



YES NEWS

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ALL ABOUT GRATITUDE!

In this special issue, we wanted to express our gratitude for our community members and share about the gratitude that comes from our youth here at the YES Home.

A Special Letter From Amy Phillips

“Gratitude. The quality of being thankful, readiness to show appreciation for and to return kindness. Thanksgiving. The expression of gratitude. How do I convey in mere words the gratitude I have in my heart towards our community, the staff, the board, and the youth and families with whom we work as we head into this season of Thanksgiving?

We have endured one of the hardest years we have experienced with the pandemic, quarantine and lock down, no visitors, no fundraiser, etc. Translate that to our youth and their families only having contact by phone or computer for almost 5 months, and it has been tough.

We are blessed with a Board of Directors who care about not just the mission of the YES Home, but for the staff and youth as well. From dropping off cookies, to paying for family dinners, to making sure our youth had an amazing prom, our Board is involved and determined to keep our spirits up and help us move forward.



The YES Home does not close. Our youth need us to show up—even when many people were given the option to work at home or be laid off. Our staff not only showed up, but they came up with creative ways to keep our youth entertained, engaged and growing. This staff team shows up each and every day because they love these kids. In good times and bad, our staff show that love is unconditional and that showing up matters.

Our community continues to support us and love us in more ways than we can count. From pizza night to tie dye and bracelet making materials, from mailing us coloring books and art supplies to dropping off meals or gift cards. From ALL of our golf outing sponsors donating their dollars without a golf outing to attend to United Way supporting us with several grants to help us as we entered the virtual world for our youth to remain in contact with their families, therapists and schooling. We have also been blessed with an amazing partnership with the Making Healthy Choices program. The youth learned to grow and cook with what they grew in the garden, participated in arts and crafts, and became quite skilled at yoga. We would like to thank the Dearborn Community Foundation again for our beautiful McLaughlin Activity Center, which became a refuge and bright spot to get out of the YES Home building and have activities to do onsite.

Our youth. There are days they are challenging and I wonder who in the world chooses this kind of work—trust me when I say they are not always grateful when they

are at the YES Home. With that being said, wow. The youth in our care continue to show their resilience and determination in a world that appears to have gone crazy. Imagine not being able to see your family and friends at all. Our youth do not have cell phones so while many youth were at least texting and face-timing friends, our youth had to make do with each other and the staff. The only time they saw anyone else from March to the end of June was on the computer with their families. Can you imagine hugging a computer? Exactly. That is how our youth with families felt—and those without families were even more isolated. Our youth continued to thrive and work their programs even in the midst of all these challenges. Families were supportive at a time they had every reason to be angry and frustrated. Can you imagine not being allowed to see your child except through a computer screen? Even though we are not quite back to normal, our youth and their families are trusting us to walk with them through this next phase of their journey.

As we head into the holiday season, I hope we all do so not with racing to the end of the year so that 2020 will finally be over, but with a heart of thanksgiving for all that we have been given and the opportunities to grow. We have remained healthy. We have formed new partnerships and collaborations as we wrap up this year. We know that our youth are making strides in their treatment and in their relationships. We thank each of you who reads this for your part in supporting the YES Home through your donations, thoughts and prayers. We remain



grateful and ever thankful for all that you do which allows us to do what we do. Happy Thanksgiving!”

With Gratitude,

Amy Phillips, *Executive Director*

Former Residents Expressing Gratitude

“I’m thankful because the YES Home did a lot to help me and took care of my needs and helped me do what I needed. Appreciate what they did for me.” -Glen (former resident)

“I’m thankful for the YES Home because you guys showed me the right path. You showed me how it feels to be cared about. Before the YES Home, I was a trouble kid - always angry and didn’t care about anything but myself. You guys pulled me out of that state of mind and helped me mentally. I think about all of you every day, I even drive by the YES Home a lot when I’m upset just to be reminded that people care about me. Thank you so much for showing me what being loved feels like. I appreciate all of you more than you’ll ever know.” -Breanna (former resident)

“I am thankful for the YES Home because they helped me grow. They taught me to always tell the truth and be honest with others and myself. I learned to be respectful not only towards myself but to others. I learned how to be part of a team as well as a leader. I will always be thankful for the YES Home as they helped me become the person I am today.” -Angela (former resident)

Current Residents Expressing Gratitude

“I’m thankful for my bed at YES; it is so comfortable!”

“I’m thankful for the YES Home and how they never give up on me.”

“I’m thankful for YES being so caring and there for me through hard times and for not giving up on me. I am also thankful for Amy giving me a second chance at coming to YES.”

“I’m thankful for the YES Home giving me a second chance at a more positive life.”

“I’m thankful for the staff helping me learn how to function properly in a family and for helping me regulate my negative emotions.”

“I’m thankful for YES helping me learn and recognize which negative behaviors I need to change.”

“I’m thankful for the YES Home staff and support through hard times.”

STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Our staff spotlight this issue is all about our Operations Manager, Natalie Workman!



Natalie first came to do an interview for a college course in 2012 and was hired shortly after as a part time resident technician. She was (and still is) very much a free spirit, with her long skirts and



long hair. Natalie brought a sense of calm and flexibility to the team, and has always been willing to fill in when and where needed. In 2017, she became the Operations Manager and has done an amazing job of filling that role. This role includes many organizational tasks including, maintenance, paying bills, and staff scheduling. Amongst her many skills, Natalie is gifted in her cooking abilities. Three years ago when we started our annual Thanksgiving dinner, Natalie became our caterer extraordinaire, preparing the entire meal for over 80 people. She has been a lifesaver and a huge support as we transitioned to a new director and as she transitioned to a new position. Thank you, Natalie, for your hard work and wonderful contribution to this team and the YES Home as a whole!

CONTACT US

Youth Encouragement Services (YES Home)

11636 County Farm Rd.

Aurora, IN 47001

Tel: 812-926-0110

Fax: 812-926-3550

[Email](#) | [Website](#)



YES HOME FUN FACTS

Did you know that...

- ★ The YES Home provided 4,543 days of care for youth in our facility. This is a 9% increase since 2018.
- ★ The YES Home has a percentage of 100% in regards to youth having an input on treatment plans and independent living plans.
- ★ Our youth give feedback on menu ideas and help prepare meals.
- ★ We have a resident satisfaction of over 90%.

