



# Reaching Out

The newsletter of the Family & Youth Services Bureau August 2015 volume 4 • issue 3

## New Education Option for Middle School Students

**The Learning Place is a successful program because:**

- It features a high ratio of staff to students.
- There is intense academic supervision and individualized instruction available for each student.
- It incorporates a behavioral system tied to both behavior and academic performance.
- Daily group and individual weekly counseling is part of the program for each student.
- The program requires parental involvement through teacher contact, groups and counseling.

**This August, the Family & Youth Services Bureau is reviving a successful alternative education program for Porter County Middle School Students: The Learning Place.**

It is a unique day treatment program with an effective behavior modification component coupled with a curriculum designed for at-risk middle school-aged students. The program is designed for those struggling with the traditional school expectations such as school attendance, academic achievement, or appropriate behavior.

The Family & Youth Services Bureau operated The Learning Place from 1977 to 2008. During that 30 years, nearly 500 Porter County students attended classes through this program and had the opportunity to learn new behaviors while continuing their education. In 2008 the funding sources for this type of program ceased and The Learning Place was closed. Due to a new funding source from the State of Indiana that will help offset expenses, The Learning Place was given new life and will begin operations again on August 19, 2015. The program will once again be available to youth in the community.



Dr. Ric Frataccia, Superintendent of Valparaiso Community Schools, recently commented at an educator's meeting "This program was one of the greatest programs for kids that can't be accommodated in a regular school setting. It was one of our community's biggest losses when Learning Place had to close."

Now, teachers and counselors at The Learning Place will again identify and provide comprehensive services and therapeutic support for younger adolescents and work with each youth to attain new skills and develop responsible ways of coping. Each day every student will also work with a curriculum developed specifically for their own needs and level, guided by licensed educators.

*For more information about The Learning Place contact Meagan Grybow, Learning Place Director at 219.510.6072 or [mgrybow@fysb.org](mailto:mgrybow@fysb.org)*

## Family Life Workshop: Illegal Leisure, the new normal?

The Family & Youth Services Bureau presents a Family Life Series Workshop, titled "Illegal Leisure: The Normalization of Substance Use in Today's Youth," held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm, at the FYSB office at 253 W. Lincolnway in downtown Valparaiso.

This workshop is led by Beatrice Owen, currently the Director of the Porter County Substance Abuse Council. She has a Master's Degree in Public Policy from The Ohio State University, and has over twenty years of non-profit management experience, fourteen of which have been in substance abuse.

*Limited spaces available; please RSVP for this free workshop by Friday, September 4th to 219-464-9585 or [kunderwood@fysb.org](mailto:kunderwood@fysb.org); please include your name and contact information.*

- Discover the alarmingly growing trend and normalization of illegal substance use
- Become informed about the daily exposure of drugs and alcohol on our youth
- Learn how to help recognize and diminish the influence of illegal substances on our youth

## A Community Effort To Replenish Tot Shop Supplies

# Pick & Treat For Tots

October 1 through October 31

A community effort to replenish supplies for The Tot Shop

sponsored by  BMO Harris Bank



*Items most in need at The Tot Shop  
at this time: (new items only)*

Sheets for Cribs    Mobiles for Cribs

Developmental Toys

Fall Jackets    Winter Jackets

Hooded Sweatshirts

High Chair Covers    Baby Carriers/Slings

**BMO Harris Bank and The Family & Youth Services Bureau are inviting you, your office or organization to be involved in our 3rd Annual 2015 Pick & Treat For Tots drive for The Tot Shop.**

The Tot Shop is a unique store that doesn't take money....families with newborns and toddlers earn coupons that they exchange for diapers, educational toys, clothing, cribs, and other children's items, sizes infant through 5.

Parents earn the coupons by participating in activities like prenatal exams, parenting classes, well-baby check-ups, health screenings, and immunizations. Coupons are distributed at over 20 medical and social service locations in Northwest Indiana.

The Tot Shop is located at 257 W. Lincolnway in Valparaiso.

### It is easy and rewarding to participate:

- Hold a baby shower at a specific time, or ask your group to bring in needed items during a designated time period.
- **We are asking people to schedule this drive between October 1 and October 31; and we do accept new donated items all year.**
- When you have collected the items from your friends, members or colleagues, you can drop them off at the Family & Youth Services Bureau office at 253 W. Lincolnway in Valparaiso or we can pick them up. If you would like someone to talk to your group about The Tot Shop and the Family & Youth Services Bureau, let us know!

**The BMO Harris Bank branches in Valparaiso, Portage, and Chesterton are drop off locations for item donations during the month of October. Thank You!**

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.

## CASA Volunteer Training

**Established in Porter County in 1990 by the Family & Youth Services Bureau, the CASA Program advocates for what is in the best interests of abused and/or neglected children. They save lives.**

Every day in this country 1,900 children become victims of abuse or neglect, and four of them will die. Volunteer advocates—empowered directly by the courts—offer judges critical information they need to insure that each child's rights and needs are being attended to by relatives or while in foster care.

The Court Appointed Special Advocate—also known as the CASA volunteer—is assigned to work with a child who has been abused and/or neglected. After visiting with the child over a period of time, the CASA prepares a detailed assessment of the case and reports back to the court what is in the best interest of the child.

Our CASA program is beginning a volunteer training in September, and will also hold training sessions two or three times in 2016. Each 40 hour training session is completed over a several week period.

*For information about the CASA program or becoming a CASA volunteer, please contact Cissie Wardell at 464-9585 or cwardell@fysb.org.*

## Featured Donor

## Jan Tudor Stump and Tudor Floors

"Family is really what it's all about," says Jan Tudor Stump. "Our company and family has had affiliation with The Family and Youth Services Bureau for many years, with the initial contact of agency founder Dennis Morgan. Dennis was a great support to our family, (especially my brother) when our Dad passed away at a very young age. We learned first hand how FYSB impacts our community and we believe the financial support of this agency builds stronger families."

Established in 1969, Tudor Floors Carpet One is a 3rd generation family owned business. These hard-working family members have done everything from janitorial, marketing, selling, and servicing. "You don't know what hat you need to wear each day, and we are all ready for whatever task is needed!"

Jan is also generous about giving her time to many community activities. She currently sits on the boards of Valparaiso Rotary Club and The Caring Place and the business also supports the 4-H and Veteran's organizations. Jan, you are one of the stellar people who make this a great community! We can't thank you enough!



## Featured Board Member

## Pat McGinley

Pat is a life long resident of Valparaiso and has worked in many capacities in local banking since 1981. He is currently Vice President and Senior Commercial Loan Officer at Horizon Bank.

"We all face challenges in our lives, some more than others," comments Pat. "FYSB provides support for children and families to assist with moving past those challenges, improving their personal relationships and in turn improving our community."

Pat brings extensive Board experience to FYSB, having sat on the Boards of Valparaiso Kiwanis, Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce, Boys and Girls Clubs of Porter County, YMCA of Valparaiso, and Housing Opportunities.

He has been married to his wife Teresa for 32 years and they have two children. Thank you for all the time and effort you give to FYSB Pat, and also what you have given to all in our community!



## Featured Staff Member

## Patricia Cervantes

What she enjoys seeing most? "The humble SMILE of each family that I visit. Yes, seeing that big smile on the face of a family member when I point out the strengths that we've discovered in their lives." says Patricia Cervantes. "It is so rewarding to see the look on someone's face when I can acknowledge their accomplishments and efforts."

Patricia is the Lead Family Support Specialist for the FYSB Healthy Families Program and has worked for our agency for the past 11 years.

Her own family is comprised of singers and musicians who are very involved in their parish choir, and are currently in the process of recording their first Christian CD. We're smiling with you too, Patricia. Thank you for helping our community and being part of Family & Youth Services Bureau!



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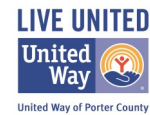
**Many thanks to all the Sponsors and Artists and Volunteers  
who helped make the 2015 Chalk the Walk a success!**

**The 4th Annual Chalk the Walk will be on  
Saturday, June 11, 2016—Save the Date!**



**Our Mission is to assist youth and families  
through supportive services that create  
a positive change for Porter County.**

**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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