

Youth Dimensions

VOLUME 2

FALL 2010

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Juvenile Court sees more than 20,000 cases annually.
- 44% of kids in Shelby County live in economically vulnerable households.
- 43% of kids in Memphis live in single parent homes.
- YD has (on average) 180 days to change our client's lives.

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Youth Dimensions is Cooking!



In cooperation with L'Ecole Culinaire, YD recently launched a new Culinary Arts Program. The monthly program led by Chef Matt Crone, focuses on teaching basic kitchen and cooking skills while also introducing potential career paths to our young men.

Each class (presented in YD's kitchen) is designed to give the students both hands-on experience and the opportunity to learn about recipes and keys ingredients. Best of all, each class finishes at lunch-time, when everyone gets to

eat what they have cooked. For their first class, the boys selected pizza. Five teams were created to not only cook, but to be sure the kitchen was left clean. Teams included: dough making (from scratch), vegetable cutting (mushrooms, tomatoes) meat and cheese prep (pre-cooking beef, sausage), stovetop (sauté veggies, heat dough) and clean-up. Once everything was prepared, teams of four selected their toppings to create their pizzas. The results, speak for themselves.

"I like cooking because they let everyone cook their own food in a different way."

For our second class, the boys tackled lasagna. Not only

was it a great success, but we made so much that we were able to feed the entire YD staff and visitors from Omnivision, our foster care partner.



"I like when the cooks come, because I like to learn new things... then I love to eat."

Lichterman Lowenberg Foundation Funds Workshop

In an effort to expand our Vocational Services Program, YD submitted a funding proposal to the Lichterman Lowenberg Foundation to create a Wood Shop. The proposal sought funds to purchase standard equipment (table-saw, hammers, drill,

sander) as well as raw materials to physically create the shop (work benches, saw horses). The Shop, under the leadership of YD staff member, George Pryor will be used to teach carpentry and life skills. One of the first projects planned is to build

several dog houses that will be donated to senior citizens in Raleigh who do not have proper shelter for their pets. Future projects will include bird houses and basic furniture pieces. As the program expands, we hope to be able to sell items at YD events.

Director's Message



Roderick Scott
Executive Director
(901) 213-9000

*"I would like to
thank everybody at
Youth Dimensions
for saving me from
me."*

Each day when I walk down the halls at Youth Dimensions, I see growth. It might be personal growth in the actions and behavior of a particular young man, program growth through the addition of new activities, or organizational growth through the launch of new services (outpatient center) to support our community.

The fact that our Mission, (To provide comprehensive therapeutic services to at-risk youth within an environment that fosters growth) mirrors what I see each day, is the clearest demonstration that we are accomplishing what we set out to do. The problem, is that the need for our services has never been greater. Each time we send a young man home he is

quickly replaced with another. Also, the challenges and barriers that many young people in our community face are rapidly increasing, and not enough people are stepping up to be part of the solution. After you read this Newsletter, ask yourself how you can help. Growing older is inevitable, while personal growth takes real work and needs support!

Dollar General Grant Funds Literacy Program

Basic reading skills are fundamental to success in school and in life. The ability to read at grade level is one of the major challenges facing our students. To address this issue, YD has just received funding to establish a computer based Literacy Program.

To build literacy skills, YD will implement the nation-

ally recognized Jamestown Reading Navigator curriculum. The self-paced program, sends students on a series of Treks, Quests and Journeys while building fundamental skills.

Students will be able work on-line during school hours and can use complimentary hardcopy books during their free time. The curriculum

has been successful based on the use of a Hi-Low principle. Students with poor reading skills, must be engaged by Hi interest content in a Low literacy format.

Through the use of this initiative, we hope to improve student's reading by one grade level during their time at our facility.

YD Partners with MASE

YD has established a new partnership with the Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering (MASE). YD's Family Support Services will work closely with MASE's staff to offer mental health counseling and support to the scholars and families of MASE. All

services will be covered by third party insurance. MASE Executive Director, Harold Wingood, had been looking for a way to provide enhanced services to students and their families. YD will begin by providing clinical services at the school. Further, MASE

will offer enrollment to any YD youth (identified by the staff prior to discharge) willing to attend the charter school. According to YD Executive Director, Rod Scotts, "Our two agencies have a shared belief of going the extra mile to help our youth develop and become successful citizens."

Local Artists Bring Their Skills to YD

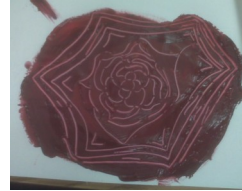


Local artists, Amy Hutcheson and Bob Pearce have teamed-up to create a new visual arts program at YD. The weekly programs teaches basic drawing skills as well as introducing the boys to a variety of media.

“I like art because I like to draw. I like it because I learn how to draw new stuff and different ways to draw.”

The idea to add art to the YD curriculum was suggested by Ms. Buckley, (our Lead Teacher) as a way to engage her students and build creativity. Also, research has also shown that drawing can help develop critical thinking skills and challenge students on a different learning level.

If you would like to support our Art Program through a donation to our supply fund, please contact us at 901-213-9000.



“I like to do art so I can get better at something, so I can be something in life and so I can have my mind on something.”

“This place is good for helping youths that don’t want anything out of life. I have learned a lot and am ready for whatever life throws at me.”

YD Launches Outpatient Services

To further expand our services to the community, YD has opened a new Family Support Service Center. The Center located on New Covington Pike, offers a wide range of outpatient behavioral health service.

Core services focus on alcohol and drug counseling based on

several different modalities. New services include:

- Group & Individual Therapy
- Self-Help Group
- Anger Release Techniques
- Patient Education
- Family Therapy
- Relapse Prevention

YD Outpatient Services:
3900 New Covington Park
Suite #107

**To make a referral, please call YD at 901- 791-0886
Fax: 901-791-0891**

These services are payable through Tenn. Care and Self Pay.

Liz Ann Payant is Changing Lives at YD

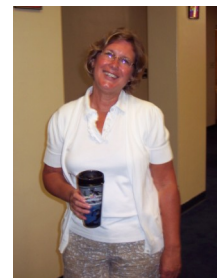
To call Ms. Liz Ann (Payant) a volunteer, simply does not do justice to the immeasurable services she brings to Youth Dimensions. Not only does Ms. Liz Ann work directly with the boys in the classroom, game room and one on one, but she also champions YD across the community. Ms. Liz Ann’s initiative to create YD’s Family

Game Night, has provided our young men an opportunity to interact with a growing group of Community Volunteers and their families. Designed as a fun activity, these evenings also demonstrate the strength of families while fostering life skills and expanding networks.

Further, during the Holiday

Season, Ms. Liz Ann raises funds to ensure that each young man at YD receives a personalized Bible and Christmas gift. Her selfless dedication to others has given YD an asset that no other agency can match.

During each of her visits to YD, Liz Ann Payant changes lives!





Youth Dimensions

3385 Austin Peay Hwy

Memphis, TN

38128

Phone: 901-213-9000

Fax: 901-213-9771

**Fostering & Encouraging Growth
for All Youth!**

Established in February of 2007, Youth Dimensions is a 48 client residential facility that provides services to high risk (male) youth who have been placed in the care and custody of the Tennessee Department of Children Services. Youth Dimensions' diversified treatment includes: therapy, education and vocational skills development.

Contacts:

Roderick Scott, Executive Director
rscott@youthdimensions.com

Andrew Israel, Community Development Director
aisrael@youthdimensions.com

Please consider becoming a FAN of Youth Dimensions on FACEBOOK.



Fed-Ex Managers Lead YD Mentor Program

In partnership with a group of leaders from Fed-Ex Express, YD has established a bi-weekly **Mentoring Program**.

The Mentor group consists of seven IT Managers under the leadership of Managing Director Jay Carlson. Their work with YD is based on Jay's personal belief of helping people in need as well as Fed-Ex's corporate philosophy of community support.

Many of the young men who are in YD's Program have not had strong male role models in their lives. Mentoring (by adult males) works to build relationships and networks to support personal and academic growth in at-risk youth. Our initial sessions have included large group activities (including

trust exercises), small group conversations and one-on-one classroom tutoring. The value of the program can already be seen by the simple fact that the boys have a continuous stream of questions during each interaction with the Mentors. Further, the ability for our young men to meet in a casual setting with adults who have faced challenges and attained success is a key to changing their mindsets and expanding their futures.

The Mentors see their time at YD as the first step in a larger relationship. Their hope is to provide advice and assistance even after the boys leave our facility and return to their homes.

According to YD Executive Director, Rod Scott, "Working with a true Memphis organization, like Fed-Ex is an ideal situation. While our boys come from a variety of backgrounds, they are all familiar with Fed-Ex and what it does in our city. This gives our Mentors instant credibility."

YD is a member of the Memphis Mentoring Partnership.
Visit: www.teamupmemphis.org

If you would like to join or recommend someone to YD's Mentoring Program please call (901) 240-6350