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# Reaching Out

The newsletter of Family & Youth Services Bureau February 2021 volume 10 • issue 1

## The 2020 Healthy Families Giving Tree Brings Holiday Cheer to 48 Families

In a normal year, families in the Healthy Families program are treated to a Christmas party with food, crafts, prize drawings, and a visit with Santa who hands out books to every child. However, given the need for social distancing, the Healthy Families team quickly and successfully adjusted to the new reality to ensure that the children in the program still got to experience the joy of the season with a Holiday Giving Tree!

The Holiday Giving Tree program is an event that families chose to participate in by submitting their wish lists to provide gifts for their children. Gifts were also provided for moms and dads.

A total of 48 families (184 people) signed up for the program! Then it was up to the Healthy Families staff to find people willing to sponsor all of these families and businesses willing to donate items and gift cards. It was an impressive feat that they were able to get everything they needed and sponsors for every family! Over 40 businesses, individuals, and churches contributed in very meaningful ways.



Members of the Real Life Community Church of the Nazarene in Portage sponsored Christmas for 13 families!



Donations from others

**A special acknowledgement goes out to the top donors and family sponsors:**

**911 Dispatch of Porter County • Elsie Anderson • Betty Bullard • Elico Heating and Cooling • Hebron High School • Portage High School Honor Society • Real Life Community Church of the Nazarene • Haley Ruoff • Take 5 Car Wash**



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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  
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257 W. Lincolnway  
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1660 S. State Rd. 2  
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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](mailto:info@fysb.org)

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253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, IN 46383



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.

## SAVE THE DATE!!

9th Annual



## Chalk the Walk

A Family & Youth Services Bureau Event

Family-fun event • Downtown Valpo • Artists creating chalk artworks



Live music • Free kids' activities • Giveaways

# June 12, 2021

Look for your sponsorship form in the mail in late February!

First time sponsoring??

Visit [fysb.org/chalk-the-walk](https://fysb.org/chalk-the-walk) for more information.

We've added a dog zone for 2021 too!

[fysb.org/chalk-the-walk](https://fysb.org/chalk-the-walk) • on Facebook at Chalk the Walk Porter County • 219.464.9585



## Buchertech Awards Tech Grant to FYSB

Buchertech of Valparaiso donated much-needed IT equipment to FYSB worth over \$2,000. Technology upgrades are a vital part of the functioning of any organization including nonprofits like FYSB, but adequate funding to keep equipment upgraded is rarely provided in funding vehicles. We are so grateful for Buchertech's assistance in this regard! Buchertech's grant program provides IT assistance to local nonprofits that cannot help themselves and FYSB fits that description well.

Buchertech started 20 years ago with the intent to provide IT products and services to small businesses and nonprofit organizations. Tim Bucher says, "We saw too many examples where organizations operated like IT paupers, making due with outdated products and services that put them at a disadvantage. Our aim was to make a positive impact on such organizations through modernization."

That philosophy has been very helpful to FYSB over the years!



## CASA CORNER

The heart of Porter County volunteerism is alive and well, and nowhere is that more apparent than in the work of close to 100 volunteers who advocated last year on behalf of children who need and deserve a voice in Court. The note from our Court Magistrate to our CASAs at the end of last year says it all:

From Magistrate Mulligan:

*"Thank you to all the CASA volunteers for sticking with us through the ups and downs of 2020. The pandemic has tested our mental and emotional strength and forced us to be creative on all fronts - visiting children, ensuring safety, having meaningful contacts, and conducting hearings. You are instrumental in this process and your commitment to the children in our community is noticed and greatly appreciated. I am thankful for each of you!"*

We would not be able to accomplish our mission of advocacy for every child without all of our devoted volunteers who make a positive impact and inspire us on a daily basis.



Porter County CASA staff have the privilege of working with the most amazing people in our community and we and the rest of our community owe a debt of gratitude to our CASA volunteers for going above and beyond during this unprecedented pandemic - even as they have faced their own personal challenges and hardships. Their unfailing dedication and faithfulness to the CASA role ensures that no child in the system is overlooked.



**Tech equipment donated to FYSB from Buchertech** (pictured: Tim Bucher of Buchertech and Carrie Honeycutt of FYSB)

**Diapers and other essential baby supplies for families in need are available at the Tot Shop!**

**Call 219.464.9585 to learn more.**

**Until further notified, the Tot Shop is open by appointment only.**

## Family & Youth Services Bureau

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