

**ENGAGING YOUTH IN LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE**

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL \* TEEN COURT \* TEENPOWER  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE GRANTS \* YOUTH COALITION

**YR'S TEEN  
ADVISORY  
COUNCIL**

*Youth Resources' TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL began in 1987 with 12 students and now has over 80 members!* These high school leaders meet every other Friday morning at 5:55 a.m. to identify youth problems, discuss solutions, plan outreach events, and screen grant proposals for YR's Make A Difference Grants. They also have the unique opportunity to interact with community leaders such as the Mayor, members of the Evansville City Council, Vanderburgh County Commissioners, and the EVSC School Board, and other individuals dedicated to improving our community. Under Jo Beth Bootz's strong leadership, the Teen Advisory Council rocked their previous record of service to organizations in the first semester! Last year the Teen Advisory Council volunteered 2,600 hours of service with an economic impact of over \$42,000 in volunteer hours. They are on track to shatter that service record again this year!

Led by Service Committee co-chairs Katie Clevidence (Harrison Senior) and Jessie Ellsperman (Castle Senior), Katie reported in January that the following organizations were assisted by TAC members during the Fall Semester of 2008:

- Angel Mounds
- Bethel Temple
- Children's Museum of Evansville
- Civic Center
- C.A.P.E.
- Culver Elementary School
- Evansville Association for the Blind
- Evansville Christian Life Center
- Evansville Courier and Press
- Evansville Museum
- EVSC
- Funk in the City
- Growth Alliance for Greater Evansville
- Habitat for Humanity
- Holly's House
- Kids Kingdom
- Milestones
- Muscular Dystrophy Association
- Newburgh Food Pantry
- Old National Bank
- Patchwork Central
- Race for the Cure
- Santa Letters
- Simon Mall Evening of Giving



TAC members Shelby Edge, Kristen Koewler, Lee Jerstad, Daniel Avon, Katie Clevidence, and Sarah Krampe at the Athena Video Taping

**YR TAC FACTS:**

90% of TAC members feel they have learned the skills necessary to become an effective leader from participation in TAC

73% of TAC members have gained new leadership skills

The following aspects of TAC helped the youth most in developing leadership skills:  
*Working in Committees and Service Projects*

## YR ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Written by *Laura Ferguson, IU Sophomore, Non-Profit Management*  
American Humanics Management Institute is a long name for an experience not unlike college: it's a place to network, a hub of inspiration, a cultural gathering where you can make friends over good food, and a center of learning where you find out what you're getting into with this "nonprofit" stuff. Now, imagine all of this "schooling" taking place during a four-day conference and you've got the gist of AHMI 2009 in Indianapolis.

### 2009 YR Board of Directors

**Eric Williams**  
President  
**Nancy Koehler**  
Vice-President  
**John Bohls**  
Secretary  
**Jeff Smith**  
Treasurer  
  
**Don Apple**  
**Vince Bertram**  
**Gayle Derringe**  
**Jan Elsea**  
**Keith Jarboe**  
**Bob Jones**  
**Phyllis Kincaid**  
**Kathryn Kornblum**  
**Jack Pate**  
**Stephanie Roland**  
**Reed Schmitt**  
  
Youth Directors:  
**Kristen Koewler**  
**David Korb**  
**Dan Avon**  
  
Honorary Directors:  
**Dana Clayton**  
**H. Lee Cooper**  
**Marcia Kreyling**  
  
Executive Director  
**Ann Burnworth**

Ann and I drove the three plus hours to Indianapolis not knowing exactly what kind of

experience we were in for. We chatted briefly about "The Plan" for our workshop which was titled "Youth in Governance/How to Break into the Boardroom", but under the influence of my college-bred "can-do last minute" attitude, I instead got to spend a few precious hours of quality time with Ann – my favorite mentor and executive director to catch up on Life and Youth Resources. (Which is an example of a relationship that, in abstract, became key to our presentation.)

That night, we grabbed a booth in the hotel dining room to do what Ann and I do – finish each other's sentences. We did a touch of brainstorming on the fundamental aspects of Youth Resources – what YR is, what YR does, and how YR can be an inspiration to up-and-coming youth development profes-



Ann Burnworth & Laura Ferguson

sionals who want to help youth "break into the boardroom." We had our plan.

Of course, after Ann and I both sat through a couple workshops, we realized that energy would be essential or else the plan would be thwarted by sleep-deprived college students in their last workshop session of the day. Channeling the spirit of all things TEENPOWER, we started with the Dum-Dum sucker icebreaker, in which a few of the students in our group were singled out for their relative alertness to tell us about the inspirations behind their commitment to youth work. Then we hit our points: Agency Overview, Measuring Results, Getting the Board Out of the Boardroom and Into the Programs, Creating Opportunities for Adult-Youth Mentoring Relationships, and The Importance (to Youth) of Simply Being Invited to Serve.

There was more, but we didn't get to it; instead, we fielded questions like, "I tried to start a Teen Court in my area, but I met a lot of resistance from school liaisons. What do you suggest I do?" and, "We've just started 'youth development' down in Mississippi. How can I start a council like ya'lls?"

After 5 years with YR, I found that I have begun to take for granted the opportunity to participate in such life-changing and fundamentally brilliant programs. They don't exist everywhere. But we were reminded at AHMI that youth do exist everywhere, and dedicated youth workers too. Ann and I came away from the conference not with more knowledge per se, but with more passion for and confidence in the high level of unique programming that YR offers. We came away with increased awareness of the underserved youth populations in our nation and with old and new friends willing to join us as we begin another year at YR of youth development that works.

The AHMI theme this year was "The Power of Stories: Passion from the Inside Out," and the dear friends who invited Ann and I to present knew better than we did that Youth Resources is in many ways exemplary of the life-changing power of stories and the force of good that can be tapped in the passionate hearts of the youth of this nation.



AMERICAN RED CROSS



WEST TERRACE GIRL SCOUTS

### YR's 2008-09 Make A Difference Grants:

<b>American Red Cross of SW Indiana:</b>	<b>\$945.26</b>
<b>Corpus Christi School:</b>	<b>\$311.56</b>
<b>Dream Center:</b>	<b>\$525</b>
<b>Fairlawn Buddy Program:</b>	<b>\$290</b>
<b>Fort Branch Community School Student Council:</b>	<b>\$630</b>
<b>GEM Ministries/Studio Bee Community Center:</b>	<b>\$420</b>
<b>Harrison High School Special Education Class:</b>	<b>\$323</b>
<b>Lodge Elementary Third Grade:</b>	<b>\$367.08</b>
<b>McGary Middle School:</b>	<b>\$682.50</b>
<b>Memorial Baptist Church Youth Department:</b>	<b>\$641.02</b>
<b>Scott Elementary Cares Program:</b>	<b>\$490.87</b>
<b>Scott Elementary Check Out Program:</b>	<b>\$451.50</b>
<b>St. Paul's United Church of Christ Youth Group:</b>	<b>\$787.50</b>
<b>St. Theresa School:</b>	<b>\$366.97</b>
<b>St. Wendel School 4th Grade Service Project:</b>	<b>\$729.75</b>
<b>Tri-State Alliance Youth Group:</b>	<b>\$682.50</b>
<b>Warrick County Exploring 4-H Program:</b>	<b>\$210</b>
<b>Warrick County 4-H Council:</b>	<b>\$335.37</b>
<b>West Terrace Junior Girl Scout Troop #268:</b>	<b>\$609</b>
<b>Wood Memorial National Honor Society:</b>	<b>\$157.50</b>
<b>Total Granted:</b>	<b>\$9956.48</b>

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE GRANTS FUND YOUTH-LED SERVICE PROJECTS THAT IMPROVE AN AREA OF THEIR COMMUNITY OF WHICH THEY WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE!**

# YR's TEEN COURT Program Is Making a Lasting Positive Impact on Our Community

YR's Vanderburgh County Teen Court is a restorative justice-based diversion program for young offenders in Evansville utilizing evidence-based resources from the National Youth Center. Rather than being sent to juvenile court and risking formal prosecution and possible adjudication, a young offender can agree to have a Teen Court hearing and avoid what might have been the first mark on his or her legal record upon successful completion of the program. Hearings take place on Monday afternoons in Superior Court, and Judge Brett Niemeier (or his legal designate) presides.



WHEN COMPARING VANDERBURGH COUNTY TEEN COURT RESULTS WITH THE INDIANA STATISTICS THAT IT COSTS THE STATE MORE THAN \$63,000 PER YEAR, PER JUVENILE OFFENDER WHEN THEY ARE IN DETENTION FACILITIES - THEN THE COST BENEFIT OF THE VANDERBURGH COUNTY TEEN COURT PROGRAM THAT COSTS ONLY \$44,000 PER YEAR TO OPERATE AND SERVES 35-40 JUVENILES CERTAINLY PROVES THAT THE PROGRAM BENEFITS NOT ONLY TAX PAYERS BUT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE! According to a report published in 2005 by the American Youth Policy Forum, teen courts divert about 9% of the juvenile arrests that would otherwise have to be handled by the traditional, overburdened, juvenile system and they accomplish all of this on an annual budget of less than \$50,000.

The most important outcome of this YR program is the fact that young people are motivated to turn over a "new leaf" and become less likely to engage in repeat offenses as juveniles and adults. This program emphasizes peer-to-peer accountability through interaction with youth volunteers which is truly a driving factor in the overall completion success rate. The community service component is a critical aspect of YR's Teen Court because YOUTH WHO VOLUNTEER JUST ONE HOUR A WEEK ARE 50% LESS LIKELY TO ABUSE DRUGS, ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, OR ENGAGE IN RISKY BEHAVIOR (Search Institute, 1995). This is particularly important because 90% YR's total respondents have a current or previous history of drug and/or alcohol abuse which is addressed in the court room and probation setting.

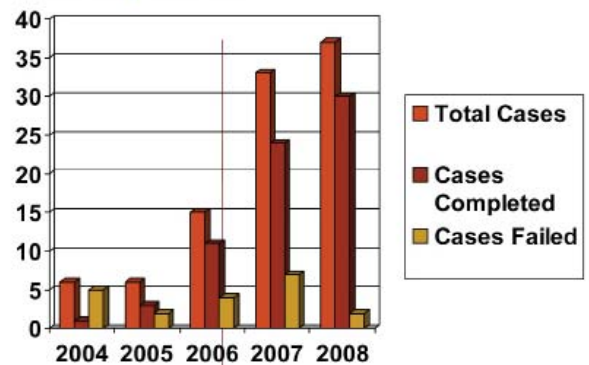
What makes Youth Resources Teen Court program unique from the 23 others the state is the Teen Court Advisory Team (T-CAT), which is a youth-led

council of teen members who provide oversight and recommendations for the program while focusing on how they can better serve the respondents' needs. This group has developed jury room guidelines, a dress code for volunteers, and also takes field trips to places the respondents will encounter as part of their dispositions, such as the Vanderburgh County Jail, the juvenile jail, and non-profits where respondents are required to volunteer. YR's T-CAT also works closely with the Program Manager to develop training programs for both jurors and attorneys.

WHEN ASKED THE OPEN-ENDED QUESTION, "WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM YOUR TEEN COURT EXPERIENCE?" THE YOUTH PARTICIPANTS HAVE SHARED THESE MAIN THEMES:

- NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE ON SCHOOL, RELATIONSHIPS, AND FUTURE PLANS
- INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THE LAW AND CONSEQUENCES OF OFFENSES
- AWARENESS OF PEER PRESSURE AND BULLYING ISSUES AS THEY AFFECT CRIME
- IMPROVED COMMUNICATION AMONG PARENTS AND OTHER ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY
- THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASED PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND OUTSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

## Years in Comparison



The rate of recidivism (repeated criminal activity) for Vanderburgh County Teen Court in 2008 was just 5% compared to 10% in 2007, which illustrates that the program is making a positive, lasting impact. Vanderburgh County Sheriff, Eric Williams, shared that the recidivism rate for the Vanderburgh County Jail is 65% - making it that much more important to reverse criminal behavior by juveniles before they head down a path of criminal activity as adults. A lower recidivism rate among teen offenders also makes our community a safer place to live and raise a family.

More than 20 local agencies received community service assistance from YR's Teen Court respondents during 2008. The respondents completed 370 service hours last year which are directly given back to the community through disposition requirements.

Youth Resources is proud to administer a unique program such as Teen Court that makes such a positive, lasting effect on the community. The change seen in most of the youth offenders throughout our contact with them is very rewarding and continues for years after disposition completion. We look forward to reporting on a yearly basis the lives changed by Youth Resources staff and volunteers who took the time to care about each of these youth and get them back on a positive path in life!

**95% OF SURVEYED RESPONDENTS STATED: "IF GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY AND KNOWING THAT I WOULD NOT GET CAUGHT, I WOULD NOT COMMIT THIS OFFENSE AGAIN."**



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EVANSVILLE, IN  
47708  
PERMIT NO. 2873

P.O. Box 3635  
Evansville, IN 47735-3635  
812-421-0030  
FAX 812-422-9143

[www.youth-resources.org](http://www.youth-resources.org)

TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL \* TEEN COURT \* TEENPOWER  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE GRANTS \* YOUTH COALITION

## YR's UPCOMING APRIL AND MAY EVENTS:

### YR's EVANSVILLE YOUTH COALITION:

Hall of Fame Banquet

Friday, April 24 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker Bill Stanczykiewicz

(President and CEO of Indiana Youth Institute)

at the Southern Indiana Career and Tech Center

1901 Lynch Road

Please call Jessica at 421-0030 for more info!

### YR's TEEN ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Battle of the Bands Fundraiser

Friday, May 8th

time and location to be announced

Be watching for the Dance Marathon and

Volleyball Tournament dates!

Please call Jo Beth at 421-0030 for more info!

Know a teen who likes to make a difference? Who would like to have the power to stand up for what they believe in?

**Then TEENPOWER 2009,  
YR's leadership and  
drug prevention camp,  
is for them!**

Go to [www.youth-resources.org](http://www.youth-resources.org) for more information about this summer's camps and to download registration forms!

**HIGH SCHOOL CAMP \* June 1-5  
"TEENPOWER Makes the Cut"  
at the University of Evansville**

**MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP \* June 22-24  
"TEENPOWER Is Out of this World"  
at the University of Southern Indiana**