



The Clark Co. Youth Shelter and Family Services

Volume 2 Issue 4

November 1997

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

From the Desk of the Executive Director...

When the days and nights turn cool our thoughts turn to enjoying the holidays with family. We had fun watching the trick-or-treaters come to our doors in search of sweet treats. Now we are eagerly anticipating turkey, stuffing, and those glorious pumpkin pies.

Quickly on the heels of Thanksgiving come all the holiday parties where we indulge in the many goodies and engage in special fellowship with family and friends. We are indeed fortunate to be surrounded by caring friends and loving families and to have the resources to enjoy this special season.

During this time, let us not forget the special young people who come to the Youth Shelter for assistance. They are no different than all of us. This time of year is no less important to them. They too wish to enjoy the excitement of the season. But, they are suffering and in need because of the problems they are facing.

The staff at the Youth Shelter cares about children. Each and everyday we are here striving to make a positive difference, but we can not do it without your assistance. During this season of love and families as you sit down to count your blessings, please remember the young people of the Youth Shelter. Our children will experience the excitement of the season through your gift of love and caring.

In Service to the Children,

Candice Barksdale,

Executive Director

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Project Safe Place, an outreach program of the Clark County Youth Shelter, needs male and female volunteers to help youth in crisis. To volunteer you must be 21 years of age, possess a valid operator's license and show proof of automobile insurance. You must also have a police check and three references.

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The Shelter is also seeking volunteers to stay at the facility while the residents go on an activity. This is a very important volunteer position for our youth because it allows our youth to attend educational and recreational activities.

If you are willing to donate a few hours of time to youth in need, please call Brenda at 284-5229.

YAR GRANT AWARDS

On December 3rd, Youth As Resources will be awarding four grants to youth groups in Clark and Floyd counties. The celebration will be from 6:00pm to 7:00pm at St. Paul's Parish House at 1015 East Main in New Albany. Everyone is welcome to attend.

YAR would like to congratulate the following groups who will be receiving grants:

Georgetown Elementary School Student Council; Catholic Youth Ministries; Clark County Youth Shelter Aftercare; and Kids on the Block.

If you would like to know more about the projects funded through YAR, please call Autumn at 284-5229.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The staff and board members of the Clark County Youth Shelter would like to welcome our newest board members.

This year we welcome the following community leaders to our board: Bill Lacy, Peggy Wilder, Larry Ordner, and George Strickland. We look forward to working with you to improve the lives of the youth and families of Clark County. Welcome!

YOUTH WORKER TO STAND FOR FAMILY STRENGTH

Youth Worker Deborah Trowell-Brown and her husband were recently selected to represent family strength and unity in Washington, D.C. for the Blessing '97 conference. It is a tremendous honor to be selected to represent the families of our community. Congratulations!

SHELTER RECEIVES 98% RATING

The State Board of Health recently conducted a licensing review of the Shelter. We scored a 98% rating—the highest in the Shelter's history!

Our high marks were the result of a lot of teamwork and the coordination efforts of our Facility Coordinator, Mary Axsom. Mary is responsible for all of the duties that make our shelter a home, including: menus, shopping, and maintaining the building. For a home with 10 teenagers this is not an easy job!

What makes this high score even more exciting is that Mary has just been on the job for a few months. Congratulations Mary and thank you for all of your hard work!

BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

Youth As Resources is looking for youth focused adults to serve on the YAR Board of Directors. For more information concerning the YAR board, please call Autumn at 284-5229.

FIREWOMAN SYLVIA

The staff at the Shelter would like to congratulate Youth Worker Sylvia Gardner for becoming one of New Albany's first women

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firefighters. Sylvia will step down from her position at the Youth Shelter to pursue her dream of working as a firefighter.

Sylvia is a youth worker who has truly been dedicated to the youth we serve and we will miss her. She has agreed to come back on an as-needed basis. We will all miss Sylvia, but we know that the people of New Albany are getting a truly dedicated firefighter. Good luck and Congratulations!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Once again the residents of the Shelter have returned to school. For those of us who work during the day, this makes for a very quiet work week. For our evening and weekend staff, however, the routine is as busy as ever.

Residents continue to participate in a wide array of educational and recreational activities. Over the past few months the residents have participated in bowling, a barbecue, videos and movies, and car washes. Before school started in September, the residents took a trip to Kentucky Kingdom—a trip the residents paid for through hosting car washes and other fund-raisers.

Thanks to Youtheatre, a program through Actor's Theatre of Louisville, the residents have received vouchers to attend a showing of all of Actor's regular season plays. The residents have seen "Frankenstein" and are scheduled to see this year's presentation of "The Gift of the Magi."

If you would like to sponsor an activity for the residents, please call Christine at 284-5229.

NEW COUNSELOR

Michelle Beeler is the newest member of the Youth Shelter staff. Michelle filled the

position of counselor at the end of October, after honeymooning in the Caribbean.

Michelle is originally from Indianapolis, but received her Master's degree from the Kent School of Social Work at the University of Louisville.

Michelle is a wonderful addition to our staff and we are very happy to have her with us!

AFTERCARE NEWS

The Aftercare program is thriving under the leadership of Christy Schafer, Outreach Specialist. The program received grants for two projects this winter.

The second annual Warm Up For Winter party will be held December 18th at the Shelter. Young children will receive winter coats and attend a pizza party thrown by the Aftercare youth. This party was a huge success last year and Christy assures that all who participate will have even more fun this year.

The Aftercare youth will also participate in a project with preschoolers at Kidsville Daycare decorating Christmas ornaments.

NEW SAFEPLACE SITES

The Safe Place program welcomes Greentree Mall, Dairy Queen, and the White Castle on Spring Street in New Albany to the Safe Place program. The businesses will help insure the safety of the youth of Southern Indiana.

A REASON TO BE DRUG FREE

Congratulations to the winner of the BAD program's semiannual lottery drawing. An ex-resident of the Shelter tested negative for drugs and received a \$500.00 savings bond. That's proof that its good to be drug free!