



Bath

117 E. Steuben St, Bath, NY 14810
T: (607) 776-2125 or 800-553-2033

Penn Yan

417 Liberty St., Suite 1116, Penn Yan, NY 14527
T (OFA): 315-536-5515 or T (Youth): 315-536-5516

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bath, NY – On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, Pro Action of Steuben and Yates, Inc. held an open house to celebrate the newly renovated site of its Youth Development Program and the Bath Center for Youth Services. The vision for this Center has been just a “twinkle in the eye,” of the Bath community for several years.

Over the years, neither an appropriate space nor a program leader was forthcoming. But the need was still demonstrably real, and the vision for a “Center for Youth Services,” was still very much alive. During the summer of 2020, a variety of opportunities came together to make this a reality. Pro Action applied for and was awarded an Appalachian Regional Commission grant to design and implement improvements to out-of-school time program spaces, including a “future program” in Bath. Local funding support for that grant was provided by United Way of the Southern Tier. In addition, Pro Action leadership made the determination that the agency would open a Youth Development program, which it did in October of 2020 at a temporary space provided in-kind by Bethel Assembly of God Church on Washington Street. Around the same time, St. Thomas Episcopal Church reached out to Pro Action. Its mission committee had examined Pro Action’s Community Needs Assessment and wanted to partner with the agency to make a lasting impact in the community. Finally, a generous grant from the Community Foundation’s Edith Saxton Fund empowered Pro Action to completely renovate the St. Thomas basement as the Bath Center for Youth Services.

Representatives from these partner organizations, along with about 35 guests, were on hand to celebrate the opening of the long-envisioned Bath Center for Youth Services at its newly renovated home! Laura Rossman, Pro Action CEO, remarked, “This is a testament to the strength of our partnerships and to the support of the Bath community. Everyone contributed to make this dream a reality.” Reverend Melanie Duguid-May of St. Thomas called the opening, a “Dream come true,” adding that the Parish had a long-standing vision to serve as a community hub. Bill Joint, a member of the Saxton Fund review committee, a Youth Development Program volunteer and longtime Bath community member shared memories of the Saxton family, and their dedication to serving Bath youth. Steuben County Youth Bureau Program Coordinator Bill Caudill lauded the project, reinforcing the community’s commitment to its vision for the program, and expressing gratitude to all of the partners who helped make it a reality.

The Pro Action Youth Development Program serves children ages 8-18 after school, during the summer, and on school breaks at no cost to families. For more information or to enroll a child, call the program at 607-346-6769, or visit Pro Action’s website.

www.proactioninc.org

Pro Action works to build a community of resilient individuals and families who can meet their basic needs, overcome adversity, and prosper.



United Way
of the Southern Tier