RYVES YOUTH CENTER Magazine

“Miracle on 14th St”
Volume 3 No. 1

Spring/Summer 2017 Edition
Tenderness Tour, Pinewood Derby,
Ride for Ryves, Local Media Coverage,
Eden of Ryves, and More!
Acknowledgements

Thanks to WTHI News and the Tribune-Star for permission to reprint their stories and for helping Ryves Youth Center reach out to the Terre Haute community.

Thanks also to our friends on Facebook who posted many of these stories.

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Director’s Message from Jim Edwards

While walking through Eden of Ryves garden I was amazed at how fast the plants have grown. It’s symbolic. Looking around at the fruit trees and plants, I became very thankful. Shikha Bhattacharyya and her crew from ReTHink INC. have created a beautiful garden for our children and neighbors to enjoy. The children go into the garden to help weed and learn more about maintaining a garden. Each Wednesday, Shikha also comes to the youth center to teach the Ryves Salsa Club. The children learn to make salsa from produce that they can grow themselves. A few weeks ago, the children made strawberry salsa. Tom Bruce and Ron Wilkie, two of our scout leaders, help supervise the Salsa Club too.

As I left the garden I realized that this is only one program that has been helped by the community. All three Optimist clubs in Terre Haute have helped the youth center in the past few months. The Noon Optimist Club provided funds to tile our educational hallway as well as provided ceiling tiles for the classroom. The Ryves Community Optimist Club provided funding for a new 4K television and computer for the classroom. And the Terre Haute Breakfast Optimist Club committed to provide school supplies.
In addition to many organizations that help us, there are more people who volunteer than can be mentioned. Although we always need more volunteers, our gratitude goes out to all the people who help our children. We have scout leaders, mentors, tutors, and many others who support our mission of helping inner city children.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in Life Together: The Classic Exploration of Christian Community, stated, “We pray for the big things and forget to give thanks for the ordinary, small (and yet really not small) gifts.” We often think of large plans, or increased donations when we talk about our successes. Ryves Youth Center has not become a success due to those things but because of individuals, some whom belong to organizations, and others who walk in to lend a hand. Today I want to make sure that everyone who has helped in our mission knows just how important they are. Thank You!


It's difficult to see past their smiles, but for the many children at Ryves Youth Center, "Their life is totally controlled by how much money there is," said Jim Edwards, Director of the Center.

Hoosier children are surviving but not thriving. That's according to the latest staggering statistics released by the Indiana Youth Institute. Indiana has the 15th largest population of youth, with more than 1.5 million children living here. In 2015, 1 in 5 children, younger than 18, lived in poverty. That equals 20.9% statewide. Edwards believes that number is much higher in the Wabash Valley. "It is. It's really difficult to get out of poverty," he said.

Last month, the center surveyed 60 children using their programs. All 60 of them reported being economically disadvantaged. "One factor is, you can't easily find full-time employment, at least not in Terre Haute," said Edwards. The reasons for living below the poverty line vary. However, according to the survey, 24 of the 60 are also children of an addict. "And when you start using drugs, it's easier to put away all of your dreams," explained Edwards.

Keeping those aspirations alive, through several services, the center works to integrate positive influences into the lives of at-risk children. "It's something that takes a lot of energy and a lot of focus to change a child's perspective," said Edwards.

For 35 years Edwards has been working to break what he calls “a legacy of poverty,” but says he can't do it alone. "If we ignore the problem of poverty, I can guarantee, we will never solve it."
**WTHI News, “Making a Difference,” Eric Stidman**

The best-kept secrets are the ones you never hear about. For this month's Make a Difference someone tipped us off to one who goes above and beyond.

For the kids at the Ryves Youth Center Preschool, a warm meal is only a few steps from the gym. On the day we visited, the kids were dining on meatloaf.

I think most people can agree...there's nothing sweeter than a child's laughter. That makes this even harder to hear...

"These are homeless children or children who are at risk of homelessness. So I think that's not maybe a typical student that you would see," Jennifer Buell from Catholic Charities said.

But this isn't a typical story...there's a reason for all of that laughter.

That's why Storm Team 10's Eric Stidman presented Pam Otte with the Make a Difference Award for the month of March.
Miss Pam is the director of the Ryves Preschool at Etling Hall. For the kids, she is everything. "When you listen to the stories of some of the children, you just can't help but open your heart and want to help them, plus they are just so sweet, they’re fun they’re energetic. I mean they give me energy, so it's all about them," Miss Pam said.

Pam Otte has been at Ryves Youth Center for more than a decade. She has some stories that are hard to repeat. "Children will come in here without underwear and socks," she told us. She makes sure their basic needs, like food and clothing, aren't an issue. Her primary focus is getting the kids ready for school.
Wheeling for Ryves

Despite some bumps in the road, the Tenderness Tour 4 Ryves was, as Richard Propst shared on Facebook, “a stellar success.” From March 20-24, Richard wheeled 12 trails between Terre Haute and Indy, raising over $5000 to sponsor 16 children for a year at Ryves Youth Center.

On March 20, Richard wheeled the National Road Heritage Trail in Terre Haute then visited Ryves. While there, he blended right in and fell in love with Jim Edwards’ granddaughter Joelle, as we all have.

Over the next four days Richard wheeled trails in Clay, Putnam, Hendricks, and Marion counties, gathering support, media coverage, and donations. On March 22, the Tenderness Tour became the Toughness Tour. Richard was wheeling alone on an unfamiliar trail in Greencastle, got lost, crashed constantly, cut his leg, yet made it out alive. He was wheeling without a support crew. What a soldier!

Richard is Program Director for the Indiana Bureau of Developmental Disabilities Services in the Family and Social Services Administration. He has been doing the Tenderness Tour since 1989.
A community garden dedicated to helping youths at Ryves Youth Center understand sustainability and provide life skills celebrated its ribbon cutting ceremony Friday afternoon.

Terre Haute Mayor Duke Bennett was given the honor of cutting the ceremonial ribbon, surrounded by Ryves kids and members of reTHink as they officially opened the Eden of Ryves garden on Locust Street near the youth center. Bennett said the garden is a welcome transformation to a poverty-stricken neighborhood and will benefit the entire city. “This neighborhood continues to transform,” Bennett said. “We see more and
more evidence of people caring for people. It’s great to see this expansion here and this opportunity to train the kids and grow some food. There will be so many benefits that come with this that greatly outweigh the negatives.”

Shikha Bhattacharyya, president of reTHink Inc. and garden brainchild, said Eden of Ryves is for the children of Terre Haute, a group she says is underprivileged and hit especially hard by poverty.

She said Terre Haute is an exceptional city that features many groups dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty, but sometimes it’s not enough. Bhattacharyya said even with places like Catholic Charities, Ryves Youth Center, and 14th and Chestnut, it takes a monumental effort to feed the 25% of Terre Haute residents who live in poverty and the 58% of children who receive free or reduced-price lunches at school.

She said after learning those statistics is when she decided to pursue a garden where they could teach children how to grow and prepare their own food. “We can feed people and kids but unless we teach them to take care of themselves, to grow their food, to make their food, to cook it, clean it, we will be unable to do any permanent change in their lives,” Bhattacharyya said. “We want to empower kids to take care of themselves so when they grow up they know what to do.”

The garden features six raised flower beds where lettuce, kale, cabbage and other assorted vegetables will be planted along with 10 fruit trees that have been planted in another corner of the garden. There is also a space where they plan to bring in recyclable materials to transform into art.

Bhattacharyya said that a tertiary goal for the garden is to grow enough produce to take to the farmer’s market and teach children how to generate money from time and labor-intensive work.

Indiana State University, Catholic Charities, and reTHink Inc. partnered for the creation of this garden with donations from the Wabash Valley Community Foundation and 100+ Women Who Care.

**President Bradley’s Visit**

Ryves Youth Center and Indiana State University are strong partners. The ISU Center for Community Engagement has designated the Ryves area as a Neighborhood of Special Interest, and offers Ryves Neighborhood Partnership Grants for projects that enrich the area, such as this magazine. ISU student workers, tutors, interns, and
volunteers come to Ryves for experiential learning, professional service, and resumé building. Under the leadership of President Daniel Bradley, ISU is a top nationally ranked school for Community Engagement. On February 17, President Bradley came to Ryves Youth Center to see for himself. He was pleased with all we do for the children and agreed that many of our children had potential for success.

Dan Bradley reading our magazine with Jim Edwards and building Legos with Levi Bunton

**Pinewood Derby**, Marita Bach Pinkstaff

What an incredible day at Ryves Youth Center on Saturday, February 11 for the Pinewood Derby with Cub Scout Pack 22! I haven’t had that much fun in a very long time. It was wonderful to see everyone so happy.
Planning the Ryves Youth Center Prom was such a unique experience for me and everyone on the committee. We all had been working since January to find donations, seek the kid’s input, find volunteers for hair and makeup, and make sure that everything came together perfectly on April 21. The formal dresses were beautiful.

I want to thank all of our volunteers, anyone who made a donation, Gamma Phi Beta sorority, the committee, Mr. Pinkstaff, Tom and Sarah Bruce, Marsha Nasser, and anyone who contributed to the prom in some way. Without you, the prom would not have been nearly as successful. I had a great time planning and contributing in my own way to Ryves. I hope that everyone had a fantastic time at the prom, as I did.

Lastly, I want to give a special shout out to all of the children at Ryves Youth Center! You all are the reason why we work so hard. You inspire us, you motivate us, and you are special to us. There would be no prom without you! Thank you for the opportunity to share my talent with you.
**Biking for Ryves**, Jack DisPennett

On May 27, I headed down to Tennessee on my 1987 Trek road bicycle, making stops in Jackson, Nashville, and Clarksville before returning home on June 7. I undertook this 800-mile ride to benefit the children of Ryves Youth Center. A program of Catholic Charities in Terre Haute, Ryves Youth Center provides meals, tutoring, sports programs, and a safe place to go after school for hundreds of children. Children and teens from a variety of faiths, races, and ethnic backgrounds have called Ryves their second home since 1982. I am proud to have supported them as a volunteer for many years, and it is my prayer that this ride will raise awareness and funding to help them continue to keep our kids off the streets and engaged in meaningful activities.

I want to thank everyone who made my trip possible. Even though I pedaled the bicycle by myself for most of the journey, it took a lot of other people to make it happen. I want to offer thanks to Father Ron Weber and Deacon Andrews from the St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceville, IL for their hospitality in providing me a place to camp that first night, as well as to Bob, Anne, and the other parishioners for providing me with victuals; thanks to Tristan and Sarah in Harrisburg, IL for the food, companionship, 550 cord, and a place for me to stay; thanks to the people of Mayfield, KY; thanks to the woman and little girl I met at the TN state line who provided me with information; thanks to the Sheriff of Waverly County, TN for offering me a chair at his table in a crowded restaurant; thanks to the man who gave me directions to the correct road outside of Jackson, TN; thanks to my cousin Faith, her husband Tyler, and their son Jax for the wonderful food and opening your home up to me as a place to rest and recuperate; thanks the folks at the bicycle shop in Jackson; thanks to fellow traveler William for your tips about surviving life on the road, and I wish you all the best in your travels; thanks to the McEwen, TN Police Department for allowing me a safe place to camp; to Scott for your hospitality and kindness when I stopped at your bike shop in Dickson; thanks to my uncle Allen and the whole Purtee family in Nashville for giving me a place to sleep and letting me borrow your van; to Tim for letting me draft behind you and for giving me a place to stay and showing me a wonderful time in Clarksville; thanks to Bob, Violet, Drew, Pastor Tony, Kenny, and the rest of the Cross Country Cyclist Hostel at the First Baptist Church in Sebree, KY—you truly do wonderful work, and share the love of Christ with your actions; to Bicycle Outfitters in Vincennes, and to Dana for giving me a place to stay for the night on the last leg and for showing me the neat hub generator that you built.

Finally, I want to thank the kids I was trying to benefit by this trip: the children at Ryves Youth Center Preschool, and the children of Ryves Youth Center's after-school program. Thanks for following my blog and for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers. Also, much thanks to Jim Edwards, Jim Pinkstaff, Pam and Stephanie in the preschool, Jennifer Buell at Catholic Charities who helped promote the ride, as well as to all of you who help out at Ryves in any way.
Jack also runs Ryves Bike Shop and helps the kids in every way he can.
Motorcycling for Ryves

The Knights of Columbus is hosting a charity ride to benefit the Ryves Youth Center. This will be about a 100-mile motorcycle ride on September 9, 2017. Please come and help us support Ryves and the youth it serves.

The cost is $25 for a single ride plus $15 for a passenger.

We will begin registration at 10:30 am @ St. Margaret Mary Church on 7th and Voorhees, with the last kick stand up at noon, heading past Turkey Run State Park. The ride will conclude at Cannonball Harley Davidson on US Highway 41, where there will be hotdogs and hamburgers as well as a special discount.
Replay Runway

An eco-fashion show with Ryves Youth Center children and adults modeling costumes is set for 6.30 to 8 p.m. Oct. 7 in Dede I meeting room in the Hulman Memorial Student Union at Indiana State University.

The Replay Runway event will feature designs from recycled materials in two categories: fashion and Halloween. Event organizers are encouraging all Ryves neighborhood children and adults to participate.

An information session is set for 10 a.m. Saturday in the Vigo County Public Library, Sixth and Poplar streets. There will be four additional workshops at 10 a.m. on Aug. 19, Aug. 26, Sept. 9 and Sept. 30 in Launch Terre Haute, 619 Cherry St. While these workshops are not mandatory, participants can attend as many as they want to help them create their costumes.

The October event also will include a dance performance by students of Teresa’s School of Dance and a small play to promote sustainability.

In collaboration with the Institute for Community Sustainability at Indiana State, the event is organized annually to promote environmental sustainability in Terre Haute and empower the underprivileged youths of the Ryves neighborhood.

To register to participate or to buy tickets, visit Replayrunway2017.eventbrite.com.
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.ccthin.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

- **Bethany House**
  - (812) 232-4978
  - Homeless shelter for single women, women with children, and married couples. Free clothes closet.

- **Council on Domestic Abuse (CODA)**
  - 1(800) 566-2632
  - www.codaterrehaute.org
  - Provides emergency shelter, 24-hour crisis hotline, support services, programs, and legal advocacy to victims of domestic abuse.

- **Families By Choice**
  - (812) 230-4401
  - www.familiesbychoice.org
  - Transitional housing for women (Deborah’s House), men (Timothy’s House), and intellectually challenged adults (Project Jonathan).

- **Light House Mission Ministries**
  - (812) 232-7001
  - www.thlhm.com
  - Provides aid, assistance, and care for homeless men, women, and children by providing food, shelter, clothing, education, and emergency services.

- **Terre Haute Housing Authority**
  - (812) 232-1381
  - www.terrehautehousing.org
  - Operates affordable, decent, and safe public housing facilities to low and moderate income families, elderly, and handicapped individuals.

### MEDICAL SERVICES

- **Crisis Pregnancy Center of the Wabash Valley**
  - (812) 234-8059
  - www.wabashvalleypregnancy.com
  - Provides confidential, quality, free to low cost services for women and men regarding pregnancy and reproductive health.

- **Mollie R. Wheat Memorial Clinic**
  - (812) 237-6962
  - www.mwmeth.com
  - A student-run free clinic. Open 8:00am-noon on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

- **Valley Professionals Community Health Center-Clinton**
  - (765) 828-1003
  - Provides quality, comprehensive health care and offers a sliding fee scale for patients to receive a discounted rate.

- **Wabash Valley Health Center (formerly St Ann’s Clinic)**
  - (812) 232-7447 Medical
  - (812) 232-6832 Dental
  - Provides primary medical and dental care to low income individuals.

### MENTAL HEALTH

- **FSA Counseling Services**
  - (812) 232-4349
  - www.fsacounseling.org
  - Individual, family, and couple counseling services for youth, adults, and seniors.

- **Hamilton Center- Access Center**
  - (812) 231-8200
  - Psychiatric and psychological assessment, consultation, and treatment services for children, adolescents, and adults. 24-hour crisis line available.

- **Hamilton Center Child and Adolescent Services**
  - (812) 231-8376
  - Counseling, and therapy services for children and adolescents struggling with stress, anxiety, depression, mental illness, and more.
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.lifechangesterrehaute.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.