Agency Black's Valley Ag Supply Pepin School District Inc. Castlerock Foundation Inc. Pepin County Pepin Hill Evangelical Free **Cochrane Cooperative Telephone Company** Church **Dairyland Power RBO** Business Services Inc. Cooperative **Richardson-Koller Durand High School Construction LLC** Eau Galle Cheese Factory **Richardson Electric** Elmer's Auto Inc. **Riverland Communications** Federated Youth **Robert Hagness Law Office** Foundation Rosenholm Dairy, LLP Gilmanton High School Graphic Image LLC Security Financial Bank Heike Realtv Weiss Realty, LLC





The mission of the Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court is to join together as a council of professional and community members to find ways to enhance positive youth and family development in both counties. The Teen Court will serve to modify behavior of youthful, firsttime offenders by combining positive peer pressure and involvement within our counties, families, schools, and religious organizations to promote youth development and restorative justice.

# **Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court: Frequently Asked Questions**

#### What is Teen Court?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an alternative to appearing in Juvenile Court. They have an opportunity to receive a meaningful consequence from a jury of their peers.

#### Why a Teen Court?

Teen Court offers eligible youth an opportunity to take responsibility for their actions. It provides positive peer pressure with community based consequences.

#### Who is eligible?

The Buffalo/Pepin County Teen Court will serve youth ages 10-16 years who commit first time violations of offenses such as:

- Disorderly Conduct
- No Valid Driver's License
- Damage to Property/Vandalism
- Shoplifting/Retail Theft
- Trespassing
- DNR/Park Offenses, Littering, Curfew, or ATV violations
- Possession of Alcohol, Tobacco or Marijuana
- Truancy
- Unlawful Use of a Technology

Referrals for Teen Court will come from the Court, Human Services, Law Enforcement or the School.

## How Does Teen Court Operate?

- 1. The offender appears before a panel of three to five teen judge panelists.
- 2. Panelists will be from a local school district, excluding the offender's school.
- 3. Panelists have received specialized training in court procedures.
- 4. A parent or legal guardian is required to attend the session with the offender.
- 5. Offender must admit the violation offense.
- 6. Panelists discuss the offense with the offender to determine why the offense occurred and determine the most effective consequences.
- 6. Panelists may question parents.
- Panelists decide the consequences which may include essays, community service, apology letter or other innovative sanctions.
- 8. A coordinator monitors the offender's performance of the sentencing guidelines.
- 9. Offender pays a small fee towards the cost of Teen Court.
- 10. All procedures are confidential.
- 11. If offender successfully completes the work, the case is closed without the offender receiving a conviction record.
- 12. If offender is unsuccessful in completing sentence the offender will be returned to the referring agency.



## Who benefits from Teen Court?

- ⇒ Youth are given an opportunity for a real second chance to prove that mistakes can be turned into positive choices. When juvenile offenders successfully complete their Teen Court sentence, they will have their case dismissed.
- $\Rightarrow \ \ \, \mbox{The juvenile becomes responsible} \\ for his/her actions. \end{tabular}$
- ⇒ Community service-learning projects will be more meaningful to the youth and their respective communities.
- ⇒ The community is able to see teens being held accountable for their actions.
- ⇒ Teen judge panelists gain a sense of responsibility and they encourage peers to stop behaviors that reflect all teens. They also have the opportunity to participate in the juvenile justice system and examine possible career opportunities.
- ⇒ Adult volunteers are given the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth.