

Youth Shelter News

August 1999

Volume 5, Issue 1

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I found as I sat down to write this article that I had several items I wanted to share with you. So the title of this article could be, "*This and That.*"

In a previous issue of this newsletter we announced funding for a new program, Children's Sexual Assault Services (CSAS). We would like to extend an invitation to you to join us for an orientation/kickoff of this new program. The kickoff will be held September 9th beginning at 8:00 am in the Conference Center of Clark Memorial Hospital. You will have the opportunity to meet the CSAS Coordinator, Wendy Tackett, and hear an overview of the program. Following the orientation a tour will be conducted of the



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

examination/interview room. The CSAS program is a collaborative effort with the Youth Shelter & Family Services, Clark Memorial Hospital, and the Clark Co. Office of Family and Children. It is funded by a venture grant from Metro United Way of Clark County. If you would like to attend the kickoff please RSVP at the Youth Shelter to Catherine Kendall at 284-5229.

The second year of Teen Court is up and operating. We hired a new Teen Court Coordinator, Janlea Lackey and Teen Court Recruiter, Dick Bennett. To better facilitate the program Janlea and Dick are working out of the Probation Department office. Our local schools have openly embraced the concept of Teen Court. In fact, many teachers are including the program as a part of their lesson plans. We have entire history, government, and civics classes that are studying the judicial system and then participating as Teen Court juries and attorneys. We also have some classes that come as a group to observe the proceedings. We salute our local educators for incorporating Teen Court into their curriculums. The experience the students gain from their exposure to the judicial process will benefit them and this community as they become our future leaders. Visitors are welcomed at Teen Court sessions, if you wish to observe a court session please contact our Coordinator, Janlea Lackey at 285-6300. Teen Court is a collaborative program with the Youth Shelter & Family Services, Clark Superior Court #1, and the Clark Superior #1 Probation Department. It is funded by Metro United Way of Clark County.

It is with very mixed emotions that I announce a major personnel change at our agency. During the past five years it has been my

WISH LIST

The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter:

- Backpacks
- School supplies
- 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
- Winter clothing for boys and girls ages 11–18
- Stationary
- Laundry Baskets
- Hair Ties

(Continued from page 1)

extreme pleasure to work with my Assistant Director, Lucy Leason. It is rare to find someone with Lucy's skills, work commitment, dependability, and sense of humor. She is truly an asset to this agency, and a pleasure to supervise. After much soul searching Lucy made the decision to return to school, and was accepted into law school at the University of Louisville. She began classes in mid-August.

Obviously law school is a challenging and time-consuming undertaking. As a result, Lucy requested to go to part-time status and relinquish the position as Assistant Director. Effective August 16th, she began her part-time employment with the new title of Development Director. In this position she will be responsible for grant writing, fund raising, and marketing. I am thrilled for Lucy, and with her abilities know she will make a wonderful attorney. I am saddened that she will no longer be my Assistant Director, but my heart is happy that she will remain with the agency.

I know all who read this join me in saying, "Congratulations Lucy, we are very proud of you! And, don't forget; once you get that law degree all work for the Youth Shelter is pro bono!"

Candice C. Barksdale, LCSW
Executive Director



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

ACBL
Community Kitchen
Amy Beckort
Brenda Armstrong
Cinergy-PSI
Center for Lay Ministries
Brenda Conrad
American Legion Auxiliary
Becky Huffine
First Trinity Baptist
Jeff. Fire Dept.
Ray Herdt Florist
Mrs. Phelps
Kentucky Harvest
Judy Storz
Jan Humphrey
John Krynski
Hilda Kendrick
St. Augustine
U of L Dental School
Larry Farr
Knight's of Columbus
Diane Logsdon
Gail Peterson
Wall Street Methodist Church
St. Luke's Church of Christ

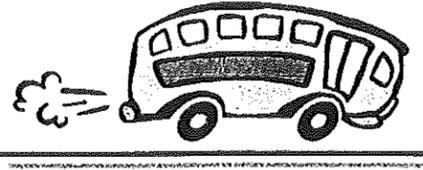
Thank you for your generous donations to the Shelter!

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).



BACK TO SCHOOL!

The first day of summer break is a time of change for the Shelter. The quiet of the morning is shattered around 9:00am when the residents wake up for breakfast.

The first week of summer vacation is hard. It seems like the residents are making a tremendous amount of noise and it is impossible to walk through the kitchen without having to take some time to talk with at least one of the residents. In fact, the only time that quiet returns is when the residents go out on an activity.

It seems that, just as we're adjusting to all of the activity, its time for the residents to return to school. Just when the hum from the kitchen is no longer distracting, but an almost comforting noise, its gone. The Shelter once again grows quiet.

The residents have returned to school and silence has returned to our work day. Instead of being comforted by this fact, however, we all find ourselves a little bit lonely. There isn't anyone to greet us when we return from appointments and meetings. There aren't a barrage of questions for us to answer as soon as we walk in the door.

It strikes me that the residents are a very large part of my everyday world. The faces may change, but I am aware that I am fortunate to have the opportunity to get to know these youth. I can't wait for next summer.



Come Join Us! Job Openings

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

Youth Workers: To provide direct supervision of the youth residents of the Shelter. Various full and part time positions open. Must be at least 21 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, and have 2 years experience working with children or youth. If you are interested in this position and would like more information, call Shara at 284-5229.

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.



NOTES FROM
SAFE PLACE COORDINATOR

*Volunteers: Real People,
Real connections*

Zora Neale Hurston wrote, "There is nothing to make you like other human beings so much as doing things for them."

We are facing a critical time in America as serious social problems continue to degenerate our communities and plague our nation. "Disconnected" rarely is a term used to describe America, yet it is the state of the nation.

Volunteers are part of the solution to being reconnected. They have been the fighting force behind combating the serious social problems our country faces. More than 93 million volunteers are finding solutions their communities need to battle child and spousal abuse, homelessness, crime and violence, and drugs.

Many people have already recognized that these obstacles cannot be resolved by the government alone, and a poll found that when people stop feeling connected to one another, it diminishes our ability to work together. There was "a time when people felt they had more in common and shared more values than Americans today."

We cherish those who have found it worthy of their time to give of their time and other resources to help people get reconnected for a positive good. And we especially commend our Safe Place volunteers.

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good therefore that I can do or any kindness that I show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer or neglect it, for I shall never pass this way again." - Mahatma Gandhi

Happy Birthday

June 6 - Jeannie Slaughter
July 10 - Rocky Huffine
July 24 - Gwen Reome

Thank You

...to those who donated time

June

Elizabeth "Babe" Munchhof,
2.5 hours, housesitter.

August

Elizabeth "Babe" Munchhof,
2.5 hours, housesitter.

Rocky Huffine, 4.5 hours,
housesitter.

*A special thanks to those
who attended the Volunteer
Get Together on June 15.
Thank you, Jeannie Slaughter,
for preparing the snacks.*

Got Some Time To Donate?

**Know anybody who has
time for "Safe
Place... "where kids
Get help fast?"**

Call 824-5229

It Takes A Village to Raise a Child

Sue and Jane grow up in the same neighborhood. They are the same age. They both live in single parent homes with a mother who is addicted to crack cocaine. Each has been subjected to a long line of physical abuse by the string of men mom brings home. Sue grows up to be a successful attorney, but Jane becomes a teenage mother and a drug addict herself. What happened?

Traditionally, we look at the problems of "at-risk" youth when the youth has had exposure to life events that place them in a category with a high likelihood of acting out (thus, high-risk). This problem-focused approach focuses on what is wrong, what is lacking in the youth's life. At this point, even if intervention is immediate, we are too late.

Recent prevention efforts begun by studying youth like Sue and Jane and asking why, despite their similar situations, one is successful and the other is not.

Bonnie Benard, a nationally recognized expert on resiliency, defines resiliency as "successful adaptation, growth, and development despite exposure to severe stress and adversity.

Studies that encompassed international, socioeconomic, and cultural boundaries determined that there were factors (assets) that influence adolescent behavior in protecting them from problem behaviors and promoting positive attitudes and behaviors.

There are 8 categories of assets, grouped into internal and external assets. Those categories are:

INTERNAL

- ⇒ commitment to learning: young people need to development a lifelong commitment to education
- ⇒ positive values: youth need to develop strong values that guide their choices
- ⇒ social competencies: young people need skills that equip them to make positive choices, to build relationships, and to succeed in life
- ⇒ positive identity: young people need a strong sense of their own power, purpose, worth, and promise

EXTERNAL

- ⇒ caring relationships/support: young people need

- ⇒ to experience love, care, and support from families and many others
- ⇒ empowerment: young people need to be valued by their community and to have opportunities to contribute to others
- ⇒ boundaries and expectations: young people need to know what is expected of them and whether activities and behaviors are "in bounds" or "out of bounds"
- ⇒ constructive use of time: young people need constructive, enriching opportunities for growth through creative activities, youth programs, and quality time at home.

(The Asset Approach: Giving Kids What they Need to Succeed, Search Institute).

Within each category is a list of protective factors which define the asset. Each protective factor builds upon each other to create a child who is resilient in the face of adverse conditions.

Does it work? The answer is a resounding yes! Studies on the power of assets show that the more assets a child has, the less like they are to be involved in high-risk behavior and that there is a corresponding increase in positive behaviors and attitudes.

According to the Search Institute there are Six Keys to Asset Building:

- 1 Everyone can build assets
- 2 All young people need assets
- 3 Relationships are key
- 4 Asset building is an ongoing process
- 5 Consistent messages are important
- 6 Intentional redundancy is important

We now have the tools to make a difference in the lives of the children in our community. This article gives you just a little information about how you can help to make the difference in the life of a child. If you would like to know more about Resiliency, the Search Institute, or how you can apply this theory to your life, please call Lucy at the Shelter at 284-5229.

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**

*"Kids can walk around trouble, if there is some place to walk to and someone to walk with."
Tito, Urban Sanctuaries*

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