

# Youth Services System, Inc.

## Annual Report on Services

JULY 1, 2012 - JUNE 30, 2013

FISCAL YEAR 2013

### Our Mission:

*We are a community of caring people sharing a sense of ministry to children and their families.*



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## Commitment—the long view

By John Moses

A child is born, and a new life begins, for that child and his parents. Children are a commitment to the future.

That is our view at Youth Services System. Early on, the question was put to us by the youth we served—“if I need you, can I come back?” Those who came back may have had a need or a question, or they may have wanted to share their accomplishments. What they were asking is this: Are you committed for the long run, to helping me, or not?

Ron Mulholland believed that saying “Yes” to a youth, to their needs, to their caretakers was a necessary first step. Even our acronym: YSS says this.

A child becomes a teen then

becomes an adult. The lessons and skills they learn on that path, and the people they meet shape them. The commitment starts with the parent, but we share that commitment.

In saying Yes, Youth Services System has moved from providing emergency shelter to working with youth in schools, in the community, and at home, along with other residential services—from the Northern Regional Juvenile Center, the Youth Achievement Center, and Tuel Center and McCrary Center, both of which work with older youth in transition.



## Aging Out—One Journey at a Time

Vince is a nineteen-year-old who has been at McCrary Center since January 31, 2013. He was previously in our Phase I at Tuel Center in New Martinsville. While in the Phase I Program, he was able to attend a Heavy Equipment Operators Certificate Program in Marietta, Ohio. Work Force West Virginia paid for him to attend the eight-week program. He earned his certificate in December of 2012. While in

Phase I of Transitional Living, he had successfully worked on his independent living skills and was able to advance to Phase II.

The Chaffee Program through WV DHHR provided him a monthly stipend so that he could have time to find employment. While in Phase II, he had temporary employment through Youth Services and the summer work program of West Virginia Work Force. He was able to

**During FY2013, our staff, with much support, have served 2863 youth and families.**

**Professional Services: 1267**

**Residential Services : 323**

**School-Based Services: 589**

**Youth Jobs and Training: 355**

**Community Child Care: 210**

**Community-Based Services: 71**

**Transitional Living: 48 (including Tuel/McCrary)**

Our Winter Freeze Shelter housed 113 adults this past year.

This report shares the ways we are committed to youth. Your support is part of that commitment. Thank You.

save money. In addition, he received a large lump sum of money from West Virginia DHHR. This enabled him to purchase a vehicle. As a result of a reference from his Heavy Equipment Program he was able to obtain employment in his chosen field. He now works full time, and has advanced to Phase III. He maintains contact with his family, and is able to have successful home visits with his family.

## Community Child Care Center

The Wheeling Community Child Care served **85 children** at their center on North York Street. In addition, another **125 children** participated in the Before and After School Program at Elm Grove Elementary School also operated by Community Child Care.

Energizing Our Youth, a Marshall County after-school program at McNinch Elementary School, Moundsville, is another location served through the Community Child Care Center.



*Darryn McCormick, Ryel Swan, Gavin Cihon at the Child Care Christmas Play*

### *Youth Employment and Training*

YSS has two employment and training programs: Our **JOBS** program worked with **215 youth** this past year. **Youth In Action!**, the **NP WIB** program, enrolled **140 youth**. Of those enrolled, **92** found employment. **Eleven youth** received either a **GED** or **High School Diploma**, and another **9 youth** attended **College** or **training programs**.

## Emily: A Youth In Action!

Emily Johnson joined the Youth in Action! Employment Skills Program in December of 2011 during her junior year at Cameron High School. She heard about the program from her boyfriend who had a positive experience with us completing Coal Mining classes funded through the Workforce Investment Board. Emily was doing very well nearing the completion of her junior year when her boyfriend tragically passed away that May.

While this traumatic experience could have derailed Emily, as she began her senior year, she refocused and continued to stay involved in multiple school functions and worked hard towards graduation. Besides participating in Future Farmers of America, Chorus and

Cheerleading, Emily was also a member of homecoming court, her senior Class President and an Ohio Valley Athletic Conference honoree as a student-athlete for the Cameron softball team. Her hard work paid off, as she was named "Rotary Student of the Month," earned the Promise Scholarship and finished ranked ninth in her class.

She worked hard outside of school activities, displaying a great work ethic at a young age. She was employed by Panera Bread at the Highlands, driving from Cameron to Triadelphia many nights a week before having to resign her position due to softball. Following graduation Emily started working full-time at Teletech in Moundsville working 40-plus hours per week steady-

ly before Teletech announced its closing. Still, instead of working out her time there and waiting for them to close, Emily immediately pursued and received a position at the Cabela's Distribution Center.

Emily will continue her success this spring at West Virginia Northern Community College, as she will be studying Respiratory Therapy. With her tenacity and drive, Emily has truly succeeded through Youth in Action! and embodies the success that the program seeks for its participating

## Samaritan House and Helinski Shelter

Samaritan House was the first service of YSS. Emergency shelter care and services are still at the center of our mission. Samaritan House in Wheeling and Helinski Shelter in Moundsville welcome youth who need our care.

During the FY2013 fiscal year, Samaritan House provided shelter to **78 youth** and Helinski Shelter had **60 young people**,

primarily girls.

These youth find at our shelters that they are not alone. The time spent there may begin their treatment for substance abuse. It may be the beginning of their personal healing from trauma and of creating a new relationship with their families. Whatever else it is, emergency shelters are a turning point and a place of security in a crisis.

## Youth Achievement Center

The Youth Achievement Center is a residential program working with youth with both behavioral health issues and intellectual deficits, using positive behavioral support.

We served **thirteen** individuals during this year. We worked with children from Marshall, Mineral, Barbour, Preston, Wood, Marion, Ohio, Ritchie, Mercer, and Kanawha counties. Five of our residents have been reunited with their families, while others have moved on to other placements. Our residents have participated in a wide variety of activities ranging from football, wrestling, basketball and 4H. One of our residents had a below passing GPA when he joined us, his GPA was 3.8 when he completed our program. Using community integration as a major focal point of our program, our residents are able to use and take advantage of services the community has to offer.

## Community-Based Services

Youth Services System works with families and youth throughout the Northern Panhandle in our Community-Based Services.

Families gain support, information, and training in their homes or at our Central Office to alleviate crisis and build new skills and understanding.

During the past year, **27 parents** participated in our Parent

Training and support and 74% of these parents demonstrated improved skills. Our Supervised Visitation Program worked with **26 families** and of these, 69% of the parents were able to be reunited with their children.

Safety Services are provided when there is concern about whether the children in the household can stay at home. **10 families** received these critical

services and 70% were successful in eliminating the risks to their children originally found in the home environment. **Eight families** worked on Adult Life Skills with 63% able to reach important life goals.

## Northern Regional Juvenile Center

The Northern Regional Juvenile Center, located at the former Lincoln High School, is the state's only private, non-profit juvenile center.

Youth are sent to the NRJC by court order. During their stay, all residents attend school every week day, year round. There are groups which talk about decision-making, about learning new ways to relate to others. Families

have regular contact with their children and once a month there is a Family Dinner that brings everyone together.

Education is important. Many residents are behind when they enter our care. During FY2013, 10 NRJC residents received GEDs during their stay and another finished high school.

Youth from 16 different counties resided at Lincoln.

**The NRJC served 172 youth.**

Changes in West Virginia's juvenile corrections are bringing changes to the Northern Regional Juvenile Center. In addition to youth awaiting a decision on their charges, the NRJC is serving young women who have been sentenced.



*Linda Scott, NRJC program manager at their Open House with Nicole Daniels, a former resident.*

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*Emeritus*

# Professional Services

Substance abuse treatment, individual and family therapy, assessments, nursing care, case management and a 24 hour intake system are core components of our work.

We have licensed social workers on call to take referrals, answer questions, and to do family assessments. These intake workers had **857 calls** last year. Our case managers worked with

**264 youth** and their families.

Hope's Promise, our intensive outpatient program for adolescent substance abuse treatment and recovery served **60 young people**.

We had **86 youth** receiving therapy and outpatient care.

## How are we doing?

YSS has a Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) process reviews our work, our facilities, and services through the eyes of our licensing bodies, our staff and managers, and those we serve.

We use surveys of our youth and of their parents or guardians as one part of our CQI surveys process. In FY2013, our youth showed:

97% reported that staff always or sometimes are friendly, courteous, and work well together:

96% said staff are always or sometimes helpful with their problems;

94% said would always or sometimes ask YSS for help if they needed it.

Parents reported

94% said staff were always helpful to them;

84% said that staff always included them in decisions about their child;

84% said they would ask YSS for help again.

*Wheeling Nailers recruiting at Celebrate Youth 2013*



## Thanks to our funders, sponsors!

Youth Services System 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 Ser-**

**vices**, 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, Community Foundation for the Upper Ohio Valley; Darden Foundation; Enterprise Holdings Foundation; Fitzsimmons Family Foundation, Hancock County Savings Bank Foundation; Haw-

ley Family Foundation, Hess Family Foundation; Hoffmann Charitable Foundation; Kohl's Cares; Ohio County Commission; Marshall County Commission; Sands Charitable Trust. Joan & Fred Stamp Charitable 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!

# 2013 Good Samaritan Dinner



Youth Services System’s Board of Director recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the community annually as Good Samaritans.

As in the parable, each Good Samaritan has answered the question of Who is My Neighbor in positive ways, making our community a better place. For 2013, G. Randolph “Randy” Worls was honored as the Good Samaritan.

His long time dedication to Wheeling and Oglebay Park may be well known, but Randy Worls has worked to make these great facilities open to all youth.

*Randy Worls, Good Samaritan*



*Bob and David Gaudio leading a sing along at the dinner.*

## Celebrate Youth 2013



*On the left, taking in the exhibits*

*Cabelas hit a bulls-eye with their archery and BB gun demos.*



Celebrate Youth 2013 Commitment Matters, August 8, 2013. Thanks to our sponsors, the creative and informative exhibitors, and Wheeling Park for making our 6th annual end-of-summer event a great day for all!

## McCrary Center & Transitioning Youth

Our Transitional Living Program served 48 youth this year. The opening of McCrary Center gave youth a new option in this program for youth 17-21 years old who are learning skills, completing their education, and building connections in the community.

The repurposed McCrary Center has eleven apartments for these youth, including youth who are



*Nate McDonald showing that McCrary Center is a new resource for youth*

new parents. The Federal Home Loan Bank and Huntington Bank made the construction project possible. The Community Foundation for the Ohio Valley, BB & T Bank’s Lighthouse Project, and the Women’s Giving Circle helped make McCrary a new home for youth.

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## Join us for the Wheeling SleepOut 2013!

Please visit the Wheeling SleepOut website: [www.wheelingsleep.org](http://www.wheelingsleep.org) !

The Wheeling SleepOut raises money and awareness of runaway and homeless youth here in the Ohio Valley. Participants raise money & spend the night in cardboard dwellings or tents, all to assist the YSS Transitional Living Program.

Friday, November 1 is the date for the Wheeling SleepOut.

Participants will enjoy music, food, games and great fellowship. This year's event will be held at the I-470 Fields, J B Chambers Complex, home of the Wheeling Jesuit University baseball team.

The SleepOut begins at 4 pm and ends 7 am Saturday morning with breakfast.

Each year, SleepOut participants

amaze us with their creativity in construction using cardboard, duct tape and their imagination.



*Volunteers at the 2012 Registration*



2012 Weirton Gumby's SleepOut entry wishing that kids would be Safe At Home for the holidays.