

Youth Services System

ANNUAL REPORT FY 2009

AUGUST 2009

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Pioneers & Partnerships

By **John Moses**, executive
director

*"There is but one child
and his name is all children"*
C. Olsen

May 2009 marked our 35th year. There is much to celebrate and to be grateful for. Youth Services System has grown beyond its first program, Samaritan House, a group emergency shelter. Currently, YSS operates 5 residential programs and numerous community programs. In FY09, we touched over 2800 lives.

None of this is possible, if not for the vision, unto today, and the commitment of our founder Ron Mulholland and community leaders reaching out to kids in crisis. Judge George Spillers, Ron Klug, John Nanny, Jerry Wilhelm, Mickey Moyle, Sue Abraham, Bruce Patalano, Rev. Gary Beale, former Mayor Jack Fahey, former sheriff Tom Campbell are just a few of the many pioneers.

We stand on their remarkable shoulders. Their vision is our legacy... to respond honestly, meaningfully and creatively to each child, one at a time. We've seen

success through community partnerships and unwavering commitment to the betterment of children's lives. Communities make the difference, one neighbor at a time.

One behalf of the 16,000+ youth served, we are grateful and we remember.



Support is vital to success

Youth Services Systems works to touch the lives of young people, our community partners 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, 304-218-2848 for information. Gifts to Youth Services System are tax deductible to fullest extent under the law.

Youth Services System, Inc.

John Moses, Executive Director

Jill Eddy, *Community-Based Services*

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Denise Johnson, *Youth Achievement Center*

Linda Scott, *Northern Regional Juvenile Center*

Margo Scott, *Helinski Shelter*

Rob Vani, *Samaritan House*



From the President—Art Bertol

Here at Youth Services System, we have had an exciting year. Partnerships may be the best word to describe FY2009. Celebrate Youth 2008 Choices That Matter was a great success thanks to partnerships with Wheeling Park, Oglebay, WTRF, and support from a wide range of businesses and colleagues. By the time, you read this, we will have held Celebrate Youth 2009— Dreams That Matter!

Our partnerships have extended the opportunities available to young people and their families. With the support of Northwood Health Systems and area schools, we brought Rachel's Challenge to 3000 high school and middle school students. Our goal is to have Friends of Rachel groups active throughout the Ohio Valley in the coming year. A renewed partnership with the Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board (NPWIB) means that youth have employment and training options through YSS. Relationships with area schools including Linsly, West Virginia Northern Community College, and West Liberty University have led to new students enrolling there, with our support.

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We brought our administrative and professional staff together in the Hazel Atlas Building at Jacob and 15th Streets. As members of the East Wheeling Business Council, we want to make this an opportunity for greater community engagement. We are excited about being in this historic building in a neighborhood that is on the brink of revitalization.

Youth Services System Board of Directors

Fiscal Year 2009

Art Bertol –	President	Warren Galbreath
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Win-Win with NIP

Youth Services System participates in West Virginia's Neighborhood Investment Program or NIP. The goal of NIP is to increase giving by individuals and businesses to community non-profit organizations. Generous donors to YSS may be able to receive West Virginia tax credits which can be applied to West Virginia Personal Income Tax, Business Franchise Tax, or Net Corporate Income Tax. With NIP, your donation to YSS does good things for young people and for you.

For more information, please contact Mike Toothman, 304-218-2848.

Youth Services System, Inc.

Current Programs

- 1974:** **Ohio County Youth Services System**, founding of youth-oriented, community-based group,
- 1975:** **Samaritan House** begins
First emergency shelter for children in West Virginia
- 1981:** **Transitional Living Program** opens
First WV licensed independent living program for youth exiting foster care
- 1983:** New **Samaritan House** constructed
Helinski Shelter begins, Moundsville WV
Emergency shelter for children
- 1986:** **Northern Regional Juvenile Center** opens
West Virginia's first privately operated secure juvenile facility
- 1997:** **Wheeling Community Child Care Center** merges with YSS
Provider of day care and certified pre-school services
- 2000:** **Tuel Crisis Center** begins, emergency shelter New Martinsville, WV
McCrary Center opens, Community-based services center, Wheeling Island, WV
- 2003:** **Hope's Promise**, an intensive outpatient program, for substance abusing and dependent youth.
- 2004:** **Bridges**, a school-based counseling program in Ohio and Marshall County begins.
- 2005:** **Support Zone**, a school-based student and parent assistance center, at Central Elementary School, Moundsville, WV opens.
Tuel Transitional Training Center for youth 18-20 begins
at the converted crisis center, New Martinsville.
We Are The Future, a positive youth development group developing leadership skills, voluntarism, and self-expression through the arts starts.
Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY) services through the *Basic Center Program* supports care for runaway and homeless youth.
- 2006:** Youth Services System works with other community partners in the *Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition*, supported by West Virginia's [*Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant \(SPF SIG\)*](#)
- 2007:** **Runaway and Homeless Youth Transitional Living Program** services funded to support independent living skills training for runaway and homeless youth
- 2008:** **Youth Achievement Program** begins, residential treatment for youth with mental challenges and emotional health needs.
Youth employment and training program through Northern Panhandle Workforce Investment Board starts under YSS auspices.
Celebrate Youth 2008 Choices That Matter festival: Focus on achievement and healthy behaviors in a family friendly setting.
- 2009:** **Rachel's Challenge** assembly at Wesbanco arena brings 3000 Ohio Valley students a positive message for better school environments

Past Program Innovations

- 1977:** **Genesis Alternative Learning Center** begins
First Ohio County alternative school for truants and dropouts
- 1980:** **Ohio River Youth Project** opens
A wilderness program model for at-risk youth
- 1983:** **Alternative Learning Center** opens, Marshall County
- 1984:** **ONSET Program** (Outreach Network for Sexually Exploited Teens) starts
Street outreach to meet the special needs of teen prostitutes and sexually exploited youth
Adolescence Substance Abuse Program grant opens
- 1985:** **Home Industry Program** starts
A vocational program for at-risk youth
- 1988:** **Juvenile Restitution Program** starts
First such program in the Northern Panhandle
- 1990:** **Independent Living/Training Centers** open
For 18-25 year old homeless men
- 1994:** **Tipton Center** opens, emergency shelter for children, Weirton, WV

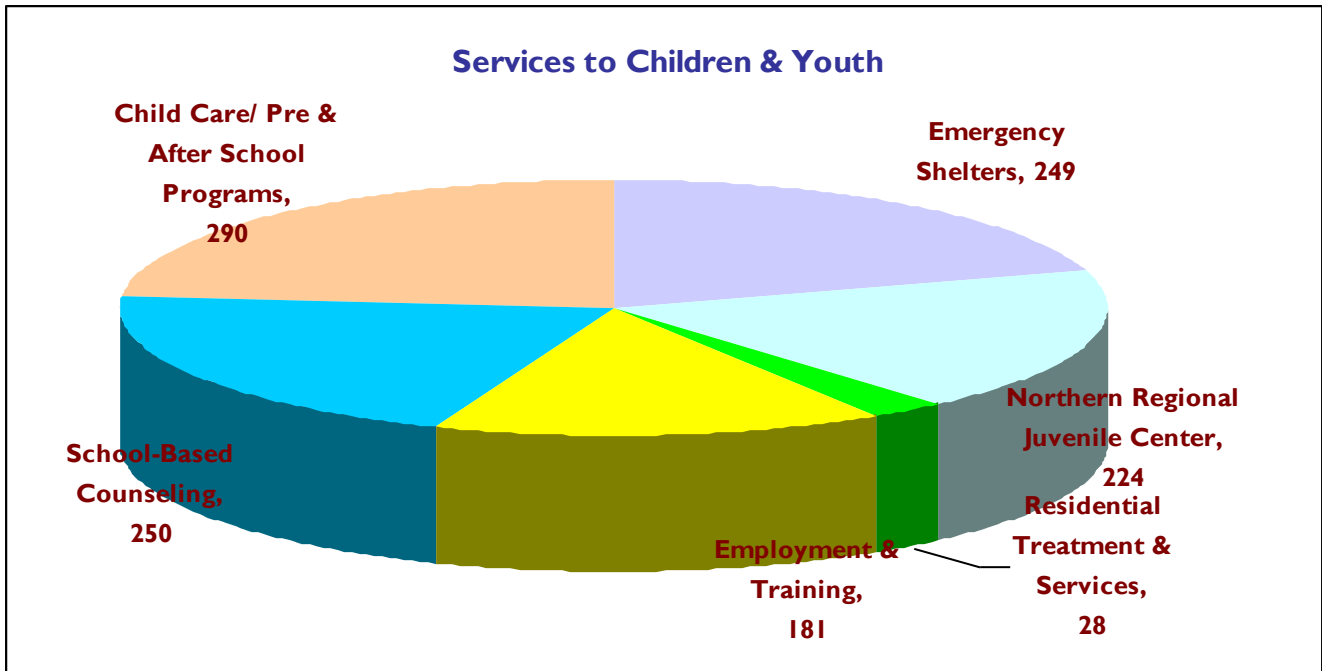
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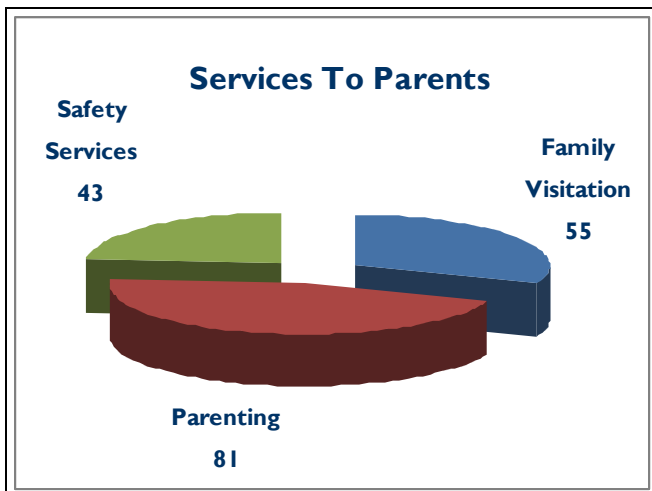
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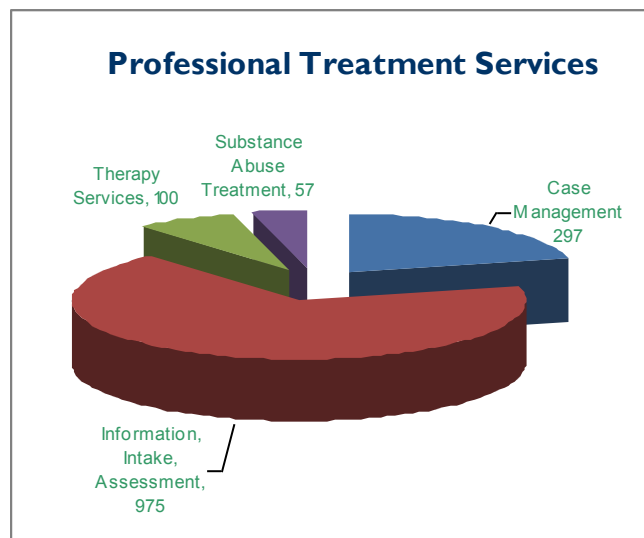
Youth Services System FY09 Services: 2840 youth and families served



- Every day approximately **60** youth are being served in our residential programs with crisis counseling, assessment and planning, problem-solving, group work, therapy, family intervention, and 24 hour supervision.
- Every day approximately **80** toddlers and young children are being served in our day care program or its pre and after school programs.
- Every day approximately **75** youth in our communities are gaining skills in employment and training programs.



- Every day, approximately **75** parents are building their skills, becoming more confident and capable with the awesome responsibility of raising children.



- Every day, young men and women are developing habits to maintain a drug and alcohol free life.
- Every day, youth are learning skills to be independent citizens.

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The Good Samaritan

Good Samaritan Honoree—Ron Mulholland



Ron Mulholland is a tireless advocate for young people. He was the founding executive director for Youth Services System, Inc. (YSS) starting in 1974. This northern panhandle organization's first service was to provide emergency shelter for those who needed. At the time, there was no process to do this, since there were no emergency shelters—YSS's Samaritan House would become the first licensed shelter. Starting with a building lent to him by the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and volunteers, Ron worked to bring resources and innovation to the care of young people.

Emergency shelter led to alternative education programs and to programs to teach older adolescents the skills they needed to live independently. Ron's vision was to offer young men and women an array of paths towards health and success. .

His vision was wide-ranging—from a public campaign and program to help young runaways leave the exploitation of street prostitution to service on the state level and federal level with the national Office on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. he has sought to bring people together in service to kids and families. Ron Mulholland's work was recognized nationally when he received the Lewis Hine Award from the National Child Labor Committee

From its start as a one person service organization, Youth Services System has grown into a diverse youth-serving agency. For 23 years, YSS has operated the Northern Regional Juvenile Center as West Virginia's only private juvenile facility. Other services like independent living for youth in foster care are among the state's most experienced youth programs. Sixteen thousand youth have received the care and services from the organization that Ron Mulholland began. Many others throughout West Virginia have benefited from his firm conviction that each child has worth, dignity and a place in the world.



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

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Youth Services System, Inc.