

Youth Shelter News

February 2000

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FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

My dear friends and colleagues, this is without doubt the most difficult letter I've written during my years as the Executive Director of this agency. I've reached both an important personal and professional decision that I want to share with you. I would like to give you some background on why I've made this decision.

On January 28th, I had a bone marrow aspiration in order to confirm the location of cancer. The results of the aspiration were due on February 4th. That week was both the worst and best of my life. The reason it was the worst is evident, but the reason it was the best is because it gave me the opportunity to strengthen my relationship with God. I spent much of that week



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

in prayer, and I realized my priorities were very wrong. The job has been my number one priority for eleven and a half years. Things I needed to do for my church and for my family went undone or ignored. I made two commitments to God as I prayed that week. On February 4th I was overjoyed when the doctor said, "Your prayers have been answered!" She has no other explanation other than God healed me, because the bone marrow specimen was completely normal, there was no sign of cancer. I know without a doubt that I experienced a miracle.

Now that you know the reasons behind my decision I want to share that decision with you. The two commitments I made to God were that I would never miss an opportunity to share my story with others so that they too might know the power of prayer. The other was that I would devote my time and skills doing God's work. I intend to honor both of those commitments, and have given my resignation as Executive Director of this agency. I know that God has a plan for me to use my skills in His work. I don't know what that plan is, but at the right time He will share it with me.

Together with the Executive Committee of our Board of Directors we decided my resignation would become effective October 31, 2000. This will take the agency through one more funding cycle with grants, and will give the new Executive Director an opportunity to come in with the funding in place for a year.

It is with sadness, but also joy that I share this news with you. Sadness for the eleven years I've enjoyed working with a wonderful Board, great staff, caring people in the community, and of course the young people we've

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
- Canned/Packaged Food
- 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
- Laundry Baskets

(Continued from page 1)

served. But, joy to be alive and joy in anticipating what God has planned for me. I have truly enjoyed working at the Youth Shelter, and I am thankful that the Board has believed in me and given me this wonderful opportunity. I will miss all of my friends and colleagues in the community, but at least I have a few more months to work with you before I say good-bye.

Very sincerely yours,



Candice C. Barksdale, LCSW
Executive Director

A Note from the Staff...

It was with great sadness that the staff learned of Candy's resignation. We have all felt honored and privileged to work with her. She has touched our lives both professionally and personally and she will continue to be a role model for us all.

Candy has taught us integrity, compassion, and professionalism. She has shown us kindness and friendship.

For those of us who have been around a bit longer her confidence in our abilities has fostered an atmosphere of growth and dedication. Candy's high character has set the example and we strive to rise to the challenge.

We are sad to see her leave us, but we are thankful for her continued good health and wish her well in her new life.



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

Donna Pierce
Lori Stinson
Jeff. Police Department
Judy Storz
St. Augustine Church
Ray Herdt
Boy Scout Troop #25
Parkview Middle
Tiffany Bell
Loaves & Fishes
Spring St. Salon & Spa
Bill Scott
Watchtower
Patti Cooke
Wall Street Church
Jeff Boat
AmVets
Jeannie Salsbury
Joyce & Milton Campbell
Clarksville Bunco
Dillard's/Robert Griffin
Pamela Harris
Tri Kappa
Ron Ledbetter
Moose Lodge #2420
Jeff. Lions Club
Don Summerfield
Pilots Club
Clark Memorial Hospital
Charlie Reisert & friend
First Presbyterian Church
Belinda Justice
Don Summerfield
Ben Ledbetter
Fall of Ohio Museum
Sacred Heart
Parkview Middle Boy Scouts
Jeffersonville-Clarksville Preservation
New Washington Christian Church

Your donations have made a difference in a child's life. Thank you for your generosity and your support!

THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring home all of his books on Friday? He must really be a nerd." I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with a friend tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him. They ran at him, knocking all of his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him. He looked up and I saw a terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. I jogged over to him and as he crawled around looking for his glasses I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said, "Those guys are jerks. They really should get lives." He looked at me and said, "Hey, thanks!" There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived. As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I'd never seen him before. He said he had gone to a private school before now. I would have never hung out with a private school kid before.

We talked all the way home, and I helped him carry all those books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play football on Saturday with me and my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "You're going to build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!" He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors, we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown, and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor, and I was going for business on a football scholarship.

Kyle was the valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak.

Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that had really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than me and all the girls love him! Boy, sometimes I was jealous. Today was one of those days. I smacked him on the back and said, "Hey, big guy, you'll be great!" He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat and began. "Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through the tough years. Your parents, teachers, siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends. I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I'm going to tell you a story." I looked at my friend in disbelief as he told the story of the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his mother wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying everything home. He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile. "Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable."

I heard a gasp go up through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile. Not until that moment did I realize it's depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse. God puts us all in each other's lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others and they may find him in you.

Program Spotlight

We are beginning the second year of our Parent Education and Support program. The program is designed to teach parenting skills and to offer support in a group format. Sessions are held weekly and, in order to make them more accessible, are offered at more than one location.

The results of a national poll regarding child abuse and neglect were released recently. In this poll parents who had committed child abuse or neglect were asked why they committed these acts. The majority of respondents indicated that they lacked the parenting skills and felt that they had no support mechanism in place to assist them.

Our Parent Education and Support program accomplishes both items addressed by these parents. We offer parenting skills education and a support group to all participants. The program can also provide case management services to the family if they so desire. We are proud to provide such a valuable program to the children and families of this community. In order to participate in this program the parent or family member simply calls Ceecee at the Shelter (284-5229).



THANKS TO Ms. HARRIS' CLASS AT CHARLESTOWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

On behalf of the youth residents of the Shelter we would like to thank Khristina Harris' class at Charlestown Middle School for their recent donation to the Shelter.

The class collected and donated hygiene items, paper products, and beauty supplies to be used by the youth who are staying at the Shelter.

We often have youth come to the Shelter with little more than the clothes they are wearing. They may not have even a change of clothes, much less a toothbrush, comb, or brush. That's why donations such as this one are so important to us at the Shelter.

Ms. Harris' class decided to help out our youth by collecting these items.

Two weeks ago a very large donation was brought to the Shelter containing many of the basic necessities of life that our youth often lack when they arrive at the Shelter.

We appreciate the efforts of Ms. Harris' class and we are very thankful for your donation. You have truly made a difference for our youth.



NEW SAFE PLACE COORDINATOR!

We are pleased to announce that Carolyn Book has accepted the position of Safe Place Coordinator. Before this position change, Carolyn was our Aftercare/ILI Coordinator, but had always had an interest in the Safe Place program.

Carolyn is currently working on her master's degree in Education at I.U. Southeast. She brings with her a love and enthusiasm for teaching that will be a great benefit to the program.

We are excited to have Carolyn on board as our new coordinator and look forward to working with her in this capacity!

The Safe Place program is still in need of volunteers for the program. If you are interested in helping to keep the children of our community safe, please consider the following volunteer positions available:

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 Carolyn Book at the Shelter: 284-5229.

Children as Perpetrators, and Victims, of Crime

Columbine High has come to symbolize the recent rash of school violence. Littleton, Colorado was once again thrust into the spotlight with two more tragic deaths of students of Columbine High, high-school sweethearts who were found shot in the Subway where one worked. Again, the tragedy of a quiet town in America will serve as a wake-up call for the nation.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Programs launched a study to learn about the patterns of youth violence in the search for solutions. The study discovered that the problem area is not found within the schools, but in the period immediately following school. This is the most vulnerable time for our children.

The study cites a lack of supervision among children returning home from school. Many children are left to supervise themselves and younger siblings with varying degrees of adult supervision. Statistics show that a majority of youth are using this time in positive activities, such as sports, or hanging out with friends. For at-risk youth, or those prone to negative behavior, however, these few unsupervised hours can come at a high cost.

The study revealed that, in contrast to adult crime patterns which show a steady increase from 6pm to 11pm and then drops, violent crimes by juveniles peak between 3pm and 4pm.

The study also compared the patterns of crime on school days and non-school days. A comparison of the two patterns reveals that the peak 3pm to 4pm crime peak occurred only on school days. On nonschool days, the pattern of crime is more similar to that of adults, with a peak time between 8pm and 10pm.

Additionally, the study showed that the type of crime follows different time patterns. While aggravated assaults on juveniles is most likely to occur around 3pm, the number of juvenile robberies occurs

around 9 pm. Sexual assaults are also most common between 3pm and 4pm.

The cost is not all in the perpetration of crimes by youth. The study shows that young people are particularly vulnerable during these same hours and this is the time frame in which youth are most likely to become the victim of both non-violent and violent crimes including robbery and aggravated assault.

Just how prevalent crimes against children are during this time is difficult to ascertain because crimes against juveniles are significantly under-reported. In a related

study by the OJJDP, it was discovered that a majority of victimizations of juveniles 12 to 17 are not being reported to police or other authorities. This includes serious victimizations involving weapons and injury to the youth, which are reported less frequently than when an adult is victimized. The study found that the factors contributing to this included concerns of personal autonomy, fear of being blamed or not taken seriously, concerns that the justice system might have a negative impact on children, and the underlying belief that nonsexual assaults against children aren't really crimes.

The implications of these studies are enormous. They are a wake-up call to parents to get their children involved in positive, supervised activities. They are a wake-up call to the community to meet the needs of the family to provide after-school programs to keep youth involved and safe. They are a wake-up call to those prevention agencies wishing to make the most effective efforts to protect our youth from all forms of harm. Together we can use this information to help make our community safe for youth.

*To find our more information about the OJJDP or the "Crimes Against Children" studies, please call Lucy.

Juvenile victims are substantially less likely than adult victims to have their violent crimes reported to the police or any other authority. Only 28% of violent crimes against juveniles become known to police and an additional 16% of violent crimes against juveniles are reported to some other authority."

Clark County Youth Coalition

P.O. Box 1432

Jeffersonville, Indiana 47131

Regarding the Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services, Inc.

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

*"To Improve your Self-Image,
Do Something for Someone Else."
Zig Ziglar*

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