



# The Clark Co. Youth Shelter and Family Services

Volume 3 Issue 1

February 1998

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*“...CREATING A NURTURING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES  
TO REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL.”*

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## **From the Desk of the Executive Director. . .**

The Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services is happy to announce we are growing! Thanks to a very generous grant from the Paul Ogle Foundation we will be adding a 2,200 square foot addition onto the rear of our existing building. This addition will house administrative offices, storage area, and a meeting room.

The added space is desperately need as currently we have four employees sharing one small office. You can only imagine the confusion and noise level when 2 or more people have telephone calls.

Our Counselor is also working in an extremely small room, which was meant to be a storage area. Her office is so small she can not even conduct counseling sessions in it, but has to use our living room. This poses additional problems as our living room is in constant demand for meetings, resident interviews, family visitation, etc.

If you have been by to visit lately you will notice we have very little storage room. Many of our supplies and files are stacked in boxes in offices, which are already overcrowded.

The addition should solve all of our space problems. It will be two stories, with meeting room, bathroom, and offices on the first floor; and offices and storage on the second.

Our architect for the project is Don Baldwin. Local contractors submitted bids for construction, and the bid was awarded to T. Kempf Co. Everything is a go for the project, except the weather. Unfortunately all the recent rain has delayed the beginning of construction. We are anxiously awaiting the building process to begin, and are excited about the additional space. We give our sincere appreciation to the Board of Directors of the Paul Ogle Foundation for making this addition a reality. The added space will allow us to more adequately serve the needs of our children well into the future.

Please take the time to drive by and watch us grow. Once the addition is completed

please come by for a tour, we will be very proud to show off our new facilities.

Candice Barksdale, MS, CCSW

Executive Director

### **Volunteers needed!**

We are still in need of volunteers. Project Safe Place, an outreach program of the Clark County Youth Shelter, needs male and female volunteers to help youth in crisis. To volunteer you must be 21 years of age, possess a valid operator's license and show proof of automobile insurance. You must also have a police check and three references.

The Shelter is also seeking volunteers to stay at the facility while the residents go on an activity. This is a very important volunteer position for our youth because it allows our youth to attend educational and recreational activities.

If you are willing to donate a few hours of time to youth in need, please call Brenda at 284-5229.

### **Volunteer Excellence**

Volunteers play a vital role at the Clark County Youth Shelter, and we want to express our gratitude for everyone who takes their time to help. A special thanks is given to: Wanda Worrall, Evelyn Moffet, Carolyn Gowen, Brenda Bramble, and Christy Schafer. Thanks for your time!

### **Youth As Resources**

On February 12<sup>th</sup> the screening committee will review grant proposals for the second grant cycle. The YAR Board will make a final decision on Monday February the 16<sup>th</sup>, deciding which grant Proposals will be funded.

If you would like to know more about the projects funded through YAR, please call Autumn at 284-5229.

### **Independent Living Initiative**

The Independent Living Initiative (ILI) is a program designed to teach basic life skills to young adults ages 16-21. The students are referred by probation departments and child welfare services from the surrounding counties. The Shelter is currently teaching the 4<sup>th</sup> session of ILI classes in Madison at the Jefferson County Court House. This program helps prepare the community's youth to live independently. Christy Schafer teaches the ILI classes, and is working hard to successfully graduate all participating students.

### **Christmas Update!**

The Clark County Youth Shelter had a joyous Christmas season. Everyone had something to be thankful for. Most of the residents were able to spend Christmas at home with their families. Yet at the Shelter, we had a big Christmas Day for the residents, due to our gracious donations.

The Shelter received many thanks from the residents. One resident in particular wrote a special thank you note on the day he was released. In his letter he thanked everyone who helped provide the gifts that he received. He stated that it was one of the best Christmas seasons that he had ever experienced. Your graciousness enabled many to have a brighter Christmas season.

### **Special Christmas Thank You!**

The Shelter would like to grant a warm thank you to Susie and Jim Boling. Each year they sponsor a charity Christmas party, and we were chosen as their charity. They ask their guests to either bring a donation based

on our wish list or to make a monetary contribution to us.

The party results in our children receiving many of the items which are needed for everyday living at the Shelter, as well as funds which allow us to provide a delicious Christmas dinner and to purchase gifts. We want to give them a special thank you for the generous gifts, and for thinking about the Shelter. Their donations make a difference in many children's lives.

### Donations and Contributions

We wish to thank the following for making donations to the Shelter:  
Skip Leonard, Christine Erb, Hilda Kendrick, Ora Pettit, Steve Havens, Mrs. Bill Scott, Merle Stepp, Marty Vice, Gladys Blankenbaker, Mrs. Phelps, T. Wahl, Dorthy Fleece, Beverly Reliford, James Burch, Robert White, Bill Mattingly, Mable Ferguson, Marcus Edwards, Sharon Cates, Wanda Worrall, and Kentucky Harvest, St. John's CYM, Storz Nolvety, Center for Lay Ministries, Haven House, Ray Herdt Florist, Oak Park Women's Club, First United Methodist Church, St. Luke's Church, St. Paul's Church, Scott Funeral Home, Community Kitchen, Loaves & Fishes, Wall St. United Meth., Evening Lights Circle, Walgreens, First Trinity Baptist, Christ Gospel, Schimpff's Confectionery, Colgates, Burning Bush Ministries, Hoosiers for the Hungry, Clark Co. AmVets, Bridgepointe Elementary, Wesley United Meth. Church, Personal Opinion, VFW#3281, and Gilt Edge Church. You make a difference!!!

### Employee of the Month

We would like to applaud Christy Schafer and Mary Axom for their hard work and dedication to the Clark County Youth Shelter. Christy was the employee of the month for December, and Mary was the employee of the month for January. Hats off to both of you!

### Welcome New Employees!

We have several new editions to the Clark County Youth Shelter Youth Worker staff. Atasha Franklin has joined us as an On-Call Youth Worker. Atasha comes to us with three years of college in Criminology/Social Work. Jennifer Kocherserger joined the staff in January, and now works full-time on the 12-8am shift. Jennifer brought to CCYS her previous experience from Child Place and a Women's Correctional Facility. Lisa Whitson is our most recent employee as of February. She will be working on part-time status at the Shelter.

### Youth Activities

The past few months have been packed full of activities for the residents of CCYS. Residents continue to participate in a wide array of educational and recreational activities. During December the residents participated in many activities related to the holiday season. They attended the Living Christmas Tree at Oak Park Church, had dinner with the Lyons Club, participated in warm up for winter, and had a party with the Moose Lodge. Aside from these activities, they also went to the movies, and attended the Louisville Ballet.

In January, the rush from the Christmas season slowed down. The Residents returned to school, and the regular routine was back in effect. The residents had the opportunity to attend a play at Actors Theatre, went to the movies, went bowling, and watched videos at the Shelter. The past few months have been filled with fun, learning, and excitement.

If you would like to sponsor an activity for the residents, please call Christine at 284-5229.

### Aftercare News!

The Aftercare program continues to thrive. Meetings are held every Thursday from 6:00 – 8:00pm for any of the past residents of

CCYS. The activities include entertainment of the arts, athletic recreation, educational programs, and interpersonal exercises.

The annual Warm Up For Winter was held at the Shelter on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Aftercare past residents and the current residents of the Shelter planned, organized, and carried out the project. The participants wrote letters to several grade schools requesting names of students ages 5-10 years old in need of winter coats.

After the Youth Shelter participants received the names, they shopped for coats, planned a party, and hosted the party giving away the winter coats, and playing games with the younger children.

The program turned out to be a big success. 48 coats were given to needy children, and entire families came and enjoyed the activities. The residents, past residents, and Christy Schafer did a great job, and provided a wonderful service to others in our community.

### **New Safeplace Sites**

The Safe Place program welcomes Affordable Daycare of Henryville, and American Red Cross of Jeffersonville to the Safe Place program. The businesses will help insure the safety of the youth of Southern Indiana.

### **A Safeplace Tale**

Project Safeplace has been operating in Clark County since 1987. Since the program first began, our community has become familiar with the yellow, diamond-shaped sign that symbolizes safety for the children of our community.

We want to introduce you to the stories behind the program and to the children who have used our program.

Anna is not from our community, but she found herself in need of the Safeplace program at a very unexpected time.

Anna was traveling with her father and two brothers from Michigan to Georgia on vacation. They were going to visit Anna's grandparents and she was very excited to go.

After a long days drive the family neared Jeffersonville. Anna's father decided to stop at a nearby rest stop to catch a few hours of sleep before taking on the second half of the trip. The family was traveling in a RV and so they quickly settled down for their nap.

Anna woke in the early morning when her father got up to use the restroom. Anna, knowing they would soon be on the road again, followed her father and, without waking her brothers, went into the restroom. When Anna returned to the RV, it was gone!

At 11 years old, Anna was very smart and used the pay phone to call the police. All of our local police are official Safeplace sites and a local office was quickly on the scene to pick her up.

Meanwhile, unaware that she had left the RV, Anna's father continued his drive to Georgia. He was very upset to discover his oldest child missing when, over two hours later, he made a stop for breakfast. He immediately called the police and was told that his daughter was safe and waiting for him at the Shelter.

Four hours after her arrival at the Shelter, Anna and her father were reunited. They began the second leg of their journey for the second time that day and Anna promised to never get out of the RV without making sure that someone knew she wasn't there!

Project Safeplace helps children and youth in any crisis. It is only through the Safeplace Volunteers and Business Sites that we can help children like Anna. We would like to again express our deepest thanks to those of you who help make this program work to keep our children safe.

**YOU CAN HELP MAKE OUR WISHES COME TRUE!**

The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter and Family Services

Hygiene items (men's deodorant, soap, etc.)	School supplies	Brushes/combs
Liquid dish detergent	Art/Craft supplies	Plastic wrap
Furniture wax	Cooking utensils	Aluminum foil
Pots, pans, skillets	Tupperware	Polaroid 600 film
Pillows	Comforters	Plastic glasses
Blankets (twin size)	Movies (G or PG)	Outside American Flag
Sheets (twin size)	Socks	Panasonic Vacuum Bags
Mattress pads (twin-size)	Underwear	Blank video tapes
Educational software		

**BECAUSE OF YOU...**

**I looked all around at all of the  
children suffering in the world.  
I saw the abuse, the  
neglect, the pain.**

**I looked up to heaven  
and said, Why?  
Why don't you do something to  
help these children?**

**The reply came back:  
I did do something.  
I created YOU!**

**- author unknown**

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YES, 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 DEDUCTABLE CONTRIBUTION OF:

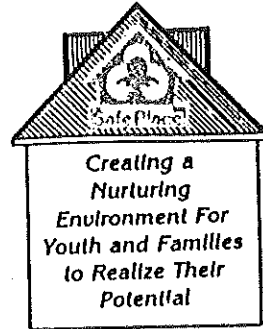
\_\_\_\_\_ \$10    \_\_\_\_\_ \$25    \_\_\_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_\_\_ \$200    \_\_\_\_\_ OTHER

PLEASE RETURN TO:

CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER AND FAMILY SERVICES  
P.O. BOX 886  
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47131

ON BEHALF OF THE YOUTH SERVED BY THE YOUTH SHELTER, WE SAY THANK  
YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

ANY YOUTH OR YOUTH'S FAMILY MEMBER  
NEEDING ASSISTANCE WITH A  
PROBLEM IS ENCOURAGED TO CONTACT  
THE CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER  
AND FAMILY SERVICES



**284-5229**

The Clark County Youth Shelter and Family Services is a member of:

- Clark County Step Ahead Council
- Clark County Youth Coalition
- Indiana Association of Residential Child Care Agencies
- Metro United Way of Clark County
- National Network of Runaway and Youth Services
- Prevention of Child Abuse, Indiana Chapter

CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER  
118 E. CHESTNUT ST.  
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN 47130