

Youth **Youth Update**



Believing in the power of potential...™

Spring 2008

Capital Campaign Recharges for Final Stage

Youth In Need is poised to move forward to complete its **So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign by August 31, 2008.**



Support Youth In Need's So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign. Your support helps Youth In Need ensure that every child has a bedroom in which to sleep.

The Capital Campaign has been an exciting project for Youth In Need. The \$3.5 million goal is almost complete and efforts to-date have brought Youth In Need closer together as an agency. The new Scheidegger Family Youth In Need Center is fully operational and has allowed the agency to consolidate programs and services into one location. Enhanced by the fantastic Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden, a new ExCEL classroom for Emergency Shelter residents and office and recreational space for Head Start families, the new building has brought the organization together like never before.

When Youth In Need's Board of Directors, campaign leadership and executive staff began looking toward the organization's future while planning for the Capital Campaign several years ago, they agreed that the Campaign must include not only a new central office for the agency, but it also must create an Endowment Fund to sustain the organization into the future. The Endowment Fund allows Capital Campaign donors to give gifts of cash,

securities, deferred gifts and pledges to the organization that then will be held in perpetuity. This is a wonderful way to invest in Youth In Need's future, giving donors another avenue to support the agency's mission through the Campaign.

Whether through gifts to the building fund and renovations or to the Endowment Fund, supporting the So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign is an opportunity to invest in Youth In Need's important work, because when young people believe they have a future, life changes.

For more information about the So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign, visit online at www.youthinneed.org, or call Marissa Pulizzi, Youth In Need's Vice President of Development and Marketing, at 636-946-5600, ext. 254. ■

2008 Celebration of Youth Breaks Another Record

Youth In Need held its 21st annual Celebration of Youth gala on March 15 in the Discovery Ballroom at the new Ameristar Casino Resort Spa.

This year's event honored Brenda and Maurice Newberry, owners of the St. Charles-based The Newberry Group, Inc., and more than 500 community leaders, stakeholders and Youth In Need supporters turned out to celebrate and honor the Newberrys.



2008 Celebration of Youth honorees Maurice and Brenda Newberry at this year's event.

Through the sale of tickets, sponsorships and items purchased in both the live and silent auctions, Youth In Need raised more than \$175,000! The agency raised an additional \$144,000 in pledges for the Missouri State Tax Credit Program at the event. Funds raised will help Youth In Need continue to provide programs and services that help children, teens and families achieve their goals and build a positive future.

Silent and live auction item highlights included airline tickets, sports memorabilia, a bevy of beautiful baskets, a 60-bottle wine cellar collection, fine jewelry, a suite at a Cardinals game and a custom-built dollhouse. Youth In Need also extends a sincere thanks to the Celebration of Youth Cabinet, community members and the Newberrys for making this year's event a great success! ■

National Review Calls Agency Innovative, Creative, Committed

Youth In Need recently participated in its national Council on Accreditation (COA) re-accreditation site visit. Four volunteer peer reviewers visited Youth In Need's programs in order to evaluate the agency for re-accreditation. The re-accreditation process occurs every four years, and Youth In Need has been accredited since 2004.

COA accreditation is a rigorous process, where the agency must meet hundreds of standards of excellence for both administrative practices and programs. Youth In Need submitted a comprehensive self-study to COA in January 2008. This self-study, results of questionnaires and the results of Youth In Need's site visit are all reviewed to ensure the agency's implementation of COA's standards. Meeting these standards and receiving accreditation tells clients, donors and other key stakeholders that Youth In Need is committed to providing the highest quality services.

The reviewers wrapped up their visit with an exit interview and praised Youth In Need for its programs, services and staff. Here are some of the highlights of their comments:

- **Agency:** The agency is innovative, creative and committed. Staff are mission-driven. The level of Board involvement is impressive, and the CEO is well-respected.
- **Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI):** CQI is well-integrated throughout the agency.
- **Emergency Shelter:** The program is very well-preserved as the agency's first program. Youth In Need's emphasis on positive expectations versus rules is unique.
- **Development Department:** Staff practices very ethical fundraising and does great work.
- **Finance Department:** The agency has a very strong history of clean financial audits, which builds trust with staff and in the community.
- **Human Resources Department:** This department is cutting-edge in the non-profit sector.
- **Head Start (East and West):** The program is top-notch and high quality. Cultural diversity is handled so well that it could set a national example.
- **Street Outreach Program:** This is a solid, community-based service with dedicated staff who really understand the community needs.
- **Outclient Counseling:** Youth In Need's model is unique as the strength-based philosophy and respect for clients is absolutely evident.

Finally, the lead reviewer said: "You may have noticed that we have said nothing critical. That's because there was nothing critical to say." Clearly, the agency, staff and programs received rave reviews, and it is something of which Youth In Need is very proud. ■

Have your or your family ever been touched by Youth In Need's services? Would you like to inspire others to reach their potential? To learn more, call April Klutenkamper at 636-946-5600, ext. 200.

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The Scheidegger Family
Youth In Need Center
1815 Boone's Lick Road
St. Charles, MO 63301
P: 636-946-5600
F: 636-946-2900
www.youthinneed.org

24-Hour Help Line: 636-946-3771

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.

Founded in 1974, Youth In Need provides residential treatment, early-childhood, outreach, counseling, educational and employment programs to more than 10,000 children, teens and families at 30 sites in eastern Missouri each year. Youth In Need is accredited by the Council on Accreditation.

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Upon request, individual names may be placed on our mailing list. Please inform us of any address change or correction, or of those individuals who have moved, died or are no longer interested in receiving the newsletter. Please send this information, with the zip code of the previous address, to:

Youth In Need's Development Office
1815 Boone's Lick Road
St. Charles, MO 63301
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Please forward all communications with reference to editorial content to April Klutenkamper, Marketing Director, at 636-946-5600, ext. 200, or aklutenkamper@youthinneed.org.

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A Message from the President & CEO



Jim Braun
President & CEO

Dear Friends:

We sometimes hear people who grew up in an earlier era tell of a slower-paced life, a time when neighbors used to keep an eye on each other's kids far more than happens now. There's no doubt that today's fast-paced life sometimes short-changes children and families. Parents face pressures to work longer hours, take extra jobs to keep up with expenses, juggle responsibilities, spend more time in traffic, all while trying to keep their lives in balance.

Youth In Need was founded 34 years ago to help families whose lives were in such crisis that their teenager ran away from home. We're still helping families and teens who are having severe conflict. In fact, we're providing more crisis counseling and emergency shelter services to children, teens and parents than ever. But Youth In Need also is doing more than ever to help families stay out of crisis and keep their lives in balance.

For example, our Out-of-School Time Program provides supervision and educational activities both before- and after-school for

children in low-income neighborhoods whose parents are working long hours. This program helps children be successful in school while supporting parents who know that their children are safe while they are working so hard to get ahead.

Another way we are helping families keep in balance is with our counseling services. Our team of professional counselors is seeing a record number of families, and in most instances parents and children find they are able to handle their challenges on their own after only a few meetings. We also have increased access to telephone crisis counseling. As parents and teens quickly get help during an immediate concern, a crisis can be prevented from going from bad to worse, and families can get direction about the kind of follow-up help they need.

Our newest program is one that enlists the help of people in the community to help kids who may be in crisis and also to prevent a crisis from developing. Youth In Need is the agency that coordinates Project Safe Place in the greater St. Louis region. Safe Place is a national program that equips people and places in the community with basic knowledge of how to help kids that are in or at-risk of crisis. By agreeing to become a Safe Place location, a business, church or community setting displays the yellow Safe Place logo, and their staff are trained on what to do if they learn that a child or teen may be in an unsafe situation. The training is simple: Make the child comfortable and call Youth In Need, whose professional staff will make sure the situation is resolved

and that the child gets to safety. Youth In Need also provides information to children through presentations at schools and youth groups about Safe Place and how they or their friends can use a Safe Place site to get help.

Project Safe Place was established primarily so that teens who are runaways or victims of abuse or bullying violence can be helped right in their neighborhoods. Through Safe Place, Youth In Need has been able to lead children and teens to safety who otherwise may never have been helped.

But Safe Place also can be the helpful eyes of the community, recreating a bygone era of watchful neighbors. In the past few months, our Safe Place program has helped two children who, through a communication mix-up, were in some distress. In one instance, a young teen walked to a Safe Place site, recognizing the sign and asking for help because his parent did not pick him up as expected. In another situation, a Safe Place site recognized a "lost" child and called Youth In Need. In both instances, Youth In Need staff reassured the children and reached their parents, who were very relieved.

These are just a few of Youth In Need's many efforts to help families with the challenges of raising children in a fast-paced society. As time goes on and with continued support from the community, Youth In Need is committed to continue its mission "...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." ■

Make Your Charitable Gift to Youth In Need Work for You

Youth In Need is grateful for your generous support of the agency's efforts to help children, teens and families reach their fullest potential. Without your support, Youth In Need's successes wouldn't be as great. And because your gift makes a difference to those we serve, we want to ensure that your gift also makes a difference to you.

Do you have a receipt for your charitable gift? The receipt indicates that you did not receive any goods or services in exchange for your gift. Be sure to keep your receipt with your tax records. If you need an additional receipt, contact Youth In Need's Development Office at 636-946-5600.

Does your employer offer a matching gifts program? If your employer offers a matching gifts program, you can effectively double your gift to Youth In Need. And Youth In Need is happy to help you complete the necessary paperwork with your employer.

Is your gift giving you the maximum tax advantages? Youth In Need offers donors an excellent giving opportunity with its Missouri State Tax Credit program. You may apply your charitable donation to your federal and state income tax returns and receive an additional 50 percent Missouri State Tax Credit on gifts of \$100 or more.



Leave a Legacy for Generations to Come

There are several ways to ensure that your charitable gift keeps giving long into the future:

- Join Youth In Need's **Leave a Legacy Society** by including a gift to Youth In Need in your **will or living trust**. Leaving a gift in your will offers an estate tax deduction for the value of the gift. Naming Youth In Need as the beneficiary of assets in a living trust allows you to retain control of your assets and trust during your lifetime. Plus, there are possible estate tax savings.
- Consider a gift through your **retirement account or pension plan**. Normally, these accounts are consumed largely by taxes. However, as a charitable gift, they may allow you to give more to Youth In Need than you thought possible.
- A **life income gift** can be a tax-effective way to provide yourself or someone you designate with regular payments for life.
- Consider a **life insurance gift**. Naming Youth In Need as the owner or beneficiary of a life insurance policy offers you an immediate tax deduction.

Creative charitable giving offers a variety of giving opportunities. It also allows you to honor someone special in your life by leaving a legacy for years to come. Contact Marissa Pulizzi, Youth In Need's Vice President of Development and Marketing, at 636-946-5600, ext. 254, to discuss any of these and other giving opportunities. ■

The above are intended as examples only and not tax or financial planning advice. Youth In Need encourages you to contact your accountant, financial planner or tax advisor when considering the personal benefits and consequences of a planned gift.

Make a Gift Using Tax Credits

Many Youth In Need donors take advantage of Missouri State Tax Credits each year.

This program allows donors to get more for their donation by receiving not only a standard federal and state deduction for their gift, but an additional 50 percent Missouri State Tax Credit.

Because the Missouri State Tax Credit program is so popular with Youth In Need's donors, there is a limited supply of tax credits remaining for 2008. However, you can help Youth In Need obtain additional tax credits by making a charitable donation in June that uses tax credits. ***If Youth In Need can exhaust its current supply of tax credits prior to June 30, 2008, it makes the agency eligible to apply for additional credits for the second half of 2008.*** Obtaining additional tax credits now ensures that credits are available for new donors and year-end gifts in 2008.

Here's what donors are saying about tax credits: "Tax credits give you the opportunity to put your state tax payments to work where you want them," said Jerry Daniels, retired Boeing President and CEO and Immediate Past Chairman of Youth In Need's Board of Directors. "A \$100 gift to Youth in Need reduces your state taxes by more than \$50 and your federal taxes by \$15 to \$35, depending on your tax bracket. So I put my tax payments to work where they do the most good."

Please consider making a donation using tax credits! For more information about tax credits and how they can work for you, please contact Marissa Pulizzi, Youth In Need's Vice President of Development and Marketing, at 636-946-5600, ext. 254. ■

Fitness Program Builds More Than Muscles

A good fitness program offers more than just physical benefits for the teens living in Youth In Need's Transitional Living Program (TLP). It also builds self-esteem and faith that the teens can accomplish their goals.



JC Sibala (left) works one-on-one with a TLP resident on using free weights at the Fifth Street Club Fitness location.

The Fifth Street Club Fitness location in St. Charles has partnered with Youth In Need to offer TLP teens an outlet to improve their health and build self-esteem and confidence at the same time.

Twice a week, TLP teens hit the gym and work out in a group setting and one-on-one with their trainers. JC Sibala, Marketing Director for Dynamic Fitness Management (DFM), a personal training company that sub-contracts its trainers to area gyms, is one of those trainers. When Sibala learned about Youth In Need from former client Laurie Schoenecker, he saw an opportunity to make an impact in the lives of the teens in the agency. (Schoenecker also is one of three volunteer Master Gardeners who designed and implemented Youth In Need's Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden.)

"It took several months to get the program going," Sibala said. "Before you can do a real exercise routine, you should be between the ages of 15 and 16. This program was a great fit for the TLP kids, and it's an opportunity to help build their self-esteem and confidence."

TLP is a group home and scattered-site apartments for homeless teens, ages 16 to 21. In the program, teens learn independent living skills and are encouraged to be involved in an educational program as well as have employment. This, combined with individual and group therapy as well as a life skills component, helps the teens prepare to productively and successfully live on their own after exiting the program.

Since Club Fitness contracts exclusively with DFM to provide trainers to its clients, Sibala is able to work with the teens on Monday afternoons, while another trainer works with the teens on Thursdays. Club Fitness has donated the memberships so the teens can work out in the program.

"Club Fitness is locally owned and our community is why we've grown so much in the last five years," said Brad Bryan, District Manager with Club Fitness. "The community is an integral part of our success. We wouldn't be where we are without the community. Because of that, we try to get involved in as many community and charitable aspects as we can. Club Fitness is the gym for everyone, and this partnership was a great fit for our company."

But not every day is easy. To see Sibala training TLP teens, one would think he's worked with this age group before. And he has—as a youth sports coach. His approach in training kids in the gym is not unlike coaching kids at a sport. He often has to navigate tough days with the kids, gauging their interest and enthusiasm in the work outs. On those days, Sibala meets the kids where they are.

He is intuitive to each kid's personality and what they're going through at the time. He asks how they feel and offers encouragement as they push themselves physically. It's important that when they don't want to work out with the group that they know how to exercise most effectively and be safe while they are doing it.

"There are a lot of times that people don't accomplish their goals, because they don't think they can," Sibala said. "But we work on motivation, and the kids are empowered because they realize they can accomplish the things they set out to do. We wanted to bring that empowerment to kids who may not know what their bodies are capable of."

"When you set a goal, it often parallels other life issues," Sibala continued. "If you stick to it, and reach that one goal, you start to see how you can reach other goals, too."

Youth In Need's staff see what a difference the program has on the kids. "It truly gives them something to do with their time that is positive, active and fun," said Leslie Wiss, Life Skills Specialist for TLP. Furthermore, Wiss believes Sibala is in tune with what the kids need. "JC told me the focus is to improve self-esteem and not just strength building," Wiss said. This tells me he really understands the clients we serve." ■

"There are a lot of times that people don't accomplish their goals, because they don't think they can. But we work on motivation, and the kids are empowered because they realize they can accomplish the things they set out to do."

— JC Sibala, Marketing Director
Dynamic Fitness Management



The Fifth Street Club Fitness in St. Charles donated memberships to Youth In Need's Transitional Living Program so the teens could work out at no cost.

Youth In Need In Brief...

Fox 2 News Home Garden Broadcasts Live from Youth In Need Garden

Fox 2 News and Janis Murray, Home Garden Reporter, broadcast live from Youth In Need's Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden on April 30. The live home garden segment featured planting summer bulbs and involving children in the gardening process. Approximately 20 children from Youth In Need's Head Start program and their parents participated in the live broadcast.

Youth In Need Staff, Board Members, Donors and Volunteers Nominated for Honors Program Awards



Youth In Need staff, board and supporters turn out to congratulate Honors Program award nominees.

Congratulations to Youth In Need staff, board members, donors and volunteers for their Saint Charles Business Magazine Honors Program nominations. This year, the magazine celebrated its third annual Honors Program, which recognizes St. Charles County non-profit executives, employees, board members, volunteers, youth and donors for their community impact. Youth In Need nominees included: Jim Braun, President and CEO; Anita Viehmann, Development Manager – Events; Robin Gramlich, Volunteer; Patricia Hernandez, Board Member; Carl Jung, Board Member; Herb Lesser, Board Member; QuikTrip Corporation, Donor; and Connie and Gene San Filippo, Volunteer.

Long-Time Youth In Need Supporter Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Frank Martinez, a long-time Youth In Need supporter, was honored at the Saint Charles Business Magazine's third annual Honors Program with a Lifetime Achievement Award. When the magazine introduced Martinez to receive his award, the introduction stated that of all of Martinez's involvement in community organizations (and there are many), the one he is most proud of is his involvement with Youth In Need. His award included a \$1,000 donation in his name to the charity of his choice—and he chose Youth In Need!



From left: Charline and Frank Martinez and Jim Braun, Youth In Need's President and CEO.

Youth In Need's President and CEO Receives National Executive Leadership Award of Excellence

The National Network for Youth presented Youth In Need's President and CEO Jim Braun with the 2008 Executive Leadership Award of Excellence on behalf of his work with homeless children and teens. The National Network for Youth gives this award annually to a member organization executive in recognition of significant contributions to the field of youth services consistent with the mission and guiding principles of the National Network. Braun has been working with children and teens since 1971 and has served as Youth In Need's President and CEO for 20 years.

Battle of the Brains Brings Friends to Support Youth In Need



Youth In Need held its fourth annual Battle of the Brains Trivia Night on April 26 at St. Robert Bellarmine Catholic Church in St. Charles. Youth In Need sold 24 tables and raised more than \$4,000 in support of the programs that serve the agency's children, teens and families. Trivia goers also had the opportunity to purchase balloons that held numbers for attendance prizes and 50/50 raffle tickets. For the first time, the event offered three special silent auction items that were up for bid: Tickets to the Indy 500, a Keith Urban-autographed acoustic guitar and autographed St. Louis Cardinals' photos.

Beth Heisse (seated), St. Charles County Head Start Director, buys a balloon from Dakota Hommes. Each balloon held a number that corresponded to a special prize.

Get Your License to Care

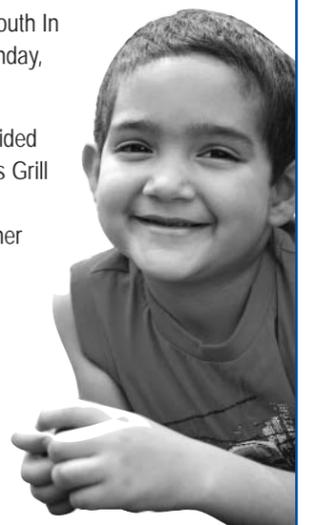
Help prevent child abuse in Missouri by ordering a Children's Trust Fund license plate for your vehicle. Your Children's Trust Fund license plate donations go directly to child abuse prevention programs in your community. Youth In Need has been a recipient of the Children's Trust Fund grant awards since 2000. Since that time, the agency has earned \$21,070 in grant awards. To order your license plate today, call 1-888-826-KIDS.

Tee It Up with Youth In Need

Get out your golf clubs and practice your swing so you can join Youth In Need at its 11th annual Golfing for Youth Benefit Tournament on Monday, August 11, 2008, at Whitmoor Country Club in St. Charles.

The event kicks off at 11:30 a.m. with registration and lunch, provided by Youth In Need's exclusive Principal Corporate Partner Culpeppers Grill & Bar. Golfers will play in a four-person scramble over 18 holes in a competition format. Finish the day with a social hour and drinks, dinner and silent and live auctions, emceed by Fox 2 Meteorologist Glenn Zimmerman. You can enjoy all of this for just \$275 per golfer. Non-golfing guests are welcome, and the cost is \$75.

To learn about sponsorship opportunities, for more information or to register, call 636-946-5600, ext. 253, or visit Youth In Need's Web site at www.youthinneed.org. ■



Youth In Need Dedicates the Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden

Youth In Need officially dedicated its Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden on May 4 with a community celebration and an afternoon filled with fun and free activities for the entire family.

The garden, now in its second year, won an award from the National Gardening Association earlier in the year. The award recognizes Youth In Need's garden as one of the top 50 children's gardens in the country.



Jim Braun, Youth In Need's President and CEO, presents a gift to Deborah Patterson, President of the Monsanto Fund. A lead gift from the Monsanto Fund allowed Youth In Need to build its garden.

Youth In Need's garden got its start when Susan Rentfrow, a local volunteer master gardener, met a Youth In Need staff member at a volunteer fair. Rentfrow wanted to build a small children's garden with just a few raised beds. Luckily, the Monsanto Fund stepped in at about the same time with a \$50,000 contribution to get the garden started. In addition, the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis contributed \$10,000 for the garden's play structure and sand areas. Rentfrow and fellow volunteer master gardeners Judy Wiegand and Laurie Schoenecker collaborated to design and implement the garden's 6,000-square foot landscape design.

Their design includes:

- A three-tiered koi pond with waterfalls
- A gazebo
- A hand-painted tee-pee
- Compost bins and vegetable beds
- A vine tunnel

- Butterfly bushes
- A play structure and sand area
- More than 100 plants, trees and shrubs

It's expected that the garden will serve approximately 1,500 of Youth In Need's children and teens each year. An age-specific curriculum will engage children of all ages in learning about plant life, agriculture and taking care of the Earth. Likewise, the curriculum will guide Youth In Need's teachers in how to integrate the garden into their classroom lessons. Specifically, the outdoor classroom allows children to experience hands-on learning about plant, insect and small bird life, as well as grow garden produce.



From left: Judy Wiegand, Master Gardener; Anita Viehmann, Development Manager - Events; Susan Rentfrow, Master Gardener; Jim Braun, President and CEO; Laurie Schoenecker, Master Gardener; Marissa Pulizzi, Vice President of Development and Marketing; and Fran Ventimiglia, Board Member.

Throughout the afternoon, guests enjoyed educational presentations about butterflies and frogs from Tom Terrific and Sage Rentfrow. Grandmother Coyote told stories around the tee-pee, and children enjoyed face painting, garden crafts, games and a rabbit and turtle petting zoo.

Youth In Need's dedication included special remarks from President and CEO Jim Braun, presentation of gifts to Monsanto and Ronald McDonald House representatives, a closing song from children in Youth In Need's Head Start program and the release of 100 butterflies into the garden's landscape. In addition, a representative from Congressman W. Todd Akin's office attended to share the Congressman's well-wishes in a statement. He wrote, "It is my privilege, as a Representative of Missouri's Second Congressional District, to commend Youth In Need for its foresight in planning and initiating construction of the Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden. This new facility demonstrates this organization's strong commitment to provide quality education and care for the needs of a vigorously growing community."

Throughout the afternoon, guests enjoyed educational presentations about butterflies and frogs from Tom Terrific and Sage Rentfrow. Grandmother Coyote told stories around the tee-pee, and children enjoyed face painting, garden crafts, games and a rabbit and turtle petting zoo.



Tom Terrific (left) educates a group about butterflies. He used several live plants which held butterfly eggs.

Youth In Need extends special thanks to the following individuals and organizations who helped make the dedication a success: Baue Funeral Homes, Edy's Ice Cream, Duchesne Key Club, Susan Rentfrow, Judy Wiegand, Laurie Schoenecker, El-Mel, Manhattan Catering, Waste Management, Windsor Crossing Youth Group, Delta Zeta of Lindenwood University and Kraft/Nabisco. ■



Left: A young boy climbs the garden's play structure, funded by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis.

Above: A colorful garden sign hangs above the garden's arbor entrance. The sign incorporates many child-like garden images.

Youth In Need Celebrates National Safe Place Week

Youth In Need celebrated National Safe Place Week March 16-22, 2008, a time for Safe Place programs across the country to recognize the countless volunteers, businesses and civic organizations that make Safe Place possible. Youth In Need celebrated the week with several milestones, maximizing the opportunity for outreach and community education.



24-Hour Help Line. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/nationalsafeplace> to see the advertisement.

On March 19, Youth In Need celebrated National Safe Place Week with the agency's first annual National Safe Place Week Open House at the Emergency Shelter. Representatives from St. Louis area Safe Place sites, including QuikTrip Corporation, schools, regional fire departments and supporting non-profit organizations assembled for lunch and tours of the Emergency Shelter. There was also a presentation by Youth In Need's President and CEO Jim Braun, St. Charles City Mayor Patti York, Community and Children's Resource Board of St. Charles County Executive Director Bruce Sowatsky and QuikTrip representative Doug Finklang.

"I am amazed and proud of all the ways our community supports children and teens," said Mayor York. "Certainly, St. Charles City, as well as the greater St. Louis region, is safer because of Safe Place."

The presentation concluded by unveiling the winning entries of the Safe Place poster contest. The winning high school poster was designed by Orchard Farm High School senior Kiarra Smith. The winning middle school entry was designed by a Youth In Need Emergency Shelter resident.

In honor of the National Safe Place 25th Anniversary, a second Web site now is available for youth service professionals and other caring adults. Safety Net for Youth is a blog with eight youth service professionals nationwide contributing, and is a collaborative effort for discussion and communication about the at-risk teen population.

"Safety Net for Youth provides an open forum to build community, share information and educate the public about the issues facing America's youth in need." Visit www.safetynetforyouth.org to learn more about the issues affecting the nation's children, teens and families. Contributors encourage participation from those visiting the site, and hope for your input to the discussion topics, issues and questions posed. ■



From left: Orchard Farm High School Assistant Principal Greg Jones, Orchard Farm High School Principal Brian Smith, high school poster contest winner Kiarra Smith and Jim Braun, Youth In Need's President and CEO. The poster will be used in Safe Place marketing efforts in 2008.



Youth In Need held a poster contest with area elementary and high school students to publicize National Safe Place week. The above is the first place artwork, created by Kiarra Smith, a senior at Orchard Farm High School.

Youth In Need held a Safe Place poster contest for eastern Missouri middle and high school students. Area teens submitted designs related to the theme: Safe Place: Where Kids Get Help... FAST! Winning entries will be featured in Safe Place marketing throughout 2008. In addition, employees at select Safe Place sites wore Safe Place stickers during the week to raise awareness and emphasize Safe Place partnerships.

The National Safe Place office in Louisville, Ky., purchased movie theater advertising in select markets, including two St. Louis-area theaters, to run the week of and following National Safe Place Week. The ads featured National Safe Place's newly launched teen Web site, www.safeforceforteens.com, where teens can access Youth In Need's Web site, resources and

"I am amazed and proud of all the ways our community supports children and teens. Certainly, St. Charles City, as well as the greater St. Louis region, is safer because of Safe Place."

— St. Charles Mayor Patti York

Brick Purchases, Memorials and Tributes

Youth In Need gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations that have purchased an engraved brick in the Monsanto Fund Discovery Garden at Youth In Need. Bricks purchased after May 8, 2008, will be recognized in the next issue of Youth Update. If you'd like to purchase an engraved brick, please contact Youth In Need's Development Office at 636-946-5600, ext. 253.

In addition, Youth In Need gratefully acknowledges the following memorials and tributes. Memorial and tribute gifts given after April 30, 2008, will be recognized in the next issue of Youth Update. We have made every attempt to list names accurately. We regret any errors or omissions. If your name is in error, please contact Youth In Need's Development Office at development@youthinneed.org.

Brick Purchases

Absolute Landscaping, Inc.
Aktion Club of St. Charles Kiwanis
Mr. and Mrs. Brett Hodson
Mr. and Mrs. William Oran
Mr. and Mrs. Jas Topalbegovic
Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Wiegand

In Memory Of...

Andrew Enger

62 Sports Group
Ms. Carol Ann Brown
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Castellano
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cebulski
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cole
Mr. and Mrs. David M. Dickerson
Mr. Michael DiNapoli
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Enger
Mr. and Mrs. George Farrar
Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Fox
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Horak
The Ray and Peggy Klobe Family
Mr. and Mrs. Tom McIntyre
Mr. and Mrs. James Mudd
Cynthia L. Nouri, D.M.D., P.C.
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Schmidt
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Strouth
The Wiesehans

Kimberly Glus

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Dozier
Mr. and Mrs. William MacIntosh
Mr. and Mrs. Darryl Pope

Marie Griffin

Mr. and Mrs. Eliot Asyre

Colin Hopson

Ms. Wendy Kambarian
Ms. Gwen Westbrooks

Patricia Irwin

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 312
American Legion Post 312
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Bell Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Tony Benskin
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Bruns
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Cole
Mr. and Mrs. George Colombatto
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Goodnick
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Grove
Mr. Charles Heitmann
Mr. and Mrs. R. Gene Irwin
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Messner
Ms. Clara Sander
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Shatro
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sherman
Mr. and Mrs. Bernie Worful

Mr. Lampin

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Drakesmith

Herbert Wappelhorst

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Glosier

In Honor Of...

Lisa Dinga

Community Service Public Relations Council

Frank Martinez

St. Charles Business Magazine



Pam Henderson is a member and organizer of **Girlfriends for Good**, a group of friends who regularly support Youth In Need through volunteer efforts and donation drives. Henderson recently answered a few questions about why she and her friends are so committed to Youth In Need.

How did your group get its start?

We have been friends for a long time. Several of us went to high school together. Years ago, a member of our group had a son who became very ill when he was 6-months-old. He was treated at Cardinal Glennon Hospital. In the process, our friend learned about all the things the hospital needed but didn't have. That's how our group got its start. We did a dance to benefit Cardinal Glennon. We drew on our strengths and asked people for donations. Another friend in the group had a son with Down syndrome, and we split the money we raised between Cardinal Glennon and another organization. As our group grew, it became too hard to continue the work. People were involved in other causes, too, and individually we each do our own things. But I moved away and our group work stopped.



Photo courtesy of Michael Schlueter

Members of Girlfriends for Good at Youth In Need's 2007 Thanks for Giving donor and volunteer recognition reception. The group received the Distinguished Group Volunteer Service Award.

How did you first become involved with Youth In Need?

My mother-in-law was honored as a volunteer of the year. [In 2006, Youth In Need honored Becky Henderson with the Distinguished Individual Volunteer Service Award at its Thanks for Giving volunteer and donor recognition reception.] I was awed by the outpouring of love from Youth In Need. Even though individuals were being honored, there was no ego involved, and I was so impressed. Shortly after that, I contacted everyone in the group to tell them about Youth In Need. I told them that we had to get involved with Youth In Need. Everyone was on board for beginning our work again. So, we decided not to do our usual gift exchange in December. Instead, everyone brought a check for Youth In Need.

What kinds of things does Girlfriends for Good do?

We hadn't done anything like this in so long, and most of us have grown kids. So, it just seemed natural to do something like this again. We did a happy hour baby shower and a school supply drive where we got together and everyone brought an item. Then we did a can drive at a local school. We had a spa party, and everyone brought a personal care or baby item. Everyone was very generous, and it was cool to see how much we collected. We tried a monthly activity, where everyone was responsible for a month of buying baby wipes and things like that. This year, when we did our Christmas party, we started talking about the Shelter and how miserable it must be for a child to celebrate his or her birthday away from home. We decided that we would start a birthday club so we could supply gift cards for the house to buy a cake, decorations and a gift. We just wanted to give the kids a little celebration and the feeling that they are important. The bottom line with our group is that we have fun and do a good thing, too. Everyone wants to do something good, but not everyone can donate a lot of money or time. But with this, we can make a difference. Our baby shower was great because not everyone who participated was part of our group. When you see everyone together and what the group is capable of doing with their contribution, it's great!

How did you come up with a name for your group?

Everyone in the group submitted suggestions, and then the group voted on their favorite.

How big is your group?

There are about 15 people involved. We don't see everyone all of the time because we're spread out in the area. We always try to do dinner and celebrate milestones with each other. It's pulled some women back into the group more often.

Is your group involved with other charities this way?

Right now, we just do this for Youth In Need. We've all agreed that we'll stay with Youth In Need because it does so much.

What's the best part about what your group does for Youth In Need?

The greatest part about Youth In Need is that you can feel the magic every time you walk in the door. You just have a feeling that it's right. God is at work here. Our friendship makes it great, but we know that we're doing something good for kids and families. We can have fun but we know we're doing something for a good cause. It's the best of both worlds. We feel we are blessed, but we know that there are families who need some help. And it's great to do it as a group of friends.

Is there anything you want to add?

One woman in the group regularly e-mails Oprah [Winfrey] to talk about the group and Youth In Need's work. We keep thinking it would be great if we could get Youth In Need a big check from Oprah. Even though she's had no response, she's determined to keep Oprah updated on what we're doing. ■

Youth In Need Believes in "Putting Kids First"

Following the successful lead of St. Charles, Lincoln and Jefferson Counties and St. Louis City, Putting Kids First is working to get a sales tax initiative on the November 2008 ballot for St. Louis County voters.

A 1/4 cent increase in the St. Louis County sales tax rate (only one cent per \$4) will raise approximately \$40 million to provide the care St. Louis County children and teens need. The funds generated will be used solely for children in St. Louis County.

Half a million families in St. Louis County are falling through the cracks. Reduced local funding for mental health services and state deficits and cutbacks have left thousands of children and families with nowhere to turn for help. The Putting Kids First initiative will address the child abuse, neglect, substance abuse and mental health issues that are impacting the lives of nearly half the children in the community.

A group of non-profit agencies serving children and families in St. Louis County initiated the campaign. These agencies witnessed that many children's needs were not being met due to lack of funding. The group of providers commissioned a needs assessment to quantify the unmet needs for mental health services in St. Louis County. The assessment revealed that:

- More than 12,000 St. Louis County children and teens in need of services were going without help.
- More than 151,000 children and teens were not receiving beneficial school-based prevention programs.
- The unmet mental health and substance abuse needs of St. Louis County children and teens were impacting 495,162 St. Louis County families.

If you live in St. Louis County, please help get this proposition on the November ballot! Tell your family and friends about the children and teens who need their help. Visit www.stlcokidsfirst.org to learn more about how you can sign a petition today. Also, if you would like to support this initiative by making a financial contribution to the effort, please make your check payable to Putting Kids First, c/o Lutheran Family and Children's Services; mail to 8631 Delmar, St. Louis, MO 63124 and write "Youth In Need" on the memo line of your check. ■

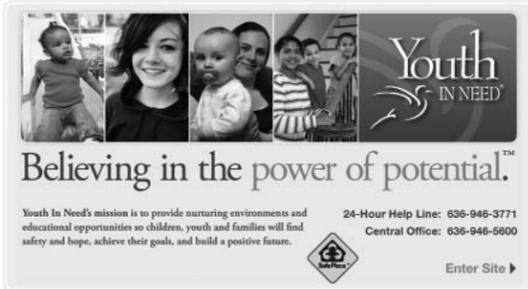


Youth In Need to Launch New Web Site

Youth In Need will launch its new Web site on June 6. The Web site will further enhance Youth In Need's ability to connect with the increasingly wide-spread number of clients the organization serves throughout St. Louis City and County and St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery Counties in Missouri.

Site features include a more-inviting appearance with updated graphics; a reorganization of information to make services easily accessible and identifiable to clients; customized tip sheets, specifically for children and teens; and an Intranet to unite Youth In Need's 300-plus staff. Visitors also have an opportunity to make a secure online donation to Youth In Need via the new Web site. In addition, the site offers a content management system, which allows Youth In Need to make changes and updates to the site from any computer with Internet access. The redesign of Youth In Need's site is funded by an AT&T Excelsior competitive technology grant from The AT&T Foundation.

In addition, guests who visit the site and register their e-mail address and contact information will be entered into a drawing to win tickets to an upcoming St. Louis Cardinals game. Be sure to visit the new site on June 6 to enter. ■



Sneak peek: Youth In Need's new Web site has a simple entry page to provide visitors with the agency's 24-Hour Help Line and access to Safe Place information.

St. Louis City Head Start Celebrates Week of the Young Child



Youth In Need's St. Louis City Head Start program celebrated the Week of the Young Child by holding a different activity every day of the week. One activity was a fieldtrip to Youth In Need's Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden. The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration that focuses public attention on the needs of young children and their families. ■

2008 Corporate Partners Make a Difference

Youth In Need's 2008 Corporate Partners raised a record-breaking \$109,000 in support of the children, teens and families Youth In Need serves. Youth In Need gratefully acknowledges its 2008 Partners, who generously support the agency's programs through its annual Celebration of Youth and Golfing for Youth benefits. Together, we believe in the power of potential.

Principal Partner



Champion Partners



Guardian Partners



Trustee Partners



Patron Partners



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24-Hour Help Line: 636-946-3771
www.youthinneed.org

