

Youth Shelter News

May 1999

Volume 4, Issue 2

A Quarterly Publication of the Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It comes as a surprise to no one that working with at-risk youth and their families can be stressful and emotionally draining. A report from the Child Welfare League of America stated that during fiscal year 1998 some child caring agencies reported staff turnover rates as high as 90%. This reinforces to directors of child care agencies the need to be creative in retention strategies.

One of the Shelter's strategies is conducting spring and fall staff retreats. We get all staff members out of the building for at least a half day to enjoy the company of one another, partake of good food, and to learn valuable information that assists in our abilities to get the job done.



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

This year we held our spring retreat at Perrin Park on May 18th. After two weeks of clear skies and delightful temperatures the day of the retreat dawned with gray skies, 60 degrees, and rain. However, this was the only negative of the day. We were fortunate to have two excellent guest speakers, Reba Colley and Harold Plummer.

Reba is an educator with Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. She conducted an extremely informative workshop on cultural diversity. Reba guided us as we explored our own individual cultures and how our cultures affect how we relate to others. This training will be valuable as our staff interacts with one another and the youth and families we serve.

Harold Plummer is the Director of the Clark County Civil Defense office. Harold spoke on tornado safety. The timing for this training was perfect as we face the threatening spring storms. Harold shared with us how tornadoes are formed, the differences between watches and warnings (and what each means), and safety tips for indoors and outdoors. This training was helpful in getting us thinking about the safety of our residents and our staff and, as a result of this training we are instituting monthly tornado drills.

I want to give a very special thank you to JoAnn Robbins who volunteered her time to come to the Shelter and answer our telephone while we were "retreating." Without JoAnn's assistance someone would have had to stay behind and not had the pleasure of a wonderful informative day. We greatly appreciate JoAnn's willingness to share her time with us.

The retreat was a much needed boost for all staff persons. It gave us time to come

WISH LIST

The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter:

- Tickets to Summer Activities
- Large Plastic Storage Containers
- Unisex Deodorant
- Brushes/Combs
- Kitchen Towels
- Kitchen Utensils
- Gas Grill
- Small Appliances
- Paper products
- Cookware
- Plastic glasses
- Tupperware
- Sweat suits
- Laundry Deterg.
- Brooms/Mops
- Socks
- Underwear/bras
- Bath Towels
- Washcloths
- Cleaning supplies
- Polaroid 600 film
- Arts and Crafts items
- Molding clay
- Sporting Equipment
- Summer clothing for boys and girls ages 11-18
- Stationary
- Laundry Baskets

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together, laugh, enjoy ourselves, and de-stress. All staff members stated the two trainings were excellent and would benefit them as they do their jobs.

Equally important the retreat said to our staff that we understand the stress of the job and are willing to be creative in making the work environment more enjoyable. The important message is that our Board of Directors and management team value our staff and the important work they do each and every day in caring for at-risk children.

Candice C. Barksdale, LCSW
Executive Director



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

Jim & Susie Boling	Bright Star
CashAmerica, Inc.	Veronica Conlin
Robert & Wanda Cook	Patrick Day
Joseph & Christy Craig	Dorothy Fleece
Daughter's of Isabella	Greg Isgrigg
Jeff. Lion's Club	Auggie Jones
Kappa, Kappa, Kappa	Charles Keele
Kempf Homes	Ora Pettit
Mike & Cynthia Lanham	Lisa Bottorff
Don & Beverly Libs	Bill Scott
David & Bonnie Long	Judith Butler
Spencer Properties	B.J. Hammond
James & Mary Steed	Larry Ordner
Boy Scout Pack #89	Moneta Coluceri
Center for Lay Ministries	Clark Co. REMC
Colorama Creations	Jewell Cravens
Community Kitchen	Eastern Star
Cub Scout Pack #49	Elams Family
Develop New Albany	Katrina Farnsley
First Presbyterian Church	Ms. Hahn
Jacob's Chapel Church	Hope, Inc.
Jeff. Fire Department	Carolyn King
Jeff. Optimist Club	Marie Kendrick
Mrs. King	Wanda Meredith
Geneva Phelps	NBD Bank
St. Augustine's Church	Ora Pettit
Ray Herdt Florist	St. Paul's Church
St. Luke's Church	Bill Scott
Storz Novelty	UPS
Walgreens	Sheryl Yoder
Transitional Health Services	
Norton & Associates Plumbing	
American Commercial Lines	
Margaret Read (in memory Hazel Pangburn)	
Cornerstone Financial Group	
Accounting Outsource Solutions	
Robert & Dorothea Leuthart	
Jeff. Evening Optimist Club	
Park Christian Church, CWF	
Tom & Johnelle Schladand	
St. Lukes, Women's Afternoon Fellowship	

Our Volunteers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 10 - Diana Miller

THANK YOU

to those who donated time for the past three months...

April

Elizabeth "Babe" Munchhof, 2.5 hours as a housesitter.

A very special thanks to Bunker Hill Christian Church, Floyd County, for remembering to mention Safe Place at a community issues awareness session on April 25.

May

JoAnn Robbins, 5.5 hours as a housesitter.

GET WELL WISHES

to Evelyn Moffett, who has had surgery.

VOLUNTEERS ARE LIKE

HERSHEY BARS...they are the real, solid citizens; the great Americans!

NECCO...they'll find a "wafer" things to happen.

PAYDAY...theirs is found in a sincere and heartfelt "thank you."

MILKY WAY...they are out of this world. GODIVA CHOCOLATES...they are worth a fortune.

DOUBLEMINT GUM...double the pleasure when we are together.

CHUCKLES...they brighten our day.

LIFE SAVERS...that's what they are for us.

A MINT...that's what they are to us.

"How sweet it is" to work with you!



Know anyone who has the time for Safe Place... "where kids get help fast"?

*New Safe Place
Coordinator*

We are pleased to announce the addition of Ervin Denkins III to our staff as our new Safe Place Coordinator. In the three weeks that Ervin has been with us, he has jumped right in and is doing an excellent job.

Ervin comes to us from Tennessee where he worked as an Adult Probation Officer and as a Minister. Ervin also served as the Director of a program that provided recreational and spiritual activities for inner-city youth.

After only two weeks at the Shelter Ervin presented a staff training on the Safe Place Program. Candy referred to this as "...the best training I've seen in the entire time I've been here."

Please join me in welcoming Ervin to the Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services. If you have any questions about the Safe Place program, know of a business that might like to become involved, or if you are interested in becoming a Safe Place Volunteer, please call Ervin at the Shelter at 284-5229.



**SCHOOL'S OUT FOR
THE SUMMER!**

Summer break is quickly approaching for the residents of the Youth Shelter. This marks a time of change for both the youth and the staff of the Shelter. For our staff, it means a lot more planning and a whole lot more noise!

This summer the youth will be attending a variety of educational and recreational activities. We will be using old ideas from years past as well as looking for new opportunities for our youth.

Last year the residents attended baseball games, went to the Louisville Science Museum, attended Actor's Theatre, and visited Henry's Ark and the Louisville Zoo.

Every summer our residents also have in-house activities such as bake-offs, cook-outs and sports tournaments.

It's not all fun and games. Residents also provide community service and hold car washes to raise money for their activities.

You can help our youth have a fun and productive summer by calling with ideas for summer activities, letting us know of free or community events, donating equipment or tickets, or by supporting our youth at the car wash!



**Come Join Us!
Job Openings**

The Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services is currently accepting applications for the following positions:

Parent Education/Support Coordinator: This person will be responsible for implementing the Parent Education and Support Program for Clark County. Includes facilitating a support group and case management for families determined to be at-risk for abuse and/or neglect. Master's degree in Social Work, Psychology, or a related field required. Must have excellent written and oral communication skills. Please submit your resume to: PESC, P.O. Box 886, Jeffersonville, IN 47131.

Volunteers: Housesitters needed to answer the phone and door while the youth are gone on activities. This position is vital to our summer program. Times vary.

Volunteers: Safe Place Volunteers needed to transport youth in crisis from Safe Place Sites to the Shelter. On-call position.

To apply for either volunteer position, please contact Ervin Denkins at the Shelter: 384-5229.

Peer Pressure as a Parental Issue

The recent tragedy in Littleton, Co. has focused the attention of the country on the pressures of being a teen and of fitting in. The Trenchcoat Mafia was self-reported to be a gang of individuals who didn't fit the image so many of their peers demanded and their long black trenchcoats became a visual statement of their refusal to conform.

The members of the Trenchcoat Mafia were drawn together because they didn't fit the role the mainstream expected them to play. They didn't dress the same, they didn't act the same. The papers spoke of the pain that these young men experienced as a result of their rejection from the mainstream peer group. Ultimately, this pain was turned outward toward the peers and the establishment who supported them.

Adolescence is a time when conformity is not just expected, but demanded. We must ask ourselves who demands this conformity? As we examine the tragedy at Columbine High, we must look at the role we all play in shaping the youth in our community.

In her article "Can Parents and Teachers Cause Peer Pressure?" Sylvia B. Rimm, Ph.D. examines the influence of parents and teachers on youth. Parents and teachers are often concerned about their children's social adjustment and the children pick up on this concern.

Perhaps in an attempt to encourage their children, parents and teachers often send out the message that social acceptance is a high priority, not simply among teens and their peers, but among adults as well.

Dr. Simms contends that this focus is particularly centered on youth who prefer intellectual pursuits rather than social activities. She cites the teacher who insists that a child go out for recess with the other children in their class rather than stay in and read a book or work on a school project.

It is the message hidden within the concern

for healthy social development that is often heard by the youth as a push by parents and teachers to conform socially and sends a clear message that social acceptance is a high priority. Combined with the pressures adolescents place on each other to conform, this concern becomes an additional pressure on the youth.

What can we do to insure that the message we are sending to our children is a healthy one? The key word is independence. It is vital for our youth to develop a healthy sense of self outside the group. They need encouragement to establish friendships and social bonds, but at the same time they should be encouraged in their own individual interests. Learning to grow as an individual will help establish a base of self-confidence that will serve them well later in their adolescence when peer pressure is at a peak.

We must be careful of the hidden messages we often unintentionally send to our children. We must make sure that our attempts to ensure that our children are socially well-adjusted does not lead our children into social dependence on their peers.

Certainly the shootings at Columbine High was a terrible tragedy, but it was more. It was a lesson for us all. A lesson about conformity. A lesson about acceptance. A lesson about the difficulties of being different in a world where everyone believes they should be the same.

Our world is made from a rich diversity of people. This variety makes each one of us an individual and sets us apart from everyone else on the planet. We must send the message to our children that we celebrate each and every one of these differences; in ourselves, in other people, and especially in our children. When we, as adults, can celebrate these differences our children will follow.

"We need to be careful how we lump kids into categories, especially when we are discussing the important issues of belonging, identity, and worth...As parents, it's our job to see the kids beyond the looks and labels, to know them and value them for who they are..."
Katheirne Murray, MSNBC

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**

"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; and because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do something that I can do."
Edmund Everitt Hale, writer

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