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## *Indiana YouthPRO Association, Inc*

May 2008

*News from the Board Chairs: Ellen Clippinger and John Brandon*

Volume 1, Issue 2

Spring has finally come to Indiana. Flowers and trees are blooming and summer's almost here. This is always an exciting and busy time for everyone - program staff, children and youth, families and communities.

This is also an exciting time for YouthPRO. At the March board meeting, the IYD Credential Committee was tasked with designing two new paths for earning an IYD. The first will create a process for accrediting academic programs where the IYD core competencies are integrated into the curriculum at universities and colleges in Indiana. Once a program is accredited, students who complete the coursework and earn a diploma through the program will also earn their IYD credential. The committee is currently focusing on designing a pilot for students starting in the fall of 2008 at Indiana State University in the Department of Recreation and Sport Management. Once the pilot at ISU is created and tested, the committee will work to accredit other programs as appropriate. The second new path will focus on individuals currently working in the youth development field directly with youth or in management positions, who hold a Master or PhD. This new path will allow these individuals to use their experience and course work to attain an IYD.

The committee and board are excited about the possibilities. If you would like more information, have suggestions, or would like to volunteer to be part of the IYD committee, please contact the YouthPRO office by e-mail [info@indianayouthpro.org](mailto:info@indianayouthpro.org).

A few updates on our national partner, the National Afterschool Association - [naaweb.org](http://naaweb.org). NAA recently sent out information on a new member benefit - the Educators Insurance Program which provides access to health insurance, life insurance, professional liability and other forms of insurance. For those of you who did not receive the information directly from NAA, we have posted a PDF of the brochure on the membership page the [YouthPRO](#). You can also visit [www.ftj.com/TIE](http://www.ftj.com/TIE) for more information from Forrest T. Jones & Company.

The board is always open to your input, suggestions and ideas. If you would like to volunteer for a committee or have information you would like to include in future newsletters, please send an e-mail to [Info@indianayouthpro.org](mailto:Info@indianayouthpro.org).

We hope that you have a great summer and please feel free to share this newsletter with others by forwarding it out or by referring people to our website [www.indianayouthpro.org](http://www.indianayouthpro.org).



**YouthPRO Member Highlight:** Each newsletter will contain a brief highlight of a YouthPRO member agency or individual. If you have a new program, initiative, or staff that you would like to highlight or if you would like to see an overview of your agency, please contact us at [Info@indianayouthpro.org](mailto:Info@indianayouthpro.org) subject line "Member Highlight Article".

# *YouthPRO Member Highlight:* Youth First, Inc. Evansville, Indiana

## **School Social Workers Achieve Lasting Results!**

School-based social workers are among the many professionals helping Evansville area youth and their families succeed. Youth First, Inc. employs 31 specially trained social workers in partnership with 52 public, parochial, and private schools in Vanderburgh, Posey, and Warrick Counties. These federally and privately funded positions are achieving some great results.

Here's a look at a typical day for some of these Indiana YouthPROs:

The day begins at 7:00 AM at a local high school. 16-year-old Janie knocks on the Youth First Social Worker's door and needs to talk. Tearfully, she describes the previous evening's events: she has had a "bad fight" with her mother and left her home to avoid a violent altercation. Her mother told her to "get out." Janie spent the night at a friend's house and now thinks she can not go home. She's wondering if there is something she can do. She even wonders if life is worth living. Janie has been drug-free for three months, and the Social Worker wants to support her efforts to quit. Unfortunately, conflict with her mother is a trigger for using again. The Social Worker calls the mother, makes a home visit, and finds a place for the student to stay for the time-being - all within an hour.



The Social Worker then talks to several health classes using the Prevention Education series from Project SUCCESS©, a research proven program. This week she's presenting information about families and substance abuse. After class, some students share about what it's like to live with an alcoholic family member. Since living in a family with substance abuse is a risk factor for becoming chemically dependent, the Social Worker makes a mental note to form a group to strengthen these students' coping skills.

The Youth First Social Worker then checks in on Janie from the morning. She calls the mother just to double check that everything will be okay today. The Social Worker will continue to help Janie and her mother work through their issues, so Janie can stay drug-free, do better in school, graduate, and succeed in life.

Meanwhile, across town at an elementary school, another Youth First Social Worker goes to a 5<sup>th</sup> grade class to lead the WhyTry?© program. Today the students are learning about peer pressure and how to "climb out of the pot" when they are being pulled down. They also talk about friendships and how to choose friends wisely.

After that, the Social Worker talks to a teacher about Johnny who has been getting in fights with other students and refuses to do his work in class. She will observe the class tomorrow and look for ways to help Johnny and his teacher.

These are just a few of the many scenarios that Youth First Social Workers encounter everyday in over 50 schools. Social Workers in elementary and middle schools most often see students because of disruptive or school behavior problems or for basics needs like clothing and food. For high school students, the main reasons for referral to the Social Worker include depression, conflict with their parents, and their own substance use/abuse concerns.

These are all "risk factors" for substance abuse as well as poor achievement in school. The Social Workers at Youth First follow a risk and resiliency model. The goal is to decrease risk factors and increase protective factors that keep kids away from substance abusing lifestyles and help them succeed in school.

In the 2006-07 school year, Youth First's 31 School Social Workers helped more than 8,000 individual students, nearly 2,500 parents or caregivers, and provided over 8,000 faculty/staff consultations.

According to an annual evaluation conducted by Dr. Dan Diehl, Youth First Social Workers are helping students overcome the challenges they face, and the improvements they make continue to be sustained up to five months later.

Youth First's efforts support students like Janie and Johnny who need to build coping skills and abilities to manage stress in effective, healthy ways. Research also shows that resiliency is built when there is even one connection with a caring adult. The Youth First Social Workers fill that role with students, too.

These are just some of the many talented, hard-working professionals making life better for youth and their families in Indiana.

*Youth First's mission is to reduce substance abuse by providing research proven prevention and early intervention programs for youth and their families. More information can be found online at [www.youthfirstinc.org](http://www.youthfirstinc.org)*

# Indiana Youth Development Credential (IYD)

## The Renewal Process



Individuals who earn an IYD have to renew the credential three (3) years after it is first awarded. The renewal process is relatively simple and requires the IYD holder to complete the following steps:

1. Complete and submit the IYD Renewal Application with a \$50 renewal fee.
2. Provide information on coursework and/or training that has been completed since initially earning the IYD. Renewal Candidates must have completed at least:
  - One (1) 3 Credit Class (or a total of 3 credit hours of coursework);**OR**
  - 4.5 CEU hours (or the equivalent of 45 hours of training in the youth development field)
3. A brief 5 year professional plan.

If you currently hold an IYD credential and need additional information on renewal process or have any questions please contact the YouthPRO office at [info@indianayouthpro.org](mailto:info@indianayouthpro.org)

## Update—National AfterSchool Association



Currently NAA is working on updating the Code of Ethics for professionals working in the afterschool field. A copy of the draft can be reviewed via the NAA website. NAA is also collecting feedback on the draft Code of Ethics via a web survey. Links to the Code of Ethics and survey can be found online at [www.naaweb.org](http://www.naaweb.org) under the Latest News heading.

In March 2008, NAA President Judy Nee announced changes in NAA's role in program accreditation. Following discussions with members and others in the community and reviewing the new Strategic Plan, NAA has decided to transfer the process for accreditation of afterschool programs to the Council on Accreditation (COA). Since COA currently completes accreditation for a variety of organizations that serve children, youth and families, it was decided that adding in accreditation of afterschool programs was a good fit. NAA will continue to serve as an advisor in the accreditation process and will also continue to be a leading voice of the afterschool professional community.

The memo also outlines specific changes including the following:

1. NAA will transfer the accreditation to COA effective September 1, 2008
2. Afterschool programs that submit a Letter of Intent prior to September 1, 2008 will continue the current NAA accreditation process at the current NAA standard rate. Letters must be submitted by August 31, 2008.
3. Programs that are accredited by NAA will remain NAA accredited for the term of the accreditation and will submit annual Interim reports, Statement of Continual Compliance, and yearly fees to NAA until the accreditation expires.

Questions and requests for more information should be forwarded to Stephanie Brumbleoe at [sbrumbleoe@naaweb.org](mailto:sbrumbleoe@naaweb.org), or you can visit the NAA website for updates.

As noted on the front page, NAA also sent out information on a new member benefit - the Educators Insurance Program which provides access to health insurance, life insurance, professional liability and other forms of insurance. For those of you who did not receive the information directly from NAA, a PDF of the brochure is posted on the membership page of the [YouthPRO](http://YouthPRO) website. You can also visit [www.ftj.com/TIE](http://www.ftj.com/TIE) for more information from Forrest T. Jones & Company.

## Indiana YouthPRO Association

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**Mission:** *To advance the professional practice of youth development.*

**Values:**

- Our profession of caring for and developing young people is essential to the growth and development of healthy communities throughout the state of Indiana.
- Highly trained, well-skilled and caring youth workers lead to excellent programs and services for Indiana's youth.
- High retention of qualified youth workers will occur as a result of universally recognized career paths with continual opportunity for advancement; and pay and benefits commensurate with experience and education.
- Youth workers are able to be more successful when they collaborate, cooperate, and support one another rather than work in isolation.
- A positive community of peers is foundational to attracting, retaining and sustaining quality youth workers.
- Partnerships with youth development organizations to advance the welfare of youth is essential to positive youth work.

**Membership Information:** Indiana YouthPRO is an affiliate of the National Afterschool Association (NAA), membership in YouthPRO includes membership in NAA.

Membership benefits include:

- Bi-monthly newsletter from NAA and Quarterly newsletter from YouthPRO
- Public Policy Representation in Washington, DC
- Discounted registration at the NAA national conference

Membership forms and additional information is available online at [www.indianayouthpro.org](http://www.indianayouthpro.org)

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