

NEWSLETTER

YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY

JANUARY 2026



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP IN 2026!

We are excited to announce the upcoming launch of the Skills for Life program in Whitley County! Skills for Life is designed to support youth ages 12–18 in building essential behavioral and life skills that prepare them for a healthy, successful future. Through a series of interactive classes, participants will explore important topics such as the challenges associated with smoking, vaping, secondhand smoke, drugs, and alcohol, as well as anger management and healthy relationships. In addition, the program empowers youth with practical, real-world skills including financial education, basic automotive care, meal preparation, entrepreneurship, résumé writing, interview skills, and in-person mock interviews. Sessions will begin soon! If you would like to learn more about Skills for Life, please feel free to call or stop by, we would love to share more details. A huge thank you to the Community Foundation of Whitley County for funding this program!



ysbofhuntington.com



260-356-9681



1344 Maple Drive, Huntington, IN 46750

CASA & Coffee



**Tuesday, February 17th
8 am - 9 am**

**Coffee Bean Counter
10 W. Franklin Street
Huntington**

**Stop by and learn about
CASA of Huntington
County!**



CASA OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY



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Teen Court



WE NEED TEEN COURT VOLUNTEERS!

Teen Court is a powerful youth-led program that gives first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders the opportunity to be held accountable by their peers rather than going through the traditional court system. Youth volunteers take on real courtroom roles such as jurors and attorneys while adult mentors guide the process. This program not only promotes responsibility and restorative justice, but also equips teens with leadership skills, confidence, and a deeper understanding of the legal system. We are currently seeking dedicated teen volunteers who want to make a positive impact in their community while gaining valuable experience. If you're ready to learn, lead, and serve, sign up today and be part of a program that truly changes lives, starting with your own.



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For Youth.... Someplace To Go. Someone To Help.

What is Safe Place?

Safe Place is a national youth outreach and prevention program for young people in need of immediate help and safety. Nearly 20,000 community and business locations nationwide display the Safe Place sign, making help readily available. Locations include libraries, YMCAs, fire stations, various businesses, and social service facilities.

History

In 1983, Safe Place began as an outreach program of the YMCA Shelter House in Louisville, Kentucky. Access to emergency counseling and shelter for youth was identified as a community need and the YMCA of Greater Louisville found a way to address this issue with the addition of the Safe Place program.

How Safe Place works:

A young person enters a Safe Place location and asks for help.

Staff contact the local Safe Place agency while the youth waits comfortably.

A Safe Place representative arrives, talks with the youth, and if needed, provides transportation to a shelter.

Counselors at the agency provide support and connect the youth and their family with services they need.

Safe Place: Real Kids. Real Stories.

A 17-year-old male, whose father felt that he was not moving fast enough in the process of securing independent housing, was asked to leave his home. After exhausting all of his "couch surfing" options, the young man accessed Safe Place help through a local library, Safe Place responders referred and transported the young man to an emergency housing shelter for further assistance.



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“YOU CAN NEVER GET ENOUGH
BOOKS
INTO THE HANDS
OF ENOUGH
CHILDREN”
Dolly

The United Way is a proud funder
of the Youth Services Bureau

INSPIRE A LOVE OF READING

Enroll your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library
and get a FREE BOOK every month until their 5th birthday.

“ Our daughter **LOVES READING** and being read to,
and the **VARIETY** she receives from the
Imagination Library is a **SIGNIFICANT** part of this ”

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge to children from birth to age five, through funding shared by Dolly Parton and local community partners in the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and Republic of Ireland.



UNITED WAY
Huntington County

IMAGINATIONLIBRARY.COM/



Salvation Army Canned Goods
Sorting



Safe Place Partners



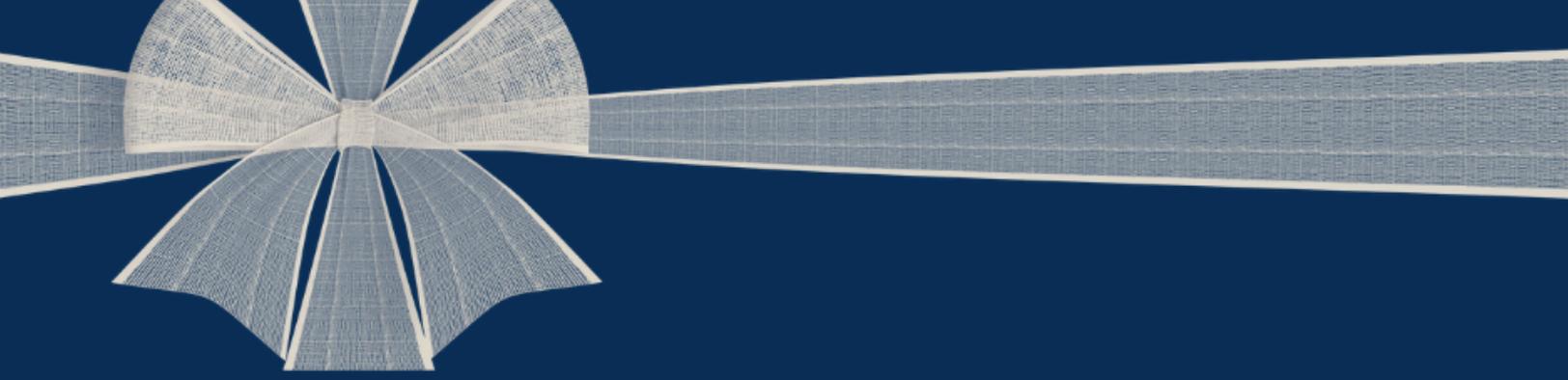
Bell Ringing



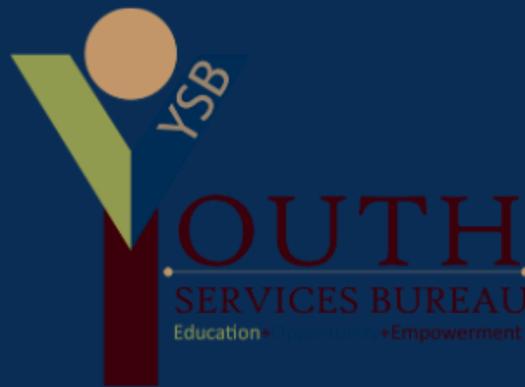
Community Foundation
Grant Award



2025 Style Show



Saturday, May 9, 2026
Save the Date!



The Youth Services Bureau of Huntington County warmly invites you to attend our first Spring Dinner! Join us for an engaging evening featuring exciting updates, a look at our plans for the future, and opportunities to connect with our community. More details and registration information will be available soon, stay tuned!



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STYLE SHOW LUNCHEON

11 . 14 . 2026

NEW LOCATION!
**Huntington First Church
of the Nazarene**

ysbofhuntington.com

Updated Website

We're excited to share that the Youth Services Bureau website has a fresh new look! It's now more welcoming, informative, and easier to navigate. We invite you to explore the updates and learn more about the programs and resources we offer. We are consistently updating the website, so check it out from time to time!

Want to make a donation?



**Stop by or mail to:
1344 Maple Drive
Huntington, IN 46750**

PayPal

Staff Members

- Michelle Crone, Executive Director
- Ashton Pinkerton, Office Coordinator
- Ira Bencun, Home-Based Provider
- Tamie Morrison, CASA Coordinator
- Jamie Straley, Teen Court Coordinator
- Angela Stratton, Safe Place Coordinator
- Jan Williams, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- Kelly Metzger, SOS Coordinator

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