

Network Luncheon Features Programs of Youth in Need



Julia Farrell discusses her role in initiating the participation of her employer, UMB Bank, in the National Safe Place Program.

In a demonstration of the power of collaboration, a group of panelists, led by Jim Braun, President of Youth In Need, discussed the needs of youth in our community at the March Network Luncheon. Jim reviewed areas of concern highlighted by recent Kids Count data: infants with low birth weight, infant mortality, and children facing economic decline. Youth In Need addresses these problems with programs that include residential homes, homeless outreach, counseling and support groups, teen parent programs and more. Bruce Sowatsky, Community & Children's Resource Board, discussed the role of a funder and the progress that has been made in the county. Programs for pregnant teens in area school districts benefit directly from assistance provided by YIN, as explained by Kathy Ransom, a parent educator from Francis Howell School District. Julia Farrell talked about her role in involving her employer as a Safe Place site. Together these panelists demonstrated ways we can all be involved in protecting and helping the youth in our community.



Panelists from left to right: Julia Farrell, Customer Service Manager, UMB Bank, Kathy Ransom, Parent Educator, Francis Howell School District, and Bruce Sowatsky, Executive Director, CCRB



Youth In Need Celebrates National Safe Place Week at St. Charles Shelter

In 2006, Youth in Need became a regional partner of the National Safe Place Program. Safe Place is a national crisis prevention program for children and teens. When young people need help, they can go to one of the 240 participating local businesses designated as Safe Place sites. The location acts as a safe haven until Youth in Need can be contacted, and a case worker can assess the situation and offer assistance. Education and community outreach is also an important component of the program. There are free presentations for adults and young people about Safe Place and how it can help in an unsafe situation. Contact Youth In Need for more information at 636.946.5600.



From left to right: Mayor Patti York, Jim Braun, YIN, Doug Finklang, Store Manager of QuikTrip - a Safe Place site, and Bruce Sowatsky, CCRB.



Jim Braun presents National Safe Place award to Jayna Cardetti, Safe Place Coordinator at Youth In Need.

"Believing in the power of potential, Youth In Need's mission is to provide nurturing environments and educational opportunities so children, youth and families will find safety and hope, achieve their goals and build a positive future."

**Youth In Need 24 Hour Help Line:
636.946.3771**



Jim Braun unveils one of the winning entries of the Safe Place poster contest for eastern Missouri students. The winning high school poster was designed by Orchard Farm High School senior Kiarra Smith.

