



*Believing in the
power of potential...™*

Youth In Need...*Believing in the power of potential...*

Mission

Believing in the power of potential, Youth In Need's mission is to provide nurturing environments and educational opportunities so children, youth and families will find safety and hope, achieve their goals, and build a positive future.

Background and Current Scope

- Non-profit organization founded in 1974 in St. Charles, Missouri, by community volunteers. The agency initially sheltered runaway and homeless youth and reunited them with their families.
- Currently operates 30 sites throughout the eastern Missouri region (St. Louis City and St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery Counties).
- Youth In Need provides residential homes, homeless street outreach, early childhood education, counseling and support groups, teen parent services and foster care case management for children of all ages and their families.
- Youth In Need is supported by diversified funding from state, federal and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations and individual contributions.
- Youth In Need offers a "safe place" to area children and teens at more than 250 area locations in St. Charles County and St. Louis.

Current Services

- Emergency shelter for boys and girls, ages 10 to 18
- 24-hour crisis help line
- Mobile street outreach unit
- Crisis counseling
- Alternative school for youth in shelter care
- Transitional living services for homeless youth, ages 16 to 21
- Before and after-school programs for youth in St. Louis City Public Schools
- Youth and family counseling
- Early Head Start child and family development services for children, from birth to age 3 (with prenatal services for expectant parents)
- Head Start child and family development services for children, from 3- to 5-years-old
- Teen parent services
- Foster care case management services
- Fatherhood involvement initiative
- Community businesses serving as "safe places" for children and teens in crisis

Service Population

- Runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis
- Families wanting to escape public assistance by securing reliable jobs
- Low-income families wanting to improve their children's lives
- High school dropouts
- Teen parents
- Child abuse and neglect victims and other victims of violence
- Families experiencing conflict with their children
- Youth who are chronically truant from school or commit juvenile offenses

Program Philosophy

- By believing in the strength and potential of children and families, clients gain confidence and motivation to overcome obstacles.
- Crisis intervention programs save lives, families and futures.
- Early intervention programs prevent crisis and help develop healthy children and families.
- Long-term involvement helps youth and families deal with chronic crisis to achieve long-term stability.

Average Annual Client Demographics

- More than 10,000 individuals served annually
- 55 percent females, 45 percent males
- Culturally diverse (45 percent Caucasian, 33 percent African-American, 9 percent Hispanic, 13 percent other)

Community Impact and Outcomes

- Stabilizing runaway youth and reuniting them with their families
- Helping older homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency
- Stabilizing children in foster care and reuniting them with their families
- Improving healthy coping behaviors among urban, at-risk youth
- Improving positive relationships with children and families
- High school dropouts securing jobs and re-entering school or GED programs
- Improving social and school success among abuse victims
- Improving behavior and family success among juvenile offenders
- Teaching teen parents effective parenting skills and helping them remain in school
- Fostering successful developmental milestones and early school success for children in low-income families
- Improving parenting skills and family stability among low-income parents

Recognition and Honors

- Youth In Need is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation, recognizing the agency's commitment to and assurance of quality programs.
- The agency is a recipient of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance seal of approval. Receiving this prestigious recognition means that Youth In Need has met 20 rigorous standards of accountability.
- In 2004, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation identified Youth In Need as one of the 20 fastest growing youth service organizations in the United States in a study on successful non-profit growth.
- The St. Charles County Community Council awarded Youth In Need the first-ever Diversity Leadership in 2004.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cited Youth In Need as an "exemplary program."
- The *Ladue News* named Youth In Need as one of three Charities of the Year in 2007.
- National Safe Place chose Youth In Need to be a local provider of its Safe Place program in 2006.
- The agency is a recipient of the United Way of Greater St. Louis' highest possible quality ranking.
- The National Gardening Association recognized Youth In Need's Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden as one of the top 50 new children's gardens in the United States.
- Youth In Need's St. Louis City Head Start Center was recognized by the Dutchtown South Community Corporation for its garden area that has beautified Greater Dutchtown, the neighborhood where the St. Center is located.

To Make a Difference...

- Call the 24-Hour Help Line at 636-946-3771.
- Call Youth In Need's central office at 636-946-5600.
- Visit the Web site at: www.youthinneed.org.