

Youth Shelter News

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER & FAMILY SERVICES, Inc. (CCYS)

“Serving youth and families in a safe and caring environment.”

Winter 2010

Community comes through for kids in need

The spirit of giving filled the walls of CCYS over the holidays with generosity abounding from local businesses and community members.

As a 24-hour emergency shelter for youth in crisis, the Clark County Youth Shelter can receive residents at any time of the day or night, any day of the year. Typically, the holidays are a period of time when the census is low.

This year, however, we approached Christmas at near capacity, with the possibility of having several youth without a home in which to celebrate on Christmas Day.

The staff of CCYS take pride in providing a very “home-like” environment for these youth, and for holiday like Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines Day and others, the staff makes every effort to provide the youth with an experience that is as much like a traditional family as possible. This goal cannot be carried out without the assistance and support of the community.

This year, despite the tough economic times that have impacted every person in the country, community members and organizations came through for the residents of CCYS and provided some wonderful gifts as well as

Thank You!!!



memories that will stay with these youth forever.

Thank you to the following people who work so hard to help us year after year with these special occasions:

- Wall Street United Methodist Women, for providing a meal, activities and gifts at Thanksgiving and Valentines Day every year.
- Salvation Army Angel Tree, for including our youth in the annual Christmas drive for clothes and other items.
- The YMCA of Southern Indiana, for gifts of coats and clothing to the residents here at Christmas.
- Lion’s Club of Jeffersonville, for household supplies and

annual support of our program.

- MedVenture Technology, for the donation of games and money for our youth.
- A local Christian Young Adult Youth Group, who visited the youth, donated sweaters and sang carols with the youth.
- Regional Youth Services, who provided Christmas gifts for the youth.
- Knights of Columbus Council 1221 Women’s Auxiliary, who donated money.
- Jeffersonville Knights of Columbus, who gave money.
- Many other individuals who gave money and items to provide the youth with a wonderful Holiday Season.

The Clark County Youth Shelter Staff, Board of Directors, and Residents thank every individual and organization who helped make a difference in the lives of youth during the Holiday Season!



News & Notes



Representatives from Hilliard Lyons visited CCYS in December for a tour and to learn more about what the program does for youth and families. At the end of the tour, the group surprised the staff with a donation of \$2,500 to help continue providing services to the community. Thank you, Hilliard Lyons!



CCYS Christmas Wish List



Wrapping Paper
Towels
Wash cloths
Twin sheet sets
Travel sized deodorant
Hair Brushes
Puzzles
Arts/crafts kits
Underwear (teen sized-boys/girls)
White twin sized down comforters
Kitchen towels and dishcloths

Bleach
Lysol Cleaning Liquid
Laundry Detergent
Dishwashing Soap
Dishwasher Tabs
Paper Towels
Liquid Hand Soap
High Efficiency Light Bulbs
Window Cleaner
Chapstick
Band Aids
Peroxide
Thermometer Covers
4x6 Canon Picture Paper

Office Depot gift cards
Wal-Mart gift cards
Great Escape gift cards
Zoo gift cards
McDonald's gift cards
BookLore gift card
Borders gift card
Bead/Jewelry kits
Plastic Storage Containers
Plastic Storage Bags
Napkins

Visit us on the web at www.ccysfs.org

Safe Place kicks off texting program

National Safe Place (NSP) recently launched the "Txt 4 Help" program, a 24-hour text-for-support service for youth in crisis. The "Txt 4 Help" program will make getting help for teens easier. Youth in crisis can text the word SAFE and their current address to the number 69866, (e.g. safe 101 main St., New Albany, IN), and they will receive an address for the closest Safe Place site and contact number for the local youth shelter. In Clark and Floyd Counties, youth will receive the number for the Clark County Youth Shelter, which is the Safe Place Agency for those counties.

The new "Txt 4 Help" program has the ability to reach even more youth in crisis than NSP has reached by traditional means. Almost 90 percent of teens have regular access to a mobile phone, and 66 percent of those teens prefer text-messaging to calling. NSP believes the "Txt 4 Help" program will change lives.

"We strongly believe that by communicating to youth in a way that they're comfortable with, we will reach thousands more youth needing help than we have in the past," said Linda Rutherford, chair, of the National Safe Place board of directors. "We are hopeful that this program will encourage teens to ask for help and discourage them from running away."



Each year an estimated 2 million youth run away. Most young people do not run away to experience additional freedoms but rather are running

away from a problem that they cannot solve, according to Department of Justice statistics from 2006. A Department of Justice study from 2002 indicates that 21 percent of runaway youth had been either physically or sexually abused within their homes within the year prior to their leaving.

Safe Place was created as a community collaboration that provides easy access to help for young people in dangerous, threatening or vulnerable situations. There are close to 17,000 designated businesses and community buildings displaying the Safe Place sign nationwide. In Clark and Floyd Counties, 105 businesses act as Safe Place sites.

Since 1987, more than 553 youth in Clark and Floyd Counties have accessed help at a Safe Place site after learning about Safe Place at a school presentation provided by the Clark County Youth Shelter. In that same amount of time, roughly 60,000 youth have received information about Safe Place as an alternative to running away.

CCYS Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Karen Balmer | Marty Scott |
| Carlene Bottorff | Christy Spence |
| Pete Corrao | Doris Stone |
| Paula Lomax | Julie Wilson |
| Racheal Lee | Melissa Wilson |
| Christy Lucas | Brent Williams |
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Nonprofit
 US Postage Paid
 Permit No. 317
 Jeffersonville, IN

A member of:

Clark Co. Step Ahead Coalition
 Floyd Co. Step Ahead Coalition
 Clark Co. Youth Coalition
 Metro United Way of Clark County
 Indiana Youth Services Association
 National Network of Runaway and
 Youth Services
 Prevent Child Abuse (Clark and Floyd)
 Floyd County ATOD
 IARCCA



Metro United Way
 Together We Improve More Lives

Return Service Requested

The Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services, Inc.
“Serving youth and families in a safe and caring environment.”



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I want to give a troubled young person a chance by becoming a friend of CCYS with my tax deductible gift of:

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50

_____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ Other

