

# Helping Hands of Hamilton Centers

A Publication of Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc.

Volume 9, Issue 1 - Winter 2007



## Calendar

**March 11-17, 2007** – National Safe Place Week

**March 22, 2007** – Annual Business Meeting at First United Methodist Church in Noblesville at 6:30.

**April 26, 2007** – Hamilton Centers Auxiliary Luncheon & Auction at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Noblesville, Doors open at 11:15

**June 16, 2007** – Hamilton Centers Safe Place Fun Day at Ben & Ari's, 12:00 to 4:00

## Special thanks to our sponsor...



*This issue of the "Helping Hands of Hamilton Centers" was made possible by a generous donation from St. Vincent Carmel Hospital.*

## Letter from the Executive Director

Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc. (HCYSB) has undergone a major transition in its programming and personnel structure during the past month. Although the non-profit organization's mission...to meet the physical, social, emotional, educational and self-discovery needs of troubled and at-risk youth and families...will not change, its residential program will change to serve pregnant and parenting teens. The bureau is developing a teen pregnancy program scheduled to open in January of 2008.

On January 15, 2007, HCYSB closed its residential program located in the 294 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street Facility in Noblesville. The closure of the residential program was prompted by the opening of the new Hamilton County Juvenile Services Center on Cumberland Road in Noblesville. The center will include a shelter for teens who have been removed from their homes by court order. Hamilton Centers, a private non-profit organization, has been the only resource in Hamilton County to shelter at risk teens since its founding in 1973. Although our organization was created for this very purpose and we are sorry to see it go, we look forward to strengthening our other programs and developing the new pregnant and parenting teens' program during 2007. HCYSB will continue to fulfill our mission of serving Hamilton and the surrounding counties at-risk youth and families.

In light of the programmatic changes, HCYSB took advantage of this time to re-organize its personnel structure and would like to take the opportunity to announce the following staff changes:



Marli Howell, ACSW, LCSW has been named Director of Programs/ Clinical Director



Michele Whelchel will be the full-time Development Director



Marco Moss has been promoted to the Safe Place and Host Homes Coordinator position



Sara Knoop has been named the FAST Coordinator and Teen Advisory Board Supervisor

Please help me congratulate and welcome these individuals in their new roles. Their past experience with HCYSB and their dedication to serving the at-risk youth and families of Hamilton County has been admirable and we are lucky to have their continued commitment in serving the youth of our community.

*Continued on page 2*

# Letter from the Executive Director *(continued)*

HCYSB will continue to offer the following services:

- **Safe Place** – designed to provide safe and immediate help for runaway, homeless and in-crisis youth experiencing abuse, neglect, social or family problems with which he or she is unable to cope. It is a nationally operated program with more than 11,669 sites in 41 states.
- **Host Homes** – provides an opportunity for caring families to offer temporary emergency shelter care for children between the ages of 7 and 17.
- **Clinical services** – individual therapy, family counseling, psychological assessments, and referrals.
- **Independent Living Skills (ILS)** – designed to serve youth ages 16-21 in order for them to gain the skills required to live healthy, productive, and responsible lives as self-sufficient adults.
- **Supervised Visitation/Supervised Exchange** – designed to facilitate opportunities for children to have safe and conflict-free access to both parents.
- **Anger Management for Teens** – group focused on helping youth ages 13-17 learn alternative ways to express and manage their feelings.



- **FAST (Families and Schools Together)** – an award-winning model program for the prevention of substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, school failure, child abuse and neglect, and mental health problems.
- **Teen Advisory Board** – 10 youth volunteers keep the organization informed on current youth crises and how to better relate to kids. This group represents the Safe Place & Host Homes program in peer presentations in area high schools and events.
- **L.E.A.D. (Leading Educating Across Domains) Initiative** – providing training, resources, and networking opportunities for youth and to implement trained youth leaders into prevention programs so that youth receive prevention messages through peer-led activities.

HCYSB sees the Pregnant and Parenting Teens program as the next step in the evolution of the organization and looks forward to continuing to serve the community. If you have any questions, concerns or would like additional information on our current and under development programs, please contact Stephanie Lyons, Executive Director and she will be happy to speak with you further. Thank you for your continued support of HCYSB and we look forward to working with you in the future.

## Helping Hands Corner

### Hamilton Centers Auxiliary

Luncheon & Auction to benefit Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc. The Hamilton Centers Auxiliary is busy planning their annual Luncheon & Auction for April 26, 2007 at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church in Noblesville. Lunch tickets are \$8.00 and Quilt Raffle tickets are \$3.00. For more information, please call Shirley Ward at 773-0190.

### Ink A Million

The National Safe Place office has partnered with Charitable Recycling Ink to collect 1 million ink cartridges and toners to raise money for all of the Safe Place agencies across the country. This campaign is called "Ink A Million".

The Safe Place & Host Homes program of Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc is recycling ink cartridges and toners to raise money for the program. This campaign has two parts- each agency raises money by collecting the cartridges and toners for their own agency, the cartridges and toners collected count toward the 1 million. The second part is if 1 million are collected by September 2007, each agency could receive up to \$10,000 each.

Please help us raise money for our agency by recycling your ink cartridges to Charitable Recycling Ink. For boxes or more information on acceptable cartridges and toners, please contact Michele Whelchel at 773-6342 or [mwhelchel@hcysb.org](mailto:mwhelchel@hcysb.org).

### Hamilton Centers Safe Place Fun Day

The Hamilton Centers Safe Place Fun Day will be June 16, 2007 at Ben & Ari's from 12:00 to 4:00. We are seeking sponsorships and silent auction items at this time. For more information, please contact Michele Whelchel at 773-6342 or by e-mail at [mwhelchel@hcysb.org](mailto:mwhelchel@hcysb.org).

### Noblesville Daily Times

Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc is collaborating with the Noblesville Daily Times' (NDT) fundraising program. The NDT will donate money to Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc for any new subscriptions, and one year renewals that HCYSB secures. For flyers and more information, please call Michele Whelchel at 773-6342 or by e-mail at [mwhelchel@hcysb.org](mailto:mwhelchel@hcysb.org).

# Mayor's Ball

As the sun set in Noblesville and Hamilton County on November 18<sup>th</sup>, a gathering was brewing. Cowboys, Cowgirls, Native Americans, Inn Keepers, Gamblers, Sheriffs, Maidens and many more convened at the Fishers Forum for the "Wild Wild West" Charity Night hosted by **Noblesville Mayor John Ditslear & First Lady Teri**. Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc was honored to be one of five charities that benefited from this event. Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc received a donation of \$20,000.00 to support our Family Access Center Supervised Visitations and Exchange program. The Mayor's Ball committee

put their ideas together and worked tirelessly on this event. With deep gratitude, the Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc. Board of Directors, Staff, and clients would like to thank **Mayor Ditslear, First Lady Teri Ditslear, and the Wild, Wild, West Committee** for their time, energy, financial support, and commitment to making a difference in Noblesville and Hamilton County. We would like to thank all of the sponsors, businesses, and individuals that contributed to this event. Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc will never forget the night we went to the **WILD WEST!**



# Annual Appeal Letter

The Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc 2006-2007 Annual Appeal Letter is in progress and there is still time to contribute.

The recognition levels are as follows:

## RECOGNITION LEVELS

### Platinum

**\$5000 or greater**

#### Includes

Logo will be placed on our website [www.hcysb.org](http://www.hcysb.org) with a link to your website for one year.

Logo inclusion on annual meeting program and annual report.

Media recognition of support.

Recognition in all quarterly newsletters, Helping Hands

### Gold

**\$2,500 to \$4,900**

Logo will be placed on our website [www.hcysb.org](http://www.hcysb.org) with a link to your website for one year.

Media recognition of support.

Recognition in two quarterly newsletters, Helping Hands

### Silver

**\$1,000 to \$2,499**

Logo will be placed on our website [www.hcysb.org](http://www.hcysb.org) with a link to your website for one year.

Media recognition of support

Recognition in one quarterly newsletter, Helping Hands

### Bronze

**\$100 to \$999**

Media recognition of support

Recognition in one quarterly newsletter, Helping Hands

Business/Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

**YES! I wish to give** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check One: ( ) My gift is enclosed. (Please make checks payable to Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau)

( ) Please charge my \_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MasterCard

Credit card number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration date \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

Zip Code of Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Card Holder \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card payments can also be made at our Web site: [hcysb.org](http://hcysb.org)

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!**

# Family Access Center – Supervised Visitation/Supervised Exchange Program



The Supervised Visitation/Supervised Exchange Program is offered by the Family Access Center, a program of Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc. (HCYSB). The program is designed to facilitate opportunities for children to have safe and conflict-free access to both parents.

The Family Access Center received grant funding in 2006 from the “**Link Youth Advisory Council Fund,**” a fund of **Legacy Fund Community Foundation**, which allowed for the implementation of a sliding fee scale. The grant gave HCYSB the opportunity to offer the Supervised Visitation and Supervised Exchange services for free or at a reduced cost depending on the families income level. To date, the Link Youth Advisory Council Fund grant has helped the Family Access Center provide 32 free hours and 22 hours at a reduced rate to four families from Hamilton County.

Through the opportunity that HCYSB received from the Link Youth Advisory Council Fund, the Family Access Center was able to provide evidence that there is a need in the community

to make the Supervised Visitations and Supervised Exchanges program more accessible to families by offering a sliding fee scale. Through this evidence HCYSB was able to secure a grant worth \$10,000.00 from the **Hamilton County Community Development Block Grant Program** in order to continue offering the sliding fee scale to Hamilton County residents in 2007. With this grant the Family Access Center will be able to serve an additional 44 families (106 hours) at a free or reduced rate.

Supervised visitation is an arrangement that provides the non-custodial parent(s) with a way of spending parenting time with their children. The purpose of the program is to establish, re-establish or maintain strong positive family relationships. The program provides a conflict-free, safe and neutral environment for the children to engage in positive time with their parents.

Supervised exchange is a place where children of divorced, or separated parents may be transferred from the custodial parent to the non-custodial parent in a safe, neutral environment. Adults who are involved with any of the services do not come into contact with each other while participating at the Family Access Center. Supervision is limited to the actual exchange of the children while at the Family Access Center.

Supervised Visitations and Supervised Exchanges reduce parental conflict witnessed by children. During parenting time, there is time for the family to develop trust between both parents in addition to the parent and child. Visitations also allow the opportunity to reinforce good parenting skills and learn new ones.

If you are in need or know of a family who could benefit from the Supervised Visitation and Supervised Exchange Services, please contact Tyress Williams at (317) 773-5002 or [twilliams@hcysb.org](mailto:twilliams@hcysb.org) for more information.

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## Holidays

The Holidays were filled with activities for the residential clients. The **Hamilton Centers Auxiliary** generously donated gifts and **Mr. & Mrs. Mike Marinaro** donated money for the food and drinks at the Holiday Party. Festivities included fun games, gifts, and food. **Robert & Liz Tate**, **Courtney McCormick**, and **Nick Dickos** volunteered for the Holiday Store to help the residents shop and wrap gifts for their families. The gifts were donated by the **White River Sertoma Club**. **Longhorn Steakhouse** again out did themselves with not only a client party which included gifts donated by the staff and a wonderful meal, but they also collected and donated items for the FAST and Pregnant & Parenting Teens programs. We would like to thank each person and group that continues to support Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc.



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# Helping Hands of Hamilton Centers



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### Mission Statement

Hamilton Centers Youth Service Bureau, Inc. provides programs to meet the physical, social, emotional, educational and self-discovery needs of troubled and at risk youth and families of Hamilton and surrounding counties.

