

# Youth Shelter News

November 1998

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

August 31st marked the end of our program year. The month of September was a time for reflection by our staff of our accomplishments during 1997-98 and a time for planning for the upcoming year. We would like to take this opportunity to share our accomplishments with you.

At the top of everyone's list was the completion of our building addition. This was a two-year project made possible by funding from The Paul Ogle Foundation. The addition has given us the much needed room we were lacking



*"Creating a Nurturing Environment for Youth  
and Families to Realize their Potential"*

for administrative services.

We are very proud of three new programs that were added this year: Teen Court, Family Education and Support, and Home-Based Independent Living. Each of these programs gives us the opportunity to fulfill our mission of assisting youth and families to realize their potential.

We are pleased that due to generous grants from Pillsbury, Target, and Learn & Serve our Youth As Resources program was able to fund \$13,213 in community service projects. These are projects conceived and implemented by youth for the betterment of the community.

All of our staff breathed a huge sigh of relief when we completed the transition from goals and objectives to outcome measures. Outcome measures allow us to prove that we are accomplishing what we say we are. The transition process was painstaking and involved changes in data tracked, statistics monitored, and in report format. The transition to outcome measures gives us a much more detailed and results-oriented evaluation process.

Our final accomplishment was a two-year participation in Indiana University's research project. The project, entitled "Strengthening the Non-Profit," was one of the best projects the agency has ever undertaken. Most of the accomplishments we made this year were a direct

## WISH LIST

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The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter:

- School Supplies
- Unisex Deodorant
- Brushes/Combs
- Kitchen Towels
- Kitchen Utensils
- Gas Grill
- Small Appliances
- Paper products
- Cookware
- Plastic glasses
- Tupperware
- Sweatsuits
- Laundry Deterg.
- Brooms/Mops
- Socks
- Underwear/bras
- Bath Towles
- Washclothes
- Cleaning supplies
- Polaroid 600 film
- Arts and Crafts items
- Molding clay
- Sporting Equipment
- Backpacks
- Clothing for boys and girls ages 11-18
- Bed Linens

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result of our participation in this project. During our two year involvement we made the following changes: renamed the agency, updated the mission statement, developed a strategic plan, hired a full-time fund development person, added programs, and constructed a building addition. Participation in this project was a huge undertaking for our Board of Directors, volunteers, and staff. We wish to extend our gratitude for all involved. The concepts we learned will provide us with continuous guidance for improvement in the years ahead.

In summary, speaking for our staff, Board, and volunteers I can say we are all proud of our accomplishments this year. It was a wonderful year filled with many success stories of children and families. But, much work remains to be done. Each day we are reminded of the many needs and problems facing our young people. Our challenge for 1998-99 is to work together in creating a nurturing environment to meet the needs of our community's children and their families. Please join us in our work, the challenges are many but the successes so very rewarding.



We'd like to thank the following people for their generous contributions:

Herdt Florist      Larry E. Farr  
Storz Novelty      Kentucky Harvest  
Dominoes (Jeff)      ACBL  
Rita Gavin      Ora Pettit  
Karen Robertson      Burning Bush  
Mrs. Phelps      Bill Scott  
American Legion      Joan Hoffman  
Joan Humphrey      Repair Affairs  
Sacred Heart Catholic Community  
Tri-Kappa Associates  
Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church  
Ice Cream Willies  
American Red Cross  
Greater Faith Apostolic Church  
Presbyterian Church  
First Trinity Baptist Church  
Georgetown Christian Church  
Grace Presbyterian Church  
St. Augustine Church  
St. Luke's United Church of Christ  
Community Kitchen  
First Presbyterian Church  
Watsworth Family  
Center for Lay Ministries  
First Christian Church  
Cook Memorial Church  
Dorothy Fleece  
Lions Club of Jeffersonville  
Your donations are appreciated!

# VOLUNTEERS



Clark County Youth Shelter wants to thank the following people for donating their time in the past 3 months as a Safe Place, special events, or housesitters....

Ora Pettit	8/08/98
Carolyn Gowlan	9/12/98
Michelle Beeler	10/09/98
Catherine Kendall	10/16/98

## NOTES FROM SAFE PLACE COORDINATOR

### SAFE PLACE POSTER CONTEST

December 14, 1998 is the dead line for the poster and cartoon strip contest. In January we will need to hold a judging of the entries. We would be honored if our volunteers would judge the entries. Please contact Dawn with days and times that are good for you and a set date will be announced at a later time.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Clark County Youth Shelter needs on-call Youth Workers to cover vacations, sickness, and staff

shortages. If any volunteer is interested all you need to do is complete CPR and First Aid to be considered for on-call work. This is a paid position please contact Noelle at 284-5229 for an interview.

### NEEDED...

### Floyd County Businesses

Floyd county became a Safe Place county in 1996. We are trying to increase the amount of Safe Place sites that youth can access in time of crisis. Please call with any suggestions of businesses that you think would be a good Safe Place location. Our goal is to have at least one Safe Place location by each residential area. A Safe Place site as you know does not have to be opened 24 hours but can not be a private residence. Please call Dawn 284-5229 with any potential Safe Place business site suggestions.

### Fundraising Event

In January we will be putting together a fundraising committee for the annual Safe Place fundraiser. The committee will consist of a monthly meeting until the month before the fundraiser where it may be necessary to meet weekly. The time of the committee meeting I will be convenient for the group. Please call if you can spare the time to give a helping hand for the Safe Place fundraising committee. Please call Dawn at 284-5229.



# The Complexities of Crime

Violent juvenile crime is on the rise. Or is it? Recent violent episodes perpetrated by juvenile offenders have grabbed the attention of the media and the nation. But are they representative of a trend in juvenile behavior; a rise in violent behavior among the majority of today's youth?

Recent media attention has focused on a few high-profile homicide cases, such as the recent Paducah, Kentucky murders. Justice Department figures, however, indicate that such violence represents only 6% of the total juvenile offenses.

While the media focuses on high profile cases, experts advise that the attention should be focused, not on a few violent acts, but on intervention efforts with the majority of youthful offenders. They call for early intervention efforts to address the root of the problem.

While experts agree where the focus should be, they certainly do not agree on the root of juvenile crime. There is not a simple answer to the question, "What makes young people turn to crime?"

While there isn't an answer, there are plenty of theories. David Richart, head of the National Institute on Youth at Spaulding University, classifies these theories into the following four basic groups:

## Personal and Familial Factors

This theory sites the breakdown of the family unit and a cultural support for permissive behaviors; that personal responsibility should prevail over the role of victim; or that bad kids are just "bad."

## Guns and Gangs

This theory sites the loss of street codes that dictate conduct for those youth who are on the street; the availability of handguns on the street; and the huge increase in gang activity and membership.

## Psychological Factors

The psychological factors theory underscores the cycle of violence and the theory that some youth

do not have the coping skills to psychologically handle multiple obstacles to success.

## Environmental and Sociological Factors

This theory focuses on the forces of poverty and the influence of television in creating juvenile offenders.

Three major issues are undeniably intertwined with juvenile crime: gangs, guns, and drugs. Statistics show that 95% of larger and 88% of smaller cities suffer from gang-related crimes. The rate of homicides committed by a juvenile without a handgun has remained constant since 1984, but the homicide rate in which a gun was used by a juvenile has more than quadrupled during the same period of time.

The truth is, there are no simple answers. Addressing one issue prevalent in the lives of our young people will not address the many complex issues that combine together to turn a good child to any type of crime.

Today's politicians and policymakers are increasingly looking at the problem of juvenile crime in our community as a complex one with many sources and as many possible solutions. "Get Tough" laws and early intervention programs are working together to provide the degree of intervention (and punishment) that is needed to address the individual needs of the child.

One thing is sure. Children have many basic physical and emotional needs. As parents and members of the community, we are all responsible for ensuring that these needs are met. We are responsible to our children to continue to try to find the key that unlocks criminal behavior in our children.

Juvenile crime is not a simple issue, but it is an important issue for our community, our children, and our future.

*"Any one answer to complex social problems is destined to be wrong."*

*David Richart*

# Aftercare Keeps Kids on Track

The Aftercare Program is back in business at the Clark County Youth Shelter. The purpose of this program is to continue helping residents of the Shelter, even after they are released. The Aftercare program provides these youth with a place to meet, discuss problems, and have fun!

Aftercare meets on Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. The nature of each meeting is educational, therapeutic, and/or recreational.

Recent Aftercare meetings have included discussions on goal setting, drugs and alcohol, and anger management. The youth have also completed activities involving art and music.

An outside activity is planned once a month; the most recent activity was a trip to Louisville to play laser tag and

video games.

Currently, Aftercare is in the process of building up its membership. Participation in the program is voluntary for the youth and residents continue to express interest and are beginning to at-

tend meetings regularly.

If you would like to help our Aftercare program, we have recently started a reading program. For every two books that a youth reads, s/he will receive a reward,

such as movie passes, gift certificates, free meals, etc. We are happy to accept any donations that you feel would help encourage a teenager to read!

For more information about the Aftercare program, please call Chris Jones at the Shelter at 284-5229.

*"Through this program, I hope that we can turn youth in positive directions, help them explore interests or hobbies they may never have experienced, and show them that there are ways to have fun that do not lead to trouble"*

Chris Jones

## ATTENTION ALL YOUTH!

All middle and high school students are invited to be in charge and play an important role in the community by participating in Teen Court.

Youth volunteers act as attorneys, bailiffs, clerks, and jurors in real juvenile cases in a real courtroom!

Not only is Teen Court a new fun and exciting program, but it is a chance to provide a valuable service to your community.

If you are interested in participating in Teen Court, please call Kathy Long at 284-5229. She will be available to present the program or answer any questions!

Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services

118 East Chestnut

P.O. Box 886

Jeffersonville, Indiana 47130

Any youth or youth's family member with a problem is encouraged to contact the Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services at **284-5229**

*"Our deeds determine us, as much as we determine our needs."*  
*George Eliot, author*

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 deductible contribution of:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$10      \_\_\_\_\_ \$25      \_\_\_\_\_ \$50

\_\_\_\_\_ \$100      \_\_\_\_\_ \$200      \_\_\_\_\_ Other

**SEND TO:**

Clark County  
Youth Shelter and  
Family Services

118 East Chestnut  
P.O. Box 886  
Jeffersonville, IN 47130

The Clark County Youth Shelter is a member of:

- Clark Co. Step Ahead Council
- Clark Co. Youth Coalition
- IARCCA
- Metro United Way of Clark County
- Floyd Co. Youth Coalition
- Indiana Youth Services Association
- Southern Indiana Providers Alliance
- National Network of Runaway and Youth Services
- Prevent Child Abuse, Floyd/Clark Council