Fall/Winter 2017 Edition
Creepy Crawlers, Eagle Scouts, Replay Runway, Christmas, We live, and More!
Terre Haute Catholic Charities
Ryves Youth Center

+ hope = Ryves
**Director’s Message from Jim Edwards**

When looking back on the last thirty-five years, it is clear that many people have come together to do God’s work and make Ryves Youth Center the haven of hope that it is today. The people who help our mission come from all religions, ages, and races. The one trait that they all seem to have is an optimistic view of life.

Helen Keller said, “Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.” Through the organizations and people who have helped Ryves Youth Center, we have seen this optimism achieve success with our children. It has been a blessing to be part of this cooperative effort.

Each day we watch children walk into the youth center. Often times, they have not experienced an optimistic outlook. Many of their parents have not graduated high school nor have they found worthwhile employment. At Ryves Youth Center children meet volunteers and staff who have positive attitudes. They are willing to do whatever it takes to help our children succeed in life. Through this optimistic attitude we truly see the achievement that Helen Keller speaks about. Since 1982, when the youth center opened its doors, we have more than tripled the size of our facility, and we have created focused programs to help children succeed in life.
Each evening children are fed nutritious meals. Many receive tutoring and homework help. Others join the basketball league or the Boy Scout troop. During the spring and summer many of our children participate in the Salsa Club where they learn gardening skills as well as how to create salsa. Many children also join the Time for Me mentoring program where they spend time, each week, with a positive mentor.

Whatever program a child participates in at Ryves Youth Center, he or she interacts with adults who are optimistic and caring. Through this environment children are helped to grow into positive adults who can carry this hope forward. This optimism is the true achievement for Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall.

_Ryves Community Optimist Club Governor's Dinner_, Jim Edwards

This year the R.C.O.C. has a great state chairman, Mario Mark Wilson, who works tirelessly to help not only our club but also our youth center, and many others. On October 10, Mark received the travelling banner that will be posted at all of the R.C.O.C. meetings this year. I have learned a lot from Mark, and we are all proud that our center can be his home.

For those of you who would like to belong to a club that makes a difference in children's lives, please consider joining an Optimist Club. The R.C.O.C. meets at Ryves Youth Center on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 pm. I hope to see you there!
“Optimism is essential to achievement, and it is also the foundation of courage and true progress.” – Nicholas M. Butler

“We Live,” Jalen Malone

On Saturday, August 26, many organizations around the Terre Haute community, such as Hamilton Center, Ryves Youth Center, and many others, came together for a free back-to-school bash called “We Live.” “We Live” is an annual event that allows the community to come together to receive free food, haircuts, music, and so much more.

One lucky student, Peyton, was asked what it meant to him, and he stated that he “looks forward to this event.” Out of the many activities that were there, Peyton especially enjoyed the sledgehammer game (provided by D.I.Y. Games) that requires the player to use a sledgehammer to hit a platform that raises a dial to ring a bell to win. Some other activities that Peyton enjoyed included the obstacle course (provided by the National Guard), the video games (provided by E-Bash), and the water tub (provided by D.I.Y. Games). One thing he would change about this event was that he wished that the obstacle course was longer. Since this event was focused around going back to school, we asked Peyton what he looks forward to the most this year in school, and he said that he looks forward to joining the math team, especially the word problems and algebra problems.

Ryves Youth Center would like to thank everyone who came out and all those who made this event possible. Hope to see you all next year!

“You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us. And the world will live as one.” – John Lennon

Atomic Monster Art, Jim Pinkstaff

I am happy to announce that 5x7 and 8x10 prints of all of my watercolor paintings are now available. All proceeds will go to Ryves Community Optimist Club to purchase educational supplies for the children attending Ryves Youth Center.
“We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.” – *Oscar Wilde*

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**Eagle Scout**, Jalen Malone

At Ryves Youth Center we take joy in the many clubs and activities that we offer. In particular, we would like to congratulate one student who has soared above and beyond in one of our clubs. His name is Lakota Bays.

Recently Lakota was promoted to Eagle Scout in our Boy Scouts Troop 22. Ryves offers both Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, and these two programs have about 25 participants. During his time with the Boys Scouts Lakota has gone camping, worked concessions, and done fundraising selling popcorn and Dominos cards. In his free time, Lakota enjoys coming to Ryves to help with the kids, coaching and refereeing basketball, and lifting. "I just want them to get where I was," Lakota said.

"I mean, I started where they did and I just want to get them where I am now." Lakota started his journey with the Boys Scouts in 2011. In order to be promoted to Eagle Scout, Lakota fulfilled a number of requirements. To become an Eagle Scout he had to receive 21 merit badges before the age of 18. These badges include swimming, cycling, hiking, citizenship, community, morals, family life, personal management, first aid, and environmental science. After receiving all 21 badges, Lakota went to the Board of Review where he answered questions and completed paperwork.

Lakota currently is a senior in high school and is looking forward to graduation. Lakota plans to go to college to enter the medical field or be an athletic trainer. Ryves Youth Center is so proud of Lakota’s many accomplishments and looks forward to many more. Great job Lakota as a new Eagle Scout and best of luck to you.

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True hope is swift and flies with swallow’s wings.
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings. – *William Shakespeare*
CC’s Homecoming, Cecilia Van Wijk

I visited Ryves Youth Center today where I did my internship senior year. Jim Edwards and Jim Pinkstaff are great leaders and have been wonderful mentors for me. I am so glad to see all of the good they continue to do for the youth of Terre Haute. Their support and dedication means a lot! Jim Edwards and my mother are the ones who convinced me to go to graduate school, and I am so thankful. Thanks to everyone for showing me the garden, the magazines, and all the renovations.
“While we may not be able to control all that happens to us, we can control what happens inside us.” – Benjamin Franklin

Replay Runway, Angel Marquis, age 11

On October 7, I got to go to Indiana State University for a fashion show. At the fashion show we walked down the stage and posed left, right, and then posed again. Then we left the stage and got to eat some food while we waited. They then asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up as we walked onto the stage. The outfits that some of the models wore were amazing! Some wore newspaper, plastic bags, chip bags, red bags, regular dresses, skirts, and shirts. My favorite outfit was the lady who wore a dress that was similar to a wedding dress. Also, during the fashion show they showed a video about the garden at Ryves Youth Center. Unfortunately, I had to leave the show a little bit early, but I did enjoy my time there and hope I get to go back.
Creepy Crawlers, Dana Gadeken

As the Purdue Extension Agricultural and Natural Resource (ANR) Educator for Vigo County, one focus for my programming this year was to work with underserved groups, like the kids at Ryves. I thought that in the spirit of Halloween we could talk about insects. I designed a program discussing both sides of the topic: cockroaches play an essential role in decomposition and maintaining the environment; however, they conversely can carry some nasty diseases like cholera, leprosy, and polio. Participants in the program learned how cockroaches, millipedes, and pill bugs contribute to decomposition and form a strong base of the food web. We also talked about how only 0.5% of cockroach species are categorized as pests by the World Health Organization. We discussed ways to prevent cockroach infestations through sanitation and habitat removal, and we tackled Latin names to different species of cockroaches, pill bugs, tarantulas, and millipedes. These kids did so well; it was downright creepy!

“Hope and the future for me are not in lawns and cultivated fields, not in towns and cities, but in the impervious and quaking swamps.” – Henry David Thoreau

Facebook Friends

Kellie McGiverin -- I volunteered at Ryves years ago when I was a teenager and as an AmeriCorps volunteer. My experiences there got me through high school and ultimately resulted in my career. I’m becoming a professor of nonprofit finance. Thanks, Ryves! You rock and will always have a special place in my heart.

Tabitha Wrightsman Wood -- I used to go there as a kid. Jim, Brandy, and Dan would always help me whenever I needed some hope. I helped out with a lot of the kids and often in the kitchen. It is a great place for kids and teens.

Jessica McCullough -- This place will always have a special spot in my heart!! I’m so thankful I get to help celebrate the holidays here every year!

Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.

— Emily Dickinson
Ten years ago, I was a Nursing student at ISU. When my Med-Surg professor offered ten bonus points for all who would participate in a volunteer day for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, I ran lickety-split toward the opportunity. I looked over the volunteer opportunities, and I noticed Ryves Youth Center Preschool was on the list.

It wasn’t until I had volunteered for several weeks or months that I learned about the mission of Ryves Preschool. All of the children were homeless or near-homeless. In most cases, that didn’t mean that they were literally living on the street, but it did mean that their parents did not have their own residence and were therefore dependent on the kindness of friends or relatives to give them a place to stay. Like the infant Christ, these children did not have a permanent home.

During the next two-and-a-half years, I would volunteer at the preschool whenever I could, usually a day or two a week during the school year, and whenever I could make it in during the summer. I found that the children blessed me far more than I could ever bless them. They saved me from myself—or rather, they were the means that God used to save me from myself. Like most human beings, I tended (and still tend, if I don’t check myself) toward a solipsistic focus on my own troubles. What I found is that young children, especially those who are living in poverty, carry around a whole tote-bag of troubles with them every day.

Whether a child was dealing with something as mundane as separation anxiety, something as heartbreakingly common as the incarceration of a parent, or something as earth-shattering as having been the victim of sexual abuse, I found that I could be present with them in that moment of expressing their emotions. And while I was rarely able to heal the scars, I could listen and respond in a way that let them know that their emotions mattered, because they mattered. After focusing my heart on their problems, I found that my own anxieties about college and my own feelings of loneliness didn’t seem as important. While I don’t have children of my own, I discovered what is the most important office of an adult: taking care of children.

Now that I’m out of the Army and living back in the area, I still drop in on the preschool from time to time. Just like the preschoolers I knew ten years ago, these little ones are just bursting to tell me about whatever is on their minds. Most of the spontaneous utterances of preschoolers seem quite mundane, yet I’ve learned never to dismiss them for that reason. They share the things that are important in their hearts, and it’s my belief that those things are important to God as well.
Sometimes we get so focused on instructing children that we don’t stop to consider their perspectives. We must learn from them and allow them to teach us something about life. Looking at life from a child’s perspective is a natural prerequisite to being able to help them. That doesn’t mean giving up our adult knowledge or abandoning objectivity, but it does mean not dismissing the child’s viewpoint as silly, half-baked, or irrelevant. To make ourselves understood, we first have to understand.

*Preschool Fall Fun,* Pam Otte

Fall was a busy season for Ryves Preschool. October was a good example. On Oct. 10th, South Vigo High School DECA Club hosted the class to their annual Fall Festival. We arrived early, decorated masks and pumpkins and paraded through the school Trick or Treating. They provided meals and snacks, crafts and games, hot chocolate and hot apple cider. A good time was had by all. Thank you to Mrs. Craft, Mr. Turpen, and the DECA students. We look forward to visiting again at Christmas.

October was Fire Safety Month so the Preschool practiced “Stop, Drop and Roll!” and learned the song: “The number to call is 911.” We took a walking field trip to Fire Station #3 on 13th Street and learned so much more. We met the firefighters, got a tour of the station, and got to go through the fire engine!

Oct. 31st was our Haunted Halloween and Open House Party. We had Witches and Frozen Princesses, Vampires and Zombies, Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin, Witch Hat Ring Toss, and bobbing for apples. There was a cookie decorating station with spooky sprinkles and icky gummy eyeballs and lots of ghoulish goodies and treats.

The month wouldn’t have been complete without a visit from Mother-Goose-on-the-Loose. The Vigo County Public Library provides an outreach program where Mother Goose teaches us songs and reads us stories, and we play with shakers, drums, and scarves. All activities are geared toward early childhood literacy.

“Faith is taking the first step, even when you don’t see the whole staircase.” –
*Martin Luther King, Jr.*
**Christmas**, Candice Wilkie

I got to spend the day with Miss Pam’s Preschool class at Ryves Youth Center. We went to South High School for a Christmas party and had a blast! We all got to see Santa!

*Candice Wilkie, South’s Santa, and Pam Otte*

*Candice Wilkie, South’s Santa, and Pam Otte*

*Chris Montgomery-Scott and Nashville recording artist Abbi Scott help Bella Jones pick out Christmas gifts*

*Rhiannon Decker choosing toys with Candice Wilkie and Debbie Egy*
“Miracle on 14th Street,” Jim Edwards

When people first walk into Ryves Youth Center they see a banner proudly welcoming them to the “Miracle on 14th Street.” Many of these people do not know who coined that phrase nor what it means. For those of us who spend much of our time here, there is no doubt that we are in the Miracle on 14th Street.

Twenty years ago it was decided that the little youth center on the corner of 14th and Locust streets would undergo a massive expansion. John E. Etling, the founding Director of Catholic Charities Terre Haute, saw that Rose Hulman Institute of Technology was preparing to demolish the Shook Field House. Since the foundation of Ryves Hall Youth Center was built to be a church, John hoped that it might be possible to rebuild the field house on top of the youth center. After speaking with an architect, John asked the President of Rose Hulman about the field house. John learned that this project would not be feasible since the field house was so old that there was asbestos in the building. He was told, however, thank God, that the EE Black Gymnasium behind the field house could be used for the project. After much discussion, Catholic Charities decided to move forward with the expansion.

What seemed like an easy project turned into many small problems. The initial cost estimate turned out to be less than 25% of the actual need. Even so, with the help of a Build Indiana grant sponsored by Representative Clyde Kersey and a matching grant from the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, they optimistically began designing the new facility.

After the final design was confirmed, renovation began. During construction the youth center continued to operate each evening, serving meals as well as helping children. Often areas of the youth center would be covered with tarps and roped off to provide safety for the children.
As construction continued and costs increased, it became clear that the project would take longer than expected due to the need for additional funding. Completion would take a miracle. It looked hopeless. Then, one evening a person, who had volunteered at the youth center when it first opened, walked through the doors. This generous individual had heard that we needed additional funding. Before walking away that evening he committed to providing most of the funding needed to complete the project, upon one stipulation, i.e., that he would remain anonymous. If you look at the donor’s plaque next to the gymnasium doors, you will see the words anonymous donor.

So renovation continued, and costs continued to increase. Soon it was apparent that to complete the facility yet more money was needed. Miraculously, another person came forward and said that the paint company where he worked would donate the paint for the entire interior. Then, a volunteer who worked at the federal penitentiary offered to contact the prison’s work camp. They had been known to help nonprofits. Thanks to these blessings, paint was donated and workers from the camp came each day to complete the finishing touches on the new expansion. Soon the facility was nearing completion, and there was sufficient funding remaining for the gymnasium to have a new “sport court” flooring system installed. In addition to a new gymnasium, the
A pessimist sees a calamity in every opportunity; an optimist sees an opportunity in every calamity.” – Winston Churchill
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

EDUCATION

Homework Hotline, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology
(877) 275-7673 Toll Free
www.askrose.org
Free phone and internet tutoring in math and science.

Vigo County School Corporation
(812) 462-4011 Main Office
(812) 462-4070 Adult Education
Adult Education program offers preparation and testing for adults who did not complete high school to obtain a high school equivalency diploma.

Western Indiana Community Action Agency
(812) 232-3917
Provides a public preschool program (Head Start) for children from low-income families.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN SERVICES

Chances and Services for Youth
(812) 232-3952
www.casyonline.org
Early childhood and youth programs. Offers resources to children and families. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Vigo County.

Children’s Bureau, Inc.
(812) 231-8607
www.childrensbureau.org
Provides prevention and intervention services to children and families with a focus on at-risk populations and those working with Department of Child Services.

Lifeline Youth and Family Services
(800) 509-6884
www.lifelineyouth.org
Provides family casework, family therapy, parent based services, and services for youth.

Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall
(812) 235-1265
www.ecthin.org
Free programs and activities for children age 5-17. Snack and meal served M-F, tutoring, Boy Scouts, Girl’s Club, gym, library, board games, computer lab. Offers crisis intervention and referral services.

HOTLINES

Indiana Adult Protective Services Hotline
1(800) 992-6978
24-hour hotline to anonymously report any suspected case of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of vulnerable adults.

Indiana Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline
1(800) 800-5556
24-hour hotline to anonymously report any suspected cases of child abuse and neglect.

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1(800) 799-7233
www.thehotline.org
24/7/365 phone hotline that provides compassionate support, crisis intervention, information, and referral services to victims of domestic violence.

National Runaway Safeline
1(800) 786-2929
www.1800runaway.org
24/7/365 over the phone or online crisis service for runaway or homeless youth and families.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
1(800) 273-8255
www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org
24-hour confidential suicide prevention hotline available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Connect2Help
2-1-1
www.connect2help211.org
24/7 access to free and confidential information about human services.

Salvation Army Terre Haute
(812) 232-4081
Provides resources and referrals to individuals dealing with homelessness, addiction, poverty, and more.
COMMUNITY RESOURCES

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

AARP Foundation- Senior Employment
(812) 232-2345
Provides employment opportunities within social service agencies for low income adults 55 and older.

Labor Link
(812) 645-0304
www.golaborlink.com
Staffing agency that links employers with potential employees.

WorkOne
(812) 234-6602
www.workonewest.com
Employment resources for youth, adults, and veterans.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Social Security Administration-Terre Haute Field Office
(866) 635-0282 Local Office
(800) 772-1213 Call Center
Issues social security numbers and cards and applications for social security benefits.

Vigo County Division of Family Resources
(800) 403-0864
www.in.gov/fssa/dfr/3112.htm
Responsible for establishing eligibility for Medicaid, Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. Also provides employment and training services to some SNAP and TANF recipients.

Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program
(812) 232-6306
Nutrition program for pregnant women, new mothers, infants, and young children.

FOOD ASSISTANCE

14th and Chestnut Community Center
(812) 232-3126
Provides perishable and nonperishable food to community members. Limit one visit every 30 days.

Area 7- Meal Sites
(812) 238-1561
Provides nutritious lunches and fellowship for seniors age 60 or older.
Brownstone Manor, Dreiser Square Community Center, Garfield Housing, Peddle Park Housing

First Church of the Nazarene
(812) 466-5817
Food pantry on 3rd Thursday and Friday, 9am-noon.

Foursquare Gospel
(812) 234-5277
Food Pantry on Monday, 6-8pm.

Life Center
(812) 234-5233
Food pantry on 2nd and 4th Thursday, 4-6pm.

Providence Food Pantry
(812) 535-2545
Provides food baskets to families in need. Every Thursday, 8-11am.

Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank
(812) 235-3424
www.ccthin.org
The Bread and Produce Market is open to the community on the third Saturday of every month, 9:00-10:30am. The Soup Kitchen operates in the lower level of Ryves Youth Center M-F from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, and sack lunches are provided on Saturday and Sunday through Bethany House.
## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

### HOUSING/SHELTER

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<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Council on Domestic Abuse (CODA)</td>
<td>1(800) 566-2632</td>
<td>Provides emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline, support services, programs, and legal advocacy to victims of domestic abuse.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Families By Choice</td>
<td>(812) 230-4401</td>
<td>Transitional housing for women (Deborah’s House), men (Timothy’s House), and intellectually challenged adults (Project Jonathan).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Light House Mission Ministries</td>
<td>(812) 232-7001</td>
<td>Provides aid, assistance, and care for homeless men, women, and children by providing food, shelter, clothing, education, and emergency services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terre Haute Housing Authority</td>
<td>(812) 232-1381</td>
<td>Operates affordable, decent, and safe public housing facilities to low and moderate income families, elderly, and handicapped individuals.</td>
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### MEDICAL SERVICES

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<tr>
<td>Crisis Pregnancy Center of the Wabash Valley</td>
<td>(812) 234-8059</td>
<td>Provides confidential, quality, free to low cost services for women and men regarding pregnancy and reproductive health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollie R. Wheat Memorial Clinic</td>
<td>(812) 237-6962</td>
<td>A student-run free clinic. Open 8:00 am-noon on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valley Professionals Community Health Center-Clinton</td>
<td>(765) 828-1003</td>
<td>Provides quality, comprehensive health care and offers a sliding fee scale for patients to receive a discounted rate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabash Valley Health Center (formerly St Ann’s Clinic)</td>
<td>(812) 232-7447 Medical</td>
<td>Provides primary medical and dental care to low income individuals.</td>
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<td>(812) 232-6832 Dental</td>
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### MENTAL HEALTH

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<tr>
<td>FSA Counseling Services</td>
<td>(812) 232-4349</td>
<td>Individual, family, and couple counseling services for youth, adults, and seniors.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hamilton Center- Access Center</td>
<td>(812) 231-8200</td>
<td>Psychiatric and psychological assessment, consultation, and treatment services for children, adolescents, and adults. 24-hour crisis line available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton Center Child and Adolescent Services</td>
<td>(812) 231-8376</td>
<td>Counseling, and therapy services for children and adolescents struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, mental illness, and more.</td>
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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

Club Gobi
(812) 232-4144
706 S. 5th St.
Provides services and support for recovering addicts.

Club Soda
609 S. 4th St. Terre Haute, IN
Provides N.A. and A.A. services and support for recovering addicts.

Freebirds Solution Center
(812) 232-1700
www.freebirdsrecovery.org
Sober living facility for men and women in recovery from alcohol and drug addiction.

Hamilton Center—Addictions
(812) 231-8323
www.hamiltoncenter.org

Life Changes
(812) 917-3186
www.lifetchangesterrehaute.com
Offers individual therapy and intensive outpatient (IOP) services to men and women in recovery.

Next Step Foundation
(812) 917-5006
www.nextsteptoday.org
Religious-based recovery community offering sober living facilities for men, women, and families overcoming drug and alcohol addictions.

Odyssey House
(812) 298-3125
www.gibaultodyssey.org
Sober-living facility for adult males recovering from drug and alcohol addictions.

Wabash Valley Intergroup
(812) 235-7263
www.terrehauteaa.com
Resources regarding A.A. in the Wabash Valley.
Volunteer Opportunities

Ryves Youth Center is open Monday thru Friday from 8am to 8pm thanks to the dedication of our volunteers. Ryves welcomes calls and visits from anyone who wants to talk with Jim Edwards about volunteer opportunities.

Apply through Catholic Charities:
1801 Poplar Street, Terre Haute, IN
812-232-1447 or www.ccthin.org

If you are interested in helping our children, you can complete a volunteer application and the on-line Protecting God’s Children in the 21st Century course, which also includes a background check. There is a $10 fee for processing. The link to the application form can be found on our website. It is to be completed on a paper copy and submitted to Catholic Charities.