Youth In Need Mourns the Loss of Two Friends

Youth In Need recently lost two members of its family: Longtime staff member Dana Noonan and Board Member John Mahon. Both made powerful impacts in their work, and both will be truly missed at Youth In Need.

Dana Noonan worked as the Area Manager for the Troy Head Start program, empowering children and families to grow and succeed. Co-workers describe her as an advocate and friend.

"It was so abundantly evident that there was no one, I mean no one, more passionate about and dedicated to the Youth In Need and Head Start mission," said Daryl Rothman, Vice President of the St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery County Head Start programs. "And she fought in so many ways. She fought for the program, she fought for her beliefs, and she fought for her very life these last three and a half years. Her staff, the other day, showed me a picture and commentary from her teachers, when she was 4-years-old. It was an adorable picture, and of course, her teachers loved her, and at the end they added, 'Thank you for sharing her with us.' I think that is a sentiment we agree with—being grateful that Dana was shared in our life for a while. We are all the better for it."

John Mahon was a Youth In Need Board Member since 2005, where he undoubtedly championed for the children, teens and families Youth In Need serves.

"Professionally, John was the senior human resource executive for HOK. But he was so much more than that," said Eliot Asyre, Vice President at ACS Human Capital Management and Youth In Need Board Member. "First, he was the kind of man who lit up a room with his smile, his enthusiasm, his laughter. He always made you feel as though the conversation you were having at that moment was the most important thing he could be doing. His caring for his colleagues and his staff was genuine. And his dedication to his family was complete and his joy. He was simply one of the good guys, taken too soon but always to be remembered."

"Our organization has lost two individuals who will be lovingly remembered for their dynamic personalities and commitment to Youth In Need and its mission: John Mahon as a caring and generous Board member, and Dana Noonan as a devoted Head Start educator and supervisor," said Jim Braun, Youth In Need’s President and CEO. "The deaths of John and Dana leave us very personal and committed to Youth In Need and its mission," said Daryl Rothman, Vice President of the St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery County Head Start programs. "And she fought in so many ways. She fought for the program, she fought for her beliefs, and she fought for her very life these last three and a half years. Her staff, the other day, showed me a picture and commentary from her teachers, when she was 4-years-old. It was an adorable picture, and of course, her teachers loved her, and at the end they added, 'Thank you for sharing her with us.' I think that is a sentiment we agree with—being grateful that Dana was shared in our life for a while. We are all the better for it."

John Mahon

Youth In Need Gives Thanks at Annual Donor and Volunteer Recognition Reception

Youth In Need celebrated its stellar donors and volunteers at its annual Thanks for Giving recognition reception on Nov. 19 at the Scheidegger Family Youth In Need Center.

2008 Volunteer Service Awards Honorees
- Laurie Schoenecker, Distinguished Individual Volunteer Service Award
- Justin Rockwell, Shawn Leach Memorial Head Start & Early Head Start Youth Participation Award
- Helen O’Connor, Frank & Charline Martinez Head Start & Early Head Start Volunteer Service Award
- Donald Burgess, Lawrence & Theo Boschet Distinguished Long-Term Volunteer Service Award
- Kiarra Smith, James L. Newman Youth Participation Award
- Target, Distinguished Group Volunteer Service Award

2008 Spirit of Philanthropy Awards Honorees
- State Farm Insurance Charity Scramble, Outstanding Community Partner
- Ameristar Casino Resort Spa, Outstanding Corporation
- Gwen & Steve Mizzell, Outstanding Individual Partner

James A. Braun Champion of Children Award
- Bruce Sadowski, Honoree

Youth In Need Clients Face Obstacles, Find Hope

Youth In Need’s clients face obstacles many people can’t begin to imagine. But while they navigate their life’s challenges, they often find hope and a resolve to overcome the toughest of obstacles.

- Keeshah is a 17-year-old and a high school dropout. She’s homeless because her parents kicked her out of the house after she got into a physical fight with a relative. Her parents refuse to help Keeshah with education or healthcare costs. Keeshah takes medicine for her depression, but her prescription is low. She worries because she knows she has trouble without her medication. Keeshah would like to go back to school, but doesn’t know how she can afford it without help from her family.

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- The City of St. Louis has required the Sari family to move because of the lead in their home. The family is originally from Bosnia, speaks very little English and has no other family in the area. The family has no alternative housing options and worries that moving will keep their son away from his Head Start program.

- Jill lives in a rural community with her husband and five children. Several months ago, Jill discovered that her 5-year-old son was sexually abused by people he knew, and as a result, contracted a sexually transmitted disease. He is displaying some challenging behaviors at home and at school. Jill has enrolled her son in counseling but has to drive a long distance to access those services. Gas prices and the condition of Jill’s car makes transportation challenging.

As you plan your end-of-year giving to your favorite charity, remember that Youth In Need’s children and families are among those who need you most. Your generous gift has the power to help them find hope during challenging times.
A Message from the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

As we near the end of 2008, I find myself reflecting on the past year at Youth In Need. The community support we have received during this year of economic challenges reflects our donors’ confidence in Youth In Need’s ability to manage our resources responsibly.

We work hard to stretch dollars to achieve our mission, and with the continued generosity of our donors and donors, I’m confident that Youth In Need will continue to help more than 10,000 children and families each year.

During the challenging days ahead and throughout 2009, the needs in the community will continue to increase. Your financial support is key to helping us provide the most vital care to kids like Jason and Kyle, and Meagan and her daughter, Lexie.

Kyle, who is challenged with developmental delays, is excited and full of hope as he learns his ABCs in our Head Start classroom while his single mom starts her first job. Meagan gets strength and hope to be a great mom to her baby, Lexie, at her weekly parenting classes and counseling from staff and teachers she trusts.

With your help, Youth In Need will continue to help children, youth and families facing huge obstacles. Whether you donated or volunteered in the past, or you are new to our Youth In Need family, your gift that gives hope makes that difference. Now more than ever, we need your help. A gift of any size brings children and families closer to achieving their potential and reaching a brighter tomorrow.

I’m asking for your support during a time when you must be more careful than ever with your charitable giving, and I’m especially pleased that Youth In Need can offer donors Missouri tax credits. Anyone who pays taxes in Missouri qualifies for tax credits, and the after-tax cost to donors electing to utilize tax credits can be less than ten cents on the dollar.

I urge you to consult with your tax advisor to determine how you can maximize your financial gift. To discuss a giving idea call me at 636-757-9306, or Marisa Pulizzi, Vice President of Development, at 636-757-9348.

Thank you for your generous support, and best wishes from me and everyone at Youth In Need for a blessed Holiday and a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Jim Braun
President & CEO

Youth In Need announces Honorees for 2009 Celebration of Youth Gala and Auction

Youth In Need announces Gwen and Paul Middeke as the 2009 Celebration of Youth Honorees for their years of excellent service to Youth In Need.

Paul Middeke has served on Youth In Need’s Board of Directors for more than 30 years. He was recruited to the board as a young accountant to assist with finances at the new shelter for homeless children and teens in St. Charles. Thanks to his support and expertise, Youth In Need has maintained an exemplary financial record for nearly 35 years.

A St. Charles native, Paul graduated from Truman State University with a bachelor’s degree in accounting. He began his career at Ernst & Young LLP, and after 27 years there, he became the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at DMCAC Marketing Corporation, a former client. After his wife of 28 years passed away, Paul retired to stay home with his children. He returned to the workforce a year later as Vice President of Finance for The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) and Interim President for the Lutheran High School Association of St. Louis. Finally, Paul served as President of the Worker Benefits Plan of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. In addition, Paul serves as chairman of the Finance and Investment Committee of the Board of Directors for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs, Missouri Society of CPAs and Financial Executives International.

Gwen is an Executive Benefits Consultant with The Todd Organization. A magna cum laude graduate of St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis., she received a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and a Bachelor of Music in Voice. Gwen also received a Master of Business Administration from Washington University in 1986. She joined The Todd Organization in St. Louis as Director of Plan Design in 1986 and became a partner in 1991. She currently serves on the non-qualified plans committee of the Association of Advanced Life Underwriting. Gwen has a passion for the arts, and has served on the board of the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis.

“...I strongly believe that I have been blessed with many God-given talents,” Paul said. “I have tried to use those talents to the best of my ability in serving my community…. it is with this same attitude that I have been fortunate to be associated to Youth In Need for more than 30 years.”

We thank you for your generous support, and best wishes from me and everyone at Youth In Need for a blessed Holiday and a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Jim Braun
President & CEO

Take Advantage of Tax Credits with Your End-of-Year Gift

Often, year-end is a time when businesses and individuals make donations to their favorite charities. This time of year is no different at Youth In Need. In addition to the standard tax benefits of charitable giving, Youth In Need also offers its donors an extra incentive to give generously.

When a business or individual makes an end-of-year donation to Youth In Need, they, of course, receive the tax benefits of standard federal and state deductions. However, when donors purchase Missouri State Tax Credits from Youth In Need, not only do they receive the standard state and federal deductions, but they also reap the benefits of an additional 50 percent tax credit.

Using tax credits is easy! Youth In Need will reserve the specified amount of tax credits in the donor’s name and send the donor an instruction letter and tax credit form to complete. Donors return the tax credit form to Youth In Need and Youth In Need will submit the form to state officials. Within four to six weeks, donors will receive their official tax credit letter to include with their tax returns.

Time is running out. Don’t delay! To make an end-of-year gift that will provide tax credits for Youth In Need for the 2008 tax year, contributions must be postmarked by December 31, 2008.

To make a gift over the phone, call Marissa Pulizzi in Development at 636-757-9348. Donors also may make a gift online at www.youthinneed.org.

*The above is not intended as tax advice. Benefits will vary depending on the donor’s tax status. Consult your tax advisor to learn how tax credits will benefit you specifically.

Staff Receives Lights On Afterschool Award

Patricia Hunter, Senior Director of Out-of-School Time Programs, was a co-recipient of a 2008 Lights On Afterschool award at a special luncheon honoring exemplary individuals and organizations in the field of youth work on October 23.

More than 7,500 communities celebrated Lights On Afterschool in October. The National Afterschool Association organizes the nationwide Lights On Afterschool event to rally support for after-school programs and call attention to the importance of after-school programs and the resources required to keep the lights on and the doors open.

Youth In Need announces Honorees for 2009 Celebration of Youth Gala and Auction
Youth In Need Celebrates a Successful Capital Campaign

Youth In Need proudly celebrates the successful completion of its So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign. Youth In Need has raised $2.6 million in gifts and pledges in support of the agency’s first-ever capital campaign. Because countless donors made a generous commitment to children and families, Youth In Need is able to celebrate the success of this campaign and the lasting benefits it brings to our community!

In 2005, Youth In Need launched its So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign. The campaign set out to achieve three important goals: to better serve at-risk children through the purchase of the Scheidegger Family Youth In Need Center; to allot more funds to serve the community’s most vulnerable children, teens and families; and to build an endowment fund to sustain Youth In Need long into the future.

For most of Youth In Need’s 34-year history, the agency operated in several different service locations, but lacked one single primary location. As the organization grew to employ more than 300 full- and part-time staff, stationed at 25 sites in six Missouri counties, the need for a centrally located “headquarters” became essential for efficiencies in agency administration and service delivery.

In late 2005, Youth In Need consolidated its administrative functions and several programs into one central location, thanks to a generous lead gift from Jerry Scheidegger and his family. The former church property, located at 1815 Boone’s Lick Road in St. Charles, Mo., boasts a multi-use facility of 18,000-square feet and four acres of land for potential future growth.

The new central office allows Youth In Need additional space for educational programs and expanded space for training staff and additional volunteers. In addition to housing all of the agency’s administrative functions, the central office is home to ExCEL, an on-site educational program for children and teens staying in the Emergency Shelter. The location also houses the St. Charles City Head Start and Early Head Start home visitation program.

Another success of the So Every Child Has a Future Capital Campaign is the establishment of several endowment funds. Thanks to a key group of generous supporters, these funds are permanently invested and protected, allowing the interest earned to support the agency’s operations. Using the campaign as a starting point, Youth In Need seeks to continually build the endowment fund with donations of cash gifts or pledges and deferred gifts through life insurance, charitable trusts or other planned giving arrangements. Gifts designated to the endowment fund can be made at any time with the knowledge that the funds will support Youth In Need for all future generations.

On behalf of Youth In Need and the children and families we serve, thank you for helping us reach this tremendous milestone in Youth In Need’s history!

For more information on making an endowment gift, please call Marissa Pulizzi in Youth In Need’s Development Office at 636-757-9348.
Each year, Youth In Need serves more than 10,000 children, teens and families who are facing extraordinary and often, tragic circumstances. Thanks to the participation of many businesses and individuals in the 2008 Corporate Partner Program, Youth In Need was able to raise more than $110,000 to maintain and sustain the quality of the agency's programs and services.

This year, Youth In Need is excited to unveil a new name for its Corporate Partnership Program—Youth In Need's Children's Partnership Program—that better aligns the program with the agency's mission. Along with this new name, Children's Partners will receive some additional benefits for participation. For a complete list of benefits and an online enrollment form, visit Youth In Need's Web site at www.youthinneed.org. Click on Giving & Volunteering and then Children's Partnership Program.

This program is vital to Youth In Need, and as such, the agency's hopes for continued success and growth. Any individual or business is welcome to join this elite roster of Youth In Need supporters. Your leadership and commitment to the community's most vulnerable children and families is needed now, more than ever. As a special incentive, if you enroll as a Children's Partner before January 15, 2009, Youth In Need will extend a 10 percent discount off the regular Children's Partner rates.

For more information about this exciting program, please call Alicia Rosier in the Development Office at 636-757-9346.
Memorials, Tributes and Brick Purchases
Youth In Need gratefully acknowledges the following memorials and tributes. Memorial and tribute gifts given after November 7, 2008, will be recognized in the next issue of Youth Update. We have made every attempt to list names accurately. We regret any errors or omissions. If your name is in error, please contact the Development Office at development@youthinneed.org.

In addition, Youth In Need gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and organizations that have purchased an engraved brick in the Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden at Youth In Need. Bricks purchased after November 7, 2008, will be recognized in the next issue of Youth Update. If you’d like to purchase an engraved brick, please call Mary Ann Hunter in the Development Office at 636-757-9347.

In Memory Of…
Roy J. Cox
Janice and Kip Borgschulte, K.B. Construction Company, LLC
Janice Boschert, String Along With Me
Dr. Clark Huff
John Mahon, Sr.
Mary and Mike Fogarty, Briner Electric Company
Janet Martin, Communication Arts Incorporated
Gaines International
Bill Prindle, Hilmuth, Otaba & Kassabaum (Dallas, TX)
HOK - NCR Advance Strategies (St. Louis)
HDK Sports Facilities, LLC
HOK (Canada)
Thomas Robinson, HOK (St. Louis)
Winthrop Reed, III, Lewis, Rice & Fingerson Sandy and Joe Bosse, NEC Insurance, Inc.
David Laughlin, St. Louis University
High School
Williams Venker & Sanders
Paul Azzara
Ann and Bob Beckning
Georgia Birnbaum
James Brennan
Kathy and Jerry Budai
Jean and Clark Davis
Jan and Leo Dressel
Joy Freeman
Michael Gau
Sherrit and Rick Goldman
Donna and Tom Goulde
Patricia Graf
Patty and Tom Haas
Robert Healey
Joan and Steve Johns
Dr. Robert Logel
Midge Miller
Linda and Roy Mueller
Paul Passanante
Linda and David Patton
Marilyn and Bob Pfiffigenhuwer
Martha and Tom Rumora
Pamela and Christopher Seyer
Joyce and Don Skult
Ann and Michael Steed
Laurie and Tim Tynan
Debbie and Ken Weissflug
Mary Kay and Mark Wuller
Mary Ann Zehnder
Dorothy Eileen Wilcox
Dr. Clark Huff

In Honor Of…
Ashlyn Hilleman’s 13th Birthday
Julie Bond
Karen Echelle
Laura and Scott Igerhiltfrz
Kelli Schaefer
Ashley and Brock Slinkard
Michelle Smith
Complete & Speedy Recovery of
Michael Cohen
Peggy and Ivan Rothman
Diane Holtermann’s 70th Birthday
James Holtermann
Marriage of Jean Martin & Dan Atleepter
Carolyn and Neil Schechter

Brick Purchases
Community Council of St. Charles County
Victoria and Loren Babb
Tammi and Michael Benton
Pam and James Braun
Colleen Corden
April and Mathew Delehanty
Beth Heisse
Mary Ann and Les Huster
April and Jeremy Klutenkamper
Lesa Lupo
Monissa Pulizzi
Amy Pulzer
Linda and Daryl Rothman
Karen and Ron Steve
Patricia Slagley
Mike and Karen Thomson
Tricia and Jaf Tapaplebovici
Anita and Jeff Vreem
Loi Weil
Ann Young

Tax-Free Gifts Are Back
If you’re planning on making a new gift to Youth In Need before year’s end, did you know that you may qualify to make a tax-free charitable contribution of up to $100,000 from your Individual Retirement Account?

Through December 31, 2008, you may qualify for the “Charitable IRA Rollover,” and to do so, you or your spouse must be aged 70 ½ and older.

What you need to know about the Charitable IRA Rollover: Congress has re-authorized tax-free charitable gifts or “Charitable IRA Rollovers” as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. You have an unprecedented opportunity to make a gift to Youth In Need and other charities and potentially save current and future income taxes.

Who qualifies: If you are age 70 ½ and older, you may transfer up to $100,000 per year for 2008 and 2009 directly from an IRA or Roth IRA to a charity.

Who benefits: The 71 percent of retirees who take the standard deduction on their income tax return qualifies. You now can make a charitable gift without increasing your taxable income. Retirees who are required to take minimum distributions can save taxes of up to 35 percent on minimum IRA disbursements this year. Individuals with income of more than $150,500 can bypass the 2 percent rate, increasing the value of your gift.

The benefits: The charitable distribution counts toward minimum required distribution requirements.

If you are interested in this special limited time tax savings and would like to receive assistance in discovering this special giving opportunity, please consult your tax advisor, or call Marissa Pulizzi in Youth In Need’s Development Office at 636-757-9348.

American families. In fact, more than 20 different languages are represented among the St. Louis City Head Start staff.

What initially attracted you to Youth In Need’s Head Start program?

The organization is strong and positive. The focus and mission give hope to everyone, especially the children whom we can directly help. I enjoy teaching the children all about education and how it is important. By taking part in the Head Start program, I am able to teach children shapes, numbers, letters, social skills and other things that help them grow and give them positive futures.

What is the most rewarding part about your position with Youth In Need?

I like the children very much, and I like helping the population and community. I am able to teach the children and on a daily basis and watch them grow and become smarter and stronger. The Head Start program is a positive aspect of their lives, and it is nice to be a part of helping different families and their situations.

Not only are you a Youth In Need staff member, but you also volunteer with the agency’s Out-of-School Time Program (OST). What drew you to focus your time there instead of another program?

The elementary school children in the Out-of-School Time Program enjoy playing soccer and have the time and energy to do it. I wanted to volunteer with this program so I could coach them. Soccer gives them a hobby, something to keep them busy after school so they are not getting into trouble.

You coached soccer at the Olympic level. What can you tell us about that experience? Were you both a player and coach?

I moved soccer years ago and then moved into coaching. I am certified with the FIFA (the Fédération Internationale de Football Association, the world’s governing body for soccer) to coach. I began coaching in Afghanistan and did so for four years. Then, I moved to Pakistan and coached there for five years. I have coached many different teams throughout the years and have had much fun doing so. I enjoy being a coach more than I did playing. It’s more rewarding.

Now, you share your soccer knowledge with elementary school students in the OST program. How has that impacted your life?

The students I teach are excited to learn, and that makes it fun. My son participates on the team and helps, so that makes it a good experience, too. He had problems with other coaches and came to me for help. By taking on the coaching of the OST students and having my son there, I can help them all together. I know the children are getting taught well, I see them improve each time we practice. Not too long ago, the team won the championship for the first time, and they were all very excited.

Holiday Gift-Giving Made Easy
Are you looking for that perfect gift for the friend or family member who already has everything? Then, shop no further. Youth In Need has exactly what you need.

Purchase an engraved brick that will be placed in one of the winding pathways of Youth In Need’s Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden. An engraved brick leaves a permanent message to honor that special someone in your life.

Bricks are $125 each and have room for three lines of text (14 characters, including spaces, per line). Each brick purchase includes a special certificate, illustrating your brick’s message. Gift givers can choose to give the recipient a blank brick wrapped in burlap and tied with festive sash.

To learn more about the Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden or to download the brick order form, visit Youth In Need’s Web site at www.youthinneed.org, and click on Services, or call Mary Ann Hunter in the Development Office at 636-757-9347.
YOUTH IN NEED'S 2008 CORPORATE PARTNERS raised a record-breaking $109,000 in support of the children, teens and families Youth In Need serves. Youth In Need gratefully acknowledges its 2008 Partners, who generously support the agency's programs through its annual Celebration of Youth and Golfing for Youth benefits. Together, we believe in the power of potential.

2008 Corporate Partners Make a Difference

Principal Partner

CULPEPPERS

Bond for the Rest of Us

Champion Partners

BOEING

Mary Beth & Jerry Daniels

MONSANTO

The Roofing Company, LLC

WACHOVIA SECURITIES

NEWBERRY GROUP INCORPORATED

Guardian Partners

Diane & Eliot Asyre

JM FAMILY ENTERPRISES

HAMILTON JEWELERS

Trustee Partners

St. Charles Sand Company

Pam & Jim Braun

Towers Brown

Patron Partners

Charline & Frank Martinez

Bob & Mary Beth Kalinich

State Farm Golf Tournament Breaks Record

State Farm Insurance and Title Sponsor ServiceMaster Clean held the third annual State Farm Insurance Charity Scramble for Youth In Need recently. The tournament raised approximately $25,000 to benefit the children, teens and families Youth In Need serves.

The event was held at the Missouri Bluffs Country Club, where 30 foursomes participated in golf, dinner and auctions.

Rusty Shelley, State Farm Insurance owner and agent, recommended Youth In Need as the beneficiary of the tournament because of its successful outreach programs and other initiatives dedicated to troubled children and teens.

"An annual golf tournament is the perfect venue because everyone involved, from sponsors to players, enjoys the companionship as well as contributing to such a great cause such as Youth In Need," said Shelley. "It truly is a win-win for all of us."

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Many local businesses sponsored the tournament, including Eagle Sponsors State Farm Insurance and Enterprise and Cart Sponsor Howard Home Improvement. Individual hole sponsors included Apps, EGB Collision, Electronic Restoration, Ferguson Roofing, Kirwood Glass, Schaefer Auto Body, Team One and Window World.

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