



# The Clark Co. Youth Shelter and Family Services

Volume 2 Issue 1

March 1997

*“...CREATING A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.”*

## From the Desk of the Executive Director...

How many of you have heard of Shaken Infant Syndrome? Do you have any idea how prevalent it is, or how seriously it harms a baby? These are questions I was asked when I was recently given the opportunity to become a trainer in Shaken Infant Syndrome (SIS). The training was provided free of charge by the Indiana Chapter for the Prevention of Child Abuse through a grant they received from the Children's Trust Fund.

SIS is caused by the vigorous shaking of an infant, who is generally held by the extremities or shoulders. When the baby is shaken, the brain slams repeatedly against the skull, blood vessels are torn, and the brain swells, causing pressure directly on the structures of the brain. An analogy to consider is imagine the baby's brain as egg. The yolk is the brain and the white is the fluid that surrounds the brain. Break the egg into a container (think of the container as the skull), the space in the container is the space between the brain and the skull. Vigorously shake the container. The amount of shaking required to break the yolk is similar to the force used to cause SIS. The resulting break-up of the yellow and the egg white is similar to what happens to the brain of a baby who has been shaken.

What are the results of SIS? 1/3 of SIS babies die; 1/3 survive, but are mentally and/or physically disabled and often require a life-time of hospital or other type of permanent care, and 1/3 have a "good" recovery. However, 1/3 of those having a "good recovery" will have balance problems, speech difficulties, learning disabilities, severe emotional problems, suffer from Attention Deficit Disorder, or will become abusers.

The frightening thing about SIS is that statistics show that 25% to 50% of adults and teenagers are unaware of the harmful and potentially fatal effects of shaking a baby. Generally, a person who shakes an infant will do it more than once.

Male children are two times more likely to be shaken than female children. Men are twice as likely to shake an infant than women. The person who shakes the baby is more likely to be the parent, parent's boyfriend/girlfriend, or baby-sitter. Statistics show that the youngest child shaken was 8 days old. The oldest was 4 1/2 years.

Shaken Infant Syndrome is 100% preventable. What can you do to help stop SIS? Call me and request a SIS training workshop for your community group (especially teen groups). Assist families with infants by helping them to write coping strategies and post them where they are readily available. Inform your baby-sitter of the dangers of shaking a child. Never

leave your baby any place which doesn't feel safe to you. Recognize that all babies are potential victims, and some are at a higher risk. Recognize that all families are at risk. Report any suspected cases of SIS to Child Protective Services (288-5444). The most important thing to remember is that one second can change a baby's life. If you are feeling angry or frustrated, be sure you have a grip on yourself before you place a hand on your child.

## THANK YOU!

The Clark Co. Youth Shelter and Family Services would like to thank the following contributions to the Shelter:

|                           |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|
| Ray Herdt florist         | Judy Storz         |
| Center for Lay Ministries | Geneva Phelps      |
| St. Augustine Church      | Jerri Quinkert     |
| St. Lukes Church          | Tow Boat Annies    |
| Marcus Edwards            | Rick Schaeffer     |
| Moose Lodge #2420         | Linda Edwards      |
| Scott Shirman             | Bill Scott         |
| Mr. & Mrs. Bill Webb      | Candace Baker      |
| Providence High School    | REMC               |
| St. Johns Church          | Peggy Wilder       |
| Jim & Susie Boling        | Teresa Tabor       |
| J.C. Moag Corp.           | Mable Ferguson     |
| Patti Roche               | Barbara Boyce      |
| Sacred Heart Church       | Reynolds Metals    |
| Jeff Boat Warehouse       | Dave's Produce     |
| Maxine Herdt              | Target-Clarksville |
| Pam Watson                | Pat King           |
| Walgreens                 | Marty Vise         |
| Storz Novelty             | Delores Wright     |
| Carletta Simpson          | Barb Madden        |

First Trinity Baptist Church

Don & Phyllis Ashby

Honda Cars of Clarksville

Heather Stengel and Family

American Legion Post #35

Jeffersonville Lyons Club

Jeff-Clark Preservation

Norman & Lois Kratz

Southern Indiana Sweeper Service

American Commercial Barge lines

Without your generosity, the Shelter would not be possible! THANK YOU!

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

The Shelter welcomes David Nicholson to the staff as our new Youth Work Supervisor. David will take on the direct supervision of all of the youth workers. David comes to us with a great deal of experience in supervision and youth issues. He recently moved to Indiana from Los Angeles where he worked with difficult teens. We're lucky to have David on our team and we're glad he's here!



## NEW FURNITURE

Our recreation room got a face-lift for Christmas this year! Our residents spend the majority of their time in the rec room and the furniture was showing the strain of eight years of heavy use. We now have furniture made to withstand the use it will get in the future. The pieces come apart, so any broken components can be separated and replaced without having to replace the whole piece of furniture! We now have two couches and two chairs ready to take any punishment the kids can dish out!

### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

The youth who reside in the Shelter have all experienced a disruption in their homes. As a result of the crisis (or as a result of their removal from home and family), grades often suffer as our youth are coping with family and personal conflicts.

The Shelter is currently looking for volunteers to provide tutoring services for residents during the school year. If you would like to help tutor youth and help our residents, please call Brenda at the Shelter!

### PROJECT SAFEPLACE CELEBRATES 100TH SITE

Safeplace Coordinator Brenda Bramble is pleased to announce Jeff Boat as the 100th Safeplace Business Site! This marks a banner achievement for Project Safeplace. Jeff Boat is open around the clock and has security guards on duty at all times. We feel sure that this new addition, along with the many participating business sites, will continue to ensure the safety of the youth of Southern Indiana.

If you are interested in participating in the Safeplace program, please contact Brenda at the Shelter!

### EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

At years end, all staff of the Shelter vote to elect an employee of the year. This years winner was Tom Edwards. For three years, Tom has been a "behind the scenes" worker. He is responsible for the maintenance and repair of the facility. With ten teenage youth, we keep him busy and Tom keeps us from falling apart! Congratulations Tom, and thank you for all you do!

### ILI PROGRAM BEGINS

Christy Schaffer, Outreach Worker, has started our third session of the Independent Living Initiative Program. ILI is open to youth, referred through probation or local DFC in Clark and the surrounding counties. The program strives to teach these young adults independent living skills.

Christy has begun her first round of classes with referrals from Clark and Floyd counties. She is currently taking referrals from Clark, Floyd, Jefferson, Washington, and Scott County probation and DFC offices for the next session.

### THEY MAY BE DUMB, BUT THEY ARE SURE USEFUL

The recent purchase of three CPR dummies will allow Shelter staff to be certified in CPR and First Aid through in-house training. The adult, child, and infant dummies have already been used to certify, and re-certify, all current staff.

Safeplace Coordinator Brenda Bramble, who is certified to train staff in CPR, will keep our staff up-to-date in required training. Trainings will be performed on an as-needed basis. This will keep our staff ready for any emergency. You can learn a lot from a dummy!

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

The Shelter celebrated Facility Coordinator Jeannie Slaughter's 5th anniversary at the Shelter at the end of February. Jeannie is responsible for the numerous things that keep the Shelter running on a daily basis. From planning menus, to buying supplies, to making sure we comply with regulations, Jeannie truly keeps the Shelter running like a home. We're

extremely lucky to have Jeannie on our team.  
Happy anniversary!

## CHRISTMAS THANKS

The Shelter would like to extend our thanks to the Clark County community who made it possible for the residents of the Shelter to have a very nice Christmas. Residents woke up in the morning to presents under the tree and a turkey in the oven.

Holidays are a difficult time for our residents. It is a time when being away from home and family is particularly painful. Christmas is a time for giving and, thanks to your generosity, we were able to show our residents the true spirit of Christmas!

## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Youth As Resources held a fundraising raffle in February. We would like to congratulate the following winners and thank those business who donated prizes to the project!

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Josh Payne     | Derby Dinner Playhouse   |
| Vince Klein    | Sunset Bar & Grill       |
| Kim Bowman     | Red Lobster              |
| Margie Nord    | Neil's Restaurant        |
| D. B. Wilson   | Applebee's Restaurant    |
| John Barksdale | Steinert's Restaurant    |
| Rita Cason     | Damon's Restaurant       |
| Rod Pate       | Ray Parella's Restaurant |
| Jake Horn      | Sam's Restaurant         |
| Jim Schafer    | Babby's Restaurant       |
| Joann Robbins  | Stumbler's Restaurant    |

All funds generated through this fundraiser will be used to fill the third YAR grant

pool. These monies will be awarded to youth groups in the community to perform community service projects.

YAR thanks all who participated and helped make this fund-raiser a success!

## RESIDENT REPORT

One of the greatest joys of working at the Shelter is the return of residents for visits. It is a time when staff gets to chat with youth whose life we have touched and hear their progress since they left the Shelter.

"James" was a resident of the Shelter for several weeks. He was having family problems and, like many of our residents, these problems were spilling over into other areas of his life. James's grades were poor, he was staying out late, and he'd begun to experiment with drugs.

James did not take well to the Shelter. He missed his girlfriend. He missed his friends. He wanted to go home. He kept mostly to himself. He spent most of his time writing poetry, drawing, and writing letters.

James moved on to live with his father and new residents came in. I hadn't thought much about James until two weeks ago when he stopped in to visit. He didn't linger, just stayed long enough to let me know that he was living on his own. He'd dropped out of school, but had gone into a GED program and had gotten his GED. James is now the manager of a fast food restaurant in a near-by town. He wanted to let me know that things were going well.

Residents come and go very quickly at the Shelter. Some stay for a few days, some longer. I realized something after James left that day. I realized that every young person who comes to the Shelter touches us in some way. No matter how long they stay, no matter why they were here, they all leave a part of themselves with us.



**ANY YOUTH OR YOUTH'S FAMILY MEMBER  
NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH A PROBLEM IS  
ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT THE CLARK COUNTY  
YOUTH SHELTER AND FAMILY SERVICES  
284-5229**

The Clark County Youth Shelter is a member of:

- Clark County Step Ahead Council
- Clark County Youth Coalition
- Indiana Association of Residential Child Care Agencies
- Metro United Way of Clark County
- National Network of Runaway and Youth Services
- Prevention of Child Abuse, Indiana Chapter

