

ANNUAL REPORT FY2014



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ON SERVING AND BEING THANKFUL

By John Moses

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

—Margaret Mead

Now imagine the caring people being four brothers, all kids. On August 9, Joshua, age 12, Nathan, 10, Joseph, 8, and Noah 6, raised over \$700 for needy kids of Youth Services System.

This inspiration for their charity goes to Lauren and James Farmer, proud parents of these loving and handsome boys.

Every year, all birthdays are celebrated on one day. Invited family and friends know that gifts they buy are for the charity that the boys choose so they can "bless many, many children across the valley." What an incredible gift they are receiving. Their parents are shaping our Lord's mandate to love our neighbor in a real and tangible way.

I know in my heart they are

receiving His Grace and Blessing in kind. "We must become like little children" has special and personal meaning for me. The smiles on their faces are priceless.

Leave it to the imagination of children to change the world. Happy birthday Joshua, Nathan, Joseph and Noah from all of us at YSS and from a proud community you've inspired.

P.S.: I hear a baby brother may be joining you in February?



The Farmer brothers

WHEELING SLEEPOUT

Friday, November 7, teams of people will take to Lisa's Field at the J.B. Chambers Sports Complex for the Wheeling SleepOut.

To join us go to: www.wheelingsleep.org . Register and help raise funds to

support YSS' work with homeless youth and those who are working with us to learn independent living skills.

This year, our theme is Putting the Pieces Together. Youth end up out of the home for many reasons and those building

their cardboard creation for that night will get to express these reasons.

We look forward to the great BoxedIn Designs for this year's event. See past winners at the Wheeling SleepOut website.

YSS RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Since 1974, YSS has maintained the northern panhandle's only emergency youth shelters—Samaritan House and Helinski Shelter. Starting in 1986, YSS has operated the Northern Regional Juvenile Center, now the Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center as the state's only private non-profit juvenile facility. Since last year, this center has been serving young women who are committed to state correctional care.

In FY2014, our emergency shelters welcomed **130** youth. The Ronald C. Mulholland Juvenile Center had **150** youth in total.

Our Youth Achievement Center works with young men 12-17 with an intellectual delay or disability and co-existing behavior issues. This long-term residential center served **10** youth.

Where do these young men and women go when they leave our care?

A third of them (**34%**) go home, to a relative's home. A significant number of these youth (**34%**) move to more specialized treatment to meet their needs including psychiatric inpatient care.

13% go to detention centers other than our own Mulholland Center, some to adult

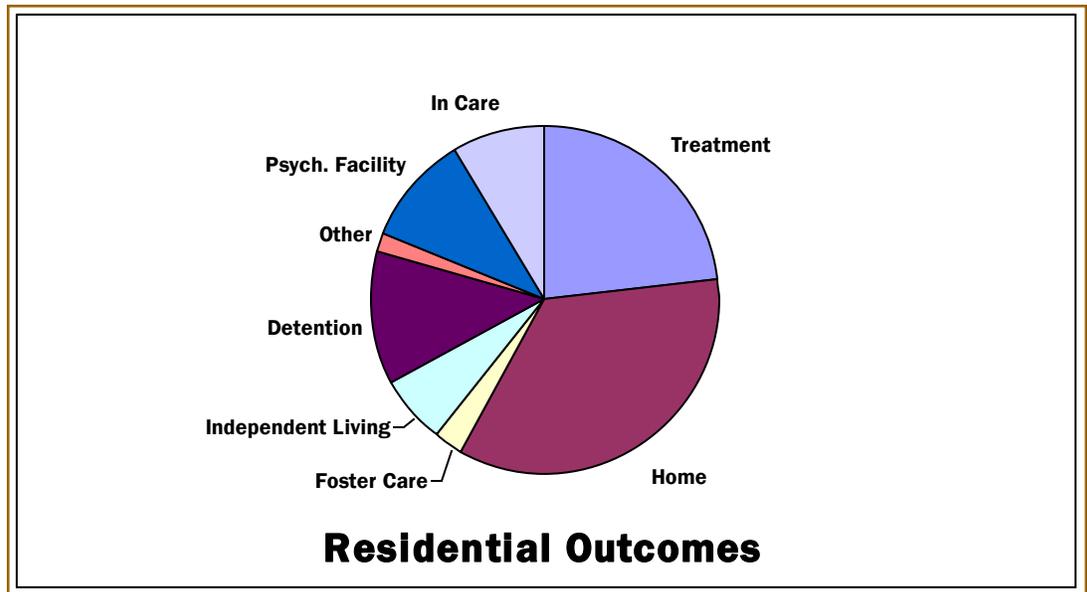
corrections.

6% move on to pursue independent living into and graduating from our Transitional Living Program. **4.5%** go to foster care homes or to other safe destinations.

8.5% remained in our care as our FY2014 ended on June 30, 2014.

We want children to be in safe homes, or to receive much needed treatment and care. The chart below illustrates these residential outcomes.

68% of youth in our residential programs return home or they receive needed specialized treatment upon discharge from our care.



COMMUNITY SERVICES—REACHING OUT TO

Families in crisis are helped through YSS community services. These services are designed to give parents skills, support their best efforts and enable families to stay together or to be reunited if the children have been placed out of their care.

32 families participated in parent education and support in FY2014, 19 of them reported success. 7

were still in the program at year's end. Other families lost custody of their children.

Supervised Visitation served 28 families. 12 kept custody of their children or regained it 10 families are still being served.

22 families worked with our Adult Living Skills program.

12 reached their plan goals, with 3 still participating.

In-Home Safety Services worked with 14 families, 7 were successful in reducing the risk to their children.

MOVING FORWARD TO ADULTHOOD

Each year, between 200 and 300 youth in West Virginia's child welfare system turn 18 and leave their care. Youth Services System has worked with these youth who are approaching adulthood offering housing, support, and services to these young men and women for 31 years.

In FY2014, 31 youth created a plan for their independence in our Transitional Living Program. 23 of them entered post-secondary education or training programs. 4 received their GEDs. 39 youth (including those in the program on July 1, 2013) were employed.

This is a critical time of life when every young person is setting the foundation stones for their future. YSS believes

that our work makes a valuable difference in their lives.

Without this care, studies show that former foster care youth face giant hurdles:

They are poor, with many of them unemployed,. At age 24, their income is half that of everyone else of their age.

They report being homeless since they left foster care.

They are more likely to be parents, more likely to have been in the criminal justice system as victims and violators.

Transitional Living works to give youth a solid start.



On Patriot Day, youth from our transitional living program delivered baskets thanking local first responders, in this case, the U.S. Army. In the photo, from left to right, Sergeant First Class Justin C. Korff, Sam Eakle, Kenny Stouffer, Kody Bailes and Sergeant First Class Christopher L. Johnson. Sam, Kenny and Kody participate in Youth Services System's Transitional Living Program.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR CHANGE

Youth, or families in crisis benefit from the services that YSS professionals offer. In FY2014, our professional staff treated 54 youth in our Intensive Outpatient Program for alcohol and drug abuse. 78 youth experienced our outpatient services including therapy.

Our Central Referral, Intake,

and Services Program staffed by licensed social workers fielded 1040 referrals, calls, and questions.

Our case managers worked with 181 youth and their families. Their work led in many instances to better relationships within families, new sources of support for a youth and their parents, and an end

to the crisis which had existed.

Bridges, our school-based counselors, served 300 youth in Marshall County schools and Wheeling Park High School.



WORK AND TRAINING

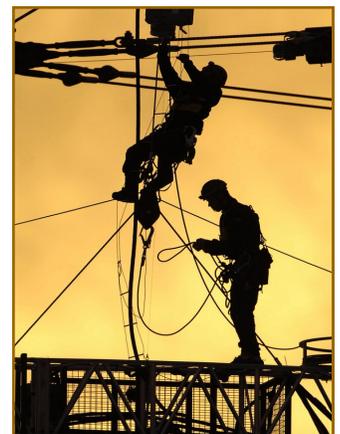
Youth Services System's offers employment training, life skills training, and work experiences for young people in the northern panhandle.

The **Life Skills** training gives young people insight into what they need to know to be fully functioning adults in the our communities. This includes skills at living independently, at seeking jobs, and keeping jobs. 211 youth participated in this program

during FY2014

The Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board (NPWIB) makes our **Youth In Action** possible. 140 youth participated in this program last year. 104 of them found work. 18 graduated from high school, or received GEDs or training certificates. Two completed programs at Belmont College and West Virginia Northern Community College. Another finished LPN

training. All 140 completed their Test for Adult Basic Education successfully.



YOUTH SERVICES SYSTEM BOARD FY2014

FY2014 Board of Directors

- Darryl E. Clausell, Board Chair
- George M. Smoulder, Vice Chair
- E. Marc Abraham, Finance Committee Chair
- Susan C. Hogan, Secretary
- Geoff Brown
- Ralph Edwards
- Terri Garrett
- Ron Klug, emeritus
- H. Lawrence (Larry) Jones
- Jason Koegler
- Rod Lee
- Dennis Madama
- Phil Redford.
- Wayne Smith

We welcome new Youth Services System Board members for FY2015:

- Sheli Bernstein-Goff*
- Art Bertol*
- Christie Contraguero*
- Robert (Bob) Gaudio*
- Ron Klug*

Ron Klug is one of YSS's founders and he requested to rejoin the board as a member. Art Bertol also rejoined.

Sheli, Christie and Bob became new board members. Each has already contributed to YSS—Sheli as a Safe Place Advisory Committee member, Christie, the organizer of the Challenge Wheeling race-contest, and Bob as a Master of Ceremony and Wheeling SleepOut supporter.



Susan Hogan, long-time Board member and Board Secretary left the Board in June. We recognized her service with , our thanks and a gift. In the photo from the left, John Moses, Susan Hogan, and Marc Abraham, FY2015 Board Chair.

Leave A Legacy

In making plans for distributing your assets, making a charitable gift may be one of your choices. To make a gift to Youth Services System, here is some suggested language to do this;

"I hereby give and bequeath to Youth Services System, Inc. of 87 Fifteenth Street, Wheeling, West Virginia, the sum of \$ Gift amount, to be used by it in any matter deemed appropriate by its board of directors as then constituted."

Your gift will support our work with youth into the future, meeting needs, and creating services to help young people meet and overcome any challenges. Thanks for your support.

JODY PRATHER— A PARTNER FOR YOUTH

Youth Services System and the youth whom we are privileged to serve are fortunate to have many friends. One of these is Jody Prather.

Jody Prather runs Gumby's and he has been quietly helping YSS youth for years.

With the Wheeling SleepOut , he has been an active sponsor since our first SleepOut,

four years ago.

Gumby's employees have been judges for the Boxed In Design contest. His employees have organized teams and built SleepOut shelters for our and for their use through the night. They have helped with the morning cleanup as well.

Gumby's has helped spread the message about homeless

youth and YSS' work with them.

They have donated furniture for our residential programs. He has helped at Christmas. His passion for young people carries over to his family of employees who care about how young people are doing in our communities.

Thank you, Jody !

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

YSS works with Elm Grove Elementary School to offer Before and After School programs for those attending. Last year, 123 children took part in this program that enriches their learning in Ohio County.

Starting last year, McNinch Elementary School in Moundsville began an After School, funded in part by Noble Energy. This program is offered to McNinch students

and those at Central Elementary School in Moundsville. This program had 20 students taking part. Snacks, tutoring and physical activity are all part of the program. Community Child Care Center served 60 children during the past fiscal year, through its



closing on December 31, 2013.

THANKS FROM A MOM

Matt Grimard, BSW, a Life Skills Specialist with Youth Services System received this letter from a parent—

Dear Matt,

I wanted to take the time and thank you for the job you did this summer. It was one of the hardest and darkest times I have ever had to face as a parent. I was nervous and unsure going into the process...

I began to question my abilities as a mother. Being away from my child had only made matters worse, so I was elated when I found out I would be able to see my child...

However, the idea of someone coming into my home and observe me with my child was embarrassing and upsetting. I dreaded what kind of person they would send and felt sure that neither of us would be comfortable.

But from the very first visit I was at ease and I could tell you had a great way with children and that my child wouldn't mind interacting with you.

As time went on, we got to have a lot of fun with you there and you gave me the opportunity to spend time with my child and I cherished that.

Thank you for being the per-

son that you are and doing the job that you do. It is unfortunate the way you came into our lives, but I'm glad it was you and not anyone else. I am very confident you will have a great impact on the lives of families you meet, just like you did with ours.

Wishing you the best.

All we have to add to that is something that Douglas Adams once said:

"To give real service you must add something which cannot be bought or measured with money, and that is sincerity and integrity."

Thanks for your work, Matt!

Celebrate
Youth
2014

August 8



Father & son face-painted at Celebrate Youth



The Full Circle Wedding Consignment Shop team at Challenge Wheeling— from the left, Sarah Carpenter, Missy Ashmore, Lauren Farmer, and Carrie Anderson. This race featured historic clues, teams, and costumes. Carpet Showcase Flooring Center sponsored this event as a benefit for Youth Services, both turned 40 this year. Look for it again in 2015!

Challenge
Wheeling

June 21

FUNDERS—THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

Youth Services System, Inc. receives funding from: the **West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources**, Bureau of Children and Families; Bureau of Health and Health Facilities; Bureau for Medical Services; from the **West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety**, Division of Juvenile Services. Also, YSS

receives program support from the **US Department of Health and Human Services**, Family and Youth Services Bureau and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board; BB&T West Virginia Foundation, Christian Fellowship Foundation, Christian Soldiers Fund, Chevron Community Fund, Darden Foundation; Enter-

prise Holdings Foundation; Fitzsimmons Family Foundation, Hawley Family Foundation, Hess Family Foundation, Hoffmann Charitable Foundation, Kohl's Cares, Marshall County Board of Education, Marshall County Commission, Ohio County Board of Education, Ohio County Commission, Brad Paisley Foundation, Schenk Family Charitable Trust; Joan & Fred Stamp Charitable Trust, J.C. Williams Char-

itable Trust, Women's Giving Circle, and many individual donors. Thanks for your support of our youth and the programs which serve them.

See a complete list of Youth Services System donors on our website!

We're on the Web:
Youthservicessystem.org

Wheeling SleepOut
2013 Sponsors
Thank You !

Gumby's LLC
Darden Restaurants—Red Lobster, Olive Garden. Long Horn Steakhouse
Northwood Health Systems
City of Wheeling
Gold, Khourey & Turak L.C.
WTRF TV7
Kohl's Cares
Ye Olde Alpha
Wayne & Carolyn Smith
Highmark Blue Cross/ Blue Shield of West Virginia
Don Chamberlain
Newellstown Diner
Sunset Recycling
Salvation Army
Music Sponsors
BG Audio
Studio S Productions
Hit Play band
Sarah Hays Band
Uncle Eddie & Robin
www.wheelingsleepout.org

2660 YOUTH AND FAMILIES SERVED

YSS' FY2014 ran from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

During FY2014, our staff, with much support, have served 2660 youth and families.

Professional Services:
1353 served;

Residential Services : 326 youth served

School-Based Services:
300;

Youth Jobs and Training: 355

After School –Before School Care & Community Child Care: 203;



Boxed In Design Winner for 2013—Wheeling Oddfellows—Wheeling SleepOut

Community-Based Services: 96

Transitional Living: 31 (including Tuel/McCrary)

Our Winter Freeze Shelter housed 115 adults this past year. 26 of those were women.

NIP Tax Credits

During this past year, Youth Services System received \$35,000 in Neighborhood Investment Program (NIP) tax credits from the West Virginia Department of Development.

Donors who gave \$500 or more to Youth Services System who paid WV personal income taxes, WV Corporate Net Income Tax or WV Business Franchise Tax had their taxes reduced through the use of these credits.

For this current fiscal year, we have received \$50,000 in NIP tax credits.

For those interested in reducing your WV taxes and supporting our work, please contact Tammy Kruse, YSS Director of Development at **304-218-2869** for details.

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