



# Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau September 2017 volume 6 • issue 3

## Providing Juvenile Justice Services for Community

### FYSB partners with County Departments to provide staff for intervention programs

Family & Youth Services Bureau was established in 1972, and over the years we have worked with many partners to provide specific community services to area residents in need. Following are three Juvenile Justice Programs that we are currently operating in coordination with Porter County Juvenile Justice Services.

**Home Detention Program** The youth in this program are involved with the Juvenile Justice System by either being on probation or awaiting a court date. FYSB believes they have a better opportunity to become responsible members of the community if they are able to remain in their own home during this time as opposed to a more restrictive setting. Our Case Manager is paired with a Probation or Home Detention Officer and visits approximately 300 youth over the year as part of this program.

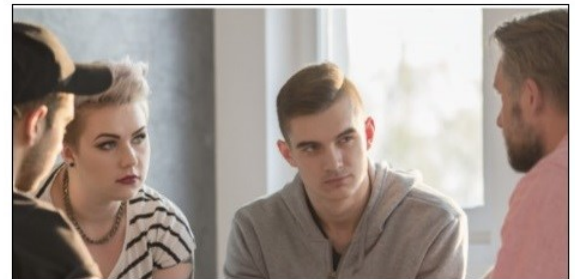
The Case Manager's role provides family support, youth advocacy and mentoring; also mediating family issues during home visits, conducting additional visits with youth at school and other settings and providing support as needed.

**Day Reporting Program** The purpose of Day Reporting is to provide a structured therapeutic alternative to juveniles who would otherwise be subject to detention or other restrictive settings. FYSB provides a Social Worker for this program who facilitates therapeutic and skills training intervention. The program's focus is on education and participants work on earning credits through Grad Point, an on-line educational computer program that allows the participants to continue education and receive high school credits, while being absent from the community school. A main goal of the program is that the 100+ participants make optimal educational progress and earn credits towards attainment a high school diploma or its equivalent.

**Truancy Intervention Program, Project ATTEND** Project ATTEND (Aiming Toward Truancy Elimination and Non-Attendance Decrease) is a truancy diversion program that is a partnership between the Court, seven Porter County school districts, the Prosecutor's Office, and the Department of Child Services to provide a diversionary process for children and their families where truancy has become an issue. The FYSB Case Manager addresses truancy problems with the child and family in a team meeting type atmosphere where reasons behind the child's truancy are discussed. An agreement is made with the family and a case plan is formulated by the FYSB Case Manager to increase attendance and school performance. Approximately 250 youth are expected to be part of this program. The intention of the program is to intervene and affect change without the coercive intervention of the court.



*The mission of the Family & Youth Services Bureau is to assist youth and families through supportive services that create a positive change for Porter County.*



*Throughout our history we have partnered and collaborated with many organizations and entities to offer programs and activities such as these to help Porter County residents.*



For further information about any of these programs, please contact Belinda Georgeff at 219.464.9585 or [bgeorgeff@fysb.org](mailto:bgeorgeff@fysb.org).



# 5th Annual Pick & Treat for Tots October 1-31

The 5th Annual Pick & Treat for Tots drive, to benefit the Family & Youth Services Bureau's Tot Shop, will be held from October 1 through 31. The Tot Shop is an incentive-based program where young parents can shop for needed baby and toddler supplies. However, the items are not given away and they can't be purchased with money. Parents must EARN coupons by going to doctor visits, checkups for their kids, getting immunizations, attending parenting classes and nutrition workshops—doing things that educate them to be better parents. Then they receive coupons after attending these activities, and exchange their coupons for needed supplies like clothing, beds, and books. Over 1,500 local families used The Tot Shop in the past year.

The drive to replenish supplies for The Tot Shop is sponsored by BMO Harris Bank and area residents can participate by dropping off their donations to any BMO Harris Bank branch in Chesterton, Portage or Valparaiso. Other area businesses that will have drop off containers are Thorgren Tool and Molding, Task Force Tips, and Century 21 Alliance Group, all in Valparaiso. Donations can also be brought to the FYSB office at 253 W. Lincolnway in Valparaiso, or call 219.464.9585 to have items picked up.

Monetary donations are especially appreciated and needed at this time, to help pay for any items that are not donated.

## Pick & Treat For Tots



October 1 through October 31

A community effort to replenish supplies for The Tot Shop

Sponsored by



### Items needed at this time are:

- Girls winter clothing in sizes newborn and 6-9 months
- Boys winter clothing in sizes 18-24 months
- Boys receiving blankets      Unisex Boppy pillows
- Wooden puzzles      Plastic building blocks
- Educational toys

Because of hygiene concerns, The Tot Shop only accepts new items. Donors are requested to please leave price tag on the items donated, it will help determine value.

For more information about Pick & Treat for Tots, contact Jackie Gray at 219.464.9585 or [jgray@fysb.org](mailto:jgray@fysb.org).

**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.**

### Many thanks to all those who participated in the 2017 Chalk the Walk!



Save the date for the 2018 Chalk the Walk Saturday, June 9, 2018



## Featured Donors String-A-Long Quilt Guild and Sew Be It Quilt Guild

Since 2009, two local quilting groups, The String A Long Quilt Guild and The Sew Be It Quilt Guild have created and delivered hundreds of colorful quilts to Family & Youth Services Bureau.

These are handmade with such love and care and find homes with the families and kids in our CASA, Healthy Families and Tot Shop Programs. As you can imagine, it is quite special for a young child to receive something colorful, warm, and which totally belongs to only them!

We appreciate the time and effort put into these beautiful handcrafted pieces, and we know the kids who receive them appreciate it too.

Thank you to the members of these Quilt Guilds who give their time, energy and talent to our programs. We know they help out others in the community too. A great community effort!



### Family & Youth Services Bureau Board of Directors

**Bonnie Sullivan, Chair**

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**Kathy Evans**

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**Matt Workman**

## Featured Board Member

## Matt Workman

Matt is a Valparaiso resident and has been married to his wife Kaye for 25 years. He has a daughter who graduated from Purdue and now lives and works in Chicago and a son who attends Indiana University in Bloomington.

He has community service experience working with local chambers of commerce, realtor groups, builder's associations, and recently the Purdue Extension Community Leadership Program. In his free time, Matt enjoys running, officiating middle school cross country and track meets, and spending time with family. Thanks Matt for being part of our board!



## Featured Staff Member

## Carrie Honeycutt

Carrie Honeycutt is the Office Operations/HR Manager for Family & Youth Services Bureau. She is responsible for the day-to day office operations of our Valpo offices and acts as the human resource and information management manager for the agency. Carrie has a bachelor's degree in accounting that allows her to assist with strategic financial planning, forecasting, analyzing and preparing of annual budgets and much more.

She has worked in healthcare and mental health for more than 20 years with most of it being nonprofit. "I am passionate about working for an organization that believes in helping and making a difference in the lives others. I may not be making a difference directly in their lives but I can say that I am proud to be part of a team that does" states Carrie. She has one son serving in the United States Army and a son attending college. She enjoys spending time with close family and friends her dogs. Carrie loves spending time reading and believes you can never have too many books. Thanks Carrie for being part of our team!



### Staff

**Lisa Jordan**  
Chief Executive Officer  
219.464.9585 ljordan@fysb.org

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

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

**BeLinda Georgeff**  
Director of Programs Administration  
219.464.9585 bgeorgeff@fysb.org

**Jackie Gray**  
Director of Development and Community Relations  
219.464.9585 jgray@fysb.org

**Carrie Honeycutt**  
Office Operations Manager  
219.464.9585 choneycutt@fysb.org

**Tom Moeller**  
Director of Clinical Services  
219.464.9585 tmoeller@fysb.org



253 W. Lincolnway  
Valparaiso, IN 46383

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**Tel: 219.462.2665**

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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  
219-464-9585

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](mailto:info@fysb.org)

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