What is a Youth Peer Advocate?

A Youth Peer Advocate (YPA) is a trained individual between the ages of 18-30 who self-identifies as a person with first-hand experience receiving services in any one of the child serving systems: mental health, addiction recovery, juvenile justice, child welfare and special education.

YPAs can use their lived experiences to assist in supporting youth in their resiliency, recovery and wellness.

Youth Peer Advocates are currently pursuing the New York State Youth Peer Advocate Credential administered by YOUTH POWER! of Families Together in NYS.

For any questions or to request more information,

Email: peersupport@mhawny.org

Call: 716-886-1242 ext. 345

A program of:

Youth Peer Support: School Edition

999 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209
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MHAWNY.ORG
How We Can Offer Our Services To Your School

Our goal is to raise mental health awareness and provide support to youth in middle and high schools throughout Western New York. Youth Peer Advocates can provide 1:1 peer support through:

- **Skill Building**
- **Coaching**
- **Engagement, Bridging & Transition Support**
- **Self-Advocacy, Self-Efficacy & Empowerment**
- **Community Connections & Natural Supports**

YPAs can also do:

- School-wide or in-classroom presentations
- Health fairs
- School support groups

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