

2012 Danby Youth Program Annual Report

Julie Kulik, Program Manager



Julie and participants marching in the Ithaca Festival Parade for "Above The Influence"

"The youth programs are my favorite thing about living in Danby. Thank you!" ~ A parent

Danby Youth Services
 2012 Annual Report
 Program Manager: Julie Kulik

Total Unduplicated Count: 78

Male: 37 Female: 41

Total Duplicated Participation: 201

Distribution by Program Participation

1 Program: 37 2 Programs: 15 3 Programs: 10 4 Programs: 6 5 Programs: 2 6 Programs: 7 Programs: 2
 8 Programs: 2 9 Programs: 2 10 Programs: 11 Programs: 2 12 Programs: 13+ Programs:

Distribution by Age of Unduplicated Youth

(Age as of January 1)

5 & under	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	over 18
0			5	13	17	14	7	9	3	5	2	1	2	0

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Danby Youth Services
2012 Annual Report
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Section 1: Youth Development Programs

Program Title	Number Of Sessions	Activities	Life Skills/Outcomes	Age Range	M	F	Total Youth Attending
2012 Fall Boynton Crafts and Games	4	This was a joint program with Enfield Youth and Town of Ithaca Youth. We created holiday crafts (dry needle felting, candle making, origami stars, hand crocheting scarves) and played games after school in one of the Boynton Middle School art rooms.	The participants helped each other with projects, encouraged and commented on each other's work, and learned patience when a project took longer than expected. This was especially true in the candle-dipping exercise where the wax wasn't sticking to the wick, despite many attempts!	11 - 13	1	3	4
2012 Fall Exploring Old Bald Hill Rd	1	We met with the town historian Wayne Meyers, on his property and explored his working water wheel, wood shop, metal smith shop, stonework and gardens. We then went on to Old Bald Hill road where we explored old foundations, learned the history of the now extinct South Danby village, and looked at Wayne's photo collection of the people that used to live there.	This was a very diverse group of children, from 3 different schools and home schooled, and a wide range of ages. The day provided time to engage in conversation with the historian and for free time to explore the many buildings and antiques on his property. The children played several running games after a picnic lunch together, and the property owners were impressed with how well they played together, and how much they seemed to enjoy each other's company. The history of Danby was more interesting to some than others, but I think they all came away with a sense of what it was like to live on this land 100 years ago, and how people worked together and were involved in each others lives.	9 - 14	5	6	11

2012 Fall Family Bowl workshop	1	We met at the Town Hall where we all enjoyed a pizza dinner, then got right to work on our projects. The project was to brainstorm with our family members to come up with a list of activities that make that family unique, then to come up with symbols that would represent some of these activities. Then, using clay, each family created a unique bowl together, by slumping clay inside a clay mold (a pookie), then using paints to decorate the inside of the bowl. Each family then shared with me the significance of each symbol on the bowls that they created.	A very diverse group of families came to this program,, and a perfect place to observe many life skills being learned at the same time! The families using various communication techniques among themselves, planning and discussing what might be on their bowls, and what symbol would be best to use. Everyone shared materials and showed genuine interest in seeing what other families created. There was discussion among the families about this being an annual event in Danby.	8 - 10	5	3	8
2012 Fall Halloween Party	1	A group of children were hand picked to help at the annual Community Halloween Party. They arrived early to set up, helped with games, and helped with clean up.	The children that came got to practice leadership skills, while helping the younger children with craft projects and with games. They enjoyed being there early and deciding how to set the hall up for the party.	9 - 13	1	4	5
2012 Fall Holiday Craft program at Town Hall	1	We met at the Danby Town hall, where we had multiple craft projects happening at once, and broke for some games in the yard around the gazebo. Some families brought in craft materials and ideas that were shared with the group.	Participants were excited to have the vast amounts of materials to choose from during this day. When we went outside after lunch, through group challenges and games, they used problem solving and communication skills, as well as conflict resolution skills while having fun with each other! Some participants brought a craft idea to share, letting them practice leadership skills. The challenge of the day was working together to clean up the town hall. After initial resistance, they worked together to leave the space as we	9 - 17	3	6	9

2012 Fall Lunch Bunch
Wednesdays at Boynton
MS

13

This was an in-school program that ran during lunch time. We met in a section of the cafeteria with youth from Enfield and Town of Ithaca, ate lunch together and had a craft project option each week.

This diverse group of participants got to know people they usually didn't sit near in the lunch room, with the group gaining skills in nurturing relationships in a safe environment as the session progressed. We looked forward to spending time with each other, with 2-3 program managers there with the group there were lots of chances to talk with the participants and see how their week was going, and walk around the cafeteria and check in with others that were in our other program. During one of these times the following happened: One of the boys in sixth grade that has been in several of my programs was sitting at a table where there was a "milk carton explosion". As soon as I looked over I could tell that he was involved in it. The rest of the boys at the table quickly got up and left, but when this boy saw me looking at him, we smiled at each other, then he went and got a paper towel and began to clean it up. One of the purposes of Program managers and other caring adults in children's lives is to remind them of their better selves that we have witnessed before and expect to see again and again!

11 - 13

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2012 Fall Primitive Pursuits	9	<p>Learned ancestral living skills such as shelter building, native crafts and nature awareness. Explored the outdoors, went hiking, played games, created shelters/forts and cooked over a fire. Some children were bussed in from South Hill Elementary School.</p>	<p>Natural navigation Using critical thinking and problem solving skills, we learned how to not get lost, feel at home, know where we are and know where we are going no matter where we are and whether or not we brought a compass or if the sun is shining.</p> <p>Making fire – By wisely using resources, and using planning and organizing skills we worked on the art and science of making fire only from raw materials gathered from the land, building fires in all types of weather, and form the habits of harnessing the magic of fire safely.</p> <p>Wildcrafting and Wilderness Cooking– Using cooperation and keen observation skills, we gathered foods from the wild, learned how to identify plants and the ecosystems. We also learned how to boil water and cook foods healthfully over the fire without cook pots, aluminum foil or other modern amenities, and how to fashion containers and utensils.</p> <p>Shelters - Using goal setting and cooperation skills we found and built one shelters for survival, concealment, wilderness living or just plain fun.</p> <p>Tracking – Using keen observation and practicing using resources (field guides) we participated in the first science ever practiced by humans- tracking. We found weekly signs of animals and birds in the woods, and reported sightings from home to be contributed monthly to the Danby Area News article “Life in Danby” .</p>	8 - 14	7	4	11
2012 Fall South Hill 3rd Grade Enrichment	12	<p>With the help of the school social worker, we identified Danby children that would benefit from small group work. We worked with these children's social skills and communication skills, outside as much as possible, using lots of movement and activities where they could make noise! These boys had little opportunity in their day for these kind of activities, and they enjoyed the chance to be together in this way!</p>	<p>As a group, the boys who all have communications skills and social skills deficits are more active verbally and are demonstrating more appropriate social skills. The last 2 weeks we worked on collaborative clay sculptures together, working together on a design idea then each adding our own part to the whole design, practicing good communication skills and problem solving skills.</p>	8 - 9	2		2

2012 Fall South Hill Lunch Bunch Fridays	12	Worked with 17 students, by grade level, with the South Hill Elementary School social worker. These are mostly children that have been identified by the social worker as needing some work on social skills. We provided a space where Danby kids came together to have lunch with others from Danby on Fridays. We ate outside when we could, and in the Social Worker, Marilyn Summers' office at other times. Together we, played games, created Earth art around the school grounds, worked on crafts, and encouraged each other in group challenges. Working on this program along with Marilyn enabled children with special needs to participate in the group and to flourish.	Among the group there was a broadening of interests slightly (willingness to do different activities), increased eye contact with each other, laughing, and joining in conversation. Those that were quieter in the beginning of the session, were more active verbally and demonstrated more appropriate social skills. The last 2 weeks we worked on collaborative clay sculptures together, working together on a design idea then each adding our own part to the whole design, practicing new ways of communicating with each other and solving problems.	9 - 11	7	12	19
2012 Spring Boynton Lunch Bunch	13	On Wednesdays, Danby students at Boynton joined Enfield and Town of Ithaca students in a program that gave them a break from the cafeteria. They ate exciting snacks, played games and went outside on nice days.	This diverse group of participants got to know people they usually didn't sit near in the noisy lunch room, with the group gaining skills in nurturing relationships in a safe environment as the session progressed. Through group challenges, they used problem solving and communication skills, as well as conflict resolution skills while having fun with each other! The crafts that we created together increased self esteem when they saw the beautiful finished products. Going outside for lunch and games was an added benefit for participants during the mild Spring. We also made Above the Influence T-shirts and banners and marched in the Ithaca Festival parade together.	12 - 14	4	4	8
2012 Spring Danby Community Service Day	1	We spent the day, with the help of the Cooperative Extension van, going to the Town of Ithaca Mulch pile and loaded several large bags of mulch from the pile, then bringing them back to the South Hill Elementary school for a beautification project there that the girls have been working on. We then had a picnic and a tour of several play grounds!	: The girls really enjoyed deciding as a group what our agenda was, where we were going next, and working and playing together for the day. Later that week they were very proud to announce to others at the school that they were the ones that shoveled and hauled those bags of mulch to the school. Though the work was hard, the girls learned the value of working together to get a job done, and making a difficult job fun. They ended up not wanting to leave the mulch pile, because of the fun games they had made up there.	9 - 10		5	5

2012 Spring Fridays at the Farm	9	<p>Worked on this program with Ann Piombino, the farmer at Three Swallows Farm. The children created a "forest village" in a hedgerow/tree row that divides two farm fields, played games, and helped Ann with a farm project each week. So far we have planted seeds in seed trays, harvested Kale and Garlic that wintered over, broadcasted buckwheat seeds, and cleared a field of rocks. We also cooked some weeks in our outdoor kitchen making Garlic Mustard Pesto and popcorn on a fire.</p>	<p>Though the farm work was hard, we learned the value of working together to get a job done, and making a difficult job fun. Working together on their forest village, their friendships grew, along with their connection to the beautiful land that they were on. Daily treasures were found in the form of birds nests, feathers, bones, antlers and rocks. These were used to make fairy houses and decorations for forts and shelters. Cooperative games helped they grow together as a community, and learn the benefit of actively moving their bodies after a week at school.</p>	8 - 12	2	10	12
2012 Spring Primitive Pursuits	12	<p>This Spring we worked on outdoor skills: shelter building, native crafts, fire building in all types of weather, animal tracking, gathering wild edibles, and outdoor cooking. We explored the woods, swamps and fields together playing games along the way. This group was comprised of home schoolers and public schoolers who came on a bus from South Hill Elementary school.</p>	<p>Natural navigation Using critical thinking and problem solving skills, we learned how to not get lost, feel at home, know where we are and know where we are going no matter where we are and whether or not we brought a compass or if the sun is shining.</p> <p>Making fire – By wisely using resources, and using planning and organizing skills we worked on the art and science of making fire only from raw materials gathered from the land, building fires in all types of weather, and form the habits of harnessing the magic of fire safely.</p> <p>Wildcrafting and Wilderness Cooking– Using cooperation and keen observation skills, we gathered foods from the wild, learned how to identify plants and the ecosystems. We also learned how to boil water and cook foods healthfully over the fire without cook pots, aluminum foil or other modern amenities, and how to fashion containers and utensils.</p> <p>Shelters - Using goal setting and cooperation skills we found and built one shelters for survival, concealment, wilderness living or just plain fun.</p> <p>Tracking – Using keen observation and practicing using resources (field guides) we participated in the first science ever practiced by humans- tracking. We found weekly signs of animals and birds in the woods, and reported sightings from home to be contributed monthly to the Danby Area News article "Life in Danby" .</p>	9 - 18	6	7	13

2012 Summer Crafts at the Pond	2	<p>We met at Jennings Pond each day, were we worked on crafts, had lunch picnics on the trails behind the pond, and swam in the afternoons after the life guards arrived. The children really enjoyed and felt proud of the "Critter Crossing" road signs that they created, and spent hours in the shade building, designing and painting these large signs together. I then brought more paper and paints for them to create paintings of their own to bring home. We all agreed that this was a great way to de-compress from school and welcome in the Summer.</p>	<p>There was 100% attendance, with all 11 participants came to both days of the program. An incident that occurred the first morning created a solid community amongst the children and parents. At arrival one of the children realized that a Robin, with fishing line wrapped around it, was stuck in a tree (the line had caught in a tree branch). The children and parents worked together to free the bird. The solution involved a tall van, some tall fathers, a long stick and a knife. The bird was freed and flew off at the end with cheers from all! Can't ask for a better start to a program! This caused many conversations about our individual and collective rolls in environmental conservation, and the immediate outcome was a sign that was designed, built and painted by the children asking the people fishing at Jennings Pond to clean up their fishing line. We also spent time around the pond finding line and working together to get it out of the water.</p>	8 - 15	5	6	11
2012 Summer Danby Days	3	<p>We met at a different location each day of this program.</p> <p>□□ On Tuesday at the Youth Farm on Nelson Road, we played games, helped out with a farm project in the field (mulching vegetables to preserve moisture during this very dry summer), and made dream catchers in the shade in our "forest village" set up this Spring.</p> <p>□□ On Thursday, we met at the Town Hall, where we sorted out the Danby Fun Day games, and with a partner created new games with the materials we had on hand. We also played games outside, explored the stream, and painted the picnic table behind the Town Hall.</p> <p>□□ On Saturday, we met at the Danby Fire Hall early to set up games. We watched the parade together, then ran the games, painted faces and made balloon animals the rest of the day.</p>	<p>There was 100% attendance, with all 11 participants came to both week days of the program. Six children attended the Danby Fun Day and helped by painting faces, passing out prizes, making balloons (with the help of the Balloon Guy), and helping the smaller Danby residents play the free games. This is the second year that I have been a part of this Danby tradition, and it was exciting to see the children grow into helpers. I saw a huge change in their willingness to accept responsibility and help out at the Fun Day, and be with their new friends at the festival.</p>	9 - 18	4	8	12

2012 Summer Danby
Girls

3

This Program also met at different locations during the week.
On Tuesday we boarded the Cooperative Ext van and headed to North Point/Taughannock park to gather craft materials, explore the water's edge, swim, and play on the playground.
□□ On Wednesday, we met at a remote location on Curtis Road in Danby where we spent the day at Karenaville. This is a village of 11 small buildings rangin in size from 4x8 to 8x12 ft, built by the owner, Karen. We toured the village, creating scavenger hunts for each other, dressing in Victorian costumes (since some of the buildings are Victorian building replicas). We helped Karen with some exterior painting on her newest building "the hotel", and harvested vegetables from her gardens to create part of our lunch. We then each chose a building to spend some quiet alone time, and came together at the end to write a poem about Karenaville, which we gifted to the owner at the end of the day. We also took a field trip/hike to the old one room school house that happens to be the home of two of the participants!
On Thursday, we met at Jennings Pond, worked on crafts, cooked in the solar oven, built shelters in the woods, and swam when the life guards arrived.

There was 100% attendance, with all 8 participants coming to all three days of the program. What a lovely ending to a wonderful summer! At the end the girls agreed that this week was a good mix of activities and time to just relax and "be" with each other in a variety of locations. Many of the rough edges were smoothed off, as a group of very diverse girls got to know each other through the wide range of locations and activities that we did. The success story of the week was watching the pride with which two sisters gave us a tour of their home, an old renovated one room school house as their mom served us popsicles and welcomed us into their home!

9 - 15

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2012 Summer Exploring Here and There	3	<p>This was a joint project with Town of Ithaca youth, and we met at a different location each day.</p> <p>□□ On Tuesday, we met at the Town Hall and using the Cooperative Extension Van, went to the Farmer's Market dock to board the Floating Classroom, where we spent the morning on Cayuga Lake gathering plant and water samples. In the afternoon we explored the waters edge and played games in the empty Farmer's Market pavilion.</p> <p>□□ On Wednesday, we once again boarded the Cooperative Ext van and furthered our exploration of Cayuga lake at North Point, and Taughannock park, where we collected rocks and driftwood for craft projects, created earth art on the beach, swam, and some of us went to the Museum of the Earth on the way home.</p> <p>□□ On Thursday, we hosted our Town of Ithaca guests at the Danby Town Park, where we played disc golf, cooked over a fire, and played games in the woods. worked on craft projects.</p>	<p>There was 100% attendance, with all 13 participants coming to all three days of the program. This group was a mixture of active and focused crafter, and a wide age range, and doing the program with Zoe, my Youth Employee and Beth Bannister the Town of Ithaca Program Manager made it possible to meet the needs of this diverse group. There were always choices of activities where the participants worked with different children, getting to know children from Danby and from Ithaca.</p>	9 - 15	5	6	11
2012 Summer Homesteading	7	<p>This was a new joint program with other Youth Program manages. During the week, held at 4H Acres in Dryden, we set up a Homesteading "village" where we cooked over a fire and rocket stoves, dyed wools with natural dyes, created vessels from gourds and clay, primitively fired clay pieces in a sawdust firing, created tools and decorated craft items using metal branding tools., created fishing poles and hooks from natural materials and fished in near by stream, created an adobe Rocket Cooking Stove, and built a "Chicken Tractor" using power and hand tools.</p>	<p>There was 100% attendance, with all 5 participants coming to all three days of the programs. The highlight of this week was working with a great staff of Cooperative Extension folks, and guest artists and craft people! Together, we wove a web of activities and a "can do" attitude, inviting all attendees to try new things in new ways – just the list of what we did above is pretty amazing! The opportunity for Danby youth to mix with youth from other towns was also a plus of this cooperative effort. Great week in the woods with great people old and young!</p>	9 - 15	5		5
2012 Winter Boynton Lunch Bunch	7	<p>On Wednesdays, Danby students at Boynton joined Enfield and Town of Ithaca students in a program that gave them a break from the cafeteria. They ate exciting snacks, played games and went outside on nice days.</p>	<p>This diverse group of participants got to know people they usually didn't sit near in the noisy lunch room, with the group gaining skills in nurturing relationships in a safe environment as the session progressed. Through group challenges, they used problem solving and communication skills, as well as conflict resolution skills while having fun with each other! During this session we celebrated birthdays and mourned the passing of one of our Lunch Bunch member's father.</p>	12 - 14	5	4	9

2012 Winter Boynton Magic	7	: This was a joint program with JYC/Beth Bannister, who patiently taught me the game Magic! We learned and perfected our skills at playing the interactive role playing game Magic The Gathering This group was for beginners and experienced players and was enhanced by an experienced presenter/volunteer.	We examined our own tendencies in game playing, discussing competitive/ non competitive behaviors through activities before playing the game itself. We worked with ways to manage frustration, including going outside to move around for a while before beginning another game; problem solving skills; clear, kind communication with each other; and learning to take ourselves a little less seriously!	12 - 13	4	4
2012 Winter Fun Fridays at the Danby Town Hall	10	We worked on craft projects, played games, went outside to the Town Park when ever possible, designed and changed the Town sign board on 96B. We hosted guest artists, including some Danby Spinners who came and demonstrated spinning wool into yarn, with each participant using their own drop spindle and going home with a small ball of yarn that they created. We went to Floof, an artists studio where the girls created many pieces from recycled materials.	: This was a challenging group, a mixture of active and focused crafters. We had a bullying incident occur, which we discussed in several talking stick circles, where the bullies and the victim were encouraged to talk through the incident and any other times that they were in situations similar to this. Though the incident itself was very unpleasant, the talking circles brought us all closer to each other at the end, and all of the girls involved continued to attend the program.	9 - 11	12	12

2012 Winter/Spring SH
Lunch Bunch Gr 4,5

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Worked with 12 students, by grade level, with the South Hill Elementary School social worker. These are mostly children who have been identified by the social worker as needing some work on social skills. We provided a space where Danby kids came together to have lunch with others from Danby on Fridays. We ate outside when we could, and in the Social Worker, Marilyn Summers' office at other times. Together we, played games, created Earth art around the school grounds, worked on crafts, and encouraged each other in group challenges. Working on this program along with Marilyn enabled children with special needs to participate in the group and to flourish. Together, we helped organize a Valentines food drive for the Danby Food Pantry, created/decorated drop off boxes for each classroom and a giant poster for the main hallway of the school updating everyone on the new can total. We collected the cans on the final week from each classroom and loaded them into cars headed to Danby. Together, South Hill Elem school collected over 700 articles of food for the pantry this year, a 20% increase from a collection held 2 years ago. In the Spring we worked on a school beautification project. The area outside the school where we ate lunch and played games has not had much attention and we were asked by the principal, Colleen Ledley if we could work on beautifying that space. The kids loved the idea, so we weeded, mulched, and planted plants there this Spring. We then designed and painted a mural with the theme "We Give Thanks", depicting what we are thankful for in the natural world. This project required collaborative work, patience, and bravery (for some that were nervous to add their artwork to the wall).

The children were really proud of their participation in the Valentine can drive project and worked together really well. The Fifth graders made an announcement over the school PA reading a thank you letter from the Danby Food Bank. Some Danby friendships have developed as a result of this Lunch Bunch program, with children having play dates at each others houses, which has helped Danby neighbors find each other. Again, the children felt great pride after the mural was completed, as the folks at the school began wandering over to comment on and congratulate them on their beautiful wall. Some of the students who have a hard time working together on a group project, at the end were very proud of their contribution to the mural project.

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Section 2: Youth Employment

Program Title	Program Focus	Total Number of Youth Served	Ages	M	F
2012 Youth Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteerism <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Career Exploration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Job Skills <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Subsidized Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Casual Employment	6	Age 13 & under:		
			Age 14 - 15:	2	2
			Age 16 & up:	1	1

2012 Trainings Attended – Julie Kulik

Title of Training	Training Sponsor	Date and Time (# of hours)
CPR/AED, Adult and Child First Aid	American Red Cross	January 4, 9AM-3PM
Retrain the Brain	David Makar	September 11, 8:30 – 1:30 CCETC Annual Retreat
Risk Management	Kathy Jett, Linda Schoffel	March 14, 10:00 – 10:30 (Part of RYS Staff meeting)
Summer TANF Updates: How can we connect	Linda Schoffel	April 18, 10 – 10:30 (Part of RYS Staff Meeting)
Database Review and Updates	Linda Schoffel	May 9, 10:30 – 10:50 (Part of RYS Staff Meeting)
CCE Credit Card Review and Updates	Linda Schoffel	June 13, 10:00 – 10:15 (Part of RYS Staff meeting)
Summer Risk Management Review and Reporting	Kathy Jett	June 13, 10:30 – 11:15 (Part of RYS Staff Meeting)
Crisis Management	Kathy Jett	October 10, 10:45 – 11:15 (Part of RYS Staff Meeting)

2012 Success Stories – Julie Kulik

On November 11th, I ran an evening workshop at the Town Hall entitled "Family Bowls". Seven families (22 people) came together and enjoyed a pizza dinner together before getting busy on their pots. Their family assignment was to think of several things that make their families unique, and then pick symbols that represent these things. Together, they then created pots, inscribed with these symbols that represented their families. The children had all been in several programs together and knew each other, but this was the first time many of the parents had met each other. As the evening went on, and the participants were sharing materials and looking at each others' pots, I realized the diversity represented in the room: different ages, family

sizes, income levels, religions, sexual orientation. Danby is a town without a school or central community center, so there are not opportunities for this type of group to come together, and I think everyone benefited from this unique Danby experience.

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Beginning Fall 2011, I have been working with third-fifth graders at South Hill Elementary School. We have small Lunch Bunch activity groups each Friday at the school. This Fall (2012) was the first year that I was able to greet the new sixth graders to Boynton Middle school where I also conducted lunch bunch once per week on Wednesdays. Several of the children I had in my South Hill Lunch Bunch touched base with me every week, to say Hi and to see if I was doing a craft or activity that they were interested in. Some stayed and ate lunch together and others would just say Hi and go back to their new Boynton friends. During one of these Wednesdays, the following happened: One of the boys in sixth grade that has been in several of my programs was sitting at a table where there was a “milk carton explosion”. As soon as I looked over I could tell that he was involved in it. The rest of the boys at the table quickly got up and left, but when this boy saw me looking at him, we smiled at each other, then he went and got a paper towel and began to clean it up. One of the purposes of Program Managers and other caring adults in children's lives is to remind them of their better selves that we have witnessed before and expect to see again and again!