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Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau February, 2020 volume 9 • issue 1

Program Highlight—Middle School Mentoring

One of the Family & Youth Services Bureau programs focused on middle school-aged children takes our Clinical Services team on the road to Valparaiso middle schools each week at lunchtime. The mentoring program brings students who are experiencing social isolation and awkwardness into a supportive setting focused on the children's strengths.

The Clinical Services team uses the nationally-accredited and evidence-based program called Building Skills to work with the students. It has been proven to be effective reaching children which is not the case for many other mentoring programs. Students participate in enjoyable activities designed to bolster self-esteem and build social skills while eating together.

Participating in the Building Skills mentoring program isn't suited for every student. Some students choose to attend on their own, while others are identified as in need of additional support and skills by the guidance department.

Family & Youth Services Bureau has been offering this program for over ten years.

"I am so grateful to have the FYSB mentoring program available for our students. Students are eager to participate in this program every year. When our 7th graders who participate come to school the following year as 8th graders, one of the first things they ask me is when the FYSB lunch group will start. It has helped create an atmosphere and climate that has had an extremely helpful impact on our students who participate."

C. Ostafinski—Benjamin Franklin Middle School Social Worker



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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

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It Was a Successful



Sponsored by



The Pick & Treat for Tots drive to replenish The Tot Shop relies on the generosity of area businesses that display our bins but we also get significant support from many area community organizations includ-

- Alpha Delta Kappa – Valparaiso Chapter
- Delta Theta Tau
- Kappa Kappa Kappa – Beta Assoc. of Valparaiso

- Porter County Extension Homemakers
- Presbyterian Resale Shop
- Purdue Extension Homemakers

Thank you participants!!

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.



June 13, 2020

July 31, 2020

That's right! Two Chalk the Walks this year! Family & Youth Services Bureau is partnering with the Portage Parks Department and the Portage Chamber of Commerce to hold a Pop-Up Chalk the Walk at the Portage Founders Square Park for the first time. The Portage community, where we have an office and serve many clients, will get to experience this wonderful event close to home at the recently completed Founders Square Park.

Visit the Chalk the Walk website pages at

<https://www.fysb.org/chalk-the-walk> and <https://www.fysb.org/portage-chalk-the-walk>



Thank you TCU!!



Family & Youth Services Bureau has been the proud recipient of significant support from Teachers Credit Union in three significant ways in 2019. First, TCU sponsored two spaces at Chalk the Walk for the first time. Second, TCU became a premier sponsor for CASA's 30th Anniversary gala. To top it all, our grant to the TCU Foundation to help fund The Tot Shop was approved in December! Teachers Credit Union employees have also been on the FYSB Board of Directors (Pat McGinley) and the Auxiliary Board (Stephany Leonard) which is another invaluable contribution! We are so grateful for this strong partnership!



CASA CORNER

New Years resolutions typically focus on self-improvement: lose weight, stop smoking, etc. This year why not resolve to do something even more lasting?

Improve the life of a child who's suffered abuse and neglect by volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). CASA volunteers receive in-depth training to advocate in court for the needs of children in the foster care system. CASA volunteers come from all walks of life and professions and have one thing in common: they care about kids.

CASAs often say that volunteering is one of most personally rewarding experiences they've ever had and that their advocacy makes a difference.

To learn more call 219.464.9585 or email casainfo@fysb.org.

FYSB Familiarization Tours

Family & Youth Services Bureau has been in the community for almost 50 years but what exactly happens behind our doors has remained a mystery for many members of the community. That changes in 2020.

For the first time, we will open our doors in a limited way that doesn't infringe on our clients' privacy, to enlighten some curious individuals. Three tours will be offered in 2020. Each is scheduled to take place late morning on a Friday.

If you would be interested in a one-hour tour please contact Kate Flannery at kflannery@fysb.org or 219.464.9585.

The FYSB Familiarization tours will be small so space is limited. Light refreshments will be served.

Family & Youth Services Bureau

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Family & Youth Services Bureau Impact Report—2018

