



Dear Friends,

It may be winter, but Family & Youth Services Bureau is shining light throughout Porter County. Whether counseling a struggling teen, advocating for a CASA child, helping a new mom with essential baby supplies, or teaching a young family better parenting skills, we are grateful to be making an impact right here in our local community. We couldn't do this without generous donors and supporters like you!

As we reflect on 2024 and look at what's coming in 2025, there's so much we want to share with you. Here's a brief snapshot of what we're excited about:

We were able to complete the move into our beautiful new building.



After vacating our previous location out of necessity, we were thankful that the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce and also Valparaiso University offered us short-term space as we searched for a new building. With the help of our dedicated board and an excellent realtor, we secured a new building just north of the high school and moved in during 2024. We're still working on signage and improvements, but we're mostly settled!

Our programs continue to create positive change in kids' lives.

In 2024, our licensed counselors spent over 700 hours face-to-face with struggling teens. Many of those teens were referred to us through the court system, and many also elect to continue counseling with us even after their requirements are completed, because their time with us has made a difference in their life. Additionally, our CASA team served over 4600 volunteer hours and advocated for more than 150 children in court.



Seeing our neighbors and local businesses make a difference has been amazing.



We've had so many friends, neighbors, and colleagues give of their time and finances over the past year, which has been wonderful and encouraging to experience. Our Tot Shop and Healthy Families programs welcomed significant donations from Calvary Church, Kankakee Valley REMC, Urschel Laboratories, Real Life Community Church, Liberty Bible Church, and more.

While we had to cancel our largest fundraiser last summer – Chalk the Walk – as we completed our move to the new building, several of you graciously stepped in to help in other ways. Thank you!

Save the date – Chalk the Walk is back for Summer 2025!

This summer, our Chalk the Walk fundraising event will be back in full swing! We can't share all the details just yet, but save the date for Saturday, June 14th and be on the lookout for more information soon. We'll be bringing a fun-filled family event to the courthouse square and you won't want to miss it!



What can you do to help?

It's a small thing to ask, but right now we'd appreciate help spreading the word about who we are and what we do here at FYSB. While we've been around for over 50 years, there are still many people who don't know about us. Often, families only discover us once they need our services. We'd love for them to know about us *before* they need us. That's where you come in! We're happy to come to your workplace or associations and give a presentation about what we do. You can also follow us on Facebook and share our posts. Tell your friends about the tremendous difference we make right here at home in Porter County!

If you have any questions or feedback for us, or would like to chat about creating a philanthropic plan, please reach out to Jaime at jgibbs@fysb.org. We'd love to schedule a phone call or even grab a coffee.

Everything we do here is about assisting youth and families through supportive services that create positive change in Porter County... because we believe **all kids matter**.

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