



Excellence Since 1974

Youth Services System Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Youth Services System, Inc. To Host Annual Wheeling SleepOut Event, New Location

WHEELING, W.Va. — Every year, Youth Services System hosts an annual [Wheeling SleepOut event](#) to raise awareness to youth homelessness. This will be the thirteenth year that the nonprofit has hosted the SleepOut, and the first year that it will be held on the Market Street Plaza in Downtown Wheeling. The event will occur on Nov. 3 from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m., and registration will include food, drinks, a t-shirt and live entertainment.

Participants will design and create boxes out of cardboard and other materials to replicate “homes” and represent resources for youth in our community. This year, the event will not have overnight sleeping in the boxes like years past. This event raises funds for our [Transitional Living Program](#) (TLP), which provides housing, life skills, employment assistance and more for young adults in the community. Currently, there are approximately 30 people who are using services through the TLP.

Tammy Kruse, Director of Development at YSS, says, “The building of the box takes on many different meanings.” Kruse continues, “For some it may represent what it would be like if you were homeless and had to find shelter to sleep in outside, and for businesses, it’s a way to promote their logos while supporting YSS and youth in the community.”

Last year, over \$23,000 was raised through the Wheeling SleepOut event from community members, businesses, staff members of YSS and more. Our goal this year is to raise \$50,000.

Box design judging will begin at 8 p.m. and the winners will be announced at 9:30 p.m. There will be a grand prize awarded to the Top Fundraiser and Top Team, along with other door prizes to participants. Materials permitted and prohibited can be found in the [participant packet](#). This year’s theme is Light the Market: Shine a Light.

To register for the event, visit wheelingsleepout.org. For more information or questions about the event, contact Tammy Kruse at tkruse@ysswv.com or (304) 280-7600.

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About Youth Services System, Inc.:

Youth Services System, Inc.'s mission is "to create better futures for children, families and our community." YSS is committed to responding to the complex needs of youth at serious risk. Since 1974, Youth Services System, Inc. has reached thousands of youth and their families with our shelter, residential, community-based and professional services. Together with youth and their families, we work to improve their physical and emotional well-being, to address the debilitating effects of abuse, substance use, and trauma, and to build the skills and connections they need to be successful. Accredited by CARF International, YSS is supported by our volunteer Board of Directors, dedicated staff and faithful community, allowing us to make a measurable impact in the lives of youth. For more information, visit www.youthservicessystem.org.