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Youth Services System, Inc.

FY2011 Annual Report

FY 20 1 1 A N N U A L R E P O R T

Sleep in a box on November 4!

By John Moses

Imagine that you are 15, and homeless. Where do you go? Who do you trust?

From the start, Youth Services System has held open a door to youth who have runaway, who cannot go home. At first, these young people could be found on the street, sleeping on the river bank. This is still true.

The reality is that homeless youth are all around us, and virtually invisible. Like the girl who got permission at her job to wash up at the end of her late shift. She and her mother were living in a car. Yet she, and her mother, had jobs, and this young woman was attending school.

When I talked with Jeff Laird,

Ohio County Schools' federal contact for serving homeless youth in our schools, he was perplexed and somewhat frustrated. There is help available through our schools, through YSS's services, through the Greater Wheeling Coalition for the Homeless. And yet, we know that homeless and runaway youth are in our community in far

Wheeling SleepOut

wheelingsleepout.kintera.org

"We sleep out so that kids don't have to!"

greater numbers than many believe. We are seeking to raise \$20,000 through this event to support our underfunded services to these youth.

YSS wants to raise *your* awareness of homeless youth. To do

this we are holding our first Wheeling SleepOut on November 4 at the Wheeling Jesuit University soccer field. I am excited to report the interest we have seen on the WJU campus, on both the West Liberty University and the Bethany College campus. My goal is to have 500 people talking with their friends, family, and neighbors about this issue and raising funds to help us serve these children.

We have a limited supply of appliance boxes for your night's stay. The top fundraiser will receive a prize. Our BoxedIn Contest panel will choose the best decorated box/home for the night. There will be food, games, prizes and entertainment. Please see our event website:

wheelingsleepout.kintera.org to

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Celebrate Youth 2011 —Health Matters!

On August 4, over 4000 youth and parents attended YSS's fourth Celebrate Youth event at Wheeling Park.

More than 60 exhibitors and many activities greeted them. Celebrate Youth brings together children, teens, parents, and others for a free day at the Park. Exhibitors included WV Northern Community College, West

Liberty University, Belmont Technical College, the Health Plan, Girl Scouts, the Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Wheeling Police and Fire Departments, 1800 Gambler, Northwood Health System, Head Start and more. The event's goal was to introduce children and parents to resources working to keep pro-

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At play with Ceramics,
Celebrate Youth 2011

us healthy, involved, and pro-

Board of Directors FY 2012

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Warren Galbreath

Terri Garrett

Larry Jones

Ron Klug

Rod Lee

Dennis Madama

Chief Robert Matheny

Denise Penz

Phil Redford

Wayne Smith

George Smoulder

Welcome to our newest board members!

Rod Lee

Robert Matheny

Denise Penz

Phil Redford

Farewell and Best Wishes to Steve Woodburn

Support the YSS Board's Boardwalk Team's fundraising for the Wheeling Sleepout at

wheelingsleepout.kintera.org

John Moses, Executive

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Linda Scott, Northern

Regional Juvenile Services

Center Program Manager;

Mike Toothman, Office of

Public Information

Youth Services System Funders

For FY2011, July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011

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 Community and 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, Sands Charitable Trust, and many individual donors.

Our final 2011 newsletter will thank all of our donors for your support of Youth Services System!

join us.

Thanks to Jody Prather and Gumby's Grab'n'Go for their timely support and to WJU President Richard Beyer for his commitment to this event.

Please consider adding your support to this effort. Start a team, fundraise, build a box, sleep out. Help end youth homelessness.

Photo from Reggie's Sleepout, Des Moines, Iowa.

Sleep out continued



Celebrate Youth

gressing toward a successful life

With the help of generous sponsors, this event was free to the public. This year our sponsors were: the Wheeling Park Commission, 1800 Gambler, the Cornerstone Group, Coventry-Carelink, the Hanneford Tent of the Circus Saints & Sinners, Huntington Bank, Lamar Advertising, Northwood Health Systems, Ohio County Commission, and WTRF TV7.

For 2011, there were public forums held ahead of the Wheeling Park Event. West Virginia Northern Community College graciously hosted 3 of our forums.

Be Ahead of the Game, a discussion of sports health was led by J.T. Thomas. **Health—What's At Stake**, featured Dr. Jill Bradshaw, Carole Al Din, and John Kevech. **Ten Things You Should Know About Kids** was the topic for Jim Harris. **Youth and Addictions** was led by Pat Condron, Dr. Charles Kelly, and Russ Taylor. *Northwood Health Systems* sponsored the **Youth and Addictions** forum—a topic of concern for all of us. We plan to hold future forums on topics of interest to parents and families.

YSS is planning already for Celebrate Youth 2012, watch for more information.



Transitions: Bridge to A Future

Teens live on the edge—their lives as children are ending. What do they need to know to be adults? YSS has worked with youth to cross the bridge to adulthood through our Transitional Living Program.

We teach skills, do employment coaching, facilitate further education. We are readying them for the awesome task of learning to live independently and do it successfully—like learning to walk a high wire, without a net.

We work with youth aging out of foster care and with homeless youth. In FY2010, YSS had 25 youth who were homeless, or at risk of homelessness who needed this service. For FY2011, there were 46 homeless youth developing their skills to be independent adults in this program

The needs of these youth are becoming more acute:

- ◆ youth living in places without utilities;
- ◆ youth using the Winter Freeze Shelter at the YSS Central Office on 15th Street;
- ◆ young women who are parents, or pregnant.

The stakes for these youth is high. Without the skill-building, coaching, and emphasis on education, these youth will find their options are few and the life is more difficult:

- A recent study* found that youth who had left foster care, without support like this, had half the income of their 23-24 year old peers. Among their other findings:
- 67% of former foster care youth at that age received federal food stamps. Among their 23-24 year old peers, only 7% of the women and 2% of the men were using this benefit.
- Increasingly, youth we now serve were homeless at the time they came to us for help.

*Source: Mark Courtney, Amy Dworsky, JoAnn S.Lee and Melissa Rapp, **Midwest Evaluation of the Adult Functioning of Former Foster Youth at Ages 23 and 24. (2010)**

Link:
http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Midwest_Study_Age_23_24.pdf



Services To Children & Families: FY2011

Youth Services System provided services through its programs to **2828** youth and their families during our last fiscal year.

Residential Services:

Our emergency shelters, *Samaritan House* and *Helinski Shelter* offered care and services to 192 youth.

The *Northern Regional Juvenile Center*, WV's only nonprofit juvenile detention center had 194 youth in residence during the year.

Our *Youth Achievement Center* serves boys with intellectual disabilities and behavior issues. Residential services and secure detention services received a total of 377 youth.



Hope's Promise, our intensive outpatient program for adolescents with substance abuse and addiction problems worked with 56 youth.

School-based services work with youth in Ohio and Marshall County schools on issues like substance abuse through our *Bridges* program. Our counselors worked with 813 youth at school. In addition, YSS offers an *Aggression Replacement Program* in Ohio County Schools. In this program, 120 youth participated in this skill-building, self-awareness program

Community Child Care continues to teach and care for children from 2-12 years old. In addition, the *Community Child Care* works to provide before and after-school programs at *Elm Grove Elementary* and *Steenrod Elementary Schools*. *Community Child*

Care and these school-based programs reached a total of 375 children with their services.

Job Training and Employment programs work with youth in foster care through our *JOBS* program which offered training and work experience to 166 youth.

The *Youth In Action!* program covers the entire panhandle, finding and serving youth who need employment skills, training, and support. *Youth In Action!* had 120 youth in their program.

Community-Based Care provides critical services and support to families in their homes or at our Central Offices. Our staff worked with 49 families on *parenting skills*. Of these

YSS Mission:

We believe ourselves to be, first and foremost, a community of caring, skilled persons who are drawn together by a shared sense of ministry to children and their families.

It is the purpose of this community to create environments, provide services, and be totally available to children and their families whose legitimate needs demand effective responses.

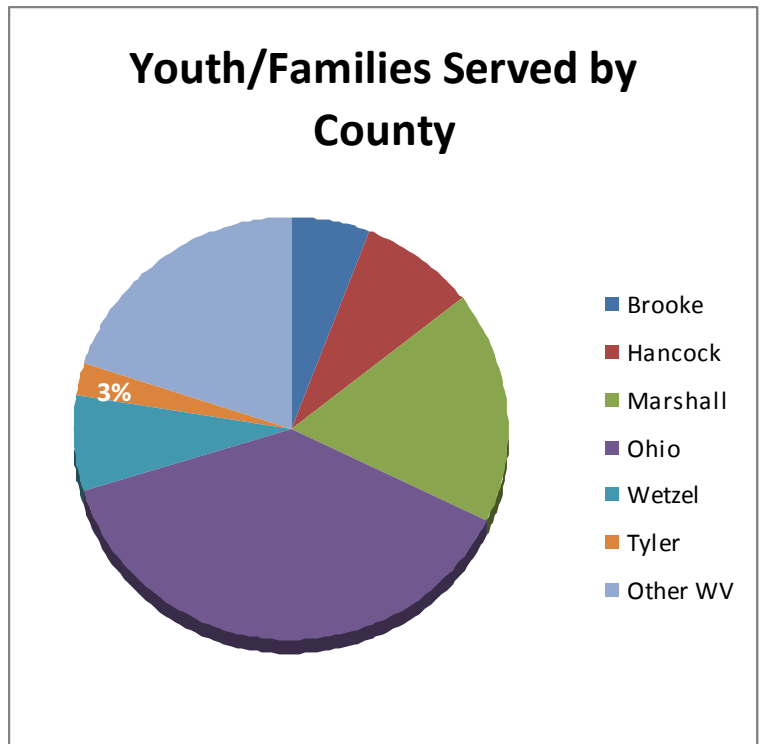
Community-Based Services continued

families. 55% of them demonstrated improvements. Our *Safety Services* worked with 7 families, with 71% of them not requiring removal of the children. For our *Supervised Visitation Services*, we saw 45 families. This work can last more than year. To date 32% of the families in this program have been re-unified.

Transitional Living works with older youth leaving foster care or who are homeless, building independent living skills and community connections. Our *Tuel Transitional Living Center* served 23 youth. Our community-based services served another 52 young men and women. See our feature on this service and its importance elsewhere in this report.

Professional Services are the vital link between youth, their families, resolving crisis. From our 24 hour-7 day a week intake services by licensed social workers to our case managers, YSS professionals and their work are crucial. Our professional staff performs thorough assessments of families and youth and works with other disciplines to create effective plans of action. We offer therapy and other services to youth and their families.

[Chart shows Residential Services, Job Training, Transitional Living, and Community-Based Services served by county in FY2011.](#)



Dr Bernard Grubler

Rose Palmer and Barbara Reisinger, two of Dr. & Roe Grubler’s nine children presented their father. Rose spoke of her father as a dad. “He became a parent 56 years ago, and everyday since, has been a role model to the nine of us... If my words have helped you to see a man who dedicates his life to others, a man who puts his faith in the Lord, a man who is completely dedicated to his kids and devoted to his grand and great grand children, then I’ve done a good job.” Barbara talked about her father as a professional—his service on the

WV Board of Dental Examiners to serve patients and families. She reported that he described the loves of his life, thus “God was first...family was second... and his patients were third.” She reported that patients still asked about him 14 years after he retired. Clearly the affection is mutual. Barbara talked about his work with Sr. Constance Dodd (honored in 2008 by YSS as our Good Samaritan) to provide a free dental clinic. This clinic would treat uninsured adults. Dr Grubler is still working to make this a reality.

Ann Thomas

Dr. Larry Jones spoke about Ann Thomas, her life and her career. He defined a hero as someone who does ordinary things in extraordinary circumstances. Dr. Jones used her life to demonstrate that Ann Thomas is a hero. When desegregation of schools happened, Ann was able to take chemistry and other classes at Wheeling High School. She was one of the first blacks to earn a degree there. She entered Ohio Valley General Hospital’s nursing school and became the first black graduate of that program. In the course of her life she has gone from attending the OVGH nursing program to serving on their board of directors. Her

See more below:

Champions of Health

Celebrate Youth 2011 had health as its theme, as did the annual YSS tribute dinner recognizing our Champions of Health. Robert Gaudio was the Master of Ceremonies as Dr. Bernard Grubler, DDS; Ann Thomas, RN; and the late Dr. Lee Jones were honored for their lifetimes of work in health and in the community. *In the photo, from l-r, Dr. Bernard Grubler, Ann Thomas, and John Moses,*

YSS executive director, and Betty Jones accepting for her late husband- Dr. Lee Jones.

Over 200 people attended this heartfelt tribute on August 4, including family and friends of our honorees.



Dr. Lee Jones

Russ Taylor presented the late Dr. Lee Jones. Russ spoke about when he first met Dr. Jones. In Russ’s words, “I was nearly dead. I expected that I would die,” from addiction. Doc Jones, as he called him, offered Russ, and many others, the opportunity to make a life change. “He was God’s Athlete, a mix of Tommy Lee Jones from *Lonesome Dove*, Willie Nelson, and Papa Smurf” Becoming sober and staying that way is a challenge, but one that Lee Jones understood. He had a good sense of humor and strong belief in the ability

people have within themselves to grow and change. Dr. Jones saw in Russ, someone who could help others, when he could not see it himself. Russ credits Dr. Jones with making the case for treatment of alcohol and drug addiction, and for his work with many throughout the Ohio Valley who needed treatment and the human touch of caring professional. He spoke about Dr. Jones’ untiring focus, working on the layout of the Dr. Lee Jones Miracles Happen, a residential substance abuse treatment program during his final illness.

Ann Thomas continued from above:

leadership in state and local decision-making boards is rooted in her life experiences. “I’ve told Ann that she is a role model... she is a role model for all of us in this community. A role model for being a caring, compassionate, skilled professional who knows that you can’t control what life gives you, but you can control what you do with what life gives you.

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Fax: 304-233-0056
www.youthservicessystem.org

Inspiring success for youth since 1974



Return Service Requested



This fundraiser will happen on November 4-5 at Wheeling Jesuit University's soccer field.

We are asking supporters to join us through the Wheeling SleepOut website—wheelingsleepout.kintera.org

This is a safe and secure way to make donations, to create a team, set your own goal for raising funds for the event. You can use the tools on the site to email friends, post to your Facebook account.

Everyone contributing/raising \$50 or more will receive a Wheeling Sleep Out T-shirt and a ticket for prize drawings at the event.

You can join the BoxedIn Design Contest to make your very own appliance box for the night. Staying out for the night is one option. You can also attend as a supporter of YSS and participate in the games, listen to the performers, and join us for our late night meal, donated by other generous YSS supporters.



We want more people to be aware of the fact of runaway and homeless youth. In fact, we may see these youth every-day, without being aware of what their lives are like.

While estimating the number of run-



Street youth seeking help



away or homeless youth is daunting, YSS has served a growing number of these youth each year

for the past five years. We know there are many others in our community.

Through Project Safe Place, we reach youth in school, and at community events to warn them of the dangers of being out on the streets. For our last fiscal year, we reached 2089 youth with that message.

Based on work that we have done with youth, we know that many young people leave home because of fear or conflict. Others find themselves living on their own because their families have fallen apart because of divorce, mental illness, personal economic woes and more.

The Wheeling SleepOut is to remind us that, as in the Good Samaritan parable, these youth are our neighbors—who need our compassion and our action to be safe, secure, and on a better path to their future.