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Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau May, 2020 volume 9 • issue 2

Healthy Families • CASA • Clinical Services • Tot Shop

Crisis
Intervention



Child Abuse
Prevention

Please Give!

As an essential business, Family & Youth Services Bureau's doors have remained open but funding has been cut.

Please help us through these difficult times!

Please consider a donation to Family & Youth Services Bureau via check sent to 253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383 or online at <https://www.paypal.me/fysb>.



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The Family & Youth Services Bureau provides
16 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
219-465-3475

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or would like your name removed from our mailing list,
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Social Distancing Guidelines Impact Program Delivery

**More people are asking for help and FYSB is doing the
best it can!**

The doors at FYSB have remained open through the stay-at-home order to continue to provide child abuse prevention and crisis intervention services. Group programs have been suspended and some have been re-tooled to online models.

This is a challenging situation for everyone but for some families, being confined together is a recipe for abuse. The licensed professionals at FYSB are working to help those families make sure a difficult time doesn't lead to a more tragic event. In order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, FYSB initially looked into providing services through video conferencing. However, the lack of privacy for youth in a tele-conferencing clinical services session makes this technique not a viable option. **In-person office hours are still available.**

Temporarily, the Tot Shop will be open by appointment only. If clients need to exchange coupons for essential items, call the office at 219.464.9585 between 10am-4pm to schedule an appointment. We will post when we resume normal hours.

There are no words

Loss. Loss of life, jobs, retirement accounts, educations, freedom of movement, meaningful social interactions...

We are all experiencing loss of one kind or another at a minimum. There's just no way to put a positive spin on what we're going through. We have no choice but to just get through it.

The FYSB newsletter generally focuses on the value of our programs and updates readers on our events such as Chalk the Walk (Valparaiso and Portage) and Pick & Treat for Tots. As is everything else in life presently, the status of these events can change.

Event updates will be made on our website at fysb.org and the Chalk the Walk Porter County Facebook page. If you would like to receive an email notification for updates please contact Kate at 219.464.9585.

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

Healthy Families Director Melanie Dooley retired in March

It's sad to see a member of the FYSB family leave, but when that person has dedicated almost 15 years to the agency, we can only be thankful for all her years of service! Fortunately, Melanie gave FYSB notification of her retirement plans over a year ago so a well-structured succession plan was put in place. Also, Melanie worked to build a cohesive team before leaving all of whom are committed to supporting each other and helping the families in the Healthy Families program build their parenting skills and have better parent-child interactions. Melanie was also instrumental in developing a comprehensive program for Spanish-speaking families too.



Melanie plans to spend her time with immediate and extended family members located locally and throughout the country. She and her husband plan to travel via camper and anticipate making several extended trips to Alaska, the West and East Coasts, plus shorter fishing and sightseeing trips with a focus on nature. In addition to travel plans, Melanie looks forward to greater involvement in church activities and pursuing other hobbies.

When asked about her thoughts regarding her time at FYSB, Melanie says, "Providing individualized, strength-based services to families with young children has been the most fulfilling role of my career. It has been exciting to see positive growth in parents, knowing that my work made a difference in the lives of children and families."

We will miss her kindness and dedication!

It Won't Be the Chalk the Walk We All Know and Love This Year

As with everything else in life, Chalk the Walk will not be the same this year. The event will still occur on Saturday, June 13th, as it is the main fundraiser for the agency, but in a way that can take the new reality of social distancing into practice. The main changes will be:

- Participants will be required to wear face coverings and be spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart
- All activities other than creating the artwork are cancelled
- The event won't be advertised to discourage crowds on event day

As expected, the number of sponsors and artists that have signed up are a small fraction of past years so the event will be a scaled-down version for this reason also. **There is also a slight possibility that social restrictions might be in place in mid-June at which point the event will be cancelled.** Chalk the Walk with social distancing will not be the same in 2020 but what is?? We hope to see everyone again 2021!



Thank you to the many healthcare workers fighting COVID-19!!



CASA CORNER

We appreciate the many CASA volunteers now more than ever!

In this time of the COVID-19 crisis, when children and families in-need are trying to cope with even more transition, adjustment, stress, and uncertainty, CASA volunteers continue to be "present" for them, providing continuity and stability.

Due to social distancing requirements, CASAs are now maintaining communications by conducting virtual visits and meetings to continue to ensure that no child's needs fall through the cracks.

One thing that is certain is CASA volunteers' unwavering dedication to CASA children!

SPONSOR A SPACE AT THE 1st Annual



Showcase your business or organization in a fun and unique way at Portage Founder's Square. The original Chalk the Walk has been a success in Valparaiso for seven years! Community members love to see this kind of art created and it can last for weeks! Funds raised are used to support Family & Youth Services Bureau which has been helping children in the community for almost 50 years!

A \$200 sponsorship gives you a 3x3ft space of sidewalk for artwork next to the Portage Farmer's Market. Quality chalk is included and you will receive media exposure from the Portage Chamber of Commerce and Family & Youth Services Bureau social media.

Please respond by July 10, 2020
Thank you for your support!

If you don't have an artist we will assign you one.

fysb.org/portage-chalk-the-walk • on Facebook at Chalk the Walk Porter County • 219.464.9585



Click here to register or visit fysb.org/portage-chalk-the-walk

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Welcome to FYSB's New Healthy Families Director—Sheryl Chambers

Sheryl received her education from Indiana University Northwest and holds a degree in Nursing with a concentration in Sociology and a Master's Degree in Public Health Administration.

Sheryl comes to the FYSB family with over twenty years of service in family services, including working for the Department of Child Services, the Villages Foster Care agency, and Capitol City Family Services. She also has a strong skill-set and love for working with infants, children, and special needs individuals through her past work at Methodist Hospitals Maternal Child Unit.

Sheryl's goal for Healthy Families is to continue in the fight to reduce child maltreatment risk by educating parents on positive nurturing and bonding practices. Sheryl enjoys working with the Healthy Families program because not only is it derived from evidence-based practices, it is strengths-based. Sheryl believes that in working to meet the needs of others, you have to be willing to encourage, cultivate, and sometimes direct an individual to their point of greatness, whatever that greatness may be for them. Sheryl says, "At Healthy Families, we meet our families where they are in their life's journey to support them in becoming powerful and nurturing parents from this day forward."