

Youth Homes Of Mid-America  WINTER 2013

PATHWAYS

2012 Annual Fund Campaign Best In History!

*Thank you for supporting the 2012 Annual Fund Campaign, which generated **\$340,000**, a **28% increase** over last year. With an original goal of \$300,000, this was the most successful campaign in YHMA history!*



We are truly appreciative of friends like you, who respond with generous contributions year after year. Your contributions allow us to continue the unparalleled level of treatment that Youth Homes has offered since 1943. Without the aid of private donors like you, many of our clients would not receive the much needed services for their behavioral and emotional problems.

The YHMA Annual Fund Campaign's success also relies heavily on the help of our two volunteer boards, the Foundation Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors. The 2012 campaign was chaired by Kelly Housby and Paul Kruse from the Board of Trustees and Karen Worth and Bob Lashier from the Board of Directors.

Every year, members from both YHMA boards reach out to their families and friends in the community and express the need for supporting the work of Youth Homes.

It is with sincere gratitude that we thank our board for the wonderful work they have done in educating the community about the kids and needs of Youth Homes. Each board member has a different story to tell of how they became inspired to help fulfill the YHMA mission, but they all have one common theme: they truly want to help at-risk children and their families succeed through the services of Youth Homes.

We are grateful to our many friends and supporters, two volunteer boards, and dedicated staff for their continued support and involvement in the service of children.

Youth Homes Of Mid-America HISTORY

The YMCA Boys Home of Iowa was opened in April of 1943. The founder and primary financial supporters of the organization were Hobart & Alta Ross, a Des Moines grocery store owner and food broker and his wife. Hobart & Alta, along with some of his business associates, were approached by a local juvenile court official, Cleatie Devine,



to create a home for some disadvantaged boys. Proponents of helping youth succeed, Hobart & Alta bought a working farm from the Waterbury family in 1942 with the belief that teaching young people how to work would help them as they became adults. Hobart's motto was, "When you get involved with helping youth you have to see it through; you cannot go part way." His philosophy continues today at Youth Homes of Mid-America.

Over the years, the Y Boys Home added living units and programs. In 1987, the name was changed to Youth Homes of Mid-America to better reflect the array of services to both boys and girls.

For 70 years, Youth Homes of Mid-America has been helping troubled young people and their families find their path to independence. By reinvesting the support it

receives from the community, it's helping to build a more positive environment for generations to come.

Programs Currently Offered at YHMA

Since its inception, Youth Homes has offered structured programs for children with behavioral, emotional and educational difficulties. Currently these are the six programs offered by Youth Homes of Mid-America:

- 1. Ross Campus Treatment Center** is a 45-bed residential facility for Iowa teenaged boys that provides a safe and secure living environment for at-risk youth.
- 2. The Apartment-based Supervised Living Program** provides supervision and counseling to boys and girls ages 17 and 18 who are about to reach their 18th birthday and "age out" of the juvenile system.
- 3. Cluster Site Independent Living** offers boys intensive help in obtaining requisite "life skills" prior to their 18th birthday.
- 4. The PILOT Program** is a pre-independent living program designed for teenage boys too young to be eligible for the Cluster Site program.
- 5. The PAL Program** is voluntary for former clients who have "aged out" of the foster care system but wish to receive further assistance with everyday living skills and financial planning.
- 6. Youth Homes of Mid-America Therapy Services** offers outpatient behavioral health services for children, adolescents and families, including individual, group and family therapy.



Merchants Bonding Company Holds Bill Warner Sr. Memorial Golf Classic

2012 EVENT RAISES OVER \$105,000 FOR YHMA!

The Merchants Bonding Company Foundation's charity Bill Warner Sr. Memorial Golf Classic, held September 24 last year, raised over \$105,000 dollars for Youth Homes of Mid-America. The Merchants Bonding Company Foundation also contributed \$10,000 to the YHMA annual fund and announced the establishment of an endowment fund.

"The endowment fund will be named for Bill Warner Sr. and the money will directly benefit the children who live at Youth Homes," said Larry Taylor, President of Merchants Bonding Company and President of YHMA Board of Directors. "We are proud and humbled once again at the outpouring of support for our charity and for our foundation."

The Bill Warner Jr. Memorial Charity Golf Classic brought 180 golfers from across the United States to the Wakonda Country Club in Des Moines. "We did our best to put on a first-class event to attract even more donors this year, and the response was overwhelming," said Vice President of Marketing Therese Wielage. Top agents, reinsurers, vendors and personal friends flew in to participate. "We had to add a morning golf round to accommodate all 45 of the teams," said Wielage.

"We are grateful for the generosity of the participants," said Mike Arndt, Executive Director of YHMA. "It costs thousands of dollars each month to house and care for children who have nowhere else to live and no one to turn to, and this money will go a long way in helping us provide for them."



An evening program featured former YHMA client Dennis Shields. Dennis spent the first five years of life in a Catholic charities home, and was in and out of foster care into his teenage years. He said he would not be where is today without Youth Homes of Mid-America, and that YHMA turned out to be the most stable place he had ever lived.

Shields is now the Chancellor of the University of Wisconsin, Platteville. Shields credits his success to all of the people who helped him along the way, especially the YHMA "house parents" who were very passionate about his well-being and his future. Everyone at Youth Homes was honored Chancellor Shields took time out of his busy schedule to attend the event.



WHY I AM INVOLVED WITH YOUTH HOMES

By Larry Taylor, President-
YHMA Board of Directors

I was approached by Bob Maddox about Youth Homes, an organization he has been passionate about

for a long time. The first few meetings I attended had a big influence on me. I was pretty quiet but enjoyed observing and, most of all, listening to the staff. I was impressed by Ron Stehl and Bob "Mac" MacKenzie. Right away, I sensed their focus was on helping the kids. That's what Youth Homes has always been about.

I was on the Board of Trustees for eight years, until 2010. It was a great learning experience for me. I was honored to be surrounded by other business leaders in the community. I knew immediately that I would be more than a "one term" Board member, assuming they would let me. I served in several positions on the Board of Trustees, the most memorable being Chair of the Investment Committee in 2008.

One of my favorite evenings of the year is always the night of the Youth Homes Annual Meeting and dinner. The first highlight for me is the staff awards. The other highlight is hearing past residents speak about their time at Youth Homes. They don't talk about the facility, the grounds, the funding, or the Board; they talk about the staff, whether it was one person or several, who made a difference in their lives. It's always emotional.

In 2010, I moved over to the operations Board. I became Treasurer right away, and became President in 2012. I learned a lot from the officers before me.

WE DO NOT TURN ANY KID AWAY. THERE IS NOT A KID WHO YOUTH HOMES WON'T TRY TO HELP.

My company's Foundation chose Youth Homes as our golf outing charity last year. I took my Foundation Board members to the campus prior to the outing. They met some of the staff and some residents. Like all of us, they were impressed by the difference we are making for kids who need a chance and need to know that their problems aren't always their fault. Our outing was a huge success in many ways. Hearing Mike and Dennis Shields speak had an influence on many people in attendance.

We do not turn any kid away. There is not a kid that Youth Homes won't try to help. We have had successes where other organizations were not able to help. I am proud to be involved with Youth Homes and to have played a small part in helping the kids and the organization. It has been a great experience for me.



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Join Us For

THE 16TH ANNUAL YOUTH HOMES GOLF CLASSIC

MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2013
ECHO VALLEY COUNTRY CLUB

Invites coming soon!



Harrison Kruse of Johnston received the 2012 Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award from the central Iowa chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for all the volunteer work he performs for YHMA.

SHARING HOLIDAY SPIRIT

Every year we have generous friends and supporters who share the holiday spirit with our kids at Youth Homes, many of whom do not go home for the holiday season.

We truly appreciate all of our Board members, friends, families, community organizations and staff for their time and generosity in making sure our kids always have a special holiday season.

2012 Holiday Gifts for Kids

Johnston Community Schools Ed Program
Headphones to boys on Christmas day

Mrs. Joann Sargent
\$10 for each campus youth

Harrison Kruse
45 winter coats and \$1,500

Tones Company-HR Department
18 hams

Terry and Dennis Lydon
Stockings with treats for all campus youth and cookies for staff

Kirk Van Kirk and Jay Torres
Christmas breakfast and Scheel's gift cards for boys on Christmas day

Dr. and Mrs. John Pargulski
Sleds and large stockings filled with gifts for boys on Christmas day

Bill and Amanda Warner
Gingerbread cookie Christmas tree from Festival of Trees

**Plymouth Congregational Church
Project Memories Committee**
Gifts for clients and families

**YHMA Board Members
Pass the Hat**
\$25 for each campus youth