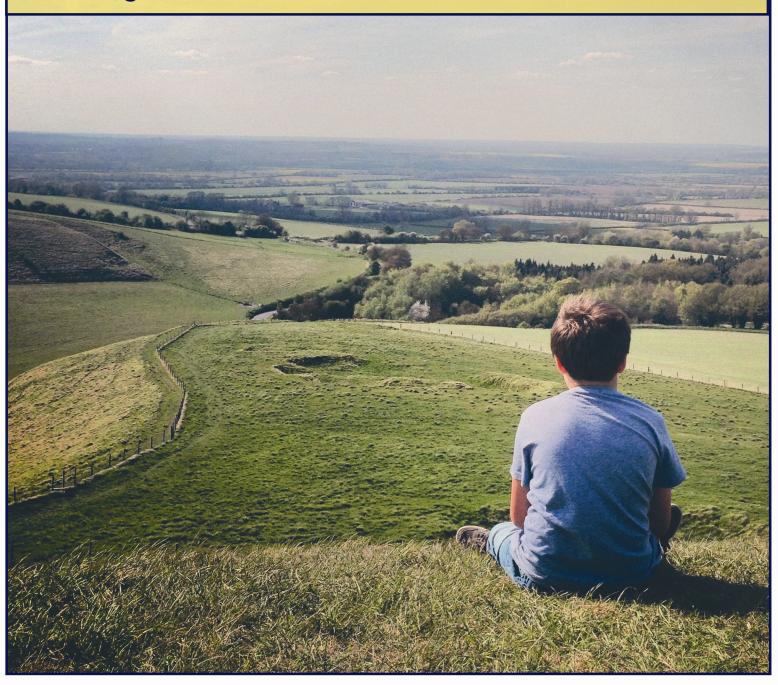




Youth Services System, Inc. **FY 2015 Annual Report**

www.YouthServicesSystem.org





To create better futures for children, families, and our community.

In our 41st year of service to the community, we want to share more than numbers, we want you to understandwhy our work is important-to the children we serve, to their families, and to you. We are sharing some of their stories with you.

Our work stretches the horizons for each child to move from crisis to stability to a future that is open to growth, learning and achievement.

Youth Services System, Inc. 304

304-233=9627

87 15th Street, PO Box 6041

1-800-977-8918 Toll Free

Wheeling, WV 26003-0717

www.youthservicessystem.org

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Fiscal Year 2015—July 1, 2014 — June 30, 2015

Annual report published with grant funding.

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

"Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted"

-Albert Einstein

With great pride and privilege we present to you our annual report. It represents snapshots of accomplishments, introduces you to the good people that shared their time, talent, and treasure with us, and most important it captures the voice of our kids in their own words.

Their stories count!

Some of their stories echo years of pain, trust betrayed and abandonment. Other stories are like a confession of bad choices, regrets and missed opportunities. Most difficult to hear are stories of despair. When children are convinced they have little worth, a dismal future,

that they don't really count, we have to patiently listen and respond.

Giving hope where there was none, creating promising opportunities when successes seemed out of reach, teaching useful skills that merit better outcomes is what our work is about.

Our kids are not clients, patients, or consumers. They are our community's children worthy of every ounce of our energy, creativity, and commitment.

One of the privileges for many of us that have dedicated decades of time here

with kids is their visits. We learn that most of our kids, now adults, are doing well. A relatively universal expression of gratitude is distilled in one statement "you didn't give up on me".

I am proud and privileged to be in the company of fellow staff who don't give up on kids.

I am proud and privileged to be in the company of a growing family of supporters who love our kids, who share their wisdom, give of their precious time, and dig deep into their pockets to sustain our efforts.

On behalf of all the kids, the families and the needy we are so privileged to serve, thank you.

John Moses

Youth Services System, Inc.

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Zak Zatezalo

Supporting YSS—My Story

By Marc Abraham, YSS Board Chair

I donate to YSS because I have seen how hard this organization works for young people and because they know how to stretch a buck. I don't mean by being cheap—taking care of kids doesn't mean cutting corners. The staff all do the right things by the kids we serve, but working smarter can, and does, save money.

As an accountant, I know about taxes and I have to commend West Virginia's Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP). Youth Services System, Inc. participates in this program that allows them to offer West Virginia tax credits to those who can donate \$500, or more. The West Virginia tax credit is equal to one half (50%) of the value of the gift.

I made a major gift to YSS this year—\$25,000. However, after the NIP tax credit (\$12,500) lowered my West Virginia taxes <u>and</u> deducting the gift from my federal taxes, that gift cost me \$10,000. If you gave \$500, received a NIP Tax Credit and deducted your gift on your federal return, your cost might be around \$200.

I said when I made my gift, it was selfish, and it was. It made me feel great to help an organization that works with young people day in and day out. For anyone who can make a larger gift—\$500 or more, the same is true—you can feel good about yourself, and at the end of the day, it didn't cost as much as you might think.

I know that everyone who gives to YSS cares about the youth, the family, or the homeless person who will be helped whether they give needed supplies, equipment, or money. But doesn't it make you feel good too?

Thank you for supporting YSS and our work.

George Smoulder—31 Years of Service on YSS Board

George Smoulder has served on the YSS Board since 1984, most recently as Vice Chair and as the Chair of the Finance Committee. The June Board meeting was his last as a member of our Board.

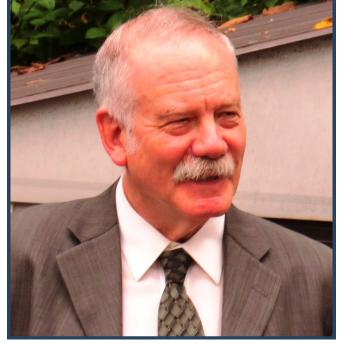
His service as a volunteer Board member has been exemplary. We appreciate George Smoulder for this and for all of the great things he has done for Youth Services System and in his own work, for our community. Thanks, George!

Youth Services System FY2015 Expenses

YSS Staff Wages, taxes, benefits \$5,815,017

Facility & Program Costs \$2,720,172

Total FY2015 Costs: \$8,535,189



Highlights of FY2015 (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015)

- ♦ August 7, 2014: Celebrate Youth 2014 takes place at Wheeling Park with over 6000 parents, youth, and children attending. James G. Bordas and Linda Bordas are honored as the YSS Board's 2014 Good Samaritans.
- ♦ <u>September 2014</u>: The Northern Regional Juvenile Center was renamed as the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center in honor of YSS' first executive director. Ron Mulholland was an advocate for children and youth and he worked closely with the WV Supreme Court to reform the state's juvenile justice system. The Ronald C. Mulholland Center is the state's only private juvenile detention and correction center.
- ♦ November 7 2014: The Wheeling SleepOut takes over Lisa's Field at the I-470 Ballfields, raising \$31,000 from the work of many participating teams and over 200 individuals.
- ♦ <u>December 2014:</u> Youth Services System, Inc. hires Patrick J. (PJ) Reindel as the agency's Chief Operating Officer.

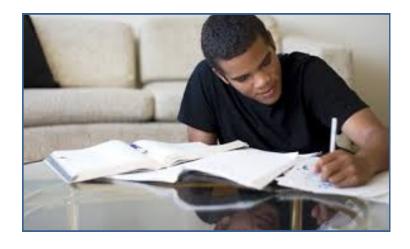


- March 2015: Noble Energy supports Marshall County's Energize Our Youth after-school program at McNinch Elementary School in Moundsville. Noble made a video about this program which is operated by YSS' Community Child Care. This video was shared in the company's quarterly corporate report. It featured activities from the program and parents expressing their support. Posted on the YSS Facebook page, the video received over 2000 views. See it at https://vimeo.com/118078145
- March 19,2015 Soup Social celebrating the volunteers and supporters who make the Winter Freeze Shelter possible. Rhonda Lindsay and Chris Mullett from Clarksburg's successful 100,000 Homes campaign shared their success in housing the chronically homeless.
- May 2015: New Youth Services System, Inc. website went live. www.youthservicessystem.org has information about services, staff, available jobs, and surveys for parents of children in our care.
- May 7, 2015: Orrick's Wheeling office hosted a global meeting of Information Technology (IT) managers and these visitors volunteered with Youth Services System for the day, helping with a range of needed tasks.
- ♦ <u>June 20 2015</u>: Challenge Wheeling, presented by Carpet Showcase Flooring Center, and benefitting Youth Services System, was a resounding success in its second year with over 120 people participating this year.



Orrick's Wheeling office hosted a meeting of the firm's Information Technology managers from their worldwide operations. They spent a day working with Youth Services System as volunteers.

FY2015 Services



Youth Shelter & Residential Programs

YSS serves youth in five different programs at 6 sites.

<u>Samaritan House</u> and <u>Helinski Shelter</u> provided emergency services. Our shelters served 138 young men and women.

Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center is a detention center for youth accused of a crime and girls who have been found delinquent and are committed to state custody. In FY 2015, the Mulholland Center had 130 youth in detention and 21 girls committed to state care.

The <u>Youth Achievement Center (YAC)</u> works with 8-17 year old males with intellectual delays and disabilities (IDD) and other behavioral issues. YAC had 10 youth in their care during the past year.

<u>McCrary Center</u> and the <u>Tuel Transitional Training Center</u> served 59 youth and young adults in our Transitional Living Program.

Our residential programs served 358 youth in FY2015.



Serving Children, Youth and their Families

During our past fiscal year, Youth Services System served **2163** children, youth and families with our services.

Youth in Action!, our employment and training program throughout the Northern Panhandle worked with <u>140</u> new youth and did follow-up with <u>43</u> more young participants.

Our **Living Skills** program had <u>228</u> youth building on their existing skills to be ready for their future at work, in school, and in life.

We worked with <u>84</u> families, including 24 in Marshall County offering in-home services, support for positive parenting practices, and safety services for children.

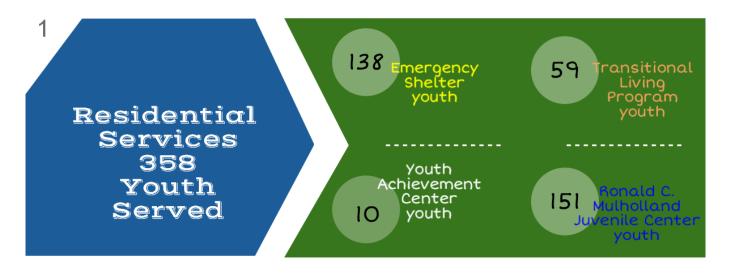
YSS Professional Services took <u>1027</u> referrals, requests for services and information, and for comprehensive family and child assessments.

Our Intensive Outpatient Program for substance abuse worked with <u>52</u> youth and **YSS outpatient therapy services** served another <u>70</u> young people.

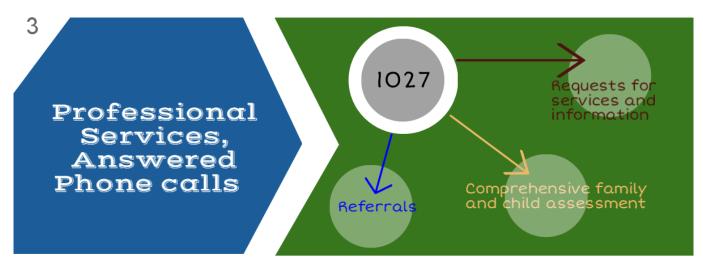
Community Child Care's before and after school program at Elm Grove Elementary School in Ohio County served 120 students and the Energizing Our Youth Program based at McNinch Elementary School in Marshall County had 41 students.

2163 Youth Served

Residential, Community and Outpatient, and Professional Services June 30, 2014 - July 1, 2015







Emergency Shelters fro

From a youth at Helinski Shelter. She will be joining our Transitional Living Program as she moves forward with her life.

A shelter? What comes to mind? ... I have been to many shelters, and thankfully, Helenski is my last. ... When I came, I was an angry person, and it wasn't a once and awhile thing, it was every day. I would get so angry about things so small. For instance, my food was touching. So simple, right, not even a big deal to most people. Then again, I am not most people. Trying to find coping skills was hard, and I mean, really hard...

That is where I met YSS staff. At first, I was not open to try anything due to not having a coping skill. That was almost six months ago, and guess what? I have coping skills now and I'm not mad at the world.

...when I first got here I had no hope, felt like I was a failure. I thank the good Lord above, everyday for finally having hope. Now I have people that care about me! They may not be blood, but they are family. YSS is my family, they gave me hope. ...

YSS is my hero! Helenski is my home and nothing will ever change that. ... The future is up to me. You can be and do whatever you want, you just need family to support you. I am almost eight-teen and I have matured a lot. I am still trying to find my way in life. Helenski saved me, helped me want to make my dreams come true. I want to be the best that I can be. So thank you YSS staff, Margo, and John Moses.

God bless!



Youth Services System established Samaritan House in 1974. We have ensured that emergency shelter was available for youth here facing crisis. That crisis might be neglect, violence, or abuse in the home where the legal authorities need for the child to leave. It may be that as a result of conflict or issues in the household, the child has left their home and needs a safe place where they can stay.

Emergency shelters are that place. Just as an emergency room is ready for any kind of health problem, so too are Samaritan House and Helinski Shelter for children in need.

The jarring effect of crisis tells us that being available and being concerned for the child is the start of our understanding of their pain. Just as important, we know that emotions that we see may be the tip of a deeper iceberg. Anger may hide fear. Silence may be the only way to avoid screaming. We care for each child knowing this to be true.

Samaritan House and Helinski Shelter are a gateway to help. Youth Services System works to ensure that each youth in our shelters receives the care they need.

Emergency youth shelters help in crisis, but the end result for children is a better home, support to meet their specialized needs, and the opportunity to succeed in school and in life.

In fact, for most of those we see at Samaritan House and Helinski Shelter, there is a positive ending. With new skills, better understanding, and support, a youth can return to a home that is welcoming. Some may go to receive specialized care and treatment. Receiving the attention and focus of our trained staff, each youth moves forward to resolving their crisis.



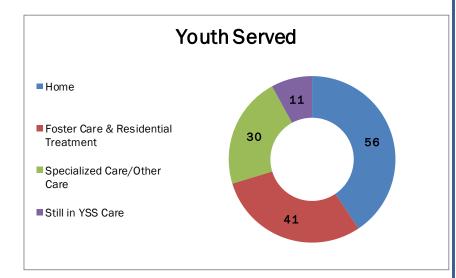
Anthony J. Habbit from Wesbanco announcing that Youth Services System was awarded funds from the Robinson S. Parlin Trust for Samaritan House. Samaritan House was built in 1983 as an emergency youth shelter. The Parlin gift of \$5000 is a start for the roughly \$40,000 project which will replace a 30 year old boiler and ductwork and give the facility both heat and air conditioning.

We are grateful for their support. With the support of others in the community, we plan to have this project completed by late spring, 2016. A stay at Samaritan House or Helinski Shelter may be brief. Here is a letter from a pregnant girl about her stay at Helinski Shelter:

Staff:

I know I have only been here for a week, but I just wanted to say thank you guys so much for welcoming me here, putting a roof over my head, food in my stomach, not only for me, but for my baby. Thanks for taking me to my dentist appointment, my doctor appointment. It all means the world to me. It really does. Thank you guys so much for making me feel welcome. Though I was here for only a week, most of you guys have already made memories with me like singing as a family on our way home, crying with me, laughing with me, going out and just having a good time. ...Just Thank you for giving me your time and caring for me.

Leaving Helinski and Samaritan House:



When children leave our Emergency Shelters, where do they go?

Most (56) go home, some (41) will go to foster care or a residential program.

Others (30) go to specialized care facilities

Eleven (11) youth remained in our shelters on June 30, 2015 the close of our fiscal year.

For Helinski Shelter and Samaritan House, this chart shows their destinations .

Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center:

Every day is a new day

By Linda Scott, RCMJC Director

The Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center operates two secure programs :

- 1) Juvenile detention is a short-term co-ed program for youth awaiting judgment in the juvenile justice system.
- 2) For females who have been placed into the care of the Division of Juvenile Services as a result of their court proceedings, we have a commitment program that serves them.

Every resident of the Mulholland Center is treated with respect—the past is the past. We work with every resident believing each day is a new day.

Residents receive services: year-round education, medical care, therapeutic services, religious services, art therapy, music lessons, and nutrition classes.

To keep connected to loved ones, family dinners are held monthly, a tradition for the past 23 years—over 25,000 family members have attended. Starting four years ago, family members are invited for a weekly family fun night to create crafts, play games and watch movies together with their child.

- During 2014-15, five residents received high school diplomas. Twelve more residents passed their high school equivalency exams.
- As a way of serving and connecting to others, residents make greeting cards for long-term residents of the Peterson Rehabilitation Hospital. Each month they make 75 cards and they enjoy receiving thanks for this work.
- Residents crocheted blankets and pillows for babies and for veterans at the Ohio Valley Medical Center.
- Interns from Wheeling Jesuit University and West Liberty University work with groups of residents. Both the interns and our residents benefit from this.
- ♦ The Wheeling YWCA holds a domestic violence group twice a month.
- River Hills Christian Church, Cincinnati Ohio, conducts two vacation Bible schools every year.



Letter from a resident

Coletta Srbrockey is a much loved member of the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center staff. She received this letter from one of our departing residents.

Dear Ms. Coletta YAYA,

Hey it's me. First I want to start off by saying thank you for everything you do, like listening to my problems, letting me call on you...I trust you a lot. Thank you, that means a lot to me to have someone there that cares about me. Well I have been here for a year now and its time for me to leave. I am going to miss you so much. I care about you YAYA. I will write to you and maybe I might find a way up here to visit you. I love you YAYA.

I appreciate you. You are a great person. Always stay strong and never forget to smile. I will keep my word to you and be successful. Never forget me...! love you.

LOVE

Youth Achievement Center

Youth Achievement Center is YSS's residential treatment program for young men from 12-17 who have an intellectual disability or delay (IDD) and another emotional health problem. This is one of only four programs in West Virginia working with these youth.

The Youth Achievement Center (YAC) works with each youth individually to understand their needs and to build a plan for their successful return to the community and to their family. Using Positive Behavior Support, YAC staff work with schools, organizations like Special Olympics, and many others to give each one the opportunity to show their potential.

In August 2015, YAC moved to their newly repurposed center at 110 North York Street, Wheeling, leaving their original location at the Children's Home of Wheeling. The photo below shows the ribbon-cutting for the new Youth Achievement Center.

Special Olympics & our youth

Every year the Special Olympics assemble to give children with special needs the opportunity to shine along side their community and peers. When the children of the Youth Achievement Center stepped off the bus after returning from the Special Olympics Games, they were glowing from their experience.

You may think I'm referring to the medals they had draped around their shoulders, but in fact, it was the pride and accomplishment radiating in their eyes. Coach Gary Dietz and Coach Jon Berardinelli invested themselves in coaching this Special Olympics team which included our youth. Coaches and youth alike enjoyed the success of the team.

When they saw the Youth Achievement Center staff awaiting their return, all of them had great big smiles and unbridled excitement. Without hesitation they ran up to staff to tell about their adventures. Many of them said that they had never felt so welcomed by anyone anywhere in their lives. This is the camaraderie and compassion that we work tirelessly to instill in the youth in our care and in the community that supports them. Thanks Coach Dietz and Coach Berardinelli for your work with them.



Taking part in the ribbon-cutting from the left, Board members Emily S. Fisher, Christie Contraguerro, Ed Corbit, Ron Klug, Dennis Madama, Special Olympics Coach Gary Dietz, Sam Kelley YAC, Special Olympics Coach Jon Berardinelli, and Board member Phil Redford who served as Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Transitioning to the Future

Imagine being 17 years old, with no family to help you plan or support your next steps. For too many youth, leaving foster care, means finding themselves at risk of being homeless. Youth Services System has worked with these older youth for more than 30 years. With support, these youth will take steps to a better life.

Youth from 17-21 benefit from the 3 Phase Transitional Living Program. As they are discharged from foster care, this program gives them tools for their future. These youth work towards finishing their basic education, higher education and training, learning the skills they need to be independent adults, and finding a job to begin their work history.

These older youth often begin at the Tuel Transitional Center in New Martinsville, getting needed personal documents and learning basic skills like budgeting, meal planning and preparation. In Phase 2 at McCrary Center on Wheeling Island, these youth live in their own apartment with ongoing training and support.

In the final phase of Transitional Living, youth find an apartment and live on their own in the community. We continue to guide them as they move to total independence. 30 youth began their experience at Tuel during FY2015. Another 20 youth stayed at McCrary Center. Nine more were living in the community in Phase III of their transition.

With the skills and experience they develop, these youth go on to be independent members of the community. Transitional Living gives them the strong foundation they need for their future.



Shakea's Story

Shakea had been in foster care since she was about three years old. Some of her foster care placements had not gone well. Shakea ran away from one of them, spending time living on her own, on the streets. She is a strong young woman with a mind of her own.

She came to our Transitional Living Program and began her journey to adulthood. After nearly a lifetime in foster care, the program rules seemed to rub her the wrong way. She wanted to be in charge now. She left the program, headed to Columbus.

Fast forward a couple of months, Shakea has had a tough time getting started on her own. She experienced a lot negative things around her, and she doesn't want to live a life where drugs violence and early parenthood enter into her life.

Shakea contacted YSS and shared what she had experienced. Could she get another opportunity to join Transitional Living, gain education and skills? We said "yes".

Shakea is now working hard, as a student on her TASC high school equivalency exam. WV Northern Community College is her next step. She has shared her story with her fellow program participants as a way of reminding them of the value of the program.

YSS' Transitional Living Program recognizes that decision-making is an important skill. Participants learn skills to help them weigh decisions, looking at the pros and cons of different choices. Shakea continues to make decisions and learn from them. She is making real progress towards her future goals.

Community-Based Services—Bringing care to where it is needed



Youth Services System serves children and their families in the community. By connecting skilled workers to those who need their services, crises can be avoided. Here is one story:

Janine and her son needed help. Adam is six years old and he had been diagnosed with autism. Our worker helped Janine using STEP, the Systematic Training for Effective Parenting, as a guide to help her improve her skills as Adam's mom.

Our worker also showed her online resources for parents dealing with the day to day life with a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder as an additional resource. Janine appreciated having our worker 's support and advice. Our worker connected her to other local services and a support group.

During her visits to their home, the YSS worker noticed that Adam was interacting more. He had gone from ignoring our worker, to making eye contact and conversation. Janine noticed this too, not just with the YSS worker, but with other visitors to the home. Adam's mother believed that the knowledge she had gained from our work with her and from the school's new services with Adam had been the key.

At the end of our time with Janine, she was seeking additional services for her son. She could see that Adam was making progress and feeling confident about their future.

On the right is a photo of the Junior League of Wheeling members who spent a Saturday in April redoing our Family Visitation room. Thanks to those who made this possible: left to right: Heather Monk, Abby Monk, Lori Kenamond, Kelly Bettem, President of the Junior League of Wheeling; Christie Contraguerro, Anna Contraguerro, Penny Cunningham (on the ladder), Stacey Creely, Olivia Creely, Katie Hinerman, Kristen Cox, co-chairs of Done In A Day, and Tammy Kruse, YSS. Thank you from all of the families who use this room daily!

Community-Based Services embraces a range of services for young people and for their families.

Youth In Action! works in the northern panhandle counties with youth 17-24 training and employment opportunities. Many of these youth are out of school and this program can help them find training opportunities that will give them important skills. In addition, Youth In Action coordinates the Summer and Fall Employment programs that give young people valuable on-the-job experience.

Home-based Services works with families experiencing crises. By working with the family and child in the home, our workers can help them learn and practice new skills, and link them to community resources.

Life Skills Assessment and Training works with atrisk youth to be well prepared for life, school, and the community. Each youth is assessed to find their strengths and our staff works with each to build their skills, leading to them to success and accomplishments.

Supervised Visitation offers a friendly and safe place where parents and caregivers who have been separated from their children meet, visit and play, with a skilled supervisor on hand. Parents can demonstrate their abilities and show that children removed from their home by Child Protective Services are safe in their care. This can be the beginning of reunification for these families.



Lisa's story—Not scheduled, but right on time

Here's a story about the unexpected. Some months ago we were asked to care for a young girl with disabilities. They called and said that this kid has cerebral palsy and she uses a wheelchair for the most part. She needs 24 hour care and supervision. The caller was desperate because there was no other facility in West Virginia that would take her. He assured us that he would find a more suitable placement in two weeks.

Our answer was yes. Tammy Kruse, Director of Development takes it from there.

"One Month comes and goes"

I ran into a woman, Lisa, who was donating lamps to us. She asked, "What do you do here"?

I replied, "Take care of kids in need".

What kind of kids, was her reply. Neglected, abused, runaway and special needs, just to name a few.

She quickly asked, "Special needs? Tell me more".

I told her of our Youth Achievement Center, McCrary transitional living apartments and of the girl who was in a wheelchair.

We need a van with a wheelchair lift.

She turned, looked at me and I watched a brilliant, all-knowing smile wash over her.

She said...Use mine

We signed a lease with her, thinking we would need the van for one month. For 14 months the girls at Helinski became this girl's "Den Mothers", accompanied her to the mall, to Wild Things ball games and to school. We were able to take her to visit with her brother and sister every other week too.

The girl has transferred to a facility close to home which can better accommodate her needs. At this new location, she receives one on one physical therapy, pool therapy and visits from her siblings weekly. She is close to home.

God bless Lisa and her daughter.

We can't schedule MIRACLES, they just happen!



Lisa's van with its wheelchair lift. Her loan of this van help YSS serve a young woman.

Giving back to the Community—Winter Freeze Shelter

Starting in 2009, Youth Services System has opened the doors of the Central Office as a warming shelter for homeless adults. In 2014, the Winter Freeze Shelter opened on November 18 because of the early return of bitter weather.

The Winter Freeze Shelter is supported by more than 36 different churches or religious groups, over 30 businesses and civic organizations, and dedicated volunteers who stay up all night, who help with donated clothing and goods, and who pray for this work.

The collaboration of community organizations, funders, and others have made it possible for some of our Winter Freeze Shelter guests to find permanent housing.

Our community is generous, skilled, and active. We thank everyone who makes this project possible. During the past winter, we had 165 different guests, including 26 women, during the November 18, 2014—March 15, 2015 Winter Freeze Shelter.



Right, Central Catholic High School donates to the Winter Freeze Shelter. From the left, Amanda Medovic, CCHS student, Tammy Kruse, director of development, Brian Pooley, CCHS faculty, and Maria Miller Senior Class president at Central Catholic



John Moses, YSS CEO, prepares to go over the edge for the YWCA's Over the Edge adventure fundraising event. Working together with our sister organizations makes us all stronger.



Each year, we celebrate the graduations of youth we serve, from high school, middle school, from technical and certification programs with gifts and a ceremony

Thank You!

Public Funders

Marshall County Board of Education Marshall County Commission Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board

Ohio County Board of Education **Ohio County Commission**

US Department of Health & Human Services, Family & Youth Services Bureau

US Department of Health & Human Services, SAMHSA

West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources, Bureau for Children & Families

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West Virginia Department of Military Affairs & Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Services

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Covenant Community Church - C3

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Ebenezer United Methodist Church

Econolodge

Elm Grove Elementary Clothing Closet

Elm Grove United Methodist Church

Elm Grove Women's Club Enterprise, Pittsburgh Office

EPA, Region 3

ERB Electric

Fairview Church

First Presbyterian Church, Moundsville First Choice Health Systems, Inc.

First Christian Church

First Presbyterian Church, Wheeling

Forever A Masterpiece

Fourth St United Methodist Church

United Methodist Women

Fourth Street United Methodist Church

Fraternal Order of Eagles

Full Circle Wedding Consignment

Girl Scout Troop 1119 Glessner and Associates Gold, Khourey & Turak, L.C. Neely's Grocery St. Paul Evangelical Church **Gompers Pharmacy** New Martinsville Moose Lodge 931 St. Paul's United Methodist Church **Good Mansion Wines** Nickles Bakery Methodist Women St Vincent De Paul Thrift Store Grim Reapers M.C. Northwood Health Systems **Grow Wings Consulting LLC** Office of Maternal Child & Family Health State Farm Insurance Companies Gumby's LLC - WV DHHR Steenrod Elementary Recycling Commit-Ohio Valley Christian Soldiers H. E. Neumann Co., Inc. Hampton Inn & Suites Highlands Ohio Valley Mall Suburban Extended Stav Hotel Hampton Inn Wheeling Ohio Valley Roller Girls Susan Eismon Bible Study Olive Garden Helping Heroes Sysco Foods Henderson Chapel AME Church Orrick, Herrington, & Sutcliffe. LLP Talkington's Gun Shop Highmark BlueCross Blue Shield WV Our Lady of Lebanon Church Cedar Club The Chuck Olsen Company House Of The Carpenter Our Lady of Peace School The Cornerstone Group The Market Vines Bar & Grille Howard Long Wellness Center Paden City Elementary Hughes Design and Gift Gallery Panhandle Cleaning & Restoration The Ryan Ferns HealthPlex, Inc. IBEW Local Union 141 Papa John's Pizza, Bridgeport The Society of the Arts Indian Creek Southern Baptist Church Papa John's Pizza, Wheeling The Ziegenfelder Co. Inc. Jebbias Market Inc Play It Again Sports **Thompson Video Productions** Prestige Photography JimmyJo Fotography Toast Masters WLU Chapter Junior League of Wheeling Progressive Bank Tri State Cardiology Junior Women's Club of Barnesville Promised Land Compassionate Ministry Tri State Petroleum Klug Greenhouse LLC Center Triadelphia Middle School Kohls Department Store Quaker Steak and Lube Trinity Lutheran Church La Pasta Bella Off The Wall Red Lobster TS Electric Ricardo D. Zambito DDS Lamar Tudi Mechanical Later Alligator restaurant Rich & Shirley's Ouickprint Tunnel Ridge, LLC Unicare Ritchie Elementary School Laurel Highlands Nordic Ski Patrol Uniglobe Ohio Valley Travel Lazear's Chapel Church & Sunday River City Ale Works United Way Of The Upper Ohio Valley School Robinson Automotive Group **US Bank** Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center Latter Day Saints Relief Society **US Foods** Limestone Presbyterian Church Roney's Point United Presbyterian Valley Cheese & Deli Church Linsly School, English Department Vance Memorial Presbyterian Church Saint James/John School Lion Club Charities of Wheeling Vance Presbyterian Church - Presbyteri-Sand Hill CEOS Living Word Church an Women Sands Electric Company Logan's Roadhouse Vineyard Church Schmidt Brothers Tire & Service Center Long Horn Steakhouse Wakim's Club Security Travel Lou W. Nau Inc. Warwood Christian Church Seeing Hand Association Ludwig Insurance Shadyside Flower Shop Warwood United Methodist Church, McCamic, Sacco & McCoid, PLLC United Methodist Women Shaeffer & Madama, Inc. Metropolitan Citi Grill Shay-Nay-Nay Pizza Washington Lands United Methodist Middle Grave Creek Church Of God. Inc. Wayside Furniture Simpson Insurance Miklas's Meat Market Wesbanco Sisters Of St Joseph MollyJoe, Inc. West Penn AAA Insurance Agency Snap Shot Photography Monroe Racing Inc West Virginia Northern Community Col-Sons Of Italy Montessori School Sons of the American Legion lege Moon River Studios Wetzel Co. Democrats Soroptomist Women's Club Morning Star Baptist Church Wheeling Catholic Central High School **SPOKES** Moundsville Housing Authority Wheeling Coffee Company, Inc. St. Matthew Lutheran Church Moundsville-Marshall County Public Wheeling Convention & Visitors Bureau, St. Michael Church & Parish Library

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Leah Dawkins

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Koury Jones
Lori Jones
Richard Jones

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John Jorden
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Deborah Knight
Gordan Koegler
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Paula Nare
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Craig O'Leary

Genevieve Oliver
Jen Olshawsky
Jimmy Ovier
Cory Palmer
Shane Palmer
Caroline Pangilinan

Cindy Paras

Brian Park
Jill Park
Keith Park
Adriana Parra
Anand Patel
Lee & June Paull, III
Kristie Paulowich
Katrinka Pavlisin
Sandy Pell

Jim P. & Robin Pellen
Paul & Nancy Peluchette
John & Leona Pennybacker

Judy Perzaronski
Natalie Petschauer
Sheree Petroplus
Kelly Pettit
Pamela Piccard
Debbie Pickens
Harold Pickens
Lillian Pierce
Barbara Piko
Bill & Melissa Piko
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Karen Plunkett

Richard Plunkett

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Thomas Poe Martha Polinsky Richard Polinsky Dr. Jon David Pollock Jeremiah & Dara Pond

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Matthew Porter
Melissa Potocnik
Michael Powell
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Nancy Redford
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Ella Reindel
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Anne Ricci

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Janet Richardson
Rev. Joel Richter
Jasmine Ridenar
Debi Riedel
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Kristy Villani Mr. & Mrs. Dave Wiethe

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Vickie Violi Danielle Wilkes

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Danny Westfall Zak Zatezalo
Jody Wharton Gigi Zelewicz
Jessie Wheaton Carol Zemba
David & Gloria Wheeler John Ziegler

Larry Zink Lisa Zukoff



2015 Good Samaritan: Susan Hogan, second from the left with 2014 Good Samaritans, James Bordas on the left and Linda Bordas on the right. Ann Thomas, who was honored in 2012 by the YSS Board as a Champion of Health, second from the right.

Youth Services System— Snapshots



The 2015 Soup Social, celebrating the community that makes the Winter Freeze Shelter possible, featured Rev. Chris Mullet, executive director of the Clarksburg Rescue Mission, left, and Rhonda Lindsay, deputy director of the Clarksburg-Harrison County Housing Authority describing their success with housing the chronically homeless as part of the national 100,000 Homes Campaign.



Curtis Whorton, a student participating in Energizing Our Youth at McNinch Elementary School, Moundsville, Community Child Care serves these youth in a program funded in part by Noble Ener-



From left to right, George Smoulder, YSS vice chair; Marc Abraham, YSS chair; Judge Frederick Stamp at the ceremony renaming the Northern Regional Juvenile Center for the late Ron Mulholland. The Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center honors Youth Services System's founding director and passionate advocate for youth. As speakers that day, each shared their thoughts about youth, the center and Ron Mulholland.



Wheeling SleepOut 2014, under a full moon and with frigid temperatures, the cardboard village that is the Wheeling SleepOut takes shape. Donors helped support youth in their fundraising and their participation in the event. Funds raised support YSS' youth in the Transitional Living Program



Wheeling SleepOut 2014, November 5, 2014, prize winning Boxed In Design "Hope on a Boat" by the Smithfield United Methodist Church using a Noah's Ark theme, with a cardboard rainbow, and animal masks for the Ark's inhabitants. They won Best in Show for their design. The 2015 Wheeling SleepOut is November 6, 2015



Teams at the start of Challenge Wheeling, June 20, 2015, presented by Carpet Showcase Flooring Center. This scavenger race has teams using clues, in those envelopes, to race around Wheeling to find the locations to which the clues point. Challenge Wheeling 2016 is already being planned.



Challenge Wheeling, June 2015, costumes and team t-shirts are not required but they make this scavenger race which is presented by Carpet Showcase Flooring Center, a lot more interesting for all.

On the left, Ohio Vally Jaycees, awaiting the start. Photo by Jim Wallace.



United Way Day of Caring, volunteers removed the playground at the McCrary Center on Wheeling Island for re-use at the Island Park, thanks to the volunteers who took the time to make this happen. From left to right: Mike Hewitt, Kevin Kinney Dave Smith, and Jim Helms volunteers from Bayer.

Regional Youth Services Center

Youth Services System is part of Governor Tomblin's plan to improve the accessibility of needed substance abuse and mental health services for West Virginia youth from 12-24 years old. We are a part of a network to provide comprehensive services in a simpler and barrier free system called Regional Youth Services Centers.

In seeking help for substance abuse, individuals from across the panhandle will be screened, evaluated, and will receive therapy or other needed services.

An important part of the care for someone dealing with substance abuse is their recovery from addiction. Recovery is when the person who was addicted takes charge of improving their health and wellness and works towards reaching their potential.

With each individual there are different ways they may do this, and this center is working to create additional paths to recovery like SMART Recovery and training individuals to be recovery coaches who will be mentors for those

people seeking to free themselves from addiction.

Another pathway for young people will be a group called Young People In Recovery. This is a national movement of young people helping each other and a West Virginia chapter is in the process of formation.

YSS is partnering with Healthways in Brooke and Hancock Counties to build the Regional Youth Services Center, based at our 87 15th Street Central Office and including a new Paden City office serving Wetzel County.

Our Center will be connected with a state information and referral service operated by First Choice Health Systems in Charleston. 1-844 HELP4WV (844-435-7498) is a resource for people anywhere in West Virginia seeking help with substance abuse or mental health needs.

Recovery and Second Chances

Youth enter our Transitional Living Program confronting a range of issues—drug use, depression, insecurity. Sometimes the weight of these issues may mean that youth has to leave the program for additional assistance. This is a letter from a former Transitional Living youth to our program manager seeking to rejoin the program. He is back with us and doing well. We want these youth to be successful, even when it takes another try to get there.

Dear Pam

How's everything been going up there. First things first, I would like to hold myself accountable for what I did before. I wasn't completely honest all the time.

Now I would like to mention the changes I've made. I've changed the way I react to people. I am nicer and care more. I learned how to walk away from major anger. I learned to express my feelings a lot better than before. I use breathing techniques every day for my anger. I will have my high school diploma when I come up there. I'll also have a safety certificate for welding. I've worked a lot on my recovery from drugs while I've been here too.

There is a lot I would like to accomplish while I'm up there. I'd like to learn to manage my money spending a little better. I would really like to obtain my driver's license while I'm there to. My job opportunities would be so much better with the high school diploma and safety certification.

I would like to try and finish my actual certification for welding. I'd possibly go to college to get a degree for graphic design and advanced mathematics. The main thing I'm going to work on is to have a full recovery from drugs and my relationship with people. I plan to go to NA {Narcotics Anonymous}. I plan to take a drug test every week or every other week if possible.

I really hope you can give me a second chance. I've really changed a lot. I've matured and overcome a lot of my problems. I just want that second chance. I'll talk with you soon. Take care and take it easy.

Sincerely.

Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition

The Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition is a grass roots member based coalition that encourages participation from all Ohio County key leaders.

WV Day of Hope is a state-wide initiative to engage all those in the faith community. OCSAPC partnered with the WV Council of Churches to organize and publicize the celebration of a drug free lifestyle.

The Governor proclaimed Sept. 13 or the second week in September as the West Virginia Day of Hope. The day brought state-wide participation by a variety of faiths and in many innovative ways. The work of this day is ongoing, see the *back cover* for how you can be involved.

Among OCSAPC's activities during 2014:

<u>Keep A Clear Mind Prevention Education</u> was provided to all Ohio County and Catholic 4th graders to support good decision-making.

Too Good For Drugs Program was provided to elementary schools upon request to educate students about the dangers of drugs.

Their youth counterpart is the <u>Wheeling Park High School SADD Chapter</u>. They led a pre-prom campaign, Please Return on Monday {PROM}, aimed at all Ohio County youth using posters, radio and TV public service announcements, decorations and ribbons with corsages to remind students to stay alcohol free, buckle up, and refrain from texting and driving.



Billboard for campaign designed by youth interns working with OCSAPC. TV ads were another campaign feature

Photo by

Bennett McKinley

High Risk Pregnancy Referral Services & the Prevention Consortium

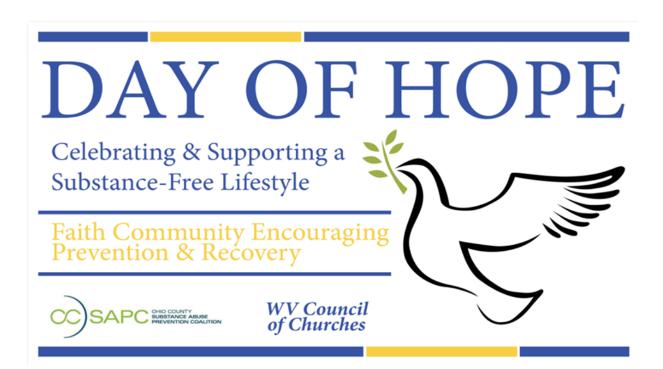
The High-Risk Pregnancy Referral Services project is a collaborative endeavor of Wheeling Hospital and the Northern Panhandle Prevention Consortium. The High-Risk Pregnancy Referral Services project integrates substance abuse and community services with prenatal care at Wheeling Hospital, improving access to services and supports for expectant women suffering from addiction.

Dr. Judy Romano is a local champion for children, and understands early intervention and prevention of prenatal drug exposure is critical. The project will establish hospital policy and referral protocols, as well as provide early intervention skills training and referral tools to all obstetric and pediatric staff at Wheeling Hospital.

Northern Panhandle Prevention Consortium

The Northern Panhandle Prevention Consortium works with local prevention coalitions in Hancock-Brooke, Ohio, Marshall, and Wetzel Counties to strengthen local efforts to prevent substance abuse. The consortium work is supported through Youth Services System.

In every county there are local permanent prescription drug drop-off points and prevention planning and activities with youth, law enforcement, businesses, and many other interested groups and individuals. The local coalitions are Brooke and Hancock Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention, the Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Marshall County Tobacco and Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition and the Wetzel County Coalition Against Drug Abuse.



Beyond the Day of Hope:

- Get trained in Screening Brief Intervention & Referral to Treatment (SBIRT), Peer Recovery Coach Training, or Mental Health First Aid. (Training dates to be announced).
- Host community presentations or forums on prevention strategies.
- Encourage youth groups to create a media campaign within the church or within the community to promote a substance-free life style.
- Make your house of worship a welcome environment for those seeking a substancefree life style and those struggling with addiction.
- Use language that reduces the stigma of addiction.
- Contact & work with your local county substance abuse prevention coalition.
- Provide pamphlets and information for your congregations
- Refer those in need to available services.
- Raise money for local prevention, treatment or recovery organizations.
- Support and advocate for legislation that supports a drug-free state.
- Sign-up at http://www.wvcc.org/day-of-hope.html for announcements, information, and events.