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### Why *People Care*?

When we were looking for a name for this newsletter, we asked the people who are the motivation behind it—the kids we serve. They came up with *People Care*, and we can't think of a more fitting title.

*Pictured above, volunteer Chelsea Tessler Verville and young friend Jackie find the floor an ideal spot to spread out to do some homework.*

### Get Involved!

The Associates Board is a group of young professionals with ties to the community who are committed to the mental health, character development and physical well-being of children and families in our community. The group focuses on fundraising, volunteering, and raising awareness of Youth Services on the North Shore. For information on how to get involved with The Youth Services Associates Board, please contact Laura Monico at [laura.a.monico@gmail.com](mailto:laura.a.monico@gmail.com) or Kate Morgan at [kmmorgan18@aol.com](mailto:kmmorgan18@aol.com). For general volunteer opportunities please call Youth Services at (847) 724-2620.

### GBS Students to Get Fundraising Award

Students of Glenbrook South High School will join a list of distinguished recipients at the 2010 Association of Fundraising Professionals Chicago Chapter Awards Luncheon on May 21st. The students will receive the well-deserved Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award in large part for producing a 24-hour telethon, "South Dreams Big," that raised \$107,000 for Youth Services. Well done.

## Bringing Our Programs Home, Where They Belong



Study Buddy volunteer Jim Taylor finds a comfortable spot to read with his buddy Alexander.

When the after school Study Buddies program transitioned from its off-site host schools to the new building in January, it became the final Youth Services program to come home – and staff, volunteers, parents, and children couldn't be happier.

"This space is perfect for our activities," said Rachel Nathan who co-leads the program with Bridgette Taylor. "The kids are more comfortable and less anxious and they love the gym where they can work off some of their excess energy."

Bridgette agreed, "We have so much more space here than we did in the schools.

The kids and their tutors can spread out in many inviting spaces. We have comfortable couches

for reading, a library with books and computers, a fully stocked art room, media room, and gym."

Previously staff would have to transport books and other materials to the school site, which greatly restricted the kinds of activities available to engage the children. "We could only carry so many games and books with us and sometimes this got a bit repetitive for the children," said Bridgette.

Study Buddies and Little Buddies (for younger children) currently serve 22 children and meet on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. With supervision from Youth Services staff, volunteer tutors work one-on-one with students on homework and other academic skills for the first hour, while the last half hour is reserved for fun activities.

### Join In a Magical Evening

Prepare to be amazed when you join us on May 8th for Youth Services' annual benefit, Believe in Magic. Internationally acclaimed Quick Change artists David and Dania Mass will have you shaking your head in wonder and saying, "How did they do that?" Also on board for the magical evening are live and silent auctions, a raffle, and entertainment by Youth Services' Girls Club. The night's emcee is Second City composer/lyricist, and talk show host, T. J. Shanoff.

The delightful evening, which also includes a family style dinner, will be held at the Hilton Chicago/ Northbrook. Tickets are \$75 and can be reserved by calling Monica Garvey at Youth Services, 847-724-2620. Hurry before they disappear!

### Art Room a Real Winner, Too

According to Maggie Connors, who oversees the new art room, the children who use the area are thrilled. "The kids couldn't be happier. In the old building we didn't have enough room to do half the things we can now do." Nowadays Youth Services' budding artists and art therapy participants can work with different media including markers, crayons, chalk, paints, and clay in order to express themselves. "It was just so cramped before," she continued. "But with the increased space, the children are so much calmer."

This sense of calmness can greatly benefit the children participating in art therapy sessions. "Art is a great alternative to traditional therapy," said Maggie, "especially for the kids who can't access their feelings on a verbal level. Many of them have great success through art."

Any way you look at it, Youth Services' new building is a hit with the children, staff, volunteers, and parents who have made not only every room, but every nook and cranny home.



## Board Members

### President

- Rick Klare - Vice President of Sales, Fidelity Container

### First Vice President

- Howard Eirinberg - President, Vienna Beef

### Second Vice President

- Mike Cabay - Retired, Managing Partner, Accenture

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- Myrna Newman - Accountant

### Immediate Past President

- Bill McKinley - Senior Vice President, Harris Bank

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- Nancy Bloom, M. Ed.

### Members

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- Robert Anthony - Retired
- Pam Buchholz - Attorney
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- Nancy Firfer - Senior Advisor, Metropolis 20/20 and former Village President
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- Harry Omartian - Owner, AAA Lock & Key
- Tom Steil - Vice President of Private Banking, Northern Trust Bank
- Doug Welch - Director, Deloitte Consulting

## From the Executive Director

*My Dear Friends,*

Lately I've been thinking about some predictions being put forth by various professional prognosticators. You've probably heard them; the ones who tell us that today's children will do less well than their parents. Given the state of our country's economy, the current jobless rate, and the sorry shape of education funding in most states, it's easy to believe that our kids are going to have a tough time achieving, let alone improving on their parents' standard of living.



These kinds of predictions are troubling to me. If kids really believe that they will be worse off than their parents, where do we go from there? How will we convince them that they need to stay in school and study hard? Without achievable goals, what is their motivation to do well?

We can sit back and let the chatter become a self-fulfilling prophecy or we can act. I prefer the second option. And so does Tim Halfmann who is quoted at the end of my letter. Tim cares enough about the future of our children to get involved – he is now helping us create a Career Mentoring Program for at-risk children in our area.

Our first target group will be high school students. They are the ones approaching the precipice; the ones trying to figure out if they can or should go to college, or maybe pursue a career in a trade. We want to show them that they have options that go way beyond minimum wage jobs. In our program, mentors like Tim will talk one-on-one with students to help ascertain their career interests; they will introduce the students to real people who work in appealing careers, and have the students shadow employee volunteers at work. Mentors will help students create resumes, and much more.

Once we get the high school program going we will begin reaching into the middle schools to target at-risk children there, because we believe that it is never too soon to get a child planning for the future.

Of course, this is not just a Youth Services program. This is a community program. We cannot do this without a lot of support. As the program gets going we may be calling on many of you to share your expertise and experience with the young people.

Tim said the world would be a better place if he helped just two children. I agree, but with his help and the assistance of many other caring business and professional people we will reach a lot more than that. There are far too many children out there who need our help – who need your help. Let's start proving the pessimists wrong. Let's give our kids a fighting chance and a reason to hope for a brighter future. Together we will make a difference.

With gratitude for all you do,

*Nancy Bloom*

“If I can help one child, everything will be even when I go. If I can help two children, the world will be a better place.”

Tim Halfmann, Youth Services Volunteer



## 2010 Events

### Mark Your Calendars

#### GIRLFRIEND'S SPRING BOUTIQUE

Thursday, April 22nd, 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
and 6:00-9:00 P.M. at Youth Services

Twenty different vendors offer everything from jewelry to garden items. Shopping made easy with a children's craft area. In the evening it's Ladies Night Out with wine and appetizers. Sponsored by Friends of Youth Services. Contact Mindy Schloss at 847-562-9880 for more information.

#### YOUTH SERVICES' BENEFIT: BELIEVE IN MAGIC SATURDAY, MAY 8TH AT THE HILTON CHICAGO/NORTHBROOK

(Please see story on page 1.)

#### Wine Tasting

Tuesday, May 27th

Friends of Youth Services host the tasting beginning at 6:00 pm at Café Lucci. Contact Kim Hand at 847-724-8149 for more information.

#### GARAGE SALE DAYS

Friday and Saturday, June 4th and 5th

Friends of Youth Services encourage you to search out hidden treasures that will be for sale at a series of garage sales held at various residences throughout Glenview and Northbrook. There is a \$25 cost to participate as a seller. Sellers also agree to donate 20 percent of their profits to Friends of Youth Services to benefit the programs of Youth Services. Participants must register by May 15th. Questions? Contact ddwittenstein@yahoo.com or jennpett@gmail.com.

#### YOUTH MAKES A DIFFERENCE 5K

SUNDAY, JUNE 20TH

Break out your running shoes and join the 6th Annual 5K Run/Walk to be held in Gallery Park in The Glen. Contact Monica Garvey at 847-724-2620 with questions or to become an event sponsor.

#### GLENVIEW STREET FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, JUNE 26TH

Come and visit the Youth Services' booth offering popcorn, snow cones, drinks, and games.

#### CheckAward Books

Coming in August

Wonderful money saving checkbooks will be on sale through Glenbrook South Football Team and Youth Services. Contact Monica Garvey at 847-724-2620 to reserve yours today!

## The Gift of the Village Treasure House

The Village Treasure House is a consignment shop extraordinaire with a warehouse-sized showroom packed with home furnishings and accessories tucked into a commercial slice of Northbrook at 1460 Paddock Drive. But this is no ordinary business; it is a business with a mission. Since 1998 the Village Treasure House has been sharing its wealth with local non-profit organizations that serve women and children in need by giving away \$790,000 to 17 agencies. Through the years, Youth Services has benefitted significantly because of this generosity.



Julie Hansen, Sue Ryan and Sandy Van Epps show off a few of the great buys to be found at The Village Treasure House.

According to Julie Hansen, president of the Village Treasure House Board, "We consider Youth Services to be one of our top priorities." They have demonstrated this commitment by granting over \$121,000 to Youth Services in just over a decade. "Youth Services helps us to fulfill

our mission because they directly address the issues of children at risk as well as provide support for women and their families," said Julie.

The Treasure House was originally started by a group of women congregants from the Glenview Community Church, but several years ago the group began pursuing its own direction with a separate mission and has now grown beyond that initial association. Today the Treasure House is a well-run business that just happens to give nearly every penny it makes away. The store's staff is composed of one full-time paid position (shared by three women) and over 100 volunteers who handle everything from display presentation to technical computer support.

The volunteers who run the store do so for a couple of reasons: they believe in the organization's mission, and they have a great time together. "I usually come out of here smiling," said Julie. "This is a great job."

She finished with this thought: "As far as Youth Services, we know how meaningful their work is and we want to be in business for a long time so we can keep giving money to them."