A Guide to Community Resources and Out of Home Placements for Juveniles

The Durham County Youth Home
Durham, North Carolina
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Introduction and Overview

This guide is designed to be a general compilation of different programs available in Durham and throughout North Carolina for at risk juveniles, or those who have been involved with the Juvenile Justice System (whether that involvement be serious or minor). The guide itself is divided into three major sections: A list of “Out of Home” placements described in greater detail, a list of other treatment programs and options, and finally a list of community resources.

The first category of placement options is for juveniles in need of a treatment program that is residential, either secured or non. Because this is the option most likely suitable to many of the juveniles who come through the Youth Home, this section contains the most detailed descriptions. These programs can be classified according to the general categories of group homes, wilderness camps, and Training schools.

The second category is simply a list, with short descriptions, of other treatment programs in Durham. While they are all non-residential, some appear just as intensive as those in the first category and offer numerous beneficial treatment options.

Finally, the third section simply lists some contacts at different resources in Durham that might be of use to juveniles and Youth Home counselors.

This guide was assembled from information provided by each of the respective agencies. While some contacts were happy to talk about their programs and the services they offer, others were more reluctant. This in part explains the variety of depth in which each program is described. Due to this fact, I have included who should be contacted and how that might be accomplished in order to obtain more information.

While this guide is designed primarily for the juveniles in the Youth Home to use, there is the possibility that they might not understand some of the descriptions and terms. As a result, this booklet may also be considered a quick reference for counselors in order that they might better respond to residents’ questions about their placement options or let them know how they might obtain more information. This is by no means an exhaustible list of resources, but it is a good starting point. Also, many homes have things in common, so this might be useful in learning about programs not specifically mentioned. I hope this is of use to everyone at the Youth Home!

-Sarah Baumgartel
Intern, Spring 2000
Out of Home Placements

Name of Program: Alexander Children’s Center

Location: Charlotte, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: This home serves children ages 5-13. Contact the agency for more specific information.

Who can refer you? Anyone- doctors, school officials, parents, the court.

Cost: Depends on source of referral, contact the agency for more information.

How many kids in the program at a time? Unknown.

Description of Program: The center offers a variety of programs based on a juvenile’s specific needs. All services are provided by a skilled treatment team and include individual and family therapy, psychological assessments, education, and recreational activities.

Aftercare? No.

Contact for more information: Cynthia Haggard, (704) 366-8712
Name of Program: Barium Springs Home

Location: Barium Springs, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: While there are no special qualifications specifically required, there is an admissions committee that has to approve all people that want to come through. Some things that they look for include an average IQ, no substance abuse or serious mental health issues, and the likelihood that the juvenile will benefit from the program. Juvenile age ranges from 8-17 years.

Who can refer you? Anyone- parents, DSS, Court Counselors.

Cost: There is a cost, but source of payment depends on referral (DSS can pay, or the parents can on a sliding scale). Contact the agency for more specific information.

How many kids in the program at a time? This family structured treatment program has a total of 5 homes and can house about 35 children at a time.

Description of Program: This is a treatment program designed to help, teach, and improve the lives of undisciplined kids. It takes juveniles from all over the state and places them in a campus atmosphere that is based on the teaching family model. Each child lives in a home with a husband/wife team who acts as their counselors. As a result, kids are expected to maintain the same duties as if it were a family, such as daily chores.

Aftercare? No.

Contact for more information: Gail Watts, (704) 873-1011
Name of Program: Butner Adolescent Treatment Center (BATC)

Location: Butner, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: This is a facility for boys (and soon girls) between the ages of 12 and 18 who are classified as “Willie M.” No other special requirements.

Who can refer you? Most juveniles are court referred, and there is a waiting list.

Cost: None.

How many kids in the program at a time? 12 in each building.

Description of Program: This is a state run secure facility for juveniles classified as “Willie M.” Currently, this agency is in a transitional period, as it is merging its facilities with those of the Whitaker School (which means that it will serve both males and females). During their stay, juveniles attend school within the facility, and engage in numerous therapeutic groups and activities. Older residents may work towards their GED or get vocational training. Length of stay is usually court determined and averages about 2 years. In general, juveniles are released when those working with them and their community are confident of their ability to live independently.

Aftercare? No.

Contact for more information: Stephanie Alexander, 575-7954 or Wayne Smith, 919-571-4900
Name of Program: Cameron Boys Camp

Location: Cameron, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: There is an IQ minimum.

Who can refer you? Anyone including schools, parents, or the court.

Cost: There is a cost, paid according to the source of referral (for parents there is a sliding scale). Please contact the agency for more specific information.

How many kids in the program at a time? Maximum of 30.

Description of Program: This camp usually lasts around a year, but can last for longer depending on the individual. The camp uses structured living, as well as role models, peer pressure, and the excitement of new experiences to shape goals and improve individual behavior. Activities while at the camp include crafts, group games, fishing, cooking, backpacking, and rafting. While formal classes are not held, there is programming based on lessons garnering from the juveniles’ daily experiences in the wilderness. During placement, a resident makes trips home every six weeks (and stays for a four day period), during which time they reconnect with their family and practice the improved behaviors they have learned.

Aftercare? Yes. Follow up with one of the social workers.

Contact for more information: Alice, (919) 245-5035
Name of Program: Central Children’s Home

Location: Oxford, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: The program limits the juveniles that it accepts to those with around a 70 IQ or higher, as well as those not classified as “Willie M.” Generally, there are no other specific standards, but ultimate decisions as to whether or not to offer placement will be made by the director.

Who can refer you? DSS only.

Cost: Approximately $30 a day, which is usually paid by DSS.

How many kids in the program at a time? 56.

Description of Program: The program is designed as either a short term emergency placement (90 days) or long term institutional placement for abused or neglected juveniles. Often the kids that they accept are court ordered to stay there for around a period of six months, but duration of stay in the institutional program can vary. Each child is paired with a social worker to assist them and the agency offers an array of therapeutic programs.

Aftercare? For 90 days after release, the program offers follow-up treatment in the form of extended contacts with the juvenile’s social worker, and counseling options.

Contact for more information: Ms. LaGrand, (919) 693-7617
Name of Program: Crossnore School Inc.

Location: Crossnore, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: There are no special qualifications other than those given in the description for remaining in the program once accepted. A serious criminal offence might prevent acceptance into the program.

Who can refer you? Many are referred by DSS but can be placed there by parents.

Cost: There is a cost, paid depending on the source of referral.

How many kids in the program at a time? 60.

Description of Program: While this facility does offer emergency 90-day placement, the focus here is on their long term and extended long term (over 16 years old only) therapeutic programs. For the long term program, juveniles live in cottages and must participate in daily chores, as well as education and different programming offered by the agency. As kids work through the programming offered, they move through the levels and acquire greater privileges within the program. Ultimately, one must complete a certain level of programming to graduate. The extended long term program is for older juveniles. Here, the point system is the same (with kids working through different levels to earn more privileges), but the programming focuses more on life skills education. In addition, juveniles in the extended program must maintain a job in order to prepare for adult living.

Aftercare? Limited.

Contact for more information: Leslie Edmonds, (828) 733-4305
**Name of Program:** Eckerd Therapeutic Camping Program

**Location:** Candor, NC

**Residential?** Yes

**Standards for Admission:** Juveniles entering the program must be between the ages of 10 and 17, must undergo a psychiatric evaluation. In addition, they must have demonstrated behavioral problems that make living at home no longer possible. Will not accept juveniles on medication.

**Who can refer you?** Referral must be through an agency.

**Cost:** Depends on referral, usually paid by the OJJ.

**How many kids in the program at a time?** Unknown.

**Description of Program:** This is a nationally recognized organization that exists in seven states. Kids stay at the camp an average of 11 months. The approach of the camp is totally non-punitive and rehabilitative, with the goals of improving life skills, behavior, and the possibility for future success. Therapy is in the form of social, educational, and recreational activities, all accompanied by one on one therapy. Activities include hiking, community service, and budgeting meals and planning days. Kids attend school while at camp on the grounds. There are trips home every 5 weeks for family visits, and weekly visits during the final transitional phase before they return to the community.

**Aftercare?** No.

**Contact for more information:** Wes Seaman, (704) 786-5611
Name of Program: Florence Crittenton

Location: Charlotte, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: This is home for pregnant females only. Other specifications include that the home be “clinically appropriate” for someone. Generally, they will accept a woman with almost any criminal offence.

Who can refer you? Anyone- self referral, DSS, OJJ

Cost: There is a cost, depending on referral. Women may apply to DSS for funding.

How many kids in the program at a time? 40

Description of Program: As stated, this is a home for pregnant females. The facility offers parenting classes, individual and group therapy, adoption support, and other prenatal care. A woman can stay anywhere from three to six months, usually up until the time that she has her baby.

Aftercare? No.

Contact for more information: Kim Doss, (704) 372-4663
Name of Program: Grandfather Home

Location: Banner Elk, NC

Residential? Yes

Standards for Admission: A program for boys and girls between the ages of 5 and 18. This is designed to treat kids from North Carolina who have experienced significant trauma and reflect this in their deteriorating behavior and the inability of other treatment programs to help them. Will not accept substance abusers, those on medication, those who pose a serious threat to themselves or others, and those who do not have the mental capacity to partake in group activities.

Who can refer you? Anyone- parents, pastors, the court, DSS.

Cost: There is a cost, contact the agency for more information.

How many kids in the program at a time? Unknown.

Description of Program: Therapy is provided for children in cottages of 7 to 10 during their stay. In addition, planning and counseling services are also provided for the families of children in placement. Special emphasis is placed on the treatment of those who have been sexually abused or are sexual offenders.

Aftercare? No.

Contact for more information: Randy McKee, (828) 898-5393
Name of Program: Holly Hills

Location: Raleigh, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: Most of the standards are psychiatric in nature. Adolescents must have certain mental conditions and treatment needs.

Who can refer you? Anyone- doctors, parents, the court.

Cost: Contact the agency for more information.

How many kids in the program at a time? Unknown.

Description of Program: This is considered an urgent care facility, where juveniles can stay for several weeks at most. It offers an array of psychiatric treatments, including individual and group therapy, school, and drug education as a part of daily programming.

Aftercare? Aftercare support groups and counseling are provided.

Contact for more information: Kim Raynor, 250-7174
Name of Program: Lake Waccamaw Boys and Girls Home

Location: Lake Waccamaw, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: While there are no strict standards, a juvenile’s placement must be reviewed and accepted by an admissions committee. Generally, kids will only be rejected if they are considered a safety threat, or if they hold “Willie M” status. In addition, because the juveniles attend school off campus, the kids must be able to function in public school. The facility will accept kids starting in 4th grade.

Who can refer you? Anyone.

Cost: Cost paid depending on source of referral.

How many kids in the program at a time? There are 7 residences for boys and 3 for girls, each of which can hold around 8 juveniles.

Description of Program: This program offers long term residential care for children from 10-18. Some juveniles may stay for several years, while other may return to their family within a year. While in the program, juveniles live in cottages which operate as a family unit (complete with “parents” and chores). Children attend a publicly funded school while there, which is actually on/very near the campus where they live. In addition, children are required to attend church regularly and encouraged to participate in numerous activities, as well as off campus trips.

Aftercare? While there is no structured aftercare, the program will help those who graduate high school in their continuing education.

Contact for more information: John Howell, (910) 646-3083
Name of Program: MATTA, Inc.

Location: Charlotte, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: While they will accept juveniles with any criminal offence, they must be between the ages of 10-18 and not have an IQ at a level below which might be considered mentally retarded (about 57).

Who can refer you? DSS or private referrals.

Cost: There is a cost, usually paid by DSS. Contact the agency for more details.

How many kids in the program at a time? 55.

Description of Program: The focus of this program is on behavior modification, and programs offered include group and individual therapy. Juvenile length of stay depends greatly on their own personal treatment objectives. Like other programs, juveniles work through different aspects of their therapy in accordance with a point system- when they have a certain amount of points they are allowed to graduate. Total stay can range anywhere from six months to a year and a half. During their stay, kids must attend school and leave the facility to do so.

Aftercare? There is a period of follow up that concentrates on family therapy.

Contact for more information: Isaac Murray (704) 372-4915
Name of Program: Tarheel Challenge

Location: Clinton, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: The program will not accept any juvenile who has a violent charge, a recent felony, or charges pending. Generally, they look for individuals between the ages 16-18 who will not pose a safety threat. Participants must be a high school drop out/expellee without a GED, and must be unemployed or underemployed. In addition, because this is a totally voluntary program, the youth must be willing to participate. No other special qualifications.

Who can refer you? Anyone (volunteer program).

Cost: None.

How many kids in the program at a time? Generally anywhere between 115-120 juveniles join in a session, with a total graduation class around 100.

Description of Program: This is a 22 week boot camp for juveniles. Cadets, as participants are called, are supervised 24 hours a day and must wear uniforms, attend classes, and engage in various sorts of physical activity. Emphasis is on learning life skills, teamwork, leadership, loyalty, integrity, and esteem. There are usually two scheduled leaves from camp during the five month program. Otherwise, cadets are expected to remain on campus. Visitations are authorized once or twice during the session.

Aftercare? The program also involves a 12 month mentor program. Upon completion of the Tarheel Challenge, a juvenile may procure funds for school, but these funds are available only on completion of the mentor sessions.

Contact for more information: Don Parker, (800) 573-9966
Name of Program: Three Springs of North Carolina

Location: Pittsboro, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: This camp is for males and females (most others are for males only) between the ages of 10-17 with an average IQ and no sex offences or arson charges. Also, juveniles with an IQ below 80, as well as those with any sort of severe weapons charges, or those with a history of cruelty to animals, might be denied participation. Will accept juveniles on medication.

Who can refer you? Parents or the court (non-voluntary).

Cost: The cost is about $180 a day but can be paid by Medicade.

How many kids in the program at a time? 46 boys and 36 girls.

Description of Program: The program lasts an average of 9-12 months, but release is ultimately at the discretion of the counselors and is decided on an individual basis, based on progress in treatment that the juvenile makes. The goal is to work towards making every person a responsible group member. During their stay, the kids rise at 6 in the morning to have breakfast. Throughout the day, the kids have chores, as well as school, and partake in both a recreation activity (volleyball, basketball, swimming, etc.) and a long term work activity (such as constructing cabins). Juveniles have scheduled visits with family members and limited contact with friends. Phone calls can be made once a week to anyone on a counselor approved list. Family days are held once a month, where close family is encouraged to visit. Finally, juveniles may write to whoever they like, but may only receive mail from approved individuals.

Aftercare? This program is in the process of being established. Currently, there are family support groups that meet monthly.

Contact for more information: Shawn Lily, (919) 542-1104
Name of Program: Timber Ridge

Location: Gold Hill, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: Juvenile males between the ages of 12 and 17 may be referred whether or not they are an adjudicated delinquent. The agency will not, however, take an individual whose primary offence is sexual in nature.

Who can refer you? Anyone.

Cost: There is a cost, contact the agency for more information.

How many kids in the program at a time? Around 35.

Description of Program: This is a 10-12 month program that is based on individual treatment goals. Residents are placed in small groups and live in a wooded area set apart from the more central campus where daily activities take place. Boys participate in a variety of projects designed to improve the camp site, as well as to accomplish personal and team goals. In addition to many outdoor activities, classes in basic academic subjects like math are provided. Family counseling sessions are scheduled throughout the program.

Aftercare? There is a year long follow up program where the agency tries to establish contacts with the family and encourage the kids to come back and visit the camp.

Contact for more information: Grace Maxwell, (704) 279-1199
Name of Program: Tom Ray Center

Location: Charlotte, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: They will accept juveniles with any sort of offence, male or female, between the ages of 12 and 17, provided that they are classified as “Willie M.” and that they have tried other treatment programs with no success.

Who can refer you? Juveniles are usually court referred.

Cost: This is dependant upon source of referral and the situation of the child’s guardian- contact the agency for more specific information.

How many kids in the program at a time? 24 maximum.

Description of Program: This is a secure facility, where a juvenile’s stay can range anywhere from 30 days up until a year (stay does not usually exceed one year). During their residence, juveniles attend school within the facility, in accordance with a regular schedule, and have therapy sessions with contracted therapists. Juveniles set specific goals that they are to work towards acquiring, which will help earn them a less conditional release. Most kids leave this facility for a temporary stay in a group home to assist them in the transition of re-entering their community.

Aftercare? There is some aftercare, arranged through a juvenile’s case manager.

Contact for more information: Bette Levine (704) 336-4232
Name of Program: Training School

Description:

In many ways, Training School represents the “last stop” for youths involved with the juvenile justice system. This is the alternative most equitable to prison in the adult system, as it is a state run secure facility that a child must be court ordered to attend. North Carolina has five schools within the state that juveniles may be referred to (with only one housing females). Placement is dependant upon where the youth is from, the type of offence or any special treatment options that they may need, and the availability of bed space. Stay in school can last anywhere from six months, or until the time that the individual reaches age 21, depending upon what the court orders. Because many are sentenced to spend an “indefinite” amount of time, release can also depend upon behavior and how quickly a juvenile progresses through educational and therapeutic levels.

Although Training Schools across the state do vary, the majority of their daily routines are standardized. While at the facility, juveniles attend school on the premises (and can work towards their GED if applicable), engage in therapy, group counseling, and many recreational activities. Juvenile progress in monitored in terms of how quickly they work through levels of programming provided by the school. Depending on the level that an individual reaches, they may be granted special privileges like the ability to take weekend visits home, or make other field trips.

While at the school, juvenile living situation can vary. Most are housed in cottages with fellow residents, and there may be one or more persons in an individual room (depending on how crowded the facility is). Juveniles are free to write letters and engage in other personal activities, but they are monitored at all times. Release from Training school can be unconditional, or it can have conditions added according to requests of personnel and one’s court counselor or probation officer.

List of Training Schools:

- **C.A. Dillon** (121 beds, the most secure, takes most “Willie M.” juveniles, Granville County)
- **Dobbs School** (162 beds, Lenoir County)
- **JEC** (224 beds, Buncombe County)
- **Samarkand Manor** (202 beds, Moore County)
- **Stonewall Jackson** (134 beds, Cabarrus County)
Name of Program: Trinity House

Location: Durham, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: The facility will house only Durham County Youth, ages 11-17. There is little other criteria, as Trinity House often takes children who have been removed from other programs. Ultimately, a review team screens all juveniles before they enter.

Who can refer you? The court, DSS.

Cost: None (paid by OJJ).

How many kids in the program at a time? Around 5.

Description of Program: Trinity House is a residential, coed, temporary group home for juveniles in need of structure. Juveniles may stay a maximum of 90 days, during which time they are transported to whatever school they attend. The house itself is run like a family, with juveniles responsible for certain chores and with the availability of tutors. During their stay, the juveniles are referred to numerous other programs in the community that might be helpful to them, such as different therapy options.

Aftercare? No.

Contact for more information: Nora Bell-Davis, 419-0020
Name of Program: Whitaker School

Location: Butner, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: Juveniles must be between the ages of 13-17, a resident of North Carolina, and have severe emotional and behavioral problems. The selection committee looks for juveniles who might be classified as “hard to serve” but cannot accept pregnant females.

Who can refer you? Anyone- parents, the court, DSS.

Cost: According to source of referral, contact agency for more information.

How many kids in the program at a time? Around 40.

Description of Program: This is a secure facility providing integration back into the community for males and females, 13-17 years old, with an average length of stay at about 9 months. The school offers a variety of special education programs, mental health counseling, and community-family oriented services even while the child is in placement. Participants are involved in education, group counseling, psychiatric care, and individual counseling. The program also teaches life skills, offers vocational training, and takes community based field trips.

Aftercare? Limited. Results from contacts with the community during placement.

Contact for more information: Lauren Riker, 575-7372, ext.20
Name of Program: Youth Focus (ASAP)

Location: Greensboro, NC

Residential? Yes.

Standards for Admission: The inpatient program (described here) will only accept kids after they have tried out-patient treatment with no success. Also, must be from one of the nine counties served by this agency.

Who can refer you? Anyone.

Cost: There is a cost paid depending on source of referral. Contact the agency for more information.

How many kids in the program at a time? 6 males, 2 females.

Description of Program: This is a short term (90 day) residential treatment program for juveniles with a substance abuse problem. Residents must work through programming provided by the agency, and must attend public school (a special public school program away from other students, provided specifically for ASAP).

Aftercare? Yes- usually tailored to the individual. Also, offer follow up in the form of regular out-patient therapy.

Contact for more information: Ingrid Adams, (336) 333-6853
Other Treatment Program Options (Non-residential)

Community Guidance Clinic Programs

Contact: Levonder Shaw, 286-4456 or call 416-7200

Description: Provides group and individual therapy, including programs in anger management and dealing with substance abuse to children and their families, regardless of ability to pay. Have services to treat all types of emotional problems including depression, delinquency, learning problems, and abuse.

Durham Companions

Contact: Brenda Cousin, 956-9466

Description: Durham Companions is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing consistent and positive role modeling. Under this program, juveniles (most of whom have been referred by their court counselors) are matched with a mentor who volunteers about four hours a week. Most of the kids referred have only minor offences on their record and are between the ages of 6-17. This is a voluntary program that can handle about 40 people at a time.

Exchange Club- Parenting Adolescents Program

Contact: Cathy Niblock, 286-9106

Description: This agency provides 12 week in home therapy and bi-monthly group support sessions for parents and kids who have been involved with the juvenile justice system. This counseling takes place in the home, with most visits lasting for about an hour. In order to successfully complete the program (which may be court ordered), a parent must complete 10 home session and not miss more than three without an excuse.

Just Us Program

Contact: Guidrun Palmer, 560-0500

Description: This is a program for 16-18 year olds who are on probation and have at least 6 months left. Also, they must be out of school for some reason, either as a result of having dropped out or being on suspension. This is a 6 month program that offers an array of services: On site substance abuse counseling, GED, employment assistance, vocational rehabilitation (ie, learning a trade), life skills, and drama therapy. A juvenile must be referred by their probation officer and they must progress through the levels of treatment. In addition to programming, participants can take classes from 9-5 everyday.
and must (through this) acquire a certain number of points to move through levels towards release. Ultimately, individuals must obtain employment. The program is free and provides a daily lunch for all participants. The program can take up to 25 people at a time, with an average of 10-12 who are actually active at a given point.

**MAJORS**

**Contact:** Joe, 560-7401

**Description:** This is an intensive substance abuse treatment program for juveniles, which also offers in-home therapy. This program adheres to the MST model which involves extensive family and community involvement in the juvenile’s treatment. Those who participate must reside in Durham County, be under the supervision of the OJJ, and be diagnosed as substance dependent. In addition, clients must agree to a 6-12 month involvement with 4-6 hours of therapy a week.

**Multi-Systemic Therapy**

**Contact:** Lisa Lavery 419-3474, ext.228

**Description:** This provides intensive in-home therapy for juveniles and their family. There is a cost, but it is often paid by Medicaid. The agency has several clinicians, each of whom work with 4-5 families at a time (and are on call 24 hours a day).

**PROUD Program**

**Contact:** Quille Coath, 956-8366

**Description:** The goal is to prevent at risk youths, ages 13-17, from committing any delinquent acts and to help court-referred juveniles keep from becoming repeat offenders. The PROUD program provides anger management, conflict resolution, and self esteem building classes for juveniles, and is a commitment of about 12-16 weeks. Some other activities include prison tours, participation in team building experiences, attendance at Teen Court, as well as participation in other structured meetings. Upon completion of the program, a juvenile is awarded a degree and honored by family during a final ceremony. Note- parental participation is important. In addition to signing a contract, parents must attend many of the meetings with their children.
Resources

ACCESS- The portal of entry to all services provided by the Durham Center, including case management and counseling. Contact Louise Koslofsky, 560-7100.

Child Advocacy- Provide legal representation, counseling, and referral for abuse, dependant, or neglected delinquent cases. Also represent juveniles in school hearings regarding long term suspension. Contact Al Singer, 682-1129.

Court Psychologist- Provides court ordered psychological testing. Contact Archie Snipes, 560-6824.

Dispute Settlement Center- Mediates disputes by helping the parties reach a mutual solution. Contact Letisha Harvey, 490-6777.

JUSTICE Program- This is an 8 week class for new probationers to introduce them to the system. Contact Keith Patterson, 560-6824.

Restitution Program- This organizes court ordered community service work and monitors juvenile progress. Contact Sabrina Fisher, 682-1960.

Rites of Passage- Provides mentors and manhood classes for adolescent African American males. Contact Carlos Arrington 683-1047.

Sisterhood Agenda- Promotes self-esteem, development, and self knowledge for African American females ages 12-17. Contact Angela Coleman, 493-3858.

Teen Court- Serves as an alternative sentencing condition for first time offenders in middle and high school accused of a misdemeanor. Here the juvenile’s case is heard by his peers and he is sanctioned by them. Punishment is determined according to a grid system, and can include restitution and community service. Contact Jane Volland, 682-1960.


Youth Enrichment- Provides self-esteem and educational classes in order to encourage learning. Contact Diana Peronis, 286-1000.
During my time at the Durham County Youth Home, I considered a variety of projects to complete. Because the agency did not request any specific work from me, I was left free to pick essentially anything that I wanted to do. What I finally decided on was a guide/compilation detailing different placement and treatment programs in North Carolina for Durham youths. A copy of this guide is included with this explanation, so please see that for a more complete description.

While at the Youth Home, I noticed that the juveniles who came through left to be in a number of different placements—some went to group homes such as Trinity House, while others went to Wilderness Camps or programs like Tarheel Challenge. What all the juveniles had in common was a lack of knowledge about their placements and a desire to learn more about exactly what each was like. Some were put in the difficult position of having to choose which program they would rather go to (say Wilderness camp versus training school) without an adequate understanding of what each entailed. As a result, any information that I could give them based on my limited knowledge was greatly appreciated. In addition, I noticed that some of the Youth Home counselors knew as little about placement options as the juveniles themselves. Many of them were unable to answer questions, and many court counselors (or so it seemed from my perspective) were unwilling to. This gave me the idea that a list of different programs as well as their descriptions might be useful to the kids.

The first step in putting this guide together was contacting the Office of Juvenile Justice in Durham. A counselor there provided me with a list their office has of all
resources and programs in North Carolina that they refer juveniles to. While this is by no means an exhaustive list, it was comprehensive. Next, I used the contact names and phone numbers provided to call each of the agencies and request more detailed information about the programs they offered. As can be discerned from the guide, some of the things I was interested in involve how a juvenile is referred to the program, the duration of placement, how many juveniles may be placed there at a time, and a description of daily activities and services offered.

The descriptions given of the placements are brief. In some cases this is a result of the agencies themselves. Some were reluctant to talk about their programs to someone who was simply “doing research,” while others could not give in depth descriptions of what they did because so much of it is individually based. In other cases, I was unable to easily compress the abundance of information that the agency provided me with. As a result of this problem, with the guide, I am including all the booklets, pamphlets, brochures and other materials that I procured during my research. This way, if a juvenile wishes to know something about the agency and the explanation in my guide is not sufficient, the juvenile may have access to the actual brochure provided by the agency itself. The goal is to provide as much information as possible.