



9347



*Believing in the  
power of potential...™*

## **Youth In Need...*Believing in the power of potential...***

### ***Mission***

*To build on the strengths of children, youth and families so they find safety, hope and success in life.*

### ***Background and Current Scope***

- Non-profit organization founded in 1974 by community volunteers. The agency initially sheltered runaway and homeless youth and reunited them with their families.
- Currently serves more than 8,000 children, youth and families annually at nearly 100 locations throughout the eastern Missouri region (St. Louis City and St. Louis, St. Charles, Lincoln, Warren and Montgomery Counties).
- Youth In Need provides emergency youth shelter, transitional youth housing, homeless street outreach, early childhood education, infant, child and family development, youth and family counseling, school-based counseling and foster care case management for children of all ages and their families.
- Youth In Need is supported by diversified funding from state, federal and local government grants and contracts, corporations, foundations and individual contributions.
- Youth In Need is the regional provider of the national Safe Place program, which partners with area business to offer “safe places” to children and teens in crisis. With more than 850 area stationary and mobile locations in St. Charles County, St. Louis City and St. Louis County, Youth In Need is the largest Safe Place provider in the country.

### ***Current Services***

- Emergency shelter for all genders, ages 10 to 19
- Mobile street outreach unit
- Crisis, youth and family community-based counseling
- Transitional living services for homeless youth and young adults, ages 16 to 24
- School-based counseling in 10 St. Louis County school districts, four St. Charles County districts and three Lincoln County districts
- Early Learning Programs and family development services for children, from birth to age 5 (with prenatal services for expectant parents)
- Foster care case management services
- Community businesses serving as “safe places” for children and teens in crisis

### ***Service Population***

- Runaway, homeless and other youth in crisis
- Families wanting to escape public assistance by securing reliable jobs
- Low-income families wanting to improve their children’s lives
- High school dropouts
- Teen parents
- Child abuse and neglect victims and other victims of violence
- Families experiencing conflict with their children
- Youth who are chronically truant from school or commit juvenile offenses

## ***Program Philosophy***

- By believing in their own strength and potential, the children, youth and families served by Youth In Need, gain confidence and motivation to overcome obstacles and build success.
- Crisis intervention programs save lives, families and futures. They are an investment in the future of the clients we serve.
- Early intervention programs prevent crisis and help develop healthy children and families.
- Long-term involvement helps youth and families deal with chronic crisis to achieve long-term stability.

## ***Community Impact and Outcomes***

- Stabilizing runaway youth and reuniting them with their families
- Helping older homeless youth achieve self-sufficiency
- Stabilizing children in foster care and reuniting them with their families
- Improving healthy coping behaviors among urban, at-risk youth
- Improving positive relationships with children and families
- High school dropouts securing jobs and re-entering school or GED programs
- Improving social and school success among abuse victims
- Improving behavior and family success among juvenile offenders
- Teaching teen parents effective parenting skills and helping them remain in school
- Fostering successful developmental milestones and early school success for children in low-income families
- Improving parenting skills and family stability among low-income parents

## ***Recognition and Honors***

- Youth In Need has been named one of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* Top Workplaces 11 times since 2013.
- Youth In Need is nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation, recognizing the agency's commitment to and assurance of quality programs.
- The agency is a recipient of the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance seal of approval. Receiving this prestigious recognition means that Youth In Need has met 20 rigorous standards of accountability. In 2018, the BBB named Youth In Need as one of its TORCH Award winners, which recognizes companies and charities that are committed to exceptional standards for ethical business practices and service to their customers, employees, suppliers and communities.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services cited Youth In Need as an "exemplary program."
- The St. Charles County Community Council awarded Youth In Need the first-ever Diversity Leadership in 2004. And in 2014, the City of Saint Charles Human Relations Commission presented Youth In Need with an award for outstanding service among diverse groups of people in the City.
- Youth In Need holds a Platinum Seal of Transparency from GuideStar, the world's largest source of nonprofit information. By earning the Platinum seal, Youth In Need has shown quantitative metrics on the progress the agency is making toward its mission.
- Focus St. Louis recognized Youth In Need with a "What's Right with the Region Award" in 2011 for "Improving Racial Equality and Justice."
- The *Ladue News* named Youth In Need as one of three Charities of the Year in 2007.
- National Safe Place chose Youth In Need to be a local provider of its Safe Place program in 2006.
- In 2004, the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation identified Youth In Need as one of the 20 fastest growing youth service organizations in the United States in a study on successful nonprofit growth.

## ***To Make a Difference...***

- Call Youth In Need's central office at 636-946-5600.
- Visit the website at: [www.youthinneed.org](http://www.youthinneed.org).