

# CATHOLIC CHARITIES



## Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **Who will benefit from the \$310 gift?**

Many problems that our children face on a daily basis include homelessness, hunger, and parents who are addicted. Many who are low income lack money for meals, clothing, and school supplies. Approximately 41% of our children are a minority. Many of our children live in single parent households.

#### **Can I sponsor more than one child?**

Each gift of \$310 will provide one child with resources and activities which will allow him/her grow into a productive adult. You are encouraged to provide as many gifts as possible.

#### **How are children chosen for the program?**

All children who walk through our doors are offered services free of charge. We have been open for twenty-eight years and have increased the number of children each year. Your gift will allow all children the opportunity to participate in all of our programs. While currently no child is turned away from our afterschool program, many of our individual programs need to be limited due to lack of funding.

#### **What is the financial situation of the children at Ryves Youth Center?**

Almost 95% of the youth attending Ryves Youth Center live in poverty. Surveys completed by families participating in activities at Ryves Youth Center indicate that 80% earn less than \$20,000 per year and over 60% of respondents lived on annual household incomes of less than \$10,000.

#### **What services do you offer the parents whose children attend Ryves Youth Center?**

In addition to free GED tutoring parents have the opportunity to come and dine with their children during supper. This is an important way to bring families together while providing sustenance. Parents have the opportunity to seek employment or find housing by bringing their children to Ryves for respite care. College interns provide additional educational information regarding health and child care issues. Through our computer lab, parents can seek employment and apply for benefits. We offer walk in crisis intervention for both children and parents and refer parents to additional agencies.

#### **What services do you offer the children who attend Ryves Youth Center?**

Almost all of our programs support direct needs, educational improvement, or physical recreation.

##### **Direct Needs Programs:**

- Evening meals for all children
- Kid friendly food provided every weekend through the Backpack program

##### **Educational Programs:**

- After school tutoring
- Full day, year-round preschool for homeless youth
- Computer lab and training

- Leadership development through Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts
- Music Lessons
- Evening Game nights
- Cooking Classes
- Nutrition Education
- Library

#### Physical Recreation

- Boxing
- Basketball league
- Open Gym

#### **What are the ages of the children who participate in the programs at Ryves?**

Our preschool program offers support for children ages 3 years to 6 years of age and our afterschool program provides a safe haven for children ages 5 years to 17 years of ages.

#### **What summer activities are provided?**

Recreation is emphasized through group games and Open Gym. An additional nutritious snack is offered when the children arrive at the center. Local service organizations sponsor special activities such as Respect for Law Camp, Boy Scout Summer Camp, and health and nutrition programs.

#### **Why do you provide evening meals?**

Over 90% of the children who attend the two closest elementary schools receive free or reduced lunches. Many of these same children also attend Ryves. Without our meals many children would go to sleep each night without an evening meal. The families who send their children to Ryves Youth Center have budgets which are already stretched to the max. Our meals offer much needed food for our children and relief to parents who are constantly worried about providing adequate meals for their children. We are the only meal site offering an evening meal to any child in need in the Terre Haute area.

#### **Do families pay a fee to the center? If so, how much?**

We provide services and programming to the poorest of the poor children in Terre Haute. Because we do not want to exclude any child in need we offer all of our services totally free of charge.

#### **How do you fund Ryves Youth Center?**

We are funded through development efforts of Catholic Charities Terre Haute and support from the Archdioceses of Indianapolis, United Way of the Wabash Valley, Vigo County School Corporation, and several contracts for programs such as Afternoons R.O.C.K. in Indiana and Mental Health America. Additionally we receive donations and hold fundraisers such as hosting the Indiana Junior Olympic and Indiana State Open boxing tournaments. We are constantly seeking additional funding sources that will increase the opportunities for our children to succeed in life.

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