“It’s hard to balance student, employee and mom duties, but I’m making it happen,” Tasha said.

“I love the life God has blessed me with and the support I get from YSS, Youth Opportunities Unlimited and more.” Youth Opportunities Unlimited is a YSS program in conjunction with WorkForce West Virginia that helps youth find and sustain employment.

This year’s theme is Home for the Holidays. The theme reflects the fact that YSS is home for all the youth in its residential programs, including Transitional Living, two emergency shelters and the Ronald C. Mutholland Juvenile Center. Also driving the theme is that, with COVID-19, more people may be staying home for the holidays. Finally, while SleepOut participants usually build their cardboard structures at the Miracle League Field in the 1-470 Sports Complex, this year they will be building them at home, submitting videos of the structure for the judges.

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The goal for the SleepOut is to increase awareness and raise $410,000.

“We’ve set the highest goal in Wheeling SleepOut history because we need to. Youth homelessness is a growing problem. Without the support from our community we would not be able to do what we do for youth facing homelessness.”

Registration is now open for the Boxed-In Design Contest, where participants build a cardboard structure and compete for prizes. New this year is a window display contest for local businesses. The peer-to-peer fund-raising competition also is underway. Sponsorships are welcome. For information, please visit www.youthservicesystem.org/events. For questions, email Terra Crews, terra@ysservwv.com, or call 304-218-2834.

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