

Clark County Youth Coalition
P.O. Box 142
Jeffersonville, IN 47131
Re: Clark County Youth Shelter & Family
Services



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.

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

*"The tragedy is not that things are broken. The tragedy is that they are not mended again."
Alan Paton, South African 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

Youth Shelter News

August 2001

Volume 6, Issue 3



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

From the Desk of the Executive Director

It's hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. School has begun and the youth in the Shelter are registered and prepared to begin a new school year. It is a time of both excitement and apprehension for the youth as they begin a new adventure of learning.

The employees at the Shelter have also been learning. As we wrapped up our fiscal year on June 30, we examined all of our programs within the Shelter. We all know our programs help youth and their families in Clark and surrounding counties. However, until we actually see the entire year on paper in the annual report, we do not realize extent of the impact we have had.

This fiscal year we directly affected 1375 families through our programs and educated 2250 additional families through community presentations and our crisis hotline. It is extremely rewarding to review the results of our hard work and realize the positive impact we have had on the lives of the individuals and families in our community and know this impact will last into the future.

We attribute our success not only to our wonderful employees, but to the large number of individuals and businesses in the community who have donated their time and talents. Volunteers contributed over 140 hours during the year housesitting, as Safe Place drivers, and providing spiritual awareness, drug education, remodeling our kitchen and improving agency grounds. We are also grateful to community leaders who again came through with many, many donations to the Shelter in the form of food, clothing, arts and crafts materials, and much more. Without the help and support of the community, we could not achieve all that we have during the past year.

As I read the Annual Report, I am reminded how much our staff and Board contribute to our programs and success on a daily basis. I regularly tell people that I can be 100% sure that every staff member that works at the Shelter does so because of a love of serving youth and families. Their dedication shines through every single day.

Sincerely,

Laura Fleming-Balmer,
Executive Director

A Sincere Thank You!

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

- ACL
- Mr. & Mrs. Dale Bagshaw
- Center for Lay Ministries
- Community Kitchen
- Cub Scouts Pack #49
- Dr. Steve Faith
- Falls Cities Optimist Club
- First Christian Church
- Carolyn Gowan
- Haven House
- Belinda Justice
- KY Harvest
- Budd Kendall
- Skip Leonard
- Mr. Lempkins
- Lions Club
- Loaves & Fishes
- Mr. & Mrs. Marshall
- Metro United Way
- Tony Newell
- JoAnn Robbins
- Sacred Heart Boy Scouts #89
- St. Augustine
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- Tri Kappa
- Gaelyn Todaro
- Mr. & Mrs. Unruh
- Walgreens
- Wall Street United Methodist

Wish List

The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter:

- Crock Pot
- Combs and Brushes
- Unisex Deodorant
- Kitchen Towels
- Kitchen Utensils
- Gas Grill
- Small Appliances
- Paper Products
- Pots/Pans
- Baking Sheets
- Plastic Glasses
- Tupperware
- Canned/Packaged Food
- Laundry Detergent
- Brooms/Mops
- Underwear/Bras
- Bath Towels
- Washcloths
- Cleaning Supplies
- Polaroid 600 Film
- Arts and Crafts Items
- Winter Clothing for Boys and Girls 11-17
- Laundry Baskets
- School Supplies



Brown-Bagging It For Youth

We would like to thank all of you who joined the Shelter's Lunch Bunch, a group of dedicated individuals who agreed to trade in lunching out for a week of brown-bag lunches and dedicate their savings to the youth of our community.

We were overwhelmed by the number of you who were willing to give up the tasty choices of eating out for the more mundane PB&Js and brown-bag foods, but we are truly grateful for your support! THANK YOU!

Meet the Shelter's MVPs...



Congratulations to the following Employees of the Month:

Lucy Leason (June)
Merlyn Schleicher (July)
Shara Wilson (August)

Congratulations and thanks for all of your hard work!



Happy Birthday to Us...
The Shelter turns 15!
(next year we'll be driving...)

The Clark County Youth Shelter, Inc. first opened its doors in September 1986 to youth in crisis in Clark County. The opening day was a tribute to the tenacity of our founding fathers who worked for two years to ensure the youth of our community had a safe place to turn to when they were in need. Now, fifteen years later, our staff and Board continues the tradition of dedication and excellence of service to youth. We thank you all for 15 wonderful years and look forward to the next 15 to come!

Youth Volunteerism

America has lost faith in its youth. According to Youth Service America, only 37% of adults believe today's children will make the world a better place and a staggering 61% of adults believe there is a crisis among today's youth. Adults believe there is a lack of values and morals and view youth as disrespectful, undisciplined, and unfriendly. This message had been adopted by community organizations, where fewer than one in five involves youth in their work. And sadly, youth are hearing this message—only 20% of youth believe adults value them. Is this an accurate reflection of this generation or is it an unfounded and undeserved stereotype?

The truth is, youth service is at record highs. Volunteerism is up 12% over the last 10 years and more teenagers than adults volunteer (60% of youth as opposed to 49% of adults). Studies show that youth are contributing to their community and that 70% of young people age 15-21 have participated in community service activities at some time.

There are proven benefits to volunteerism. Youth volunteers are more likely to do well in school, graduate, vote, and be philanthropic. They are less likely to abuse drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, or engage in other destructive behavior. They are more likely to make charitable contributions as adults and to continue their volunteer efforts as adults. Additionally, studies show that youth learn about leadership skills, empathy, and patience through volunteering. Youth aren't the only people receiving benefits from volunteerism. Youth volunteer 2.4 billion hours each year and this adds up to \$34.3 billion for the economy. Volunteerism saves \$255 billion annually in employee salaries.

With such a tremendous resource at our fingertips, how do we tap into it and get teenagers to volunteer in our community and in our agencies? The biggest barrier is that teenagers don't volunteer if they aren't asked. In a society that perceives youth with such negativity, who can blame them? Studies show that 73% of young people believe that they could make a positive impact on their community. They are three times more likely to become involved if they learn about community-based organizations from someone they know. We must lead by example and we must ask our youth to join us—then we will see what good things they are capable of doing.

Lions Left Out

I would like to take this space to express my deepest apologies to the Jeffersonville Lions Club for an oversight that has consistently left them off of my donor list and out of our quarterly newsletter. The Lions Club has been unfaltering in their generosity and support of the youth in the community and the Shelter. I apologize for this oversight and want you to know that we are truly appreciative of the many things that you do to help ensure our youth have a safe and healthy future. I will work to ensure that the Lions Club, and all our supporters are acknowledged for the wonderful things you do!

