

Advisory Council on Youth
c/o Scott Altabet, Chair
25 Crossway
Scarsdale, NY 10583
February 22, 2016

Board of Trustees
Village of Scarsdale
1001 Post Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583

Re: Funding for the Scarsdale Teen Center

Honorable Trustees:

As members of the Advisory Council to the Board on issues related to the Youth of Scarsdale, we are writing to offer our support and encouragement to the Board to continue funding for the Scarsdale Teen Center (Center @ 862).

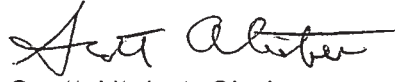
Our Council recently held a meeting to review the state of youth services in the community. Several organizations made presentations, including the Teen Center. We heard of their desperate financial situation and of the variety of recreational and educational opportunities STC has been offering the youth of our community. We were impressed by their expanded programming for elementary students (e.g., soap box derby), as well as teens (e.g., fencing, Escape the Room). I know I was surprised, as the other organizations spoke, about the extent of collaborations with the Teen Center. Whether it is providing space to Scarsdale High School clubs for their meetings, partnering with community businesses to provide educational opportunities, or providing space/funding/other support for important youth development services such as the Men's Leadership Program (a program of SFCS), the Girl Scouts, and the Citizen's Police Academy (to name a few), it is clear how much the Teen Center has become an integral part of the youth-serving community in our village. The Teen Center also fills an important need in providing a variety of activities, allowing for successful socializing by students with a range of social skills proficiency. Though it can't be everything to everybody, the Scarsdale Teen Center clearly provides an important and unique venue for adolescents who want to socialize in a substance-free, supervised environment designed by and for them.

The Board of Trustees is understandably looking for opportunities to economize given the constraints on the Village budget and might wonder whether STC is worth the

expense. We wholeheartedly say "Yes" and ask that the Board vote a funding level that will enhance the Teen Center's ability to stabilize its financial situation and support long-term viability.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Altabet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Altabet, Chair
Advisory Council on Youth