

Website Wonders

Page 6

By CHRISTA MYERS

*Project Coordinator
Reclaiming Futures
Juvenile Drug Court*

For parents

Are you concerned about your child's behavior or mood swings? Don't know if it is typical teen behavior or perhaps evidence of substance use/abuse? Perhaps you know that they are using alcohol or other drugs but don't know how to deal with the situation. Check out The Partnership for a Drug-Free America's web site at: www.timetoact.drugfree.org.

The website says that the first action step is establishing clear and open communication with your child about drugs and drinking. Don't be afraid to ask them the questions that are concerning you. The website contains video presentations of doctors and psychologists sharing tips on how to prepare for the conversation, when, what and how to ask. There is information on looking for signs of alcohol and other drug abuse and learning about risk factors.

It is not an easy time to be a parent with all the new technology introduced into youth's lives.

Texting has quickly become the favorite way for youth to communicate. Are you up to date with lingo such as PIR or PAW (parent in room/parents are watching)? It is important to know the people with whom your child is communicating and who they consider friends. While the teenage years are a time that youth become more independ-

ent and learn to make decisions on their own, parents are still responsible for their child's behavior and well-being.

Not comfortable with a website or feel like you need more information in person? Call a local treatment provider. Hocking County Behavioral Health Services or Tri-County Mental Health can offer local resources to help you deal with your concerns.

Local treatment providers contact information:

- 1.) Hocking County Behavioral Health Care Services
385-9895 (377 Front St.) or 380-6354 (12896 Grey St.)
- 2.) Tri-County Mental Health and Counseling Services
385-6594 (541 state Route 664 North, Suite C)

A final tip – sign up for The Partnership for a Drug-Free America's e-newsletter. The newsletter is filled with good information for parents and is free. Sign up on the "Time to Act" website at the bottom of the page.

For the youth

A social entrepreneur. What is that? According to Wikipedia, "a social entrepreneur is someone who recognizes a social problem and uses entrepreneurial principles to organize, create and manage a venture to make social change. Whereas a business entrepreneur typically measures performance in profit and return, a social entrepreneur assesses success in terms of the impact he/she has on society.



Youth social entrepreneurship is an increasingly common approach to engaging youth voice in solving social problems."

Youth Venture (www.youthventure.org), an off-shoot of Ashoka (a global organization that identifies and invests in social entrepreneurs), is the place to go if you want help or ideas to begin a project that can solve a local social problem.

According to their website, "Youth Venture is a global movement of young changemakers. YV believes that you have to start on the path as a changemaker when you're young, while you're still open to the many possibilities of the leader you can become."

YV's logo is: **"Dream it.**

Do it," and they back up their statement with real support, including up to \$1,000 and technical assistance. The YV website is extremely youth-friendly and packed with helpful tips and links to other social entrepreneurs.

Here is a tip from Christa, who has served as a Youth Venture Reviewer: If you plan to apply for this funding, make sure that youth are the leaders in planning the project and writing the action plan.

The adult ally should act as a guide by the side in this venture.

Turn to page 10.

Outdoor pursuits

Page 7

Risk, Adventure, and Healthy Choices

(Continued from page 3)

Challenge courses are designed to help groups work more effectively together by solving the obstacles and problems. The low course encourages the entire group to participate in solving problems, while the high course allows for individual achievement and the support of peers to complete the challenges.

Low courses are generally completed at ground level or a few feet off of the ground, and safety spotting is provided by the participants.

High courses are constructed 30 or more feet off of the ground, and require special safety equipment to complete. Some of the challenges found on the high course at Ohio University are the Zip Line, the Rappelling Tower, and the Giants Ladder.

Challenging course participation can help form stronger bonds between youth and their community through experiencing a shared adventure. Participation has also been linked to an increased belief in a child's ability to



submitted photo

accomplish difficult tasks, as well as the ability to work together in a group setting.

If you are looking for a different way to enjoy the outdoors this fall, consider a visit to the Challenge Program at Ohio University. The course is open seven days a

week to Ohio University and the surrounding community on a fee-based reservation only basis.

More information can be found at www.ohio.edu/recreation or by calling the Challenge Program director at 740-597-1485.

Youth News

Page 8

Interview with a youth

(Continued from page 1)

Q. What are the direct rewards that you see or feel as a direct result of the time you offer your community and school?

A. It makes me feel better about myself. I feel like I am a better person and like I've done something right.

Q. What do you want to do with your life?

A. Because I like to work outside, construction is something that I think I would like, but I enjoy public speaking. I would also enjoy social work, kinda of what you guys do in probation because I would like to help kids who have similar backgrounds as me.

Interview with Big Boy's Grandmother

Q. How has Big Boy's current environment and additional programming assisted him in doing better in his life?

A. It helps to occupy his time and it keeps him out of trouble and he seems much happier. As long as he is kept busy, he is happy.

Q. How do you think the people view Big Boy in the community?

A. They think he's a good person and they can rely on him.

Q. What changes have you seen in Big Boy?

A. He is so much happier! He spends a lot more time with his siblings, and he didn't do that before. A year ago I had very little faith in him.

Q. Do you have any advice or words of encouragement for any parents that may have kids in the same situation as Big Boy was in a year ago?

A. Don't turn away any help! Even if you have to push for it, push for it! Even if you don't think you need it, get it because there is a problem somewhere.

What a neighbor has said about Big Boy

One neighbor said that Big Boy goes to the nursing home with her and visits her relatives. She said Big Boy is an angel and that he is the most giving teenager she has ever met.

Another neighbor said, "Big Boy helps mow her lawn and caught her cat for her one time. He's a great person who goes out of his way to help others."

Develop a skill, get a job

All the following events are at the Hocking County Job Services Center, 389 W. Front Street, Logan; register by calling 380-1545.

Sept. 1

Introduction to computer class, 9am-noon. 14 and up; free class.

Sept. 3

Introduction to internet class, 9am-noon. 14 and up; free class.

Sept. 14 - 18

Job Club, 9am-2:30pm; free five day workshop which discusses interviewing skills, employer expectations, resumes, etc.; 14 and up.

Sept. 21

Work keys/customer service, 9am-4pm, 14 and up; free written assessment to determine work aptitudes and customer service skills.

Sept. 22, 24 & 29

Excel Basic, 9am-noon. Must attend each day.

Oct. 5 through 9

-Job Club, 9am-2:30pm; free five day workshop which discusses interviewing skills, employer expectations, resumes, etc.; 14 and up.

Oct. 13

Introduction to computer class, 9am-noon. 14 and up; free class.

Oct. 15

Introduction to internet class, 9am-noon. 14 and up; free class.

Oct. 19

Work keys/customer service, 9am-4pm, 14 and up; free written

assessment to determine work aptitudes and customer service skills.

Oct. 20, 22 & 27

Word Intermediate, 9am-noon. Must attend each day.

Nov. 2 through 6

-Job Club, 9am-2:30pm; free five day workshop which discusses interviewing skills, employer expectations, resumes, etc.; 14 and up.

Nov. 10

Introduction to computer class, 9am-noon. 14 and up; free class.

Nov. 12

Introduction to internet class, 9am-noon. 14 and up; free class.

Nov. 16

Work keys/customer service, 9am-4pm, 14 and up; free written assessment to determine work aptitudes and customer service skills.

Nov. 17, 19 & 24

Excel Intermediate, 9am-noon. Must attend each day.



Youth News

Page 9

Chris Smith, from page 1

Another influential adult for the young Smith was Chief Parr of the Jackson Township Police Department in Stark County. When he was 15, Smith was involved with the Police Explorers Program and Parr saw to it that the high schooler was able to do things which, as the second of five children, his family couldn't afford.

As a teen, Smith recalls, "I got to be part of the police detail working at the NFL Hall of Fame Game," held in Canton. He even attended an after-game party with a guest list that included not only professional football players, but also Hollywood stars.

With the support of Parr and Proctor and others, Smith's course was set. But he wasn't sure where he would go to get his training. One day, while a senior in high school, he sat with a friend in the library, looking through a catalog that listed colleges in alphabetical order. Frustrated, Smith told his friend, "I'm going to close my eyes, flip the pages, and put my finger on the book. Wherever my finger lands, that's the college I'm going to."

His finger landed on Hocking College in Nelsonville. He had never heard of the school or the town. Smith went to his guidance



Gretchen Gregory

Patrolman Smith stands watch as this Ford truck is lifted onto a tow truck after striking a concrete wall on the state Route 93 overpass above the Hocking River last winter. The roads were particularly icy on the overpass, and both Patrolman Smith and a *Logan Daily News* reporter slid on ice near the scene of the crash. No injuries were reported in the incident.

counselor to ask where Nelsonville was. "Do you know where Ohio University is?" the counselor asked. "Sort of," Smith answered. "Nelsonville is near there."

On his campus visit to Hocking College, Smith found he liked the campus and the town and also learned that Hocking offered an Associates Degree in Law

Enforcement Technology. He enrolled, ultimately graduating in 1990.

It may not be surprising that the police officer whose life was so positively influenced by caring adult mentors has, through his life's work, been that kind of adult for young people. "I was thinking just the other day," said Smith during a recent in-

terview, "that most of my career has been spent working with youth." That has included work with two state juvenile facilities in Columbus. And in his spare time through the years, Smith has coached and umpired. (Besides all that, Smith is proud to point out that he has "a beautiful wife and two beautiful children.")

This fall, Smith will begin his eighth year as School Resource Officer at Logan-Hocking Middle School. Respected by the young people, Smith tries to be an adult with whom students can speak, not just a law enforcement officer.

Not long ago, Smith ran into the parent of a youngster he had both arrested and encouraged. "Keep doing what you're doing," the parent told Smith. "It's a ministry." "I hadn't ever thought of my work in that way before," Smith says. "But I guess it is."

The teen who was helped to move in the right direction by a caring pastor and police chief is now the man trying to exert the same influence on the young people he meets.

Rev. Mark Daniels is the pastor of Saint Matthew Lutheran Church in Logan.

Website Wonders

Page 10 (Continued from 6)

Youth Venture Basics Action Kit (taken from www.youthventure.org)

Find a venture idea.

Try to think of ideas that excite you. Your venture will be more successful if you choose an idea that you are passionate about.

Form a core team.

Your team should have at least two members (ages 12 to 20) that are equally dedicated to making your venture idea a reality.

Find an ally.

An ally is a non-controlling adult mentor who will provide advice and support as your team creates and launches a Venture.

Plan your venture by completing an action plan.

An action plan helps you plan out and prepare to launch your Venture.

Revise and submit your action plan.

YV will review your action plan. YV may ask your team to revise sections that are unclear or need more thought.

Present to a selection panel.

After submitting your action plan, YV will invite you to present your idea before a panel. Presenting to a panel will give you practice articulating your goals to a wider audience. The panel will help you make sure you're ready to launch, will determine the amount of seed funding needed to get your Venture started, and will invite you into the YV movement.

Meet conditions.

Sometimes conditions are placed on areas the panel felt YV needed to better think through before launching.

Launch your venture.

Approved ventures will receive grant checks and action kits within two weeks. This event marks the official start of your venture and of your part in the YV movement.

Website sign on and networking.

Become part of the virtual YV movement. You can sign on to the YV website and become part of the community of venture yeams, with space for your own webpage and blog, and for a chance to learn and share resources, information, and experiences with other venturers across the globe.

Movement/support.

As a venture team, you are part of the global YV movement and have access to the support resources YV provides to



Gretchen Gregory

This could be the future meeting place of a Youth Venture team, and it's located at the Logan-Hocking County Library. The library, scheduled for completion sometime this fall, has constructed this glass enclosed kids area just for teens. Will you be the first YV team?

help to grow and sustain your venture. Such resources include technical ally teleconference calls, website tools, and connections with other youth venturers.

If you have a great website that you would like to share with others, please email your name, the name of the site and what makes it so good, to cmyers@co.hocking.oh.us, and the communications sub-committee will decide whether to include it in a future publication.