Director’s Message from Jim Edwards

When most people consider volunteering at a youth center, they first imagine working directly with children. The kids, after all, are our mission. In the 34 years since we opened in 1982, thousands of volunteers have made a positive impact on the lives of countless children.

However, not everyone who comes to our facilities wants to work one-on-one with children. We have volunteers who help in our Kids Cafe with keeping statistics, cooking, and even washing dishes. One volunteer, Dave Littlejohn, installed our telephone system as well as part of our surveillance system. Just recently, Charles Hoffman, a retired ISU professor, came to volunteer his mechanical and electrical skills for facilities maintenance.

You might not realize that a facility the size of Ryves Youth Center requires help other than working with children. As with any building there is a constant need for maintenance, cleaning, and improvement. Often we teach our teens the skills needed to clean as well as make minor repairs, but we constantly need people to help our facility stay as nice as the day our gymnasium opened in 2002.

Whether you are interested in working with children or helping behind the scenes, our youth center needs you! As you look through this issue of Ryves Youth Center Magazine, please consider helping with our mission. Think about the quote by humorist Leo
Rosten: “The purpose of life is not to be happy — but to matter, to be productive, to be useful, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.” Or, as Ben Franklin said, “If you would not be forgotten when you are dead and rotten, either write something worth reading or do something worth writing about.”

**Administrative Office, Susan Rohan**

[On the lower level, around the corner from the Director’s Office, is the Administrative Office. It is a tidy room with two file cabinets, two computers, a desk, and a fax machine. Here is where the data and records are processed and stored. The desk is where new volunteers and employees complete their on-line applications, background checks, and Safe and Sacred training, and where our magazine editors and writers collaborate. The door is often shut to keep in the heat and to keep out curious junior administrators. When the door is open, the room fills up with kids with questions.

For the past year this has been the office of Cecilia van Wijk (AmeriCorps). During her 1000 hours at Ryves, CC was instrumental in improving our programs and enriching the lives of our kids. She co-led our Girls Club, organized kickball, co-edited our magazine, processed our data, and trained Susan Rohan, to name just a few of her roles. In May she graduated *magna cum laude* with a B.S. in Communication from ISU, and she is starting an M.S. in Leadership at the University of Indianapolis. We will miss CC’s energy, creativity, and dedication. —editor’s note]
Susan -- Under the supervision of the Director, I provide receptionist and clerical support to the staff. I act as receptionist, answering telephone inquiries and directing visitors with a smile. I also perform clerical duties, such as proofreading, copying, faxing, processing outgoing mail, distributing incoming mail, and ordering office supplies. My other secretarial duties include maintaining Microsoft Excel records of volunteer hours and processing employee timesheets.

We also keep Microsoft Access data on the children’s attendance. Accurate statistical information is important so that we know which days more children are usually present. This data helps us plan activities and schedule volunteers. We also keep records of their ages so that we can plan appropriate activities.

Library, Christal Pickell

On your left, just as you come into the lower level, is our little library. I am a reading tutor and Monthly Book Giveaway Coordinator at Ryves Youth Center. Many of my days are spent in the library, which serves a variety of purposes, one of them being a place to hold a monthly book giveaway. In order to prepare for each giveaway we advertise to the youth at Ryves about the assortment of great books from which they can choose. The books are accumulated over time from donations, so we are able to give the books away for free. This program is one way to stimulate children’s interest in books and reading at home.
Even though we give away lots of books, we make sure to have a library full of books so that the children can read on site and if needed can receive reading help. The library serves for both tutoring and reading in order to let the youth know that they have a safe environment to learn and enjoy themselves.

During a typical day, multiple children come to the center to find a tutor, and then the tutors take them to the library to find a book or an educational game. Then when they are done we go back to the library and put the books or the games back where they were found. We teach the youth that it is important to keep the library organized in order for them to learn organizational skills and stability. I feel that my role and the roles of the other tutors have helped the children to understand that someone is there for them when they need a reliable and trustworthy adult. We also show the kids that there are people who care about their homework and their academics.

*Classroom*, by Jim Pinkstaff

The long back hallway on the lower level winds down past the Administrative Office and the Scout Room toward the classroom at the end. Separated from the chaotic cafeteria, the secluded location of the classroom offers a quiet place where tutors and volunteers can work one-on-one or in small groups with our children.

*The Classroom: Paul Reed (ISU Recycle Center), making button pins from magazines*
Last year we added bookcases to create a smaller library so that our tutors could work on the Champions Reading Program when the library is occupied. Recently, we added two computers and WIFI so that small groups of children and volunteers can work on homework and research. We aim for the classroom to be a productive environment.

While our classroom is heavily used by the youth and volunteers for tutoring, it also acts as a hub for other group meetings. The Theater Group and Science Club utilize the classroom if they are working with smaller groups. Art Therapy (a collaboration between St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Indiana State University’s Department of Psychology, and ISU’s Department of Social Work) uses the classroom as well.

Ryves Community Optimist Club also occasionally meets in the classroom. A couple times a year, Jim Edwards holds ServSafe classes (a program that teaches kitchen guidelines and safe handling of food) to our staff, volunteers, and partnering agencies. Also, on Thursday afternoons, Connie Elmore tutors Spanish there.

In addition, SEAL Indiana (Indiana University School of Dentistry) transforms the classroom into a mobile dentist office to clean and add dental sealants for our children’s teeth.

“We are not perfect. We are here to learn. Earth is one big classroom, and God is our heavenly guidance counselor and teacher.”

Molly Friedenfeld

The Book of Simple Human Truths
Theater, India Bennett, age 10

[On Tuesday and Thursday evenings from January 26 through March 10, Ryves Youth Center offered Fusion Spotlight Theater, a Community School of the Arts program made possible through an Arts Illiana grant. The instructor was Olivia Underwood, a senior Theater major at ISU. The improv games and exercises developed the children’s skills in communication, critical thinking, problem solving, and team building. On March 6, the Terre Haute Tribune-Star featured “Spotlight Theater helps children build self-confidence at Ryves Youth Center” by David Hughes. – editor’s note]

Theater was a fun activity. The person who taught us was Olivia. The games we played were shopkeeper, bippity bippity bop, and throwing an imaginary ball. We also did voice exercises on the stage. We even got to be on the front page of the newspaper. My favorite game was bippity bippity bop because it was funny. We make a circle with one person in the middle. If you say “bippity bippity bop” before the person in the middle, then you are safe. If you don’t say “bippity bippity bop” first, then you have to get in the middle. It felt good when I said it before the other people because they had to get in the middle. It taught me communication skills and team work. I recommend theater to other kids because they can do new things and make new friends.
One of the main areas of Ryves Youth Center is the cafeteria on the lower level. The cafeteria houses the serving area for snacks and meals, twelve tables and plenty of chairs, a new TV, and a stage.

Many different activities go on every day. If children arrive before the gym opens, they come into the cafeteria. In the cafeteria children hang out with their friends, work with math and reading tutors, play card games, read books, and eat a snack. Later, all the children come to the cafeteria to eat dinner. Throughout the week different groups come and do projects with the children. Those groups use the cafeteria for fun and exciting activities. The cafeteria is also where parties and dances occasionally take place. The cafeteria can be a very busy and hectic place. Children, volunteers, and staff are always having a good time and working hard.

I am a senior Social Work intern from Indiana State University. I have been at Ryves since September, 2015. The cafeteria is one area of Ryves where I spend most of my time. The cafeteria has allowed me to connect with many of the children. I play card games with children at the tables, eat dinner with children, and meet with children individually. All of those activities take place right in the cafeteria. All that the cafeteria has to offer shows just how important the area is to Ryves. It is a safe and friendly environment that children and staff take advantage of on a daily basis.
The double wood doors open to the many facilities that the kitchen houses. On the right is an ice machine that can be heard growling. On the left are four long steel tables for cutting, dicing, mixing, chopping, and stirring. The steel tables are more than just a work space for the kitchen help. Below the steel table tops is a long shelf with storage space for bowls, plates, and pans. Next to the steel tables are large ovens and stove tops so food can be prepared in bulk. Across from the steel work tables is the serving counter where steam is often rising from the covered trays where the food is kept warm after it has been cooked. Around 4:30 pm, just in time for dinner, the kitchen help form an assembly line behind the serving counter so they can prepare individual trays for youth, volunteers, and staff. After dinner is served, they start loading the dishwasher. Any leftover food is placed in storage containers and moved to the walk-in fridge or walk-in freezer. The large kitchen facilities allow Ryves Youth Center to feed the surrounding community of youth. — editor’s note

Monday through Friday we serve an after school snack and then a well-balanced evening meal. Every third Tuesday of the month Domino’s Pizza donates twenty to twenty-five pizzas for the children’s evening meal. Most of our families are struggling to make ends meet with the food stamp office moving far north, and transportation is a major problem. So the meals we provide may be the only option for an evening meal.

We try to prepare enough food to feed approximately one hundred fifty people daily. Most of our help comes from community service workers and volunteers. We do have an intern from Indiana State University about two days a week.

Even kids volunteer to help in the kitchen. They must be tall enough to reach into the sinks and across the serving counter. Little kids pour glasses of milk, and the older boys like to take out the trash. We like working with the children and teaching them because most are really eager to learn. We become pretty close to a lot of them. They talk to us and confide in us a lot. You really fall in love with them and each individual personality.
Awesome Banana Bread, Makayla Gaines, age 13

One night we made banana bread in the kitchen with the Girls Club. We split into groups of three so we could improve our teamwork skills. Teamwork was the skill of the month in February, and the skill of the month during March was cooking and baking. It was awesome because we learned to work together as a group and to see what improvements we could make on both our teamwork and cooking skills. We took turns mixing the ingredients. We passed everything around to make sure everyone had a chance to contribute. It was a little messy! I worried the banana bread would turn out not very good because I am not a big cook, but it tasted awesome.

Judges of the Girls Club banana bread: Roc'Keyah Lord, Cecilia van Wijk, and Sarah Logsdon

“Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” – Maimonides
Basketballs bouncing, children yelling with enthusiasm, volunteers keeping watch, the gymnasium offers a place for youth to let go their pent up energy. The gym on the upper floor of Ryves is open to members from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

While the children have a large space to run around and play with their friends, volunteers and staff members are stationed around the gym. The watchful eyes of Foster Grandparents Betty Cuffle and Gary Stuckey make sure each child is having fun while being safe. Tuesday and Thursday evenings are busy with basketball games for the Ryves youth. Tuesdays are reserved for the older youth, while Thursdays are set aside for the younger kids. The Preschool plays in the gym in the afternoons.

Our youth are fortunate to have several passionate coaches, Jim Edwards and Lakota Bays (a Ryves youth leader), and various rec assistants and volunteers, who run along the sidelines cheering on their teams. Rec assistants also referee the basketball games by blowing their whistles and sprinting up and down the court. Alexis Black shares that she “referees or coaches these kids to play basketball, not only giving them tips on how to play the game, but also being their friend when they need it.” Mackenzie Shrewsbury adds that “watching the kids’ faces light up when they get a shot or win the game is the best sight.” Among these volunteers is a dedicated staff member, Brandy Campbell. Brandy has been working at Ryves Youth Center for almost thirty years as the Sports Director, and he fulfills many roles, one being scorekeeper during the basketball games.

When basketball games are not scheduled, one of the other games the kids like to play is kickball. The youth transform the basketball court into a kickball field by placing bases into the shape of a diamond. I take my position at the center of the field as designated pitcher in order to keep the games moving. Kickball offers an opportunity for the young children to participate since the basic rules are easy to learn. The youth do a great job of encouraging the younger children how to play kickball, even if they run backward or skip a few bases. The youth also cheer on their teammates from across the court as they run around the bases or as they catch a fly ball.
The gymnasium holds many memories for me, one of them being when I dove to catch a fly ball and missed by wiping out on the gym floor. The children’s laughter echoed through the gym as I crashed onto the floor. I also have fond memories of teaching the youth rules about kickball and seeing their skills improve throughout the game. While the gym can be a chaotic environment, it is also a place for the youth to learn sportsmanship, leadership, and friendship.

**Gym Friends**, Sam Barnett, age 16

Ryves Youth Center gym is a place for kids like me to just be themselves and play. It is not like any other gym because everyone is all about having fun and fellowship. One of the main reasons I come to Ryves is the gym. The gym is beneficial to me because I love playing basketball and hanging with my friends. I condition so much for basketball at my school that I need somewhere to just come and practice.

*Monte Smith, Cody Orman, Dominick Potter, Jazz Brown, and Sam Barnett*
Another reason the gym is important to me is because our Boy Scout troop uses part of the gym for our concession stand which helps us raise money. During certain days of the week we open the concession stand for youth to buy candy, popcorn, pop, and other concession stand food. This helps support our troop to go on trips and buy new supplies.

The gym has six basketball hoops, a boys and girls bathroom, a concession stand, and the room that the Girls Club meets in. The gym is utilized by a variety of people for many reasons. My scout leaders have used the gym to teach us Boy Scouts how to set up a campsite for when we go camping. Since the gym is large, we were able to use the space to set up the tents. Without the gym I do not know what I would do because it helps not only me but also all of the children who come to Ryves Youth Center. The kids are able to just come and have a safe place to play and be with friends.

In conclusion, the gym is so helpful to all of us at Ryves Youth Center, and my friends and I might not be friends today if not for the Ryves Youth Center gymnasium.

**History of Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall, Jim Edwards**

Ryves Youth Center opened its doors on September 10, 1982. Since that time the facility as well as programming has undergone many changes. People who walk through our doors today would not recognize the building from what it looked like 34 years ago.

Ryves Hall was partially built beginning in 1924. At that time Father John Ryves led the efforts to build a Catholic church on the corner of 14th and Locust streets. The facility was designed to be a beautiful church. Then, our country suffered the Great Depression and funding dried up to complete the new church. The unfinished building, which included a basement and first floor hallways and rooms, was capped off with a roof. Father Ryves was honored for his efforts by having the new building named Ryves Hall.

*Father John Ryves, 1885-1933 (Wabash Valley Genealogy Society)*

For the next fifty years Ryves Hall was used for many purposes. The building became a factory, then the gymnasium for the St. Ann’s school. In 1982 the building became home for the newest program of Catholic Charities in Terre Haute. It was decided that since the building was named Ryves Hall that the youth center would be named Ryves Hall Youth Center.
When the Youth Center first opened, it lacked atmosphere as well as functionality. In order to spruce up the facility often times youth members jumped in to sweep, mop, and even paint. As activities and programming increased so did the number of children attending. It was clear that if we wanted to provide a functional facility we would need to increase the size of our building.

In 2001, John E. Etling, agency director for Catholic Charities, learned that Rose Hulman Institute of Technology was removing the Shook Field House. John approached RHIT to see if we could obtain that building and use it to add onto Ryves Hall. He was told that the field house would not be appropriate, but there was another building, the E.E. Black gymnasium, which could be obtained for the cost of dismantling it.

In November 2002 the new gymnasium, located on top of Ryves Hall Youth Center was christened and opened. As John E. Etling retired, then Archbishop Daniel Buechlein chose to honor him by naming the new building “Etling Hall.” Due to the long history of the Ryves Hall Youth Center name, the facilities became Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall.

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COMMUNITY RESOURCES

**EDUCATION**

Homework Hotline, Rose Hulman Institute of Technology  
(877) 275-7673 Toll Free  
[www.askrose.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://www.lifelineyouth.org)  
Provides family casework, family therapy, parent based services, and services for youth.

Ryves Youth Center at Etling Hall  
(812) 235-1265  
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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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

Bethany House
(812) 232-4978
Soup kitchen every day of the year, 11:30am-1:30pm.

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
Provides surplus bread, produce, and other food items to the community on the third Saturday of every month, 9:00-10:30am.
### 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) 234-3401  
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.terrehautea.com  
Resources regarding A.A. in the Wabash Valley.