



253 W. Lincolnway
Valparaiso, IN 46383

To receive this
newsletter by email,
send your name and
email to:
info@fysb.org

Thanks!
We can then put the
money we save on
postage back into our
programs.

Non-Profit Org
U.S. Postage
Paid
Valparaiso IN
Permit No 134



BoyConn Printers proudly supports
Family & Youth Services Bureau and
all they do to help our community.

**BoyConn can help you with your
next print or sign project. Ask us how!**

CUSTOM PRINTING • DIGITAL COLOR • COLOR COPYING

BUSINESS CARDS • BUSINESS STATIONERY • BROCHURES

LARGE FORMAT • NCR FORMS • LABELS/DECALS

LAMINATING • WEDDING INVITATIONS • TICKETS & TAGS

YARD SIGNS • BANNERS • MENUS & BAR CARDS

Tel: 219.462.2665

803 Glendale Blvd • Valparaiso IN 46383
www.boyconn.com

Help us thank our partners



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

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

Reaching Out is the newsletter of the
Family & Youth Services Bureau
published three times yearly
253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383



Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau February, 2019 volume 8 • issue 1

Program highlight: Teen and Youth



The beginning for a new FYSB program for
teens that is proven to work!

SMART Recovery® is the leading self-empowering
addiction recovery support group. The program, led
by trained individuals, is a global, evidence-based
program that has provided tools for overcoming
addictive behavior and multiple pathways to reach
and maintain sobriety for over 24 years. There are
over 3,000 weekly meetings.

Given the program's techniques and effectiveness,
Family & Youth Services Bureau worked to have
staff become trained facilitators in 2018 with a focus
on teen-only meetings catered to that age cohort's
specific needs. With funding from the Porter County
Substance Abuse Council, FYSB will implement this
program in 2019 in partnership with Porter County
PACT at Recovery Connection, and empower Porter
County teens to change their lives, on their own,
from self-destructive and unhappy to constructive
and satisfying!

The SMART Recovery® model uses cognitive-
behavioral psychotherapy and motivational
interviewing as tools to help overcome addiction.
Cont. on p.2.

CASA turns 30 in 2019!

(Court Appointed Special Advocates for children)

CASA has been helping the children in Porter County for 30
years and FYSB plans to **celebrate this milestone in
CASAblanca style on Friday, November 8th!** More
information about this special event will be announced soon
on the event webpage at www.fysb.org/casablanca-gala or
facebook events on the Porter County CASA facebook page.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

New President & CEO at FYSB

Congratulations on your promotion to President and CEO
BeLinda! BeLinda Georgeff is the new head of Family &
Youth Services Bureau. For the future of the organization
her vision is to focus on providing
innovative, strength-based, high-
quality programs and services for at-
risk youth and families who may not
be otherwise served in the
community. She is building
programming around our motto that
All Kids Matter and addressing the
changing needs of those we serve.

BeLinda Georgeff



Top Donor Recognition—

Anderson Insurance

The Family & Youth Services Bureau relies on private donors for a portion of
our funding and is so grateful to donors who have consistently supported our
programs over the years. Special recognition is given to Anderson Insurance
which has supported FYSB since 2000 and has been a top donor since 2007.

Anderson Insurance has been insuring Porter County residents and businesses for over 80 years. Their focus on excellence
and outstanding customer service are the priorities for business partners Dave Karp and Rick Lohmeyer who have been its
owners since 2014. Anderson is an independent insurance agency, that has relationships with many different large insurance
companies, which enables them to get the best rates and coverage for their clients. Their growth over the last decade
demonstrates the success of their business model. Cont. on p.3.



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.

Teen and Youth SMART Recovery cont.

Both of these techniques are scientifically proven to work. This program differs from existing addiction and recovery programs in many ways and provides elements that are more suitable for teens. To reach teens more effectively, techniques include a focus on the present, visual components and exercises, plus there isn't a life-long commitment. Family & Youth Services Bureau chose this specific program because our professional staff feel it is the best model for teens and youth.

The fact is **9 in 10 people with substance use disorders do not seek treatment** which means the existing popular treatment techniques might not appeal to everyone who needs help. We feel strongly that SMART Recovery® is an option with wider appeal and is especially well-suited for teens. Learn more about the program at fysb.org/smart-recovery.

FYSB Auxiliary Board Formed in 2018

In 2018, FYSB formed an auxiliary board to support the organization and its main board of directors in a variety of ways. The FYSB auxiliary board is led by Amy Solmos (not pictured) and includes Matt Solmos, Stephany Leonard, and Jenna Francesconi (pictured from left to right). This group is a little younger than FYSB's main board of directors and has little to no prior board experience, but they offer a great deal of experience contributing to community organizations and events! They've brought their talents to help improve existing FYSB events and create new ones for the coming year including the CASAblanca gala to celebrate 30 years of the Porter County CASA program.

Each of these individuals has become such a vital resource for expanding FYSB's presence in the community. They chose to be more directly involved with FYSB because of our work that directly helps families in the community they all live in but with a focus on children and parenting programs. Thanks team!



Matt Solmos, Stephany Leonard, Jenna Francesconi, and Amy Solmos (not pictured)

Save the Date!
Saturday, June 8, 2019
7th Annual Chalk the Walk!!



The Porter County Courthouse Square has gone through some renovations over the past year which has created an improved area for our 2019 event! This means more space for artwork and more space for free children's activities too for this great community event! FYSB is already at work to make the event bigger and better this year and has new partnerships with **Adams Radio Group** and **Blick Art Materials** for greater publicity and art supplies respectively. Learn more about this event on facebook at Chalk the Walk Porter County or the web page fysb.org/chalk-the-walk where you can also find sponsor and artist registration information.



CASA CORNER

In 2018, Porter County CASA child advocates volunteered over 4,650 hours in service to help abused and neglected children. In any given month, CASAs are advocating for as many as 200 children and in 2018 over 350 children were assigned a CASA. This is a small reduction from the amount of assignments in 2017 but the cases are getting more complex and time consuming at the same time. There is a reason courts mandate CASAs. Children with CASAs are less likely to re-enter foster care, less likely to stay in long-term care or to re-enter the welfare system, more likely to be adopted, and more likely to perform better in school!

Also, Porter County CASA **saves Porter County tens of thousands of dollars each year** by providing court-mandated services!

You can help this valuable program by becoming a CASA volunteer. No special background is required prior to training.

If you want to give back to our community in an exceptionally valuable way contact casainfo@fysb.org or 219.464.9585. Learn more at www.fysb.org/casa-program.

Anderson Insurance cont.

Dave and Rick are involved in many community organizations including FYSB. They keep up with our activities through the newsletters, their relationships with some of the FYSB board members, and announcements via the Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce. They both understand the need to support the Tot Shop and always enjoy being main sponsors for Chalk the Walk. We are very grateful for their support! Learn more about Anderson Insurance at www.aiwmi.com or call 219.462.5178.



Thank you Dan Rau and Lisa Jordan for your many years of service! Enjoy your retirement!



Dan Rau



Lisa Jordan with FYSB Board Chair Bonnie Sullivan

Summer Day Camp
June 10th to June 21st
Available for children ages 8-12

For more information contact 219.464.9585 or jwhite@fysb.org about registration. The camp is free of charge for children who qualify. Learn more at fysb.org/summer-day-camp

Family & Youth Services Bureau

Board of Directors

Bonnie Sullivan, Chair

David Butterfield Vice-Chair

Patrick McGinley Secretary/Treasurer

Paul Knauff

Connie Rudd

Jon Rutkowski

Johanna Williams

Matt Workman

Staff

BeLinda Georgeff
President & CEO
219.464.9585
bgeorgeff@fysb.org

Melanie Dooley
Director of Prevention and Early Intervention Services
219.763.6623
mdooley@fysb.org

Sarah Fink
Director of Porter County CASA Program
219.464.9585
sfink@fysb.org

Kate Flannery
Director of Development and Community Relations
219.464.9585
kflannery@fysb.org

Carrie Honeycutt
Director of Operations
219.464.9585
choneycutt@fysb.org

Jessica White
Director of Clinical Services
219.464.9585
jwhite@fysb.org