

To The Point

A semi annual publication of Walker's Point Youth & Family Center.



CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVICE: 1976-2011

Annual Event Recognizes Volunteers for the "Gift of Time"

For three and a half decades, volunteers have provided an indispensable source of support and help to Walker's Point, bringing their caring, their skills and their "gift of time" to the youth and families in our programs.

This year's annual volunteer recognition event was held at Joey Buona's in downtown Milwaukee on Thursday, April 14, during National Volunteer Recognition week. With a strong turnout of over 100 people, the evening included a buffet dinner, an awards program to recognize our current volunteers, and entertainment by acoustic musician and vocalist Roxie Beane.

Shaphan Coleman, inspirational speaker and youth worker (plus former member of our Street Beat collaboration), emceed the event reminding volunteers how critical was their work with youth.

Although the program recognized all 95 volunteers who assisted in the organization in the past year, several individuals received awards of outstanding service. They were: youth peer counselor



Awardees pose for the camera after the event.

From left are: Karla Hill, Mary Lux, Faith Childs, Dorcas Lopez, and Fred Hannah.

Dewayne Alexander and youth and family specialist assistants Carlton Jackson and Kelly Pape in the Runaway Shelter; house manager assistant Dorcas Lopez in the Grant Street Transitional Living Program; Nurturing Program group facilitator Mary Lux; board member Fred Hannah; and advisory council member Karla Hill. The recipient of the employee of the year award was Faith Childs, youth and family specialist in the Runaway & Teen Crisis Program.

Walker's Point Youth & Family Center

Administration
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414-672-5300
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Website: www.walkerspoint.org
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Runaway & Teen Crisis Program—24 Hour Hotline and Youth Shelter
414-647-8200

Grant Street Transitional Living Program
414-672-1360

Insights Transitional & Supportive Housing Program (Young Adults)
414-672-5531

Family Support & Empowerment Program Nurturing Program
414-645-3300

Our mission is to meet the needs of runaway, homeless and other troubled youth and their families from Milwaukee's diverse communities by providing services to empower youth, help them resolve personal and family problems, strengthen relationships and support safe and stable homes.

Announcing Our 35th Anniversary Dinner and Benefit

"PLANTING SEEDS OF HOPE"



Thursday, June 2, 2011
Peck Pavilion—Milwaukee County Zoo
5:15 pm—8:00 pm
\$45.00 per person—Casual Attire

To reserve a ticket or for more information, please call 414-672-5300 or email Mary Pickering at pickeringmary@sbcglobal.net

From the Executive Director

Andre Olton, Ph.D.

This special newsletter celebrates our thirty-five years of serving Milwaukee youth and their families. Given the gathering storm clouds of impending cuts in government funding, it is especially pleasing to focus this year on our achievements and celebrate them. With this in mind, we are looking forward to our Walker's Point Youth & Family Center's 35th Anniversary celebration. I hope you can come.

In such times of celebration, we join together to remember what we have achieved, give thanks for all who have helped us along the way, and gather strength for the challenges ahead.

We are proud of the accomplishments of those 35 years. We helped rescue

8,000 youth from the dangers of the streets through our emergency shelter or transitional housing. We know that at least 92% of these left at discharge for safe homes.

We also helped many thousand more youth through our non-residential counseling, our street outreach services and our Nurturing Program groups for parents and adolescents and other teen groups. In particular I have appreciated the presence of an outstanding cast of dedicated and skilled staff working together to serve those who come to us for help in their time of need or crisis.

In this anniversary edition, we recognize our major partners – both private

and government – who have been financial bulwarks for our organization. We also honor our volunteers who give of their warmth, time and talents. Among these, too, I can personally count many remarkable board members and advisory council members.

We are entering an era of challenging times of declining financial resources which will likely be with us for a long time to come. The strengths of our partnerships, our supporters and our dedicated volunteers and paid staff all will be essential in the years ahead as we serve the needs of Milwaukee's runaways, homeless and other youth in need and their families.

After 35 Years ... A Special Thanks to Our Major Funding Partners

The following major institutions have supported our services for well over half of our existence:

United Way of Greater Milwaukee for their three decades of support of our services.

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (a life-long supporter)

U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

City of Milwaukee Community Block Grant Administration

State of Wisconsin Department of Children & Families

The following foundations have each given well over \$100,000 to our programs in the last 35 years:

Faye McBeath Foundation

Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Colton Charitable Trust of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

Northwestern Mutual Foundation

Potawatomi Foundation



In addition, the following corporations and foundations have donated in the past year and loyally supported us annually for more than half of our existence:

Bostik, Inc.

Ellinger Foundation

Gardner Foundation

Helfaer Foundation

Herb Kohl Charities

Ladish Company Foundation

Milwaukee Association of Realtors' Youth Foundation

M&I Foundation

MGIC

Pieperpower

Pollybill Foundation

Stackner Family Foundation

Wisconsin Energy Foundation

A BRIEF HISTORY

Walker's Point Youth & Family Center



- 1976:** Walker's Point Youth & Family Center formally incorporates as a private non-profit corporation. Opening In February as a four-bed facility located at 742 West Pierce Street, we serve 213 youth/families, with 148 teens provided temporary shelter, by year's end.
- 1977:** *The shelter moves to its current location at 732 South 21st Street, enabling us to become an 8-bed facility.*
- 1981:** The Center purchases the property at 732 South 21st Street.
- 1985:** *Initiation of the Renaissance Program, a child abuse prevention program that is a precursor to the Nurturing Program. The Center expands to a second building at 2030 West National Avenue.*
- 1987:** The Nurturing Program for Parents & Adolescents becomes our primary child abuse prevention program. A new Department of Volunteer Services in the runaway shelter leads to a tripling of volunteer services.
- 1988:** *We develop a youth peer counseling initiative in the Runaway & Teen Crisis Program.*
- 1989:** The Center purchases the property at 2030 West National Avenue, and the Nurturing Program expands to the building's second floor and becomes a national pilot for school-based Nurturing Program groups. We also start a drug abuse prevention/education initiative for runaway and homeless youth, which runs seven years.
- 1991:** *The Center acquires a third building at 2175 South Layton Boulevard for a new Transitional Living Program. A Walker's Point youth and parent client testify in Congress on the importance of runaway and homeless youth services. Secretary of Health & Human Services, Dr. Louis Sullivan, visits the Walker's Point shelter.*
- 1992:** Our Transitional Living Program for 16 and 17 year old homeless youth opens its doors. Crianza Con Cariño, a Spanish-speaking version of the Nurturing Program for Parents & Adolescents, is developed and implemented.
- 1994:** *The Teens Talk Line, staffed by teens, begins operation five days a week, serving youth callers for eight years.*
- 1997:** We initiate Street Beat, a homeless youth street outreach project, in collaboration with Pathfinders.
- 1999/2000:** *The Nurturing Program changes its name to the Family Support & Empowerment Program (FSEP) to reflect a diversification of groups offered.*
- 2001:** The Transitional Living Program, which had closed upon loss of funding in Fall of 2000, re-opens as a four-bed treatment foster home. The FSEP also expands its support group for teens, including groups for adolescent girls, starting with Girl Talk in this year.
- 2002:** *The Transitional Living Program expands back to an eight bed group home for homeless minor aged youth.*
- 2003:** The Transitional Living Program expands further to start the Insights program for up to eighteen homeless youth, ages 18-21 years old, including those who are pregnant and parenting, using scattered site housing in the community.
- 2005:** *During our 2005 program year we provide a record 324 youth with emergency and/or transitional housing. We also receive funding to start a new leadership and empowerment program for girls, Project Take Charge, which begins in February 2006.*
- 2009:** A new three-year federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing grant almost doubles the number of homeless and near-homeless youth provided supportive housing and services in our Insights program.
- 2010:** *We start Teen D.I.V.A.S. group program, focusing on dating violence prevention and empowering girls.*

35 Years and Growing to Serve Milwaukee Area Teens & Families



WALKER'S POINT YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER

Celebrating 35 Years of Service



2030 W. National Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53204



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Walker's Point Youth & Family Center: A Growing Force for Good

1976: 5 employees (full or part time positions) and an operating budget of \$63,000.

1986: 12 employees and an operating budget of \$260,000.

1996: 23 employees and an operating budget of \$849,640.

2011: 23 employees and an operating budget of \$1,503,357

TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTER TO OVER 7,500 YOUTH AGES 11 THROUGH 17 YEARS OLD

NON-RESIDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY COUNSELING TO AN ADDITIONAL 4,450 YOUTH

TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROGRAM FOR 415 YOUTH

with 250 homeless minor youth served in our Grant Street Group Home since 1992, and 165 youth ages 18-21 served in the Insights program since it started in 2003. Over 1,200 youth received non-resident services through this program.

FAMILY SUPPORT & EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

with 1,800 teens, many with their parents, participating in the Nurturing Program for Parents and Adolescents and other groups since 1988.

STREET OUTREACH SERVICES

contacted over 49,000 youth since the program began in 1977, with over 1,200 receiving in-depth services.

TELEPHONE CRISIS LINE SERVICES TO OVER 60,000 CALLERS

A GREAT PLACE TO VOLUNTEER!

In 1976, we had four volunteers.

In 1986, we had nearly 50 volunteers, donating about 4,000 hours of volunteer services.

Last year, we had 95 adults and teens donate over 11,500 hours of direct volunteer services in our various programs.

