



# Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau May 2016 volume 5 • issue 2

## 4th Annual Chalk the Walk Saturday, June 11, 2016

Chalk the Walk brings vibrant color, family friendly activities, and the chance to be an artist to the Courthouse Square once again this summer!

A fundraising event for the Family & Youth Services Bureau, Chalk the Walk also offers local businesses and organizations the opportunity to promote their message, and gives area artists of all ages the chance to have their artwork featured in a public space. And the artwork lasts for weeks!

All sponsors receive 3 x 3 foot spaces to create a chalk drawing on the Porter County Courthouse sidewalk, including a box of brightly colored chalk. Sponsorships start at \$150.00.

We also recruit artists for this event since about half the sponsors who participate need an artist to complete their chalk artwork. There is no charge for the artist to participate; sponsor pays the fee.

Are you interested in being a sponsor or an artist for this event? Please contact Jackie Gray at 464-9585 or [gray@fysb.org](mailto:gray@fysb.org), or check our website for further information: [www.fysb.org](http://www.fysb.org).



A video from last year's event is also on our website, check it out! [www.fysb.org](http://www.fysb.org)

## Family Life Workshop: The Birds, the Bees, and the Talk

The Family & Youth Services Bureau presents a Family Life Series Workshop, titled "**The Birds, the Bees, and the Talk,**" to be held on Tuesday, May 10, 2015 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, at the FYSB office at 253 W. Lincolnway in downtown Valparaiso. The workshop is designed to provide helpful ideas and information to parents, educators, and social service professionals.

The workshop is led by Jessica Stienbarger, a Sexuality Educator at Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky (PPINK). She works directly with a diverse population of program participants in Northwest Indiana; including community-based organizations, parents, youth in public schools, foster youth and youth in the juvenile justice system. The topics of her programs range from Puberty, Communication and Healthy Relationships to Birth Control, STI's and Safer Sex. This workshop is free and open to all community members.

*Limited spaces available; please RSVP for this free workshop by Monday, May 9th to 219-464-9585 or [kunderwood@fysb.org](mailto:kunderwood@fysb.org); please include your name and contact information.*

### How you'll benefit:

- Learn what holistic, comprehensive sexuality education is and why it is important
- Discover ways to incorporate sexuality education in kid's everyday lives
- See why language matters when talking to kids about sex
- Identify strategies to answer kid's questions about sexuality.



## Family & Youth Services Bureau 2015 Report

The Family & Youth Services Bureau was established in 1972, and in 2015 we served nearly 5,000 people with 18 specific services and programs. Here is a breakdown of the number of people served by each department and a brief description of those services.

### Healthy Families served 2,332 people in 2015

Healthy Families seeks to identify families whose current life circumstances suggest that additional support might be helpful as they begin caring for their newborns. Contacts are made with mothers giving birth in Porter County through hospitals, WIC, the Porter County Public Health Department, and area OB-Gyn practices. This voluntary program is provided to low income families at no charge and includes regular home visits, and a family centered curriculum.

### The Tot Shop served 1,467 people in 2015

The Tot Shop encourages positive parenting by providing supplies for pregnant women and for families with infants and young children up to age 5. Families earn coupons by completing certain activities designed to enhance their children’s lives including prenatal exams, well-baby check ups, health screenings, parenting classes, and immunizations. Families then redeem the coupons for new items such as cribs, potty chairs, baby clothes, and diapers.

### Risk Management served 59 people in 2015

This program targets chronically delinquent adolescents who are at high risk of moving into the adult criminal justice system and incarceration. The program is based on the knowledge that delinquent youth can be more successfully helped by remaining in the community while receiving appropriate services and sanctions.

### Clinical Services served 801 people in 2015

Our Clinical Services Department provides a variety of counseling and therapy programs including Individual, Group, and Family Counseling, Alcohol and Drug Defense Program, Parent Enrichment Sessions, Strengthening Families Program, Family Life Workshop Series, Family Connections Program, Mentoring Programs, and numerous other services that assist area youth and families.

### CASA/Court Appointed Special Advocates served 320 people in 2015

A **CASA** is a trained community volunteer who is appointed by the Juvenile Court to represent the best interests of children who have been abused and/or neglected. Each CASA works to insure that the child’s voice is heard in decisions that impact the child’s life. Nearly 50 local volunteers worked with CASA last year.

### Learning Place served 8 students in 2015 (fall semester)

The Learning Place is a school-like day treatment program for students in grades 6-9 who have experienced significant behavioral difficulties in the public school setting. Parental involvement is essential to a student’s success in The Learning Place, and parents are apprised weekly of their child’s progress and are involved with programming.

**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.**

## In Memoriam

## Ralph Ayres, FYSB Board Member

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of our dear friend and Family & Youth Services Bureau Board Member Ralph Ayres.

He was an invaluable member of our Board and Executive Board and always had the best interests of all the youth in our community in his heart. He taught social studies at Chesterton High School for 34 years, receiving Outstanding Teacher Award in 1979 and 1986 and retired from teaching in 2004. Ralph was also serving as the Board Chair of the Duneland School Corporation.

Ralph also served on the Porter County Council from 1978 to 1980, and represented Duneland in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1980 to 2006.

We greatly appreciate his service to our agency and will miss his integrity, his knowledge, and his sincere interest in helping youth.





## The Tot Shop Needs Your Help!

We appreciate your interest and support of the Family & Youth Services Bureau. We know you are a person who cares about our community.

At this time, we are reaching out to you and other members of our community. One of our most utilized and effective programs, The Tot Shop, has experienced significant funding cuts.

Your donation of any amount is appreciated, is tax deductible, and will help us keep this valued program alive in its present form.

You can make a donation online at [www.fysb.org](http://www.fysb.org), or send your check to Family & Youth Services Bureau, 253 W. Lincolnway, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46383.

We thank you for your generosity!



## Featured Board Member

### Jon Rutkowski

"I believe programming for adolescents in need is crucial; prevention and early intervention services are preferable to long-term, intrusive, and expensive responses to families in crisis," relates Jon Rutkowski. His vast administrative experience in public and non-profit social service agencies brings a valuable perspective to our Board.

"When I served as the County Welfare Director, I experienced with FYSB what I consider to be the closest working relationship that I had in the community. Serving on the Board allows me to again be engaged with the FYSB and revisit that relationship."

He spends his spare time traveling with family, reading, fishing, and exercising. We thank Jon for spending some of that time with FYSB!



## Featured Staff Member

### Cissie Wardell

Cissie Wardell is the Volunteer Coordinator for our CASA program (Court Appointed Special Advocates). Her main tasks are to recruit, train, and support the 40 to 50 or more CASA volunteers who act as advocates for neglected and abused kids in the CASA program.

Before beginning that position two years ago, she worked for 14 years in our Healthy Families Program, and was a CASA volunteer for over 20 years. Cissie also holds a degree from Ball State in Public Law/Legal Administration, and worked as a paralegal for many years.

"I feel the most rewarding part of my position is knowing I am part of a team that makes a difference in the lives of abused children," she shares. Thank you and your team for helping those kids Cissie!



## Family & Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors

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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  
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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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