

# Youth Shelter News

A NEWSLETTER OF THE CLARK COUNTY YOUTH SHELTER & FAMILY SERVICES, Inc. (CCYS)

“Serving youth and families in a safe and caring environment.”

Summer 2006

Volume 12, Issue 2

## Youth Shelter prepares to mark 20 years in community

In September of this year, the Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving youth and families in Southern Indiana. Over the years, as many as 51,000 youth in crisis have received services through CCYS in the form of residential care, aftercare, counseling, independent living education, drug awareness education, and family and parent counseling and preparation.

Community support has played a major role in the 20 years of service CCYS has provided. Local businesses, organizations, individuals, and community members have made it possible for the shelter to operate through generous in-kind and cash donations. The staff and residents, both former and current, extend our deepest and most sincere appreciation for the level of support Southern Indiana has given CCYS. Without you, we could not continue our mission to serve youth and families in a safe and caring environment.

Our fall newsletter (August 2006) will feature more information regarding special events associated with the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. In preparation, a history of our shelter is noted below. For more information about our programs or to schedule a tour of our facility, please contact Amy Schneidau at 284-5229.



### History

For many years abused and neglected youths as well as runaways and truants were locked up in the Clark County Jail because there was no other place to care for them. In 1984, Jim and Barbara Williams and Edwin and Joan Crooks met with Judge Clementine Barthold of Clark Superior Court #1 to discuss an al-

**The front of the shelter features a flagpole that was installed as an Eagle Scout project by Kyle Vissing in 2005. The area now serves as a type of memorial for Kyle who died in a car accident earlier in the year.**

ternative to this problem. Their solution was to request 21 community leaders to serve as the Board of Directors of a new not-for-profit corporation that would develop and govern a community-based youth shelter.

The Clark County Youth Shelter was incorporated in September of 1984. Given financial support from the County Commissioners and the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute, the house at 118 E. Chestnut St. was rented and refurbished. In the summer of 1986, shelter supervisory staff was hired to oversee the remodeling and equipping of the house, to prepare for licensing reviews, to hire and train other employees, and to develop policy and procedural manu-

**Continued on Page 3**

# Footsteps for Families 2006

## *Building Stronger Families One Step at a Time*

The Clark County Youth Shelter's 5th Annual Footsteps For Families Walk & 5K Fun Run took place under beautiful blue skies Saturday, May 20, in Jeffersonville's Perrin Family Park. Participants enjoyed door prizes provided by local businesses, face painting, shopping, and time together while runners and walkers supported the programs and services provided by the shelter. In total, the event raised more than \$6,000 to support the shelter's mission of serving youth and families in a safe and caring environment! Thank you to sponsors New Washington State Bank, Jeffersonville Optimist Club, Clark Memorial Hospital, Century 21 Realty Group—Reisert, Mills, Biggs, Haire & Reisert, First Savings Bank, Pfau & Sons, R. Scott Lewis, O'Neal Ford, The Marketing Company, Wilder & Wilder, Steve Leist of Neace Lukens, the Charlestown Lions Club, Office Supply, Pacers and Racers, Yellow Ambulance Service, Ware Energy, and everyone who donated their time, talent and/or money to make this event possible.



**Sharron Barnett paints a ladybug on Camryn Schneidau's face. This year's event featured craft booths, a bake sale booth, face painting, and other refreshments in addition to the walk and 5K run.**



**Dalevina Lawson, Venus Bailey and Nancy Klumb demonstrate the goofy side of the CCYS staff.**



**Runners prepare to take their mark before the start of the 5K Fun Run. Following the run, participants praised the accuracy, ease and beauty of the course.**

# Keep Sharp: Read this Summer

Many youth and teens finish out the school year with “brain overload”. They are bombarded the last few weeks of school with tests, papers to finish and loose ends to tie up. This overload leads to a overwhelming urge to “just veg out” when summer vacation hits. This urge is okay to give in to — within reason. After giving your youth’s brain a break, encourage them to keep their study skills sharp by reading over the summer.

During the summer, most kids like to be involved with outdoor activities such as sports or camps that include activities they *enjoy*. When it comes to reading, the trick for parents is to remember that philosophy: summer is for fun stuff that kids will enjoy. Make reading fun, and youth will be more inclined to do it.

Here are a few tips from the Indiana Youth Institute for encouraging teens to read.

- Set an example: Let your kids see you reading for pleasure.

## READ

- Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials: Leave books, magazines, and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your teenager.
- Give teens an opportunity to choose their own books: When you and your teen are together, browse in a bookstore or library. Go your separate ways and make your own selections.
- Build on your teen’s interests: Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports team, musical artist, hobbies, TV shows.
- Read some books written for teens: Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide neutral

ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.

- Make reading aloud a natural part of family life: Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random page from an encyclopedia — without turning it into a lesson.
- Acknowledge your teen’s mature interests: Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teen by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
- Keep the big picture in mind: For all sorts of reasons, some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don’t panic. Time may help rekindle their interest.

*Information provided by the Indiana Youth Institute at [www.iyi.org](http://www.iyi.org).*

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## CCYS to celebrate 20 years

### Continued from Page 1

house, to prepare for licensing reviews, to hire and train other employees, and to develop policy and procedural manuals.

The shelter was dedicated at an open house on Sept. 13, 1986. To many, this was the culmination of a beautiful hope and dream. Young people in crisis in Clark County now had “a safe alternative when there was no place else to go.”

In February of 1988, the Mary and Barry Bingham Sr. Fund gave \$80,000 to the shelter with which to purchase the building. Financed primarily from per diem charges for care, the shelter is now an established community-based facility housing up to 10 youth at one time and providing programs outside of shelter care to the community. Over the years, several programs have been added, while maintaining the core as an emergency residential shelter.

When a need develops in the community that affects the mission of the

shelter, it is closely researched. From this research, a program is developed or adopted and funds are sought through grant proposals. If funds can be secured, a new program is added to aid in strengthening the families of our community. Some programs that are available include:

- Aftercare: This program was added strictly for past residents of the shelter. This was deemed an important component in a resident’s care as an on-going support system for youth who have left the shelter.
- Safe Place: This major addition occurred in 1989. A national program that operates in 41 states, Safe Place originated at the YMCA in Louisville, Ky. The Clark County Youth Shelter is the only Safe Place agency for Clark and Floyd counties. This means that if a youth approaches a Safe Place site in Southern Indiana, he or she will be cared for by our employees and organization in some capacity.

- Family Education & Support: This free 14-week parenting course provides invaluable essential parenting skills, tips, and methods that are necessary to intervene and/or prevent child neglect and abuse. Parents, grandparents, guardians — anyone who cares for youth on a regular basis — is eligible to attend this course, which is offered in both Clark and Floyd counties on a weekly basis.

Other programs that have developed out of CCYS include Betting Against Drugs, Independent Living Skills, Teen Court (which is now operated by Clark Superior Court #1) and the Children’s Sexual Assault Program (which is now operated by Clark Memorial Hospital).

Clark County Youth Coalition  
Re: Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services, Inc.  
P.O. Box 3081  
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Youth Services  
Prevent Child Abuse  
(Clark and Floyd Counties)  
Floyd County ATOD



**Metro United Way**  
Together We Improve More Lives

**The Clark County Youth Shelter & Family Services, Inc.**  
"Serving youth and families in a safe and caring environment."



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