

Join Us for Celebrate Youth 2009!



Friday, August 21, 2009

Come to Wheeling Park, and join us for Celebrate Youth 2009—Dreams That Matter! Entertainment and activities for families and youth of all ages. Join us for a day of entertainment, information, and fun.

**For more details, see our website:
www.youthservicessystem.org**

Want to receive this newsletter by email? Email me: mtoothman@ysswv.com

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- 2009 Celebrate Youth Festival
- Youth Served by YSS
- Rachel's Promise
- Close up on transitional living
- Donate to YSS

www.youthservicessystem.org

Youth Services System, Inc.

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**YOUTH SERVICES
SYSTEM, INC.**

Youth Services System

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Dreams That Matter, Believe!

Youth Services System will again host the community's annual tribute to youth—Celebrate Youth 2009—Dreams That Matter. The day long event will occur at Wheeling Park at the White Palace venue, Friday, August 21 from 11:00 am – 5:00 pm.

Central to the day's celebration will be live stage performances of youth talent, held in the rink area from 11-5. Save the date and join us in celebrating the talents and performances of Ohio Valley youth of all ages. It is an absolutely inspiring experience for them to perform for family, friends, and the community.



Plan to bring your children for a full, free day at the Park—swimming, boating, putt-putt golf and the rest is on the house.

Activities and information will be available to parents and youth about positive choices that lead

to healthy futures:

Education and Training: West Liberty University, West Virginia Northern Community College, Bethany College, Wheeling Jesuit University, Russell Nesbitt Service, Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board, Project BEST, and others.

Healthy Lifestyles—Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Healthy Dating, Asset Development for Youth, Internet Safety-Child Fingerprinting, Social Justice, WV Oral Health Project, CHIP enrollment forms,

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Rachel's Challenge

May 6, 2009 more than 3000 Ohio Valley students came together at Wesbanco Arena to learn about Rachel Scott, a young girl who was killed at Columbine along with twelve of her school mates. The family of Rachel, in their attempt to give her death meaning, came up with this program based on Rachel's own diary entries and a school essay that outlines her ethic. For 10 years, this program has been spreading examples of how she lived her life which have been

found to actually stop violence in schools.

YSS and Northwood Health Systems wanted to bring this event to valley students as a chance to support character change which in turn can affect a whole culture change. Weir High began a "Friend's of Rachel" student group and the result is happier students.

So many young people everywhere have suffered as a result of bullying, prejudice, and being



excluded. Rachel's Challenge allows students to realize how they treat others can be a matter of life and death. It encourages them to feel for others and then gives them concrete ways to become more useful compassionate people. This brings focus to the heart which is much needed to bring a healthier atmosphere to schools and the lives of our children. The whole world is uplifted as individuals become uplifted.

"I have this theory that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion then it will start a chain reaction of the same" -Rachel Scott

"Kid's First" & Foremost



Kid's First Passes for West Virginia children!

The childcare Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) bill has passed! We made this seeming impossibility a reality with the support of 3,000 parents, providers and community leaders throughout the state.

This system will give parents the information they need to make good childcare decisions, childcare providers the means to improve their quality and communities the assistance to establish coalitions to advocate

for high-quality early child development program.

The 64,000 West Virginia Children under the age of 6 that spend a good part of their day in the care of someone else need a good way to measure the quality of the care. The return on such an investment is priceless in terms of higher academic achievement, lower juvenile delinquency and drop out rates plus higher adult earning power!

"Kid's First Communities" will

be established in 7 West Virginia cities: Beckley, Charleston, Huntington, Martinsburg, Morgantown, Parkersburg and Wheeling. This is a result of a Kids Count survey and focus group research showing that interest in the community for a this regional coalition that will advocate for high quality early child development programs.

Youth Services System will be receiving funds to promote these needs.

"Many of us have stable families who baby us through this time and make sure we are learning what we need to care for ourselves"

Close-up on Transitional Living

For most 18-21 year olds, this time in life can be scary, stressful and can cause them to react in unhealthy ways. Many of us have stable families who baby us through this time and make sure we are learning what we need to care for ourselves. That support does not exist for all young people, especially for those who grew up in foster care from an early age.

This is where the Tuel Center, located in New Martinsville, WV, fills the gap.

The participants learn to cook, clean, manage time, and basically care for themselves. They are taught to use community resources that might be available to them. They also get coaching for employment and education continuation. It empowers them to become

independent, happy, useful adults who are able to manage their own lives.

Most would feel lost if they were just left to figure it out on their own at 18 and possibly end up in trouble. As far as solutions go, this program gives them the opportunities that most of us take for granted. Every person deserves this care and compassion.

Youth Led Change

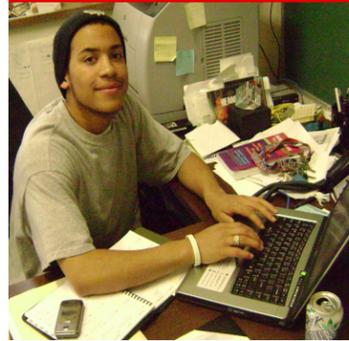
Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (OCSAPC) a satellite of **Youth Services System, Inc.**, has one mission to prevent and reduce substance abuse with youth and families in Ohio County.

Youth leading change in the community is a powerful vehi-

cle that can save lives. Youth are on the forefront of coalition activities through event planning, media & PSA creation, and implementation of activities. In collaboration with We Are The Future they have utilized youth forums, town hall meetings, and community action events. They help

themselves through service to others. In a world of where beer companies spend millions of dollars to show drinking in a positive light, youth are able to take small steps to a larger social change.

The opportunity this creates to empower young people is well worth our support.



Thousands of Children Served



Youth Services System has been working with young people since 1974. Over that time, we have touched the lives of over 16,000 young men and women.

During the past fiscal year, (July 1, 2007—June 30, 2008), our work

continued with over 779 youth.

Our **residential services**, including the Northern Regional Juvenile Center and the Tuel Transitional Center, cared for 520 children and youth. Our **independent living services** had 28 youth building skills to be successful adults. Our **substance abuse treatment services** worked with 61 young people. Our **employment and training program** had 50 participants. The **Wheeling Community Child Care** and its pre-school program served 120 children. Other youth and their fami-

lies were part of our in-home or community services that seek to make children's homes better and to promote positive parenting skills.

In addition, our school-based services worked with students and parents on issues like **substance abuse prevention**. YSS worked with the Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (OCSAPC) with **educational programs on preventing substance abuse**. The OCSAPC worked with over 800 students on making healthy choices about alcohol and drug use.



"Answer the call for love with love! After all, it is the only thing we really have to give that will make a difference."

Touch Lives, Build the Future

While YSS works to touch the lives of young people, our community connections play a crucial role. Because Youth Services System works with youth in many ways, an individual donor may want to support youth in specific ways. Do you care about:

- Standing up for good child care and early childhood education?
- Helping young people make healthy choices—avoiding alcohol and drugs, learning new social skills?

Lending a hand to young men and women exploring ways to express themselves and make a contribution to their community?

Supporting young men and women aged 17, 18, 19 and 20 years old who are learning skills to live independently without supportive family or adults?

Serving youth who are homeless and need shelter, guidance, and help?

Bolstering the future of a young person needing scholarship assistance?

Your support of YSS can make a difference—a gift today, a bequest that will live on after you, a memorial gift in honor of someone you admire, annuities or other methods that build a strong future for children.

Contact Mike Toothman, 304-233-9628, extension 107 for information. Gifts to Youth Services System are tax deductible to fullest extent under the law.

Celebrate Youth 2009 (Continued from Page 1)

Fatal Vision Goggles demonstration, Fire Safety, WVU Extension, and many more.

Fitness and health—YWCA, Center Town Fitness, Howard Long Wellness Center, Reynolds Memorial Hospital, Huls Chiropractic and others

Fun—Hair painting, face painting, temporary tattoos, ceramics,

Wheeling Nailers, and more!

The day will end with a special dinner, awarding the Good Samaritan tribute. This year's recipient will be Ron Mulholland, founder of Youth Services System. Ron Mulholland's dedicated work with and for children has been recognized in our community, in West Virginia,

and nationally.

Our youth are our future! Celebrating their achievements, their dreams, and inspiring all in our community to invest in their lives is a promise for us all

