
The Clark Co. Youth Shelter and Family Services

Volume 1 Issue 1

December 1996

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

From the Desk of the Executive Director

The Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services has been blessed recently by the opportunity to add two new programs to our list of services and expand an existing program. In September we were notified that we were one of only two counties in the State chosen to be a recipient of a federal grant. The grant enables us to begin a one year pilot program aimed at youth who have been victims of sexual abuse. We hired two Outreach Specialists, Christy Schafer will be working with the program in Clark County and Bernadette Moore in Floyd Co. Their duties include conducting presentations to students in the local school, meeting with youth who utilized the Safe Place program and following up with them, and conducting intensive family preservation services to sexually abused children referred by the Clark and Floyd County Divisions of Family and Children.

Our second new program is Youth As Resources (YAR). The Youth Shelter and Family Services was fortunate to be included in a statewide grant proposal to Americorps which

was submitted by Indiana Youth Services Association. The Americorps grant allows us, in conjunction with the Floyd Co. Youth Shelter, to begin a Youth As Resources program in both counties. Our Clark County YAR Coordinator is Cathy Tinsley. Through the Americorps funding and our YAR program youth groups throughout Clark and Floyd counties will be given an opportunity to select community service projects they would like to undertake. They then submit a proposal to our YAR Advisory Board who will select projects for funding. The funding process will occur four times per year with an average of \$1,000 to be awarded each quarter.

Last year we received a State grant to develop an Independent Living Initiatives (ILI) program to teach adult life skills to older adolescents. We have successfully completed two classes involving Clark and Floyd County young people. Within the next two weeks we are expanding the ILI program into Jefferson Co., Indiana. Our new Program Coordinator, Kevin DeVore, is working on establishing service linkages in Jefferson Co.

The staff and Board of Directors of the Clark County Youth Shelter and Family

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Services are excited about our new and expanding programs. We are moving ahead with the three year Action Plan which was developed this summer. A part of the Plan involves assessing unmet needs of youth and families in the region, securing funding, and implementing services to fulfill those needs. We are pleased to continue our mission of "Creating a nurturing environment for youth and families to realize their potential."

Candice Barksdale,
Executive Director

THANK YOU!

The Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services would like to thank the following donors for their generous contributions to the Shelter.

Ray Herdt Florist	Little Ceasers
Judy Storz	Pizza Hut
Center for Lay Ministries	Hoosier Pizza
Ora Pettit	Kroger
Cile Blau	Walgreens
St. Augustine Church	Cathy Wathen
Bill Scott	Patti Cook
Geneva Phelps	St. Lukes Church
Bacons	Jerri Quinkert
Community Kitchen	Dave's Produce
Olde Town Grocery	Winn Dixie
Schimpffs Confectionery	Papa Johns
Providence High School	Pillsbury Co.
Clarksville High School	Lois Tilton
Lori Neville	Jessie Moore
NBD Bank	Rick Schaeffer
St. Pauls Church	Irene Tillery

Maxwell Jones K-Lynns Florist
 Nanz Crafts Apollo America
 Gladys Blankenbaker Eric Golden
 Knights of Columbus Parent
 Dorothy Fleece Vicky Conlin
 Clark Co. Amvets Ed & Joan Crooks
 Tri-Kappa Associates
 First United Methodist Church
 American Commercial Bargelines
 Covenant Christian Church
 River Valley Student Council
 Fraternal Order of Eagles

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

On December 5th, Safe Place Coordinator Brenda Bramble celebrates her 4th anniversary with the Shelter. Brenda began working at the Shelter as a part-time youth worker. She was promoted to the position of Safe Place Coordinator almost 3 years ago. Under Brenda's supervision, the Safe Place Program has grown and expanded in both Clark and Floyd Counties. We are lucky to have Brenda as a member of our team!

SAFE PLACE SUCCESS

Mark was scared. The man he'd hitched a ride with a few miles back was driving erratically and Mark was beginning to suspect he had been taking drugs.

Fortunately the man stopped for gas in Jeffersonville. Mark asked for help from the employees who were able to tell Mark about Project Safe Place and give him an option other than getting back into that car or hitching another ride.

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Mark was hitchhiking from Florida to Pennsylvania. His grandfather had been hospitalized after suffering a heart attack and Mark was going to see him. He didn't have a car or money for a bus ticket, so he started hitching rides. He said he never thought he'd have any problems.

Mark was brought to the Shelter by a Sheriff's Deputy (all officers are official Safe Place Volunteers). Shelter staff was appraised of the situation and able to start work on a solution to Mark's predicament.

Within a few hours, with the help of the Center for Lay Ministries, Mark was safely on a bus to Pennsylvania. He was met by his family at the bus station and called to let us know he'd made it there safely: with the help of Project Safe Place.

VISIONS OF SUGARPLUM FAIRIES . . .

The youth have been provided with an invaluable opportunity by an anonymous donor this Christmas. A contribution to the Shelter will allow the youth to attend the Louisville Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" this holiday season. Many of our youth have not had the opportunity to attend a ballet. We are sure that all will enjoy the story of Claire, the Rat King, and the brave and handsome Nutcracker!

WELCOME TO NEW STAFF

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff members. Everyone has been busy adjusting to new work schedules and new faces. As we settle down into a "normal" routine, we're all glad you're here!

OCTOBER 15 -- A FULL DAY OF CARING

October 15 marked the United Way Day of Caring. On this day, local business adopt a project at a local United Way agency for the day. This year, the Shelter was adopted by the Clarksville Target. A new study area was created for the residents. This designated area will be used on a daily basis during study time. It has also proved to be useful for many, many tournaments of all descriptions!

Also on October 15th the Southeast Christian Church in Louisville built a new deck for the residents in the back yard. Our yard wasn't getting much use because in the summer there wasn't a place to sit to stay away from the bugs. The new deck will allow the residents to be bug-free and enjoy being outside for picnics, activities, or just hanging out!

ANNUAL STATISTICS

Executive Director, Candice Barksdale, recently completed the annual report. Our fiscal year runs from September 1 through August 31st. The following statistics are from this report.

We had 384 referrals this year (42% girls and 58% boys). We accepted 310 youths for residential care (39% girls and 61% boys).

The reasons for not accepting referrals for residential care are listed as follows:

Placement not necessary	42%
At Capacity	23%
Other	19%
Not Followed through	14%
Age	1%
Charged w/non-status offense	1%

The average age for the year was fifteen. The average length of stay was 7.5 days. The average daily population was 8.5 youths.

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324 youths were released from the Shelter. The disposition was as follows:

Returned to parent/relative	69%
Placed in foster care	10%
Placed in secure facility	10%
Removed by police	5%
Other	4%
AWOL	2%

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Christmas is a busy time of year for the Shelter staff and is often a lonely time for Shelter residents. It is a time when youth who can not be at home for the holidays feel their loss even more than usual. The staff work especially hard during the holidays to make the resident's stay in the Shelter as full of holiday cheer as possible.

We would not be able to brighten the resident's Christmas if not for the generosity of the community. Residents are able to open presents on Christmas day thanks to those who donate items for the residents.

If you would like to donate gift items to the Shelter to help brighten Christmas, please contact Jeannie at the Shelter.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Board of Directors and staff would like to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our Board of Directors.

Newly elected to the board are the following:

Bruce Barkhauer

Lisa Bottorff

Brian Breidenbech

Joe Grant

Jennifer Mead

We look forward to working with you in the upcoming year. Welcome!

We would also like to say good-bye and thank you to members of the board who will not be returning for another year of services. Your hard work was greatly appreciated.

ANNIVERSARY SUCCESS

In September the Shelter celebrated our 10th anniversary. The weekend of September 20 - 22nd was full of festivities commemorating the past 10 years. Our theme for the weekend was "Celebrating the past, looking to the future."

An open house on Friday, September 20th brought approximately 200 well-wishers to tour the Shelter. We were pleased at the turnout, which included neighbors; past residents, employees, and board members; staff from other youth agencies; and interested members of the community.

Board members from the past ten years joined together on Saturday to celebrate the making of the Shelter. Our board has been driven by the desire to help the youth in our community and this was evident in the experiences and struggles of the past boards.

Old co-workers were re-united on Sunday during a luncheon for the staff. Many stories were swapped by new staff and old. It was amazing to discover that the antics of our residents haven't changed much in the past ten years!

The Shelter is built on the ten years of hard work and dedication of everyone who has been touched by the youth we serve. This anniversary gave us the opportunity to renew this dedication and use these past experiences to truly work toward a brighter future for the youth we serve.

YOU CAN HELP MAKE OUR WISHES COME TRUE!

The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sporting equipment | Hygeine items | School supplies |
| Office supplies | Craft items | Laundry detergent |
| Games for Super Nintendo | Vaccuum Cleaner | Brooms, mops |
| Computer Software | Underware, socks, etc. | Platic Storage Containers |
| Cookware | Kitchen utensils | Plastic drinking glasses |
| Towles, wash cloths | Gas grill | Small appliances |

LONELINESS

by Sara Glosik
(3rd Grade)

Loneliness is a

Small room,
No light,
No friends,
Nothing to do.

But lonleliness can be cured.

Just make a smile
Burst out a laugh,
Use your imagination,
Be a friend.

YES, I WANT TO GIVE A TROUBLED YOUNG PERSON A CHANCE BY BECOMING A FRIEND OF THE CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER AND FAMILY SERVICES WITH MY TAX DEDUCTABLE CONTRIBUTION OF:

_____ \$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ \$200 _____ OTHER

PLEASE RETURN TO:

CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER AND FAMILY SERVICES
PO BOX 886
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47131

ON BEHALF OF THE YOUTH SERVED BY THE YOUTH SHELTER, WE SAY THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

