

The Real MCCOY



Winter 2014

Volume 3, Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bears may hibernate during the cold and dreary days of winter, but MCCOY's staff, board of directors, and our many community partners have been hard at work in the first few months of 2015. In this newsletter, you get the chance to catch up with what we have been doing as we serve the community as resource, advocate, capacity builder, and neutral convener.

You will learn about the work that you and our other faithful supporters are making possible: building a community where every child and young person has available to them all the supports they need to grow up into positive, productive, and contributing citizens.

Leading coalitions, collaborations, and partnerships is not easy work—maybe that's why so few organizations like MCCOY exist. But it is very important work---because it means our community can find the best ways to serve the most young people in the most efficient and effective way. We are glad you are working with us to help make our community a better place to grow up and grow up well.

Enjoy your reading and tell us how we can do this work better!

John Brandon, President, MCCOY, Inc.



John films a PSA for MCCOY's Youth Activity Directory App along with co-star Tamika Catchings from the Indiana Fever.

YOUTH ADVOCACY

On January 6th the 119th session of the Indiana General Assembly began. Once again MCCOY is following many of the bills which will impact the lives of young people. A recent bill which gained attention was SB500 Education Deregulation. The bill would remove accountability requirements and provisions related to student safety and bullying. MCCOY, along with other groups worked to include amendments that would protect these conditions.

Other bills MCCOY is tracking:

- SB443 Education Matters which reforms school discipline. It has moved out of the Senate and into the House;
- HB1304 Criminal Law Issues which brings reforms to juvenile justice;
- HB1269 Mental Health Matters which creates statewide a mental health first aid training program; and
- SB485 which creates a pilot program for psychiatric crisis intervention.

The state of these bills is constantly changing. If you want to follow these bills and monitor their progress as they move through the General Assembly go to <http://mccoyouth.org/Advocacy/advocacy.html>.

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT TEAM

This past December MCCOY's Youth Empowerment Team (YET) held its 4th annual youth summit, #We'reJustSayin. The event was a success, bringing together youth from across central Indiana to discuss the topics of teen suicide, depression, community violence, and school discipline. After We'reJustSayin the teens had the opportunity to come to an advocacy training and put what they'd learned into practice.

At the most recent YET meeting, Dawn Finbloom, a representative of the Indiana Youth Services Association (IYSA), spoke to members about the Lifeline Law. The YET members created a public service announcement promoting the Lifeline Law and are working with Senator Jim Merritt and the IYSA's Make Good Decisions campaign to inform Indy's youth about this law.



YET members facilitate discussions about school discipline, youth safety, and mental health at the 2014 #We'reJustSayin youth summit.

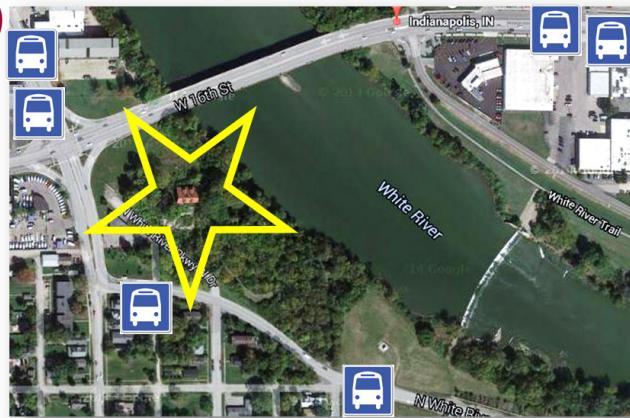


A summary of the event can be found at: <http://mccoyouth.org/Advocacy/were-justsayin.html>.

Early Intervention & Prevention

FAMILY ACCESS NETWORK (FAN)

FAN is a collaborative services center working to deliver convenient access to a wide variety of family-focused resources in Indianapolis. Inspired by the innovative field of social purpose real estate, FAN's co-located services will redefine how Indianapolis uses space to improve people's lives. FAN's vision is to see all children in Indianapolis (Marion County) safe and free from abuse or neglect and their caregivers empowered by resources necessary to provide a safe, healthy and nurturing environment for children. FAN is partnering with Marian Development Group to build the Family Access Network Near West Scholar Campus on 16th Street and White River Parkway.



FAN will be located on the Scholar House Campus on the Near West side of Indianapolis. FAN will be open to the public. FAN will have an open, inviting environment, excellent customer service, a short and easy introduction process, guided exit and follow-up, and partner organizations that work together.

2015 FAN work includes:

- Making FAN a reality through the partnership with Marian Development Group
- Working in partnership with FAN partners to further develop the theory of change, collective impact and programmatic elements
- Engaging more Near West residents in the FAN planning process
- Recruiting Near West Neighborhood Engagement Action Team members to serve as resources for families and to connect them to the care pathway
- Preparing to raise \$4.1 million through a capital campaign

Follow updates and learn more about FAN through our new website: www.FANIndy.org.

OUR KID, OUR FAMILIES, OUR COMMUNITIES

The year has just begun, yet the Our Kid, Our Families, Our Communities show has covered a diverse array of topics with many more to come. The January show tackled the topic of Healthy Choices and welcomed guests from the Nurse-Family Partnership program. In preparation for Spring Break, the March episode focused on Binge Drinking and Indiana's Lifeline Law. The April show focused on Positive Discipline Strategies to give parents tips on ways to more effectively "teach" children to make good choices, as opposed to just punishing them for making poor choices. We hope you'll tune into the May show to learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and how exposure to abuse or neglect, domestic violence, lack of support at home, parental divorce, parental incarceration or living with a caregiver who has mental health or substance abuse issues can lead to an increase in disease and health related challenges, social problems and decreased life expectancy. It's important information that we all need to know." Episodes of Our Kids, Our Families, Our Communities are available on DVD.



The February episode of "Our Kids, Our Families, Our Communities" focused on Love, particularly parental love. Guests included Felicia Williams from the Marion County Health Department and Mara Weiss from Reach for Youth, Inc.

If you'd like a copy to share as a resource for the families that you work with or if you're interested in being a guest on an upcoming show please contact ashley.shufflebarger@mccoyouth.org.

**View all of the Our Kids, Our Families, Our Communities segments, as well as other MCCOY promotional videos on our You Tube site at:
[https://www.youtube.com/user/MCCOYOUTH.](https://www.youtube.com/user/MCCOYOUTH)**

LEARNING NETWORK

Learning Network is off to a great start this year! We recently held a Stewards of Children training. Stewards of Children is a sexual abuse prevention training program that teaches adults how to prevent, recognize, react responsibly and take courageous action against child sexual abuse. MCCOY continues to offer FREE Stewards of Children trainings through our Learning Network, open to everyone in the community. Just 2 hours of your time will better protect up to 10 children from being sexually abused. Contact shanna.martin@mccoyouth.org today or visit MCCOY's Learning Network page to attend a training. The Learning Network has also recently begun to provide webinars. The latest webinar was a cultural competency training

about the topic of working with LGBTQ youth. Over the next few months other various webinar and in person trainings will be available.

This month, trainings focused on topics relevant to summer programs will begin. These trainings will provide opportunities for summer programs to receive information about topics such as how to hire staff or staffing retention for current staff. There will also be information about how to develop summer staff. Other trainings will examine the best ways to interact with adult and youth staff.

Spring will be an exciting time for the Learning Network. In April there are tentative plans to hold a screening about a critical topic being discussed in a current training. In May, 21st Century trainings will be available via webinar.

To keep up with these trainings, events and others to come, continue checking the Learning Network webpage at <http://mccoyouth.org/learning-network-workshops.html>

4th Annual Swing Fore! Youth Golf Outing benefiting MCCOY

Thursday, June 4, 2015
8:30 a.m. shotgun start
Coffin Golf Club

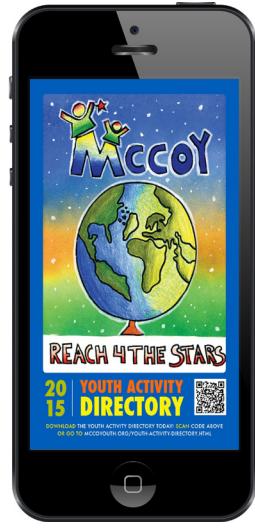
Enter a team, play as an individual or become a sponsor!

Learn more at: www.mccoyouth.org/support/mccoygolfouting.



YOUTH ACTIVITY DIRECTORY

This year holds even more opportunities to create exciting connections with our partners. This spring MCCOY launched a mobile app version of its Youth Activity Directory (YAD). The hard copy of the YAD contains a wealth of information about activities provided by our partners. Now this information will be available at the touch of a button to anyone owning a smartphone. It's the perfect tool for kids and parents who are searching for after school and summertime activities. In addition, users will be able to receive alerts about youth themed events occurring in their area. Follow MCCOY on Twitter @MCCOYOUTH and keep an eye out for more information.



To download the free YAD app, visit: <http://mccoyouth.org/youth-activity-directory.html>.

View MCCOY's YAD promotional videos featuring Tamika Catchings, Councilor Pfeisterer, Councilor Adams, and members of the Youth Empowerment Team on MCCOY's You Tube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MCCOYOUTH>.

A limited number of printed copies are available to those who request them. Contact juli.vanwyk@mccoyouth.org to reserve your copies.

Walking for Dreams

Join MCCOY's team on Sunday, May 17 at 2 p.m. for this 5k family and pet walk. The walk takes place on the beautiful downtown canal, beginning at Buggs Temple.

The event is a fundraiser for MCCOY and all funds will be used to champion the positive development of youth.

To register or donate, visit: www.walkingfordreams.org then select "Join A Team" and choose MCCOY.

PARTNER RECOGNITION

This past December MCCOY took time to celebrate our community partners at the annual Recognition Reception. This year's reception, entitled "Holiday Honors" was a breakfast buffet as opposed to an evening event as in years past. It was a great celebration that gave us the opportunity to pay tribute to various individuals and organizations which have helped MCCOY flourish over the course of the past year. Awards were given to the following partners:

- *Evan Thomas* – Board Member
- *Taiwonda Johnson* – Guest Relations
- *WFYI* – Media Partner
- *Jeff Catlett* – Family Access Network
- *Nick Hess* – "Our Kids, Our Families, Our Communities"
- *Children's Bureau, Inc.* –

- Stewards of Children
- *Saint Florian Center, Summer Youth Program Fund Professional Learning Community, Trinity House Academy – Learning Network*
 - *The Honorable Greg Porter, IN House of Representatives - Advocacy*



Diane Pfeiffer accepts MCCOY's award on behalf of the Summer Youth Program Fund Professional Learning Community.

Board of Directors

Officers:

Cindy Muse - Chair
Melissa Gardner - Vice Chair
Liz Belcher - Treasurer
Olivia Parker - Secretary, student

At-Large Members:

Dr. A.J. Allen, PhD
Stephanie Cripe
Kelly Doria
Chris Engel
Jeff Georgeson
Kevin Hampton
Cheri Harris
Quinton Holland
Eric Kilbride
Mariana Lagunas, student
Ivy McConnell
Steve Rake
Mike Simmons
Olivia Spahn
George Taylor
Evan Thomas
James Todd
Michelle Travis



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