



Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau February 2018 volume 7 • issue 1

Highlight of Healthy Families Program in Portage

Portage campus works to prevent infant mortality in Porter County

Healthy Families is our Portage-based program for new parents and infants in Porter County that helps fight infant mortality. The Healthy Families program works to identify families whose current life circumstances suggest that additional support could be helpful as they begin caring for their newborns.

Healthy Families' Resource Specialist screens and conducts initial outreach to prenatal and new mothers in Porter County hospitals as well as with families referred from other community programs. Our five Family Support Specialists offer follow-up home visits on a regular basis to eligible families.

Through a combination of information, support, and supplies, the Healthy Families team uses a variety of methods to help families keep babies safe and healthy, and their approach is working extremely well with a zero infant mortality rate in 2016 for program participants! Our rate is a vast improvement over U.S., Indiana, and Porter County as a whole. There have been about 1,200 cases of infant mortality in Indiana over the last two years (ranked 42nd in the U.S.). However, for Healthy Families' participants, statistics show that for the last 15 years, there hasn't been a single instance of infant mortality (except one case for medical reasons associated with premature birth).

We are so proud of the work our Healthy Families team does to promote the health and safety of new families in Porter County. Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Services, Melanie Dooley, has seen the lasting impact of a preventive approach for positive outcomes for child development.

Our Portage facility is primarily used for the Healthy Families program, yet it can also be used to deliver clinical services to Portage clients more conveniently. It is also a designated Safe Place for teens in crisis who need safety or shelter.

Survey Says ...
100% of Porter County Healthy Families clients respondents rate program good or excellent in 2016.

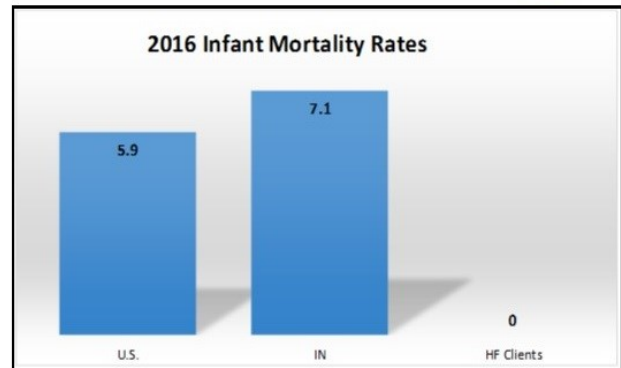


In 2017
288
people were provided services in Porter County.

Did you know?

The Healthy Families Program has been in place at FYSB since 1997, and our agency is recognized statewide and nationally as a leader in this type of programming. For more information about the program, please contact Melanie Dooley at 763-6623 or mdooley@fysb.org.

Healthy Families is a designated Safe Sleep site with the Indiana Department of Health.



A comparison of infant mortality rates in 2016

Beyond the Influence Workshop
Recovery Connection—The Importance of Connection During Recovery
Tuesday, March 13, 2018 from 6-7:30pm at the Valparaiso office, RSVP to kunderwood@fysb.org. Space is limited.

Saying Goodbye

Family & Youth Services Bureau

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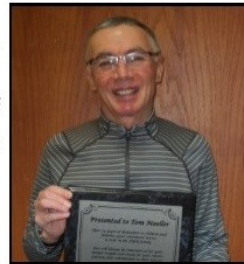
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Tom Moeller

After serving FYSB for 29 years in different roles and acting as the current Director of Clinical Services for the past two years, Tom retired at the end of 2017.

Tom has been the heart of our programs for over a quarter of a century and his work will carry many of our programs into the future. His guidance and effort has assisted thousands of kids and families over the years.



Tom summarizes his FYSB experience saying, "I am grateful for the chance I got to work in the Family and Youth Services Bureau environment where values of compassion and service were so important. I met so many incredible people facing adversity with courage and determination. I will miss all of this."

Tom will be spending some time at FYSB until April to ensure a smooth transition but come springtime he plans to follow the Trans America bicycle trail.

Jackie Gray

Jackie is also saying her farewell to FYSB. After serving as the Director of Development and Community Relations for the past six years, she will be leaving us in February to pursue an entrepreneurial venture creating and selling hand-made purses she started on a part-time basis a few years ago.

Under her tutelage, FYSB's successful annual Chalk the Walk event was created and expanded to the much larger event it is today which is just one of her many accomplishments that created a professional development operation at FYSB.

We wish her the best of luck and success in this new venture!



CASA Volunteer-of-the-Month



Jeannette Bapst

The greatest strength of our CASA program is our exceptional group of volunteers. One particular individual we are proud to recognize this month is Jeannette Bapst.

Jan became a volunteer after retiring from full-time employment in school administration. She wanted to make a positive impact and challenge herself by learning something new. She says, "Many friends have questioned how I can work as a CASA without getting discouraged or cynical. My experience so far has been just the opposite. I am in awe when I see family members and friends step up and care for a child, or see our magistrate engaged in every single case she hears, or DCS staff handle their workload. It raises the bar for us volunteers to do our best for the kids."

If you'd like to be a CASA volunteer visit our website at fysb.org.

New Directors

Jessica White

Congratulations to Jessica on her promotion to Director of Clinical Services! Jessica has been a part of FYSB since 2013 starting as an intern and becoming a part of the Clinical Services team on a permanent basis a year later.



Jessica earned her bachelor's degree of Science in Child Development and Family Studies from Purdue University and earned a master's degree of Social

Work with a focus in mental health and addiction from Indiana University Northwest. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Jessica says "The work I'm able to do here aligns almost perfectly with what I envisioned wanting to do in the community where I was born and raised." We know she'll bring the passion and competence that she has already demonstrated to her new position.

Kate Flannery

We are happy to welcome Kate Flannery to FYSB as the new Director of Development and Community Relations. She comes to us from the children's literacy nonprofit in Chicago, Reading In Motion, where she was the Manager of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Kate has earned her bachelor's degree in Sociology from Boston University and master's degree in Public Health from the University of Illinois, Chicago.

Kate has lived in Valparaiso with her two sons for ten years. She looks forward to increasing awareness of the significant contribution FYSB makes in Porter County.



Our Mission is to assist youth and families through supportive services that create a positive change in Porter County.

The Family & Youth Services Bureau will ensure that no person shall be excluded from or denied participation in services based on the grounds of race, age, religion, sex, disability, national origin, ancestry, protected class, or any other protected class as defined by current law, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity that directly or indirectly receives state or federal support.

6th Annual Chalk the Walk is set for Saturday, June 9, 2018

FYSB will once again brighten the sidewalks of downtown Valparaiso at our annual Chalk the Walk fundraiser this summer. Last June, talented artists filled over 100 nine-square-foot spaces with creative recognition of their sponsors, providing a unique form of advertising to the 1,000 plus attendees at the event plus the thousands of others walking the busy streets of downtown Valpo during the following weeks. FYSB will make this a fun-filled family event with activities, games, food, and of course some amazing artwork!

All sponsors will receive a 3x3 space to create their chalk artwork, a box of chalk, and an event t-shirt. Sponsor and artist registrations will be mailed out later this month so we look forward to seeing our partners from last year again and hope you can spread the word about this worthy event that will help support FYSB's programs and services that are used by more than 5,000 area residents each year. **Sponsorships start at \$150.**

Please contact Kate Flannery at 464-9585 or kflannery@fysb.org to learn more about this event or check out our facebook page or website for further information at www.fysb.org.




Chalk the Walk
 A Family & Youth Services Bureau Event





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Help us thank our partners



The Family & Youth Services Bureau provides
over 20 programs and services for the community
at the following locations

253 W. Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-464-9585

6469 Central Avenue
Portage, IN 46368
219-763-6623

257 W. Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383
219-464-9585

1660 S. State Rd. 2
Valparaiso, IN 46385
219-464-4641

If you have a name or address correction
or would like your name removed from our mailing list,
please contact us at 219-464-9585 or info@fysb.org

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