

Contact:

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2 Volunteer Opportunities:

Currently the Lewis County Youth Bureau sponsors and or co-sponsors the following Annual events (events that require many volunteers)

- **“Homeless Christmas Tree” Initiative:** This program supports the Lewis County Department of Social Services as well as many other local agencies who recognize that there is a hidden epidemic that touches the lives of most of our citizens in one way or another. This epidemic has to do with homelessness, the lack of safe and affordable housing, “under” housing and economically vulnerable constituents. Therefore for the past six years, the Lewis County Youth Bureau started this initiative where we request donations of personal hygiene, kitchen and bath supplies (items needed when a family or individual “starts over”). This program annual runs from November 22nd to December 22 of each year. **The Volunteer Piece is that after the initiative is over, in one day we pack up, deliver and store all items donated at Lewis County DSS and the Lowville Food Pantry. This is a major project as we try to get everything packed up and delivered in one day!** The amount of donations we receive is overwhelming and is very much appreciated.
- **Lewis County Night Out event:** This event is held in September of each year at the Lewis County Fairgrounds and is sponsored by the Lewis County Youth Bureau, Lewis County Sheriff’s Office, Lewis County opportunities, Inc., and Northern Regional Center for Independent Living. The event is held from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and it is designed to assist with community and police partnerships. There are 38+ prevention awareness and Law Enforcement agencies at the event. At the 2017 event, during the opening ceremony, boy Scouts led us into the Pledge of Allegiance and LT. Murphy from the DEC, played “amazing Grace” on bagpipes. Over the last few years, Lewis County has been heavily impacted by the increase of heroin and other drug consumption, therefore during the opening ceremony we recognized the danger, dedication, and effort that is put forth by our local and neighboring ambulance services, who often are first on the scene of crisis situations. **This event is totally FREE to the community, even the food is FREE! The Volunteer Piece that we can always you help with is the setting up and tearing down of the event; volunteers to staff the food ticket booth; free door prize drawing booth; guide agencies who have information tables at the event to their designated set-up area; volunteers to market the event (posters, etc.), place stick in the ground signs strategically throughout the county; volunteers to announce winners of door prizes; and many other volunteer opportunities at the event.**