

# YES HOME UPDATE

## Did you know:

- The YES Home started accepting youth in November 1981.
- Our doors have remained open even through a renovation and move to the second floor in 2000.

## Bittersweet Holidays

Holidays are amazing and heartbreaking at the YES Home. We are incredibly grateful for the way our community surrounds and blesses our youth during the holiday season. That said, it is hard for our youth to not be with their families. Our youth were completely overwhelmed by the love and kindness they experienced from strangers who dropped off meals, gift cards, groceries, snacks and gifts. Thank you hardly conveys our appreciation but THANK YOU!

### From the Director:.

Another Thanksgiving and Christmas season is behind us. Each year I wonder is this the year that we will be forgotten. We know so many people and businesses have struggled to find their footing this past year, and yet once again, our community showed up for our youth. We won a suite to a Bengals game and were given an evening of ice skating in Lawrenceburg. Our youth were excited to see the new Spiderman movie but anxious about what Christmas would bring. Half of our youth did not get to go home for the holidays. We celebrated Christmas with Friends at the Dearborn Adult Center and then wrapped up the day at Coney Island's Christmas Lights. In the midst of the activities and gifts, our youth still had to work their treatment program, some having to process why their parents didn't call or show up, some who knew ahead of time that parents were incarcerated and couldn't call or show up and some just stressed about how visits with family would go. Yes we had some challenging behaviors to deal with, but we also saw kids shed tears over the generosity of community members they have never met. Gratitude and hope. That is what we experienced this holiday season and for that, we are blessed.

*From a current resident...  
I'm so grateful for you guys. I know I may not show it, but I have felt more loved here than at home. I'm grateful for my treatment team, my grades, my room and for the community that blessed me dearly.*



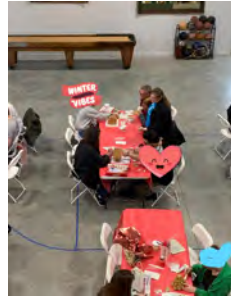
The "Suite" Life....Bengals Game 2021

Thank you MVK for choosing us!

Most Valuable Kids (MVK) chose the youth from the YES Home as the recipients of the donated Bengals Suite on Sunday December 5th. MVK loves rewarding kids who have been working hard to overcome the obstacles in their way.

Comments from the youth about the experience: "This is the second best day of my life!" "My face may not show it, but on the inside I'm saying yippee!" "I may not ever be rich, but today I am!"

# HAPPY HOLIDAYS at the YES Home



## Traditions...

Last year many events were canceled due to Covid-19, our family events included. We were so excited to bring back our Family Thanksgiving Dinner and even started a new tradition--decorating gingerbread houses and Christmas cookies. We want our families to know we are blessed to have their youth with us and we don't want them to miss out making family holiday memories!



Our dear friends at Harley of Cochran Aurora made sure all of our youth received Christmas shoes--yes, the ones they wished for and didn't expect to get. One boy told me that the Christmas shoes were expensive and he didn't expect or even want to ask for anything else.

We had a great time when a group of middle school students from East Central came to do a community service project at the YES Home! Over 120 hours worth of clean up work done in 3 hours! We are so thankful for this group of young people who worked so hard for us!



Thank you to the City of Lawrenceburg, Mayor Mollaun and DeeDee Abbott for giving our youth an evening of ice skating. The City and Mayor also allowed our youth to choose a restaurant of their choice each week in December--Grand Buffet, Acapulcos, Penn Station, D&G Catering for our Christmas Dinner and Strong's Pizza! Our youth were excited to try new foods or to order their favorites! Thank you for feeding us well!

There are so many friends to thank for making our holidays amazing. One wish we had was for our youth to be able to go shopping and pick out their own clothes. Many of our youth come from residential facilities and just wear what is given to them. Thank you to Civista and Tom Tepe for giving our youth the shopping trip of a lifetime! One of our youth said it was the best day of his life! We can't even begin to list all the individuals, businesses, agencies, and churches who made sure our youth had a fantastic Christmas. Thank you for the gift cards, the food, the gifts and the monetary donations. We couldn't do it without you!