

Another Successful Year for School Mentoring Program

Topics covered during FYSB mentoring sessions

- Goals
- Values
- Family dynamics
- Teasing
- Bullying
- Coping with change
- Seeking out positive role models

The Family & Youth Services Bureau offers weekly mentoring programs at three middle schools in Porter County from September through May.

"I have noticed that participants in this program have grown so much in their confidence and ability to express themselves and communicate with one another and staff," remarks Deb Kleist, Guidance Counselor at Thomas Jefferson Middle School. "They demonstrate more resilience in dealing with stressful situations throughout the week, and they clearly look forward to their group time."

FYSB staff members Ann Baas, Dan Rau, and Emily Aytes facilitate a total of twelve groups, serving 75 students at Fegely, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson Middle Schools each week.

Each session begins with the students sharing their "high" and "low" moments of the week

and discussing with the group their reactions to those moments.

This program, which has been offered to area schools since 2010, is designed to bolster self-esteem, build social skills, and provide positive adult and peer role models for at-risk students.

One middle school student recently shared "I learned that when I get teased I don't have to believe everything people say about me. It is their problem, not mine. And now I respect myself more."

This Middle School Mentoring Program has been funded in part over the years by grants from the Indiana Youth Services Association and the United Way of Porter County Power of Youth.

The middle school mentoring program is one of more than twenty programs or services offered to the community by the Family & Youth Services Bureau. For more information about the mentoring program contact Tom Moeller at 219-464-9585 or tmoeller@fysb.org.

3rd Annual Chalk the Walk set for Saturday June 13

Chalk the Walk brings vibrant color, family friendly activities, and the chance to be an artist to the Porter County 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. The artwork lasts for weeks!

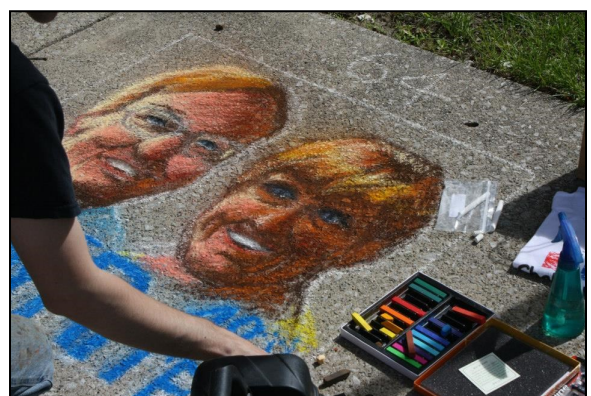
All sponsors receive 3 x 3 foot spaces to create a chalk drawing on the Porter County Courthouse sidewalk, including a box of brightly colored chalk. Sponsorships start at only \$150.00.

We are also looking for artists of all ages to partner with sponsors, and there is no fee to sign up as an artist.

Are you interested in being a sponsor or an artist for this event? Please contact Jackie Gray at 464-9585 or jgray@fysb.org, or check our website for information: www.fysb.org.

This event supports the more than twenty programs and services offered to the community by The Family & Youth Services Bureau.

Thank you for your support!



The foundation of every state is the education of its youth.

~Diogenes

The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

Develop a passion for learning. If you do, you will never cease to grow.

~Anthony J. D'Angelo

Good questions outrank easy answers.

~Paul Samuelson

Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.

~Margaret Mead

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

~Confucius

There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life.

~Mary Rose McGeady

The Learning Place returns for the 2015-2016 school year



The Learning Place is one of more than twenty programs or services offered to the residents of Porter County by

An alternative academic day treatment program for Porter County middle school students begins in August 2015.

The Learning Place is a day treatment program for students in grades 6-8 who have experienced significant behavioral difficulties in the public school setting. Academic, counseling and behavioral components encourage students to return to and succeed in the traditional school setting.

Each student's academic plan is individualized to address deficiencies in basic skills and knowledge base.

This program revives the critical and highly utilized program that FYSB provided for many years but was closed in 2008 due to funding cuts. It is re-established with a generous grant from the Indiana Department of Children's Services.

Family Life Series Workshops presented for the Community

Tuesday, July 7

- How to Strengthen Families Despite Our Fragmented Lives

Tuesday, September 8

- What Happened To Those Sweet, Compliant Children We Knew?

Tuesday, November 10

- Current Substance Abuse Trends

For the last several years we have offered our Family Life Workshops, which are small group presentations held at our Valparaiso office. Our goal with these free workshops is to provide a forum where community members, social service professionals, and educators can gain knowledge about issues affecting our local kids and families.

Currently, the Family Life Workshops are scheduled six times each year, and held on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 7:30 pm at the Family & Youth Services Bureau downtown Valparaiso office.

The Family Life Workshop Series is one of more than twenty programs or services offered to the residents of Porter County by The Family & Youth Services Bureau.

In Memory: Nancy VanVolkenburgh



It is with great sadness that we share this news. On March 31, 2015, Nancy VanVolkenburgh, the Director of Clinical Services at the Family & Youth Services Bureau, passed away in St. Petersburg, Florida as the result of an automobile accident. Nancy's husband Jeff was injured in the accident and survived.

Nancy was a valued member of our Executive Management Team and had worked at the Family & Youth Services Bureau for 14 years. She helped so many children and families through her compassionate and exemplary work here at our agency. Nancy also volunteered with many local organizations including the United Way and the Porter County Substance Abuse Council. She will be missed by staff, clients, and the community.

Valparaiso University Student Steps Up, Gives Back to Local Community

Valparaiso University students Zach Robbins and Logan Mulvihill unload thirty Pack and Play Cribs that their fraternity donated to the Tot Shop and Healthy Families Programs.



"I started this effort because I wanted to do a local project and help the people in my own neighborhood," says Valparaiso University student and organizer Logan Mulvihill. "I came to be interested in Pack & Play cribs because the BridgeMe Youth organization does a lot with infants and this felt like a very viable and simple option to make a lasting impact in the community."

Logan garnered planning and funding support from his fraternity, Lambda Chi Alpha, and received donations from other campus organizations, and friends and family. His efforts here in our community are impressive and greatly appreciated. Logan, we believe you will surely have a positive impact in the world throughout your life. Thank You again!

BridgeMe Youth's Mission is to instigate an international youth-led movement to improve childhood well-being. Founded in 2014, they work at the intersection of awareness, resource provision, and education to improve childhood health in underserved communities around the world.

Valparaiso University student Logan Mulvihill is one of two founders of the BridgeMe Youth organization, which has established activities in nineteen universities located in fourteen countries around the world.

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Hayes-Leonard Students Gather, Give Back, Learn About Responsibility

Students at Hayes-Leonard Elementary School recently collected over 100 bags of diapers and related supplies for the FYSB 2015 Hyper Diaper Drive.

The school has established a monthly team building and character education program called "Team Lead" and chose in April to gather items for the diaper drive.

"Responsibility was the theme this month," states teacher Laura Van Houten, "We wanted to demonstrate how easy and rewarding it is to give to someone who needs help."

Over 350 students and staff participated in this project. Your effort and generosity is amazing and we thank you!



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**Find out about the many ways you can help the kids and families at FYSB:
contact us at 219-464-9585 or info@fysb.org,
or make a donation on our website: www.fysb.org**



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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	6469 Central Avenue Portage, IN 46368
257 W. Lincolnway Valparaiso, IN 46383	1660 S. State Rd. 2 Valparaiso, IN 46385

If you have a name or address correction
or would like your name removed from our mailing list,
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