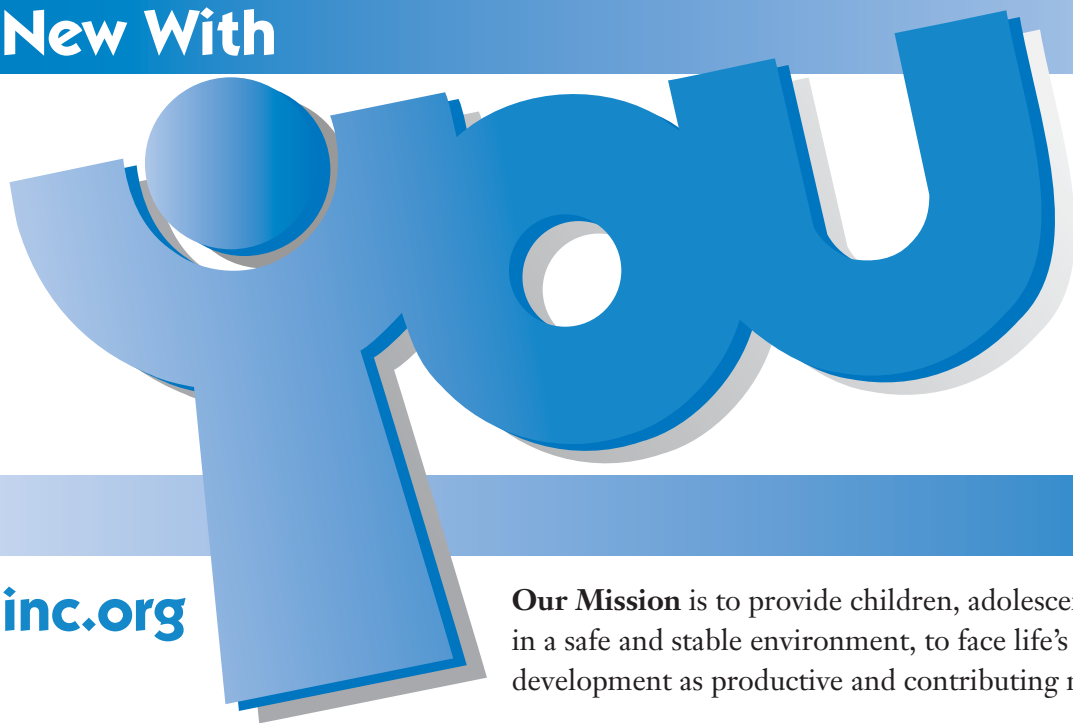


What's New With



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WINTER 2004

www.youinc.org

Our Mission is to provide children, adolescents, and families with opportunities, in a safe and stable environment, to face life's challenges in ways that promote their development as productive and contributing members of the community.

Creating Brighter Futures for City Youth

Now in its twelfth year, YouthNet continues in its mission of "providing recreational, educational and cultural activities to isolated and underserved Worcester middle school aged youth." This citywide program provides a creative alternative to the unsupervised idle time of Worcester's young people. Y.O.U., Inc., along with area youth organizations, continues to help YouthNet provide a safe and positive environment for its participants.



YouthNet first began in the summer of 1992. Worcester area youth organizations saw a need for the city's youth and decided to make a change. The current partnering agencies are the Boys and Girls Club of Worcester, Centro Las Americas, Friendly House, Inc., Girl's Incorporated, Worcester Youth Guidance Center, YMCA of Greater Worcester, Y.O.U., Inc., YWCA of Central

Massachusetts, and the City of Worcester. These agencies provide YouthNet with facilities to run their programs, as well as provide additional mental health services to the youth. The areas Y.O.U., Inc. service are Columbus Park, Crystal Park, Elm Park, Harry Sherry Field, Lakeside Apartments, Main South, Washington Heights, and Webster Square. Tony Podi, YouthNet Director, says, "One strength of the YouthNet

program is the commitment of the agencies. The agencies come

"It is important for these agencies to continue being partners in the YouthNet initiative because there is still a great need for the program"

together for the benefit of the kids. They have a unified agenda, which shows their strength."

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Giving life... in his own words

Well – how did it all start? A few days after my birthday I got a letter from the NY Blood Center, which ran the whole blood donation drives at Vassar College, my alma mater. At first I was quite concerned that something was wrong, but as it turns out I was a potential match for donating marrow for this one-year-old baby boy. So we went back and forth, and they ended up transferring my files over to Dana Farber, and I went into Boston for some blood tests to determine if I was the best match. That being the case, I went in for a last physical to be sure I was healthy enough to donate, and on the 21st of January I went in for the surgery.

They say that as we grow older life becomes shades of gray – very rarely are we presented with choices that are so clear and easy that can do such good. I feel honored just to have been able to help out; we won't know for a while if in the end the child will pull through, but at least he now has a fighting chance. And for it all, the surgery and the expected recovery for me wasn't all that bad, I've been a bit sore since the operation but it gets better daily. All in all, it's a good feeling to have donated...



Dimitri Apostola a Y.O.U., Inc. employee for six years who donated his bone marrow.

Partnering with Schools for Community-Based Counseling

"When we work in partnership with area providers, we are better able to help our students and their families gain access to a wide array of community-based supports and services that are vital to the healthy growth and development so essential for learning," explains Judy Thompson, Coordinator of Counseling, Psychology, and Community Outreach Services for the Worcester Public Schools.

The School-Based Intake Process for Community-Based Counseling was started in April of 2003 as a way to help meet the mental health needs of Worcester Public School students. The agencies that partner with the Worcester Public Schools for this initiative are Y.O.U., Inc., Worcester Youth Guidance Center, South Bay Mental Health, Great Brook Valley Health Center, and Family Health and Social Service Center. This program is available to almost 60 public elementary, middle, and high schools in the city.

Paul Kelleher, Y.O.U., Inc. Chief Operations Officer, reported, "Y.O.U., Inc. is trying to grow more in the community. Here at Y.O.U., Inc., we provide good, strong clinical services. The initiative

[Continued on page 3](#)

Viewpoint

“What goes around comes around.” “Do unto others as you would have done unto you.” Sound familiar? The essence of teamwork, partnerships, joint ventures, collaborations, coalitions, etc., is found in a deep sense of trust based upon mutual respect and appreciation. The quality of our relationships is the basis for seeking and finding both common ground and “the common good.” Communities are always better when we pull together – in the same direction. At Y.O.U., Inc., teamwork with the community is a natural extension of our internal solidarity and group process. In this newsletter, you will find many examples of how our values become alive with action through partnerships. Together, we do make the quality of life better for everyone.



Maurice J. Boisvert
President & CEO

Creating Brighter Futures

Continued from page 1

“It is important for these agencies to continue being partners in the YouthNet initiative because there is still a great need for the program”, adds Linda Cavaioli, YWCA Executive Director. “The agencies that service young kids tend to lose kids during the middle of the school year because transportation available in the summer is not provided once school starts. In addition, it is important for young people to be involved in the program development and to have choices in activities to stay connected to the agencies during the school year.”

YouthNet continues to be a success in the city of Worcester because of the commitment and hard work of the partnering agencies to the youth of the city.



Standing left to right: Jim Williams, Ronald Hadorn, Jesus Addrach, Linda Cavaioli, Ernest Floyd, Joe Hungler, Judi Kirk. Seated left to right: Blake Hampton, Nassrine Farhoody, Tony Podi.

It takes a village

Thanks to our affiliations with other human service agencies and public entities, Y.O.U., Inc. is able to remain a leader in providing quality services to many troubled, neglected, and abused youth. We believe the most effective way of achieving our mission is through teamwork. Y.O.U., Inc. will continue to network, collaborate, partner, advocate, and form coalitions with local organizations. We believe that by working together we can help the greatest number of youth, and we would like to thank all of our partners for sharing this vision!

- Alliance for Young Families
- Auburn School System
- Bridge Home Providers Group
- Central MA Critical Incident Stress Management
- Central MA Substance Abuse Association
- Centro Las Americas, Consultation and Training
- City Manager’s Sexual Assault Task Force
- Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors
- Commonworks
- Community Connections Coalition, Southbridge
- Council for Opportunity in Education
- Hope Coalition
- Latino Conference Committee (CUMBRE)
- Massachusetts Association of Approved Private Schools, Board of Directors
- Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association
- Massachusetts Human Service Providers Council

- Mayor Timothy Murray’s At-Risk Youth Taskforce
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporation of Massachusetts
- New England Educational Opportunity Association
- New England Network
- OCCS Child Care Project
- Parent Professional Advocacy League
- Southern Worcester County Pregnant and Parenting Teen Program
- Project Success Steering Committee, Southbridge School System
- Reaching All Youth Collation – Commonwealth Corporation
- School-based Triage Project
- Shrewsbury Community Services
- Statewide Juvenile Fire Setting Prevention Coalition
- The Central MA Adolescent Substance Abuse Coalition
- The Southern Worcester County Transportation Committee

- Together for Kids Coalition
- Uniting Our Voices African-American Collaborative
- Western Worcester County Boys & Girls Club, Board of Directors
- Worcester Communities of Care Diversity Task Force
- Worcester Communities of Care Mentoring Task Force
- Wellness Coalition of Worcester
- Worcester Adolescent Provider Team
- Worcester Communities of Care
- Worcester Educational Partnership Board of Directors, Youth Development Subcommittee
- Worcester Head Start Consultation
- Worcester Higher Education Resources Center, Board of Directors
- Worcester Municipal Safety Committee
- Worcester Parents and Pregnant Teen Network
- Workforce Investment Board
- Youth and Family Network of Worcester
- YouthNet

Program Provides Gifts To Over 1,000 Kids

Once again the Adopt-A-Child committee was successful in providing gifts to well over 1,000 kids. It is through the on-going dedication and generosity from our community sponsors that we are able to continue to make the holidays brighter for “our kids.”



A.L. Puritan
Amgro
American Express
Applix
Becker College Alumni
Carlin, Charon and Rosen
Douglas Pre-school and Elementary

Immense gratitude is owed to each and every one of our sponsors for such an overwhelming show of community support. A special thanks is given to the following organizations that were Santa’s biggest helpers:

EcoTarium
Exponent
Hewlett Packard
Intel
Junior League of Worcester County
Liberty Mutual
Mar-Lin Publication

Masterman’s
Park Congregational Church
Pier 1 of Millbury
St. Mary’s Church
Storability
Telvista
Unum Provident

Partnering with schools

Continued from page 1

is to take this knowledge and expertise into the community and share it by having our clinicians participating in local school systems and community organizations.”

“The process is relatively simple,” explains Connie Flieger, Ph.D., a Y.O.U., Inc. Psychologist and the liaison for this initiative. “Students who are in need of mental health services are identified by school support staff that help facilitate the coordination of services between the student, their parents, and the Counseling Center. These students become regular Counseling Center clients at intake. After the first appointment, they are assigned to an ongoing clinician who develops a treatment plan.” Dr. Flieger goes on, “The length of time for treatment depends on the student’s and/or family’s needs.”

“We have appreciated the improved access of our students and their families through the School-Based Intake process”, states Judy Thompson. “We believe that it is quite appropriate for school support personnel to help families through the frequently intimidating process of accessing mental health services. We appreciate the timely response that we have seen from Y.O.U., Inc. when families are seeking mental health services.”

The Y.O.U., Inc. Counseling Center has completed over 30 intakes since the start of the program. “The program has given us more direct access to some clients and their families and has established a strong collaboration with the adjustment counselors and psychologists in the schools,” Dr. Flieger said.

While the extent of continued growth in this initiative is still unknown, the collaboration between the school system, families, and counselors is undeniably helping children who are in need of services!

Dedication Recognized

Worcester Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program

Mentoring and Prevention Services was proud to honor Francyne Lefemine, Assistant Chief Probation Officer at Worcester Court, for her hard work and on-going dedication to the Worcester Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program. The award was presented on November 10, 2003 at the Children and Fire 10th Annual Conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Coalition for Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Programs.



Francyne Lefemine
 Assistant Chief Probation Officer
 at Worcester Court

Accepting Nothing but the Best

The theme for the December issue of Common Ground, a newspaper of the New England Association of Child Welfare Commissioners and Directors, was the many aspects of quality management. Y.O.U., Inc.’s Maurice Boisvert, CEO and Elaine Waters-Daverio, Director of Quality Management, co-authored an article titled, *Establishing Corporate Culture to Support QA* for the December issue of Common Ground. Their article discussed how to build a corporate culture that embraces Quality Assurance, how to get staff to “buy in” to Quality Assurance, and the shared examples of Quality Management initiatives at Y.O.U., Inc.

“A successful Quality Assurance program has strong organizational support of people and finances, creates an open environment that empowers staff, identifies strengths, and best practices. First and foremost, it develops a well defined plan of Quality Assurance as parts of its strategic plan, results in corrective action that lead to improvements in care for our children, adolescents, and families.”

What's New With YOU
is a publication of

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ADDRESS UPDATE:

- Please change my address as shown.
- I am receiving duplicates. Please delete the name & address on the right.
- Please remove my name from your mailing list.

Please be sure to enclose the mailing address to the right. This way we can keep our database updated. Thank you.

General Tips for Promoting Mental Health

The best way to promote children's mental health is to build up their strengths, help to protect them from risks, and give them tools to succeed in life.

- Help children relate to others and build their confidence.
- Be a role model.
- Encourage exercise and sports.
- Suggest involvement in after-school activities.
- Encourage strong family relationships.
- High expectations can go a long way.

"I think my biggest contribution can come from raising awareness. I have a wide network of friends throughout Massachusetts and it would be beneficial to the organization to reach out beyond Worcester County."

Yes! I want to make a donation to help at-risk youth and their families.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ payable to Y.O.U., Inc.
- Please bill me for \$ _____
- Please send me information about making a gift through my estate.

Contact Amy McCarthy in the Development office for help or information at (508) 849-5600 ext. 286

Your contribution is tax deductible.



WELCOME ON BOARD!

Craig Stevens New Board Member



Y.O.U., Inc. is honored to have Craig Stevens join our esteemed Board of Directors. His interest in Y.O.U., Inc. began when, after returning to Worcester, he began to search for a way to help the less fortunate and at-risk children in the community. Craig was introduced to Y.O.U., Inc. and was immediately impressed with the organization's size, diverse range of services, and dedication to improving the lives of children throughout Worcester County. Craig knew instinctively that this was a successful organization and an organization where he could have impact.

Craig is a business entrepreneur having been involved in many business ventures both locally and regionally. He has recently purchased DGS Retail, a retail décor graphic signage company. DGS Retail's cliental include some of the nation's largest retail chains and it is Craig's hope that he will be able to raise awareness to these organizations of the services Y.O.U., Inc. provides. It's easy to see how this would be such a great benefit for us!

In addition to being a Board Member, Craig also serves on the Finance Development Committee. Here is where Craig feels he can be most helpful; "I would like to help Y.O.U., Inc. increase its fundraising activities every year to meet the growing needs of the people in the community. I think it will become increasingly important to increase our funding from private sources and I can begin to broaden our resources outside Worcester County."

When Craig isn't in the office or at his new home in Boston, he can be found playing competitive golf or skiing. As a

Bancroft School alumnus, he remains involved in the school having recently started The Worcester Partnership at Bancroft School. This summer academic and athletic camp is for Elm Park area children to enjoy the benefits of Bancroft School. The 12 children will start the program in kindergarten and continue through the 6th grade. The first year has been so successful that in 2004 a second class will be added.

Certainly our agency will benefit from Craig's clear devotion to children in our community and his great business sense!



What's New With

youkids

The Bruce Wells Scholars Program (BWSP), is a federally funded collaboration between Clark University, Worcester Public Schools, and Y.O.U., Inc. aimed at Worcester low-income students whose parents have not attended four year colleges, and who have the ability to be accepted by, enrolled in, and successful in college. Through mentoring, personal counseling, and academic advising during their high school years, students who have the capacity to succeed will be empowered to perform at their highest academic potential.

" This program has really helped me academically and I have gotten a lot out of the college visits we have had."

— Muhammad



" What the BWSP means for my future is that my dreams, like getting into college, will be possible. I will get used to the concepts of a college like being responsible. This is why I think that I am lucky to be in the program."

— Shanice

" This program has done a lot for my future because it has made me focus on what I need to do to get into college. It has also taught me that saying you want to go to college won't cut it, you also have to work towards it."

— Khayr



" What I hope to get out of this program is good grades and to get into a good college so I can achieve my goals."

— Esther





“ Being in this program has helped me stay on track in school. It doesn’t let me zone out, and it helps me concentrate on schoolwork. In the end, I think it will help me greatly in my life.”

— Jorge



“I have achieved a lot in The Bruce Wells Scholarship Program. I like having tutors there to help us on work that we have trouble on, it has also improved my grades in Spanish and biology.”

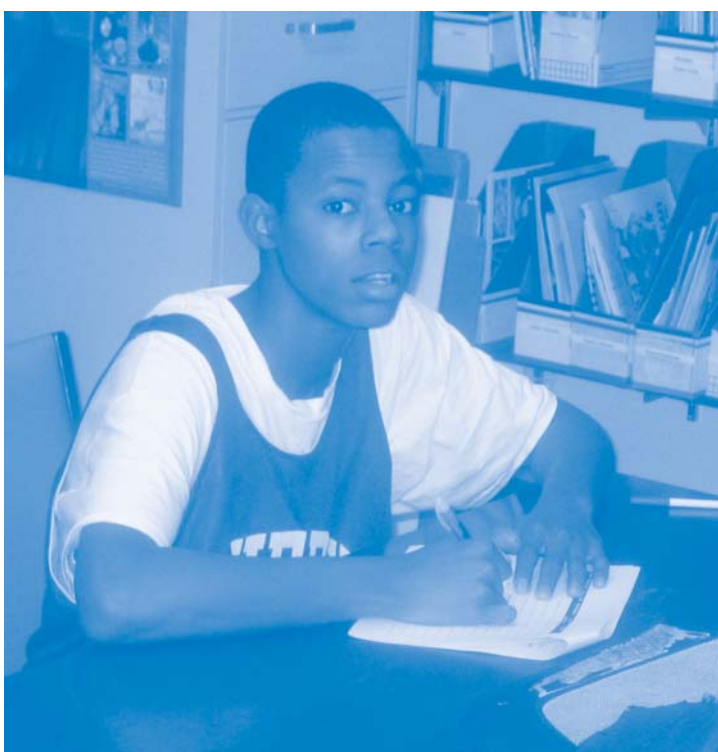
— Lane

“ What I hope to get out of this program is help with my hard classes and to help me make it through high school to get to college.”

— Kayla

“What I hope to get out of this program is to get a better chance of becoming who I want to be in life and to get a better education.”

— Yadiria



New Parent Advisory Committee

Parent involvement with Y.O.U., Inc. is another one of our rewarding partnerships. The Bruce Wells Scholarship Program (BWSP) and the new Parent Advisory Committee for the Kathleen Burns Preparatory School, the Mary Elizabeth McGrath Educational Center, and Cottage Hill Academy are great examples of how Y.O.U., Inc. parents play an important role in our student’s success.

Parents of the students in the BWSP participate in orientations, visit colleges, and take part in workshops on financial aid, college search, and parent/child relationships. After all this hard work is done, they also relax and celebrate at their annual banquet, summer barbeque, and holiday party!

As for our new Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), membership is made up of more than just parents; it also includes staff, educators, and advocates for children. The committee has been generating some great ideas and suggestions including a Parents’ Information Night, e-mailed messages, more theatre, more computers, and more ...*homework?*

Thank you parents for taking time out of your busy lives to partner up with Y.O.U., Inc., you really make the difference! If you are interested in joining the PAC, please contact the Director of the schools at any time or call Karen at 508-849-5600, Ext. 243.

“We all come together to help with the education and future of the children”

Karen Schafer

Director of Education and Employment Services