

Youth Shelter News

November 2001

Volume 6, Issue 4

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



From the Desk of the Executive Director

The Thanksgiving leftovers are put away and the Christmas decorations are being taken out of storage. It is hard to believe it is the Holiday Season already. We all have many things to be thankful for during this time of year and many ways to help make a difference in the lives of others.

This past weekend, my husband Tony and I were helping to decorate my mother-in-law's home for the Holidays. As the ornaments were being placed on the tree, someone pointed out to Tony an ornament he had made while in grade school. He remembered this ornament, and it brought back happy memories of making it with friends.

Inspired by this memory, and hoping to give his sister and brother-in-law a child-free moment to decorate, Tony decided to make a new ornament for the tree with our niece, Olivia, who is three. I watched as this self-proclaimed non-crafty man helped cut an angel shape out of cardboard. They colored her, put lace on her skirt, used buttons for eyes, pipe cleaner for a halo, and "borrowed" hair from a doll. I also watched how much fun this little girl had making a simple ornament with her uncle, knowing it would be placed on the tree every year. I also wondered if she would see it many years from now and remember making it that Friday night. Tony had so much fun with this project that he is "borrowing" Tyler and Anna, our friend's children, to do another ornament project.

Often during this season, we tend to go overboard with gifts, parties, and decorating. We sometimes overlook the simple things we can do to celebrate the season and make a difference in our life and in the life of a child. I challenge all of you to help make a difference this season. You can help a child in our Shelter, or another youth serving agency by volunteering time or donating items or dollars. You can also create ornaments, bake cookies, or wrap gifts with your children, nieces and nephews, or neighborhood kids. A small amount of your time and talents may go a long way in their lives. It will also go a long way in yours.

Watch the mail for our annual Christmas mailing which will include a recipe that can be made with children of all ages. It may spark an idea for you that will brighten a child's life today and tomorrow. We hope you have a safe and fun Holiday Season.

Sincerely,


Laura Fleming-Balmer,
Executive Director

A Sincere Thank You!

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

ACL

America Place

David Browne

The Clothesline

Patti Cooke

Will Cooke

Donught Lady

Elk Pointe Homeowners'
Association

First Christian Church

First Presbyterian Church

Kathy Fisher

Floyd Co. Youth Shelter

Ann Frazier

Julia Gillenwater

Hoosiers for the Hungry

Jehovah's Witness

Job's Daughters

Hilda Kendrick

KY Harvest

Loaves & Fishes

Donna Loving

Martin Luther King

Tony Newell

Jana Peters

Rite-Aid Drugs

Marie Robertson

St. Augustine

St. Lukes

Bill Scott

Soup Kitchen

Glenda Spurling

Ken Stencel

Joe Swearingen

Misty Thomas

Tri Kappa

Walgreens

Wish List

The following items are needed by the Youth Shelter:

- Park Bench
- Puzzles
- Art Supplies
- Pillow Cases
- Wooden Spoons
- Plastic Bowles w/ Lids
- Cookie Sheets
- Teflon Frying Pan
- 8 oz. plastic glasses
- Towels
- Wash Clothes
- Dish Towels
- Dish Cloths
- Pot Holders
- School Supplies
- Hygiene Items
- Office Supplies
- Socks and Underwear
- Tupperware
- Silverware
- Cleaning supplies
- Laundry detergent
- Polaroid 600 Film
- Pots and pans



The Safe Place Program Shines

The program spotlight often shines on our youth and staff but today we want to shine the light on the efforts of our Safe Place volunteers and volunteer business sites.

Throughout our community over 135 businesses in Clark and Floyd counties have opened their doors to youth in crisis and serve as volunteer Safe Place sites. The support of businesses throughout the community, many youth simply could not get to the help they need.

Similarly, without the assistance of our volunteers who go to the business sites, assess the situation, and bring the youth back safely to the Shelter, we could not offer our services to youth in crisis.

For the many volunteers and business sites who make this program work, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



The Ogle Foundation Helps Get the Shelter Moving!

Christmas has come early this year to the Shelter. Thanks to the Ogle Foundation, we will have a brand new van before Santa can shimmy down the chimney!

If you aren't familiar with our current mode of transportation, the "big red van" was purchased in 1986 when the Shelter first opened. Time has not been kind to the van and both driving and riding in it could be a hair raising experience.

Now, thanks to the Ogle Foundation, we will be purchasing a new 12-passenger van and should be cruising the streets of Jeffersonville by Christmas.

On behalf of the youth served through the Shelter and our staff who will be doing the driving, we extend our thanks to the Ogle Foundation for your support!

Talking to your Teen

Parents and teenagers aren't known for having good communication, but with the help of a few tips, communication with your teen doesn't have to be less fun than the dentist.

Have fun: They say that laughter is the best medicine and it certainly is a good way to break the ice. If you are able to laugh with your teen, chances are you can share more serious issues too!

Be Positive: No one likes to be treated negatively. Don't focus only on the negatives. Pay attention when your teenager does something that deserves praise and let them know you notice the good things they do.

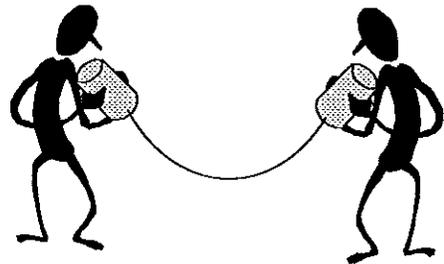
Avoid the "third degree": Asking lots of questions may seem like an expression of interest but sometimes it can seem like an interrogation. Try to weave questions into the normal flow of conversation. Give them time to answer and listen to what they have to say.

Acknowledge their feelings: Sometimes we try to explain away our teenagers feelings, especially negative feelings, in an effort to make them feel better. Its more helpful to acknowledge their feelings, so they know they are being heard.

Learn to Listen: Try to hear and understand what your teen is saying. Don't interrupt them with opposing arguments. Instead, ask questions to clarify and understand their position. Try to give them your whole attention. Stop cooking or reading the paper, look them in the eye, and listen.

Learn to compromise: Be fair. If you have to say "no," encourage your teenager to find a different way of showing they can be trusted.

These are just a few tips to make communicating with your teenager a little bit better for you both!



Bringing the Christmas Spirit to the Shelter

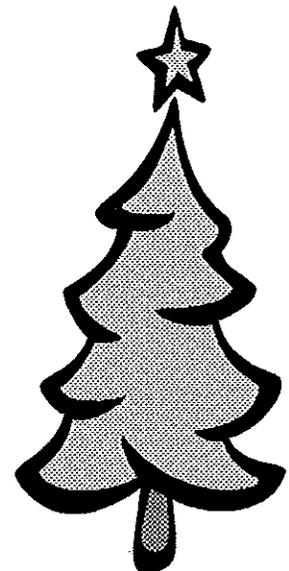
The holidays can be a lonely time for our residents and so we work hard to make sure that the Shelter is full of holiday spirit. Every year the Shelter gets decorated from end to end,

complete with 3 full-sized Christmas trees!

If you would like to join the staff in bringing the Christmas Spirit to the Shelter please join us for a Tree Trimming Party on Thursday, December 6th at 2:00pm. There will be plenty of tinsel, lights, and holly to keep everyone busy!

And since what goes up must come down, you are also invited to a Tree De-Trimming Party on Thursday, January 3rd at 2:00pm.

We hope to see you here!



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

Nonprofit
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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

"Bear in mind that children of all ages have one thing in common--they close their eyes to advice and open their eyes to example."

-Unknown

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