



Organizations reach out to Cleveland's youth

The Cleveland Foundation believes that if young people today are to become the leaders of tomorrow, the community must lay the groundwork for their successful transition to adulthood. They should be given every opportunity to live and grow in an environment in which their most basic health, social and academic needs are being met on a daily basis.

Toward that end, the foundation is working with other public and private funders, businesses, youth, families and community organizations to create a comprehensive "youth development initiative" for Cuyahoga County. The initiative is being designed to help young people make appropriate choices and give back to their communities.

In the meantime, a host of area organizations are working every day to keep our children on track to becoming healthy, productive citizens. Five of those groups are profiled in this issue of *Donor Connections*. As you read their stories, we hope you find them to be worthy of your support.

Strengthen

Support

Hope

Connect

Succeed

Trust

Believe

Build

Invest

Peace in the Hood takes to the streets to resolve conflict

For more than 20 years, Peace in the Hood has been at the forefront of curbing gang violence by being actively involved in Cleveland neighborhoods, negotiating gang truces, teaching conflict resolution skills and providing after-school programming.



Peace in the Hood holds after-school events for children living in Cleveland neighborhoods.

Many of the staff members live in the neighborhoods in which they work. Some are former gang members who have firsthand knowledge of the troubles faced by young people.

"They are familiar with the residents and that allows them to prevent and intervene in a potentially violent and emotionally charged situation," said Khalid Samad, executive director. "Their street credibility,

Family-first *approach* spells *Success* for Crossroads



Crossroads is a Lake County-based behavioral health provider offering mental health, substance abuse, and other services to help children and their families live happier and healthier lives. Crossroads' treatment philosophy centers on serving clients in their natural environments, such as home and school.

"At Crossroads we know that the family comes first in the emotional well-being of young people. That's why partnering with families in treatment is so important to success," explains Dr. Wayne Lindstrom, Crossroads CEO.

Crossroads offers individual, group and family behavioral health therapy; child psychiatry; Early Head Start; a therapeutic interagency preschool; respite and

therapeutic foster care; an alternative school for severely emotionally disturbed children; and a host of other programs. Multidisciplinary teams work within local schools and with juvenile courts.

To better serve the community, Crossroads also actively collaborates with local organizations on the Community Crisis Intervention Team, Suicide Prevention Coalition, and anti-drug and anti-alcohol programs. Staff members assist area child care centers and preschools, and are integrally involved with the Family and Children First Council in addressing school readiness for all preschoolers.

Grants to the organization help in a variety of ways:

- \$75,000 provides art therapy to 300 severely emotionally disturbed children
- \$25,000 pays for programs in six local schools to reduce violence by up to 75%
- \$10,000 equips a therapeutic counseling room for at-risk youth
- \$500 covers the cost of summer camp for a severely emotionally disturbed child

For more information, visit www.crossroads-lake.org.



Art therapy is an important treatment tool at Crossroads. The mask above was created by Bobbi, age 14. This cat drawing was created by Alexia, age 11.

Community

Re-Entry

helps at-risk youth realize their

Potential

Through its Community Re-Entry program, Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry offers a variety of prevention and intervention services to youth at risk of becoming entangled in drugs or gang activity.

One notable example is the program's Young African-American Reclamation Project Jr., an initiative that works to prevent crime and substance abuse in school-aged boys and girls. The "senior" version of the program serves older men ages 19 to 29 who have been previously involved with the justice system.

Community Re-Entry's Young African American Reclamation Project Jr. rewards youth who successfully participate in the program with field trips.



Community Re-Entry also offers the Covenant Project, which seeks to improve the academic performance of fourth-through 12th-graders in the Maple Heights School District by offering tutoring and support for chronically truant students.

"Through its various programs serving youth, Community Re-Entry seeks to connect young people with their latent potential to academically achieve, socially mature and participate civically," said Charles See, executive director.

Grants to Community Re-Entry help the organization provide a wide variety of services through. For more information, call 216-696-2717 or send an email to csee@communityreentry.org. Information is also available on the Web at www.charityadvantage.com/lutheranmetro/home.asp.

Treatment ends but recovery lasts a lifetime at New Directions



New Directions now offers its rehabilitation services from two locations, including Astrachan House, its new female residential facility.

What began in 1980 as a demonstration program commissioned by the Ohio Department of Health has grown into a one-of-a-kind facility. As one of the first gender-specific drug and alcohol treatment centers in Cuyahoga County, New Directions now serves adolescents at two locations on Cleveland's east side.

Since 1981, more than 15,000 adolescents have been treated at New Directions.

With a staff that includes adolescent psychiatrists and counselor technicians, the organization is able to provide individualized treatment. Recovery of the family support system is critical, as is individual and group family counseling. New Directions also offers a six-week parent empowerment program.

"We are proud to say we have been able to develop a number of innovative approaches to helping adolescents and their families in the past 26 years," said Mike Matoney, New Directions' executive director. "We have not been able to help all of them, but we will never give up or stop trying. Their lives depend on it."

Grants to New Directions directly benefit adolescents and families. For more information, contact Carrie Moore at 216-591-0324 or visit www.newdirect.org.

The Covenant offers *hope of recovery* from chemical dependency

Located on Cleveland's west side, The Covenant provides a supportive yet challenging environment for youth in need of treatment for chemical dependency, and their families. The Covenant is also a leading provider of treatment services for dual diagnosis – the combination of chemical dependency and mental illness.

Founded in 1984, the organization offers comprehensive day treatment programs as well as aftercare, continuing care, and a variety of other outpatient programs. It also provides substance abuse prevention programs to help urban children – from preschool to high school – avoid the dangers of drugs and other harmful behaviors.

“The Covenant offers the hope of recovery and the opportunity to pursue a happy, healthy, and productive life to children, adolescents, and their families who are in need, but would not otherwise have access to services,” said Rich Piazza, executive director.

The Covenant strives to offer its services to all, regardless of ability to pay. More than 90% of clients do not pay for any of the services they receive.

A grant of \$250 to The Covenant provides a day's worth of services in the day treatment program, including individual and group therapy, academic tutoring, chemical dependency education, recreation, and lunch.

For more information, go to www.the-covenant.org or contact The Covenant at 216-574-9000.

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along with their training in conflict resolution, gives them the ability to bring violent situations to a peaceful resolution, and therefore saves lives or serious injuries.”

Grants to Peace in the Hood support the group's street and community coordinators, who work directly with gang members.

For more information on how you can help, please contact project director Raj Roberson at 216-283-4400.

How to recommend a grant for any of these organizations

Complete the grant recommendation form enclosed, or access your Advisor Xpress account through the My TCF option under the “Current Donors” section of the foundation Web site. For more information about these and other worthy organizations, please call or email the Gift Planning and Donor Relations team.



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