



# YETC NEWSLETTER

Building a brighter future for our youth and families

APRIL 2008

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Raising awareness for YETC

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## CEO REPORT: NEW YEAR BRINGS EXPANSION FOR YETC!

In December of 2007 YETC was awarded a contract to expand the services of Project Next Step (PNS). The award was presented by the Meet Me Where I Am (MMWIA) Initiative and funded by Magellan Behavioral Health Services in recognition of the innovative approach to service provision inherent in the PNS model.

Historically there has been a serious concern by behavioral health officials that the traditional practice of offering services in the office and residential treatment centers were counter productive and did not

address the growing awareness that the most effective treatment for the vast majority of behavioral and emotional issues was to work with the whole family in their homes and community.

In an effort to address this issue and to reform behavioral health practice The Maricopa Regional Behavioral Health Authority funded PNS in 2004 to develop and demonstrate an innovative service model to children and families in their homes and community.

Over the last 4 years we have reviewed, refined, measured and modified our program to ensure

that it represents best and current practice. The award of 1 million plus was the result of 4 years of effective and innovative effort.

This award is an honor for YETC. It is primarily, however, a testimonial to the PNS Staff for their innovative ideas, skills, initiative and energy to build a practice that has forever reformed and improved the landscape for children and families in Arizona's behavioral health system.

### PROJECT NEXT STEP MODEL

The preferred outcome for all children enrolled in the project is to remain in or return to their families. The child and the family will have gained skills, tools, knowledge and community support that will lead to a more stable, productive and effective life style.

The Project offers a multitude of Behavioral Health Interventions and practices that are designed to improve and enhance family performance and independence in a timely and responsive manner. These services are called Generalized Direct Supports and they address family challenges in many ways and in a variety of environments. Skilled Direct Service Workers (Behavior Coaches)

and family support partners provide a variety of direct support activities that address the needs identified by the family and child team. All Services are designed to improve family performance and independence.

Direct supports are provided to youth and families in their homes, schools and community

### Youth Evaluation and Treatment Centers (YETC)

is dedicated to guiding at-risk youth and families to function successfully through the enhancement of knowledge, skills and responsibility.

## SOCIAL SKILLS THROUGH CREATIVE ART!

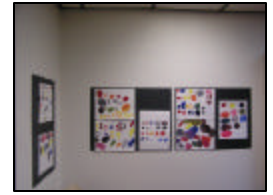
In late October, the YETC Outpatient Department began a group for clients ages 11-15 as a way for them to use their imaginations, learn respect for each other and how to deal with frustrations when things don't always work out the way they were hoping for. The group met once a week for 12 weeks and had the opportunity to experiment with clay, pencil, watercolor and acrylic painting. The session ended with an Art show that allowed our kids to show off their work to parents, friends and family.

The group was a great success and shortly

after a second session followed. This session was geared towards our younger kids, ages 6-10.

The end result, improved communication between family members, encouraged positive interactions and strengthened family relationships. A total 20+ kids have now acquired a new skill, a new outlet and beautiful artwork!

*\*After 1st show, Board Member Tony Sola encouraged Wall-Art Studio to donate their supplies/ services by framing NINE pieces of artwork. They will be displayed in the YETC lobby for all to see!*



## PEER LEADERSHIP GROUPS EMPOWERING YOUTH

Prevention has definitely been thinking "outside of the box" in the way they provide services to youth. One of the most effective methods have been through their Peer Leadership Groups.

Over a span of 12 weeks, a group of 15-20 elementary children met once a week to interact with other students and work together on the "Totem Pole Project." This project allowed them to discuss and share their opinions on what they

thought good characteristics of a tribe would be. Some words were: helpful, respectful, good citizenship, fairness, strength, sharing and of course, leadership!

A couple of weeks were taken for planning and sketching out their "blueprints" for their poles and then the kids got right to work painting way. While it got messy, the kids had a great time!

## IOPSA EXPANDS TO THE "FAMILY CENTER"

In October 2007, the IOPSA (Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment) Program received additional funding to expand their services. The program continued to provide treatment to youth with substance abuse problems and added an enhanced component to the program by supporting kids and families through a community based approach. Shortly after the expansion, the IOPSA program made the move to the "Family Center".

Formerly known as Next Step, this residential setting has been converted into a center where kids and families can come to and take part in the numerous activities. On any given day, you may see kids and parents on the basketball court, playing football, in the kitchen cooking dinner or out on the patio dancing to music. An education room with computers is also available for kids to do homework, prepare resumes and do job searches. It's been an exciting transition for staff and clients.



The Family Center is accepting donations of sporting equipment to include: basketballs, footballs, soccer balls and any other recreational items that could enhance the center. (Especially during the summer time!)

### QMT Quality Management Team

*Committed to effective leadership and organizational stability as means of achieving the mission of Youth ETC*

**Jim Oleson, CEO**

**Stacey Tarquinio, Clinical Director of Community Based Services**

**Jennifer Brummet, Clinical Director of Outpatient Services**

**Kathy Pedersen, Director of Human Resources**

**Christine Harms, Director of Finance/IT**

**Sara Ray, Director of Community Development**

YETC HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Client Holiday Party

**December 8, 2007** - Our Holiday Season kicked off with our Client Holiday Party that took place at the Rose Lane Recreational Center. Over **200** clients and their families made it out to this event headed up by **employees, board members** and **volunteers**. Kids took part in activities such as cookie and card decorating, face painting, ornament decorating, turkey bowling (yes! You read right, turkey bowling with actual frozen turkeys!) and a dessert walk in which our kids got to leave with a dessert of their choice. Several YETC employees spent their Friday evening baking away all kinds of goodies for the desert walk! Parents were able to take part in a raffle to include grocery gift cards, Christmas packages, household items, a Christmas tree and much more! In addition, Santa (AKA Board Member, John Ronquillo) and his elf even made an appearance! Children (and some adults) got to visit with Santa, share their holiday and get a photo to take home with them. It was a memorable day!



YETC Staff before starting the day!



Santa and his elf



This young girl was in shock when she saw Santa walk in the door!

*\*This event was made possible by the generous donations of*

**Early Warning LLC**

**AED Incorporated**

**"Lady Blues" Rugby Team**

Holiday Angels

**Board President, Dave Bridgman** along with the employees of **Early Warning** took part once again in our Holiday Angel program and fulfilled the wishes of **16 YETC families!** Early Warning employees gave graciously to ensure that each child and family had their wishes fulfilled.

Gift cards for grocery stores, restaurants and family activities were added to gift packages, making them even more special! Once again, Early Warning created a holiday to remember for our clients

**Board member, Ann Myers-Jones** along with **PetsMart** employees provided a **family of six** with much needed clothing, household necessities, fun games and sports equipment!

**Scottsdale Shea Hospital, ICU department** raised and donated **\$125.00**, which was used to provide an **IOP family** with presents this Christmas. The nurses of Scottsdale Shea also donated some great holiday items which were given out to clients as they arrived for appointments! What a way to spread holiday cheer!

*\* One of our IOPSA kids came to group all decked out in the clothing he got from his Christmas Angel and was very grateful for all the gifts he was given. On Christmas Eve he told me he was looking forward to opening them all up on Christmas Day. \**  
Norri Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Program

**Board Member, Tony Sola** took on **2 families** just days before Christmas. He fulfilled their wishes and even delivered them on Christmas Eve, wrapped and ready to go!



**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**5.17.08**

"FROCK N' ROLL" FASHION CHARITY EVENT / ALICE COOPERSTOWN ([WWW.ALICECOOPERSTOWN.COM](http://WWW.ALICECOOPERSTOWN.COM))

*Benefiting YETC!*

**MARCH – JUNE**

"SPRING INTO SUMMER" FAMILY FUN SERIES FOR CLIENTS

**Youth Evaluation and Treatment Centers (YETC)** is dedicated to guiding at-risk youth and families to function successfully through the enhancement of knowledge, skills and responsibility.

For more information contact Community Development at 602/285-5550 ext 336 or email us at [sray@youthetc.org](mailto:sray@youthetc.org)



Thank you to **FEZ** for their generosity in donating 25% of proceeds from "Give Love for Kids" Dine out!  
Special thanks to each of you who made it out! Continue to visit us online for current events!

[www.youthetc.org](http://www.youthetc.org)

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Building a brighter future for the youth and families we serve



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