FY 2018 Annual Report

CREATING BETTER FUTURES TOGETHER

July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018
Dear Friends,

With pride and gratitude, we present Youth Service System’s FY 2018 annual report. This year’s theme is “Creating Better Futures Together.” In May 2019, we will mark 45 years of service to West Virginia’s youth and adults. We have served tens of thousands over all these years, but it is always humbling when a former client drops an email or places a call to thank us. Many of them say we saved their lives. What has made that possible is our community’s support — your support. That’s the real story of our successes.

We’ve been fortunate to have had scores of volunteer board members guide and support our efforts. We have been blessed to have had many foundations and faithful donors support our mission. We value the many partnerships we’ve cultivated with the faith-based communities, school systems, first responders, judicial systems, and funders.

Together, we have made meaningful differences in the lives of children, families, and our communities.

In humble gratitude,

John Moses
CEO

Emily Fisher
Board chair

The Future Is Now at the Lazarus and Mary & Martha Houses

Inside the walls of two unassuming wood frame homes perched above the highway in Goosetown, lives are being transformed. Lazarus House and Mary & Martha House are more than recovery homes, they are recovery communities. In FY18, 22 men and 13 women took care of the homes together, gathered around the big dining room tables for meals, and were there for each other when the going got tough. “Addiction is a disease of loneliness,” said Patrick Condron, Lazarus House director. “A very big part of staying clean and sober is reconnecting and staying connected with people who care. That’s one of the reasons we exist.”

“The house provided me with clothing, hygiene products, and all the material needs. But the most important thing I received was love and support.”

— Mary & Martha resident

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The Impact Coalition has realized its goals of enlarging community engagement and reducing substance abuse by youth. We’ve done this in large part by producing environmental change and implementing grassroots campaigns such as local SADD chapters and the Day of Hope, which has spread to faith communities throughout the state. With the assistance of our members who represent 12 sectors of the community, we have seen a decline in youth alcohol and marijuana use over the years.

Isaac Sands, a fourth-grader at Ritchie Elementary School, was his school’s winner in our 2018 Choose a Clear Mind Poster Contest.

— Madie Riedel, 16, an Impact intern working to bring SADD to Wheeling Central Catholic High School
_Look at what YOU made possible:_

**Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center**

It was dinnertime at the detention center. “Mark,” 16, noticed counselor Ruth McGriff slumped over at the dining table. When he asked if she was OK, she mumbled incoherently. That’s when Mark remembered the first aid training he received at the detention center: Miss Ruth was having a stroke. He immediately reported it to the correctional officer. Because of Mark’s quick thinking, Miss Ruth is fully recovered. Later, during a family dinner at the center, the Wheeling Fire Chief surprised Mark and his parents by presenting him with a plaque for his heroic actions. It was a proud moment that Mark and his parents will never forget.

**Helinski Shelter**

“Eliza” was 17 and a victim of sex trafficking in Columbus. She had a baby, who was being cared for by her mother. On a road trip from Columbus, her “friends” abandoned her at a man’s home — they simply left and never came back. The man demanded sex for her to stay. Weirton Police found out and brought Eliza to Helinski.

When she got to the shelter, Eliza was angry and uncooperative, but she soon realized the staff was on her side. In her month at the shelter, she received medical care and therapy. She became more respectful and was extremely thankful to the staff for helping reunite her with her mother and child.

**Transitional Living: McCravy & Tuel Centers**

“The reason I have worked over 28 years here is pretty simple: the kids. The people I have worked with and the many young adults have been my extended family.”

**Samaritan House**

“Lucy” was adopted out of foster care by a friend’s family. Unfortunately, they couldn’t afford to care for her and turned her out of the house at age 18. She was homeless until she enrolled at West Liberty University and moved into a dorm. When classes ended in the spring, however, she was homeless again. That’s when she moved into McCravy, where she built a support system, learned to drive and got her license, and was connected to services to help pay for school.

When she returned to WLU, she decided to pursue zoo sciences because she loves working with animals. She is on track for a bright future.

**Youth Achievement Center**

“John,” age 17, was using crystal meth heavily before he came to Samaritan House. He was angry and violent, getting into nine fights during his first two weeks. He began therapy, where he learned healthier coping skills. The staff bought him a journal, and he began writing poetry and rap lyrics.

He soon stopped glamorizing drugs and started talking about his future. He got his diploma, earning an impressively high score on his TASC test. He even asked staff for help managing a $100,000 death benefit he was going to get when he turned 18. He said he didn’t want to squander it on drugs. His remarkable progress led his judge to release him early to his mother.

**SCOTT HEDRICK**

“I heard a calling in my 20s to work with youth. I have a passion for it. The work I am doing here is an answer to that calling and an outlet for that passion.”

**LINDA SCOTT**

“I’m still in touch with residents from 20 years ago. It didn’t matter to them what they have accomplished. I feel like a proud parent of hundreds of kids and what they have accomplished.”

**MARGO SCOTT**

“When you work with these kids and you build that rapport, you can help them make better choices in their lives. My staff is really, really good, and they help me give these kids a chance.”

**KARI JERROME**

“I do what I do because I love meeting kids and having a positive impact on their lives. I wake up every day knowing that I get to come to work and make a difference.”

**PAM JEFFERS**

“101 years of service at YSS!”

**Number of Youth in Residential Care FY 2018:** 398
Don’t recognize us, recognize our tribe.” Those were the sentiments of Ziegenfelder Co. owners Lisa and Barry Allen upon being named the 2018 Youth Services System Good Samaritans. The Wheeling-based business, maker of Budget Saver Twin Pops, has been recognized nationally for its second-chance hiring commitment, a commitment YSS supports and applauds. The Allens call their employees the Zieggy Tribe and only agreed to receive the award if the Tribe were part of the honor. They place value not just on boosting their bottom line but on improving the social well-being of their community, making them worth recipients of the Good Samaritan Award.

Thanks to Wheeling Park Commission and many community sponsors like you, thousands of youth and their families descended on Wheeling Park in August for a day of fun and learning. They learned how to create better, healthier futures as they browsed exhibitors’ tables. Families then were invited to enjoy all the park’s amenities for free. It’s an end-of-summer celebration organized by YSS... but made possible by donors like you.

Individuals, businesses, churches, civic groups, schools, universities, members of the media — all came together to support the 9th season of the Winter Freeze Shelter, from Dec. 15, 2017 to March 15, 2018. During that time, guests received warm beds, hot meals, clothing, medical care, companionship, assistance with obtaining IDs, bus tickets to reunite with relatives, and hope for the future.

It’s a ministry YSS could not provide without community support. We do it because it is necessary, and we know we can count on you. You have never let us — or our guests — down.

160 Individual Guests
337 Donors & Supporters
43 Overnight Volunteers

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“John Moses and his team are dedicated to bringing hope, love, and strength to our youth in the Ohio Valley.”

— Former client

Counting on you ... and making it count.

Revenues $10,764,829

Expenses $10,637,157

Surplus $127,672

$44,953 raised for homeless youth

Taking place during National Runaway and Homeless Youth Month, the Wheeling SleepOut raises money and awareness for the YSS’s Transitional Living Program to prevent youth homelessness. These youth may be aging out of foster care or victims of abuse and neglect or sex trafficking. At the 7th annual SleepOut, 28 teams and 15 individuals raised $44,953 to help provide rent, utilities, and support services to these youth. In all, 240 community members participated in the overnight event.

Save the Date: 11.8.19

YOUTH SERVICES SYSTEM INC.
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WHEELING, WV 26003

* Division of Juvenile Services