

NetworkNews

SPRING 2011



Creating Positive Change for Responsible Living[®]

The Village Network is a private, non-profit, non-denominational organization serving hundreds of boys and girls daily. It was established in 1946 as Boys' Village.

Banner Year at The Village Network

65-50-35-10-5 are winning numbers, but not for the lottery! They represent anniversaries for The Village Network in 2011 and lots of reasons to celebrate.

This year, TVN marks 65 years of helping at-risk children. What began as a home for wayward boys has captured generations of troubled and abused boys and girls and moved them to independent, productive lives.

But we didn't do it alone. It happened with the help of families, support agencies, communities, volunteers, organizations, corporate partners, ambassadors and donors joining our mission.

Fifty years ago, the **Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE) Ohio State Aerie** donated beds for the boys on Boys' Village Campus, Wooster. Today, the Wooster campus houses Eagles Cottage, Eagles Chapel and Eagles Pavilion.

FOE remains one of TVN's oldest, most involved organizations – from funding to leadership help. Plans are underway for a summer event this August honoring their support.

TVN's first formal volunteer organization began 35 years ago and some of the original members are still active today. **Friends of Boys' Village (FOBV)** provides funding and direct support to our youth. It prides itself on being a "nurturing group."

With the help of the new Volunteer Services Coordinator **Jenny Fowler**, FOBV is campaigning for new members. If you are interested in learning more about FOBV,

contact Jenny at **330.202.3811** or at **jfowler@thevillagenetwork.com**.

The tenth anniversary of TVN's **Sweet Jubilation** gala is October 15. **LuK USA LLC** continues as the presenting sponsor for this black-tie optional event. Live auction items have ranged from an African Safari to dinner with NBA officials before a CAVS game. Keep checking our website for details and join us for a night of fun.

It's been five years since the dedication of the **Gault Youth and Family Enrichment Center**. The amazing building was TVN's first capital campaign involving multiple projects and was an organized community fundraising effort. The Gault Center solved a very real challenge by combining the on-campus school, the clinical therapists and a cafeteria under one roof.

Tours of the Gault Center, the newly remodeled Foster Care and Day Treatment building and other campus highlights are only part of the annual **Celebration Day** events Wednesday, June 29. Emmy-nominated actress, author and foster care advocate, **Victoria Rowell**, will deliver the key note address.

More than 500 supporters and staff will take part in the fun. Make plans to join the celebration. Watch for details on our website!

SERVICES

Residential
Day Treatment
Treatment Foster Care
Community Based
Alternative Schooling

LOCATIONS

Akron
Canton
Cleveland
Columbus
Delaware
Lorain
Mount Vernon
Newark
Sandusky
Uhrichsville
Wooster

Foster Parents Needed

Treatment Foster Care is the cornerstone of every TVN location and central to the program is our ongoing recruitment of foster parents. Continued enrollment of licensed foster parents helps us make the best matches for the ever-changing needs of the youth in our care. If you are interested in joining our team of professional foster care advocates, call **800.638.3232** and ask for the Foster Care Program.

TVN's network support includes:

- 24/7 on-call support
- Paid professional training
- Dedicated, licensed therapist for child & family
- Paid respite care
- Weekly team meetings to discuss treatment
- Competitive compensation



Day Treatment & Foster Care Share New Space At Wooster Boys' Village Campus



With Treatment Foster Care on one side and Day Treatment on the other, the newly renovated building on the Boys' Village Campus is a perfect merger of shared space, files and people.

At least half of the youth in Day Treatment are in the Foster Care program, according to **Lou Ann Harper**, Coordinator for Wooster's Day Treatment program. Sharing the same location eliminates the need for duplicate files, as well as a second administrative assistant.

"It is much more efficient for both departments, plus the ease of face-to-face conversations is great," said **Angie Speigle**, Coordinator for Wooster's Foster Care Program. "The building is really nice, so professional and welcoming to our families and service agencies."

The Recreational Therapy Program is also housed inside the renovated school building. The existing full-size gym required some minor work on the heating unit and another emergency door was added. Both the locker room and the weight room were completely overhauled to provide larger, better organized areas. There

are plans for a community open house in May. Check the website for specifics.

The renovation of the old school building took three years to plan and two years to complete. All the windows and doors are new and office space and group rooms were created. A search through TVN's storage area provided some of the office basics, but there are still gaps to fill.

"The new facility gives us the needed space for both programs and offers the ability to expand," said **James Miller**, Executive Director of TVN. "The modernized facility is not only more efficient, it reduces our cost of operations on the Wooster Campus."

While the offices have desks and desk chairs, most do not have the extra chairs needed for visitors. Both the Day Treatment and Foster Care waiting rooms lack chairs, coffee and end tables, and other things that make a place inviting – such as throw rugs and plants. Two of the group rooms need conference tables, and book shelves are scarce.

If your business or organization has gently used office furniture, please consider an in-kind, tax-deductible donation to TVN. Contact **Joyce Wiebe** at **330.202.3848** or **jwiebe@thevillagenetwork.com** today and thank you for thinking of us!



Best Buy Children's Foundation Grant Funds Youth TVN Leadership Program

It's about direction, creativity, self-worth, team approach and values, according to **Dusan Makel**, Day Treatment Program Director at The Village Network-Columbus. After all, people don't just wake up one day and find themselves leaders, he said with a smile.

TVN is piloting a 21-week course, *Building Everyday Leadership in All Teens*, at our Columbus location. Twenty adolescents inside our Day Treatment and Foster Care programs participate in the Thursday afternoon sessions. A generous grant from **Best Buy Children's Foundation** covered start-up costs and will fund the first year.

The curriculum combines short videos on leadership, role playing, guest speakers, leadership outings into the community and some pretty heavy self evaluation and homework. To start, participants complete a self-assessment on their leadership skills and attitude. The assessment helps identify strengths and weaknesses.

"The kids are really into it," said Makel. "By Tuesday or Wednesday, they are asking what's next. Some of the students are taking on new tasks at home or in class. One youth is volunteering at the local animal shelter and another is volunteering at Hospice."

Makel is seeing a difference inside the classroom, too. When a problem arises, he hears the phrase "you need to become a leader" coming from the group.

The leadership program fits well inside TVN's existing treatment program. The exposure to healthy role models is very important during adolescence when boys and girls are searching for identity and who to follow. Solid role models are particularly important to children that have been abused and traumatized.

"We start every session with what they have accomplished the past week and we celebrate the successes," said Makel. "Through this program, our kids see who they can become."



Dusan Makel, Columbus Day Treatment Program Director, enjoys the excitement and the participation level from the youth in a weekly leadership class.

TVN Receives COA Reaccreditation

The Village Network has been reaccredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA). COA partners with human service organizations worldwide to improve service delivery outcomes by developing, applying and promoting accreditation standards.



“COA accreditation attests that an organization meets the highest national standards and is delivering the best quality services to the communities it serves,” said **Richard Rodman**, Associate Director for TVN.

The COA accreditation process involves in-depth examinations of the organization’s compliance with best practice standards. The process includes a review of organizational standards including human resources, financial and risk management and continuous quality improvement. It also reviews service standards.

The COA process at TVN is a continual journey that works to involve all members of the organization including the Board of Directors according to **Dr. Scott Adams, Ph.D.** and Continuous Quality Improvement Director for TVN.

“Accreditation gives us an opportunity to develop and maintain an organizational culture of best practice and program excellence,” said Adams. “Successfully achieving accreditation means our children will be healthier and our families have an opportunity to be stronger.”

TVN received four additional service standard accreditations during the most recent review added Adams. They include Outpatient Mental Health Services, Adoption Services, Family Preservation & Stabilization Services and Behavioral Health & Juvenile Justice Services.

TVN Announces Sharon Lynn Partnership

The Village Network is partnering with the Sharon Lynn Residence for Girls in Salem, Ohio to provide additional mental health treatment services. Sharon Lynn is a 15-bed residential and alternate school program for at-risk girls.

TVN is providing group, individual and family counseling services in collaboration with the Sharon Lynn staff according to **Jessica Oates**, Executive Director at the facility. Ms. Oates attributes the successful transition to the dedication and flexibility of TVN’s liaison **Linda den Heijer**.

“Our residents have transitioned smoothly into these after-school services and have a lot of their own insight and suggestions for the program as well,” said Oates.

The collaboration provides the agency an opportunity to expand its service area in Columbiana and Mahoning counties, according to TVN’s Executive Director **James Miller**. TVN also operates a foster care program inside the two counties.

“In this time of limited resources, partnering with existing quality programs to bring additional services is a great way to better serve the children in Ohio,” said Miller.

“In this time of limited resources, partnering with existing quality programs to bring additional services is a great way to better serve the children in Ohio.”

– **James T. Miller**
Executive Director
The Village Network

Alumnus Letter *(via the website)*

To The Village Network,

In case anyone ever wondered what happened to that little smart-mouth, know-it-all, so far, so good. I’m 37-years-old, so statistically I’d say I’m well past the danger zone. All jokes aside – the kindness I was shown by the counselors was something I had never seen before in my life – positive role models, real heroes for a messed-up kid from a messed-up home. Anyway, thanks guys! I guess mark me down as a success. I’m not quite sure how you quantify the successes but I have a college degree, I never went to prison and I’m a happy, productive peer to you.

Todd T.
Boys’ Village Campus Alumnus



TVN UPDATES



Canadia Brown Named Parent Advocate of the Year

The Cuyahoga Tapestry System of Care named TVN-Cleveland foster parent **Canadia Brown** its *Parent Advocate of the Year* at this year's annual meeting. The criteria for the award include professionalism, dedication to quality care and sensitivity and concern to the needs of the children.

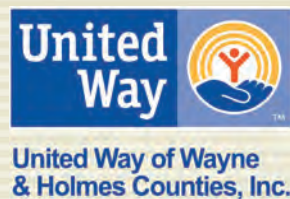
"Canadia is dedicated to providing a structured and therapeutic environment for the children in her care," said **Trisha Miller**, TVN-Cleveland Network Coordinator. "She extends her knowledge to others by offering support, encouragement and guidance in advocating for the needs of children and families."



United Way Honors The Village Network

The Village Network recently received the *2010 Employee Campaign Managers Award* from the United Way of Wayne and Holmes Counties. The honor is in recognition of the campaign leadership team.

"In a day and age where time is one of the most valuable resources an organization has, this workplace dedicated time to meet with United Way and to run the most effective campaign it could," said **James Carpenter**, Assistant Director for the United Way. "It set a goal and raised 120% of that goal, which was nearly 67% more than they did in 2009."



TVN has been a **United Way Pacesetter** for several years. Our employees are proud to give back to their communities. TVN does not apply for any United Way funds.

TVN-Akron Foster Parent Honored

Kathy Hixon, a TVN-Akron foster parent, was nominated for *Foster Home of the Year* by Cuyahoga County Children and Family Services. Ms. Hixon was honored for the outstanding way she works with difficult children, according to **Sandra Sims**, Foster Care Coordinator in Akron.

"She has the patience to work with even the most difficult girls," said Sims, "and she goes above and beyond the expectations of a typical foster parent's duties."



Columbus Chili Cook-off Crowns New Winner



First- and second-place winners, Bill Zeallear (left) and Jeremy Gerschutz enjoyed the recognition. Everyone else loved the chili!

TVN-Columbus recently held its **2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off**. This year's competition boasted many more participants who entered with the hope of having the winning chili recipe.

Judges included staff members and two youth from the Day Treatment Program who earned the privilege to be part of the panel. The contestants were judged on taste, presentation, aroma, texture/consistency, color and after-taste.

The winner of the 2nd Annual Chili Competition was **William Zeallear**. Second place went to defending champion **Jeremy Gerschutz**, and **Liz Shold** captured third place. After the competition, staff and all the youth at the Columbus campus mingled and ate chili.

Interested in the winning recipe? Find it on the website at thevillagenetwork.org.

Charitable Planning Under Tax Act 2010

Introduced in 2006, the **IRA Charitable Rollover** offers taxpayers the means to make direct transfers from their Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) without taxable income implications. However, it is set to expire at the end of 2011.

An IRA charitable rollover not only moves funds from an IRA without paying income tax on the distribution, it reduces the base on which future Minimum Required Distribution (MRD) is calculated. This reduces taxable income in subsequent years.

To qualify, the taxpayer must:

- Be at least 70½ at the time of the transfer
- Have a maximum amount of \$100,000 per year
- Be able to transfer funds directly from retirement account to the charity
- Not be receiving benefit or interest in transferred funds

The IRA Charitable Rollover is only one of many ways of giving to The Village Network. A gift from your retirement plan is an easy way to have a long-lasting, significant impact on the boys and girls we help. If you are over 70½, please consider a gift in celebration of TVN's 65 years of service to at-risk youth.

For more information on this and other legacy gifts, contact **Tim Homan** at **330.202.3802** or thoman@thevillagenetwork.com.



EVENTS CALENDAR



Mark your calendar with our dates to remember and join us as we celebrate 65 years of serving at-risk boys and girls. Get details and follow our progress at thevillagenetwork.org.



Sunday, May 15

"A Gathering of Friends" | Mount Vernon, Ohio

Invite-Only Event. Like to become more involved with TVN?
Contact Keri @ 740.397.7568



Saturday, May 21

(Rain Date May 28)

The Village Network Poker Run

Includes three TVN locations ending in Wooster. Get out your motorcycle and join the fun at the first-ever TVN Poker Run. **Call Lacie @ 330.202.3857**



Wednesday, June 3

29th Annual Buckeye Container – Village Network Golf Classic

Wooster Country Club. Team Spots & Sponsorships still available.
Call Lacie @ 330.202.3857



Wednesday, June 29

Celebration Day | Boys' Village Campus – Wooster

Join us in celebrating 65 years of service. Don't miss this powerful day! Keynote Speaker is Victoria Rowell, Emmy-nominated Actress, Author & Foster Care Advocate. **Call Lacie @ 330.202.3857**



Saturday, Aug. 27

Eagles' Appreciation Day | Boys' Village Campus – Wooster

Open to FOE members & spouses. Help us celebrate 50 years of FOE Ohio State Aerie support! **Call Lacie @ 330.202.3857**



Saturday, Oct. 15

10th-Annual Sweet Jubilation | Wooster, Ohio

Presented by LuK USA LLC, held at The College of Wooster Lowry Center. Always looking for auction items! It's a great way to get noticed!
Call Lacie @ 330.202.3857



P.O. Box 518
Smithville, OH 44677

Address Service Requested

Creating
Positive
Change for
Responsible
Living®

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Canton, Ohio
Permit No. 207

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Two Programs Share New Space
- Best Buy Grant Funds Leadership Program
- Sharon Lynn Partnership
- Alumni Letter
- Parent Advocate of the Year
- United Way Honors TVN
- TVN Honors Foster Parent
- Chili Cookoff Crowns New Winner
- Charitable Planning

Read It and Pass It On

Dear friends, donors, volunteers and support agencies,

This may be the first newsletter you have received from us at your home or place of business. We sent it to you for a very specific reason. We want you to read it and pass it on!

In the most recent fiscal year more than 2,500 people gave charitable gifts amounting to nearly \$700,000 to The Village Network. You may be one of those generous donors. Even if you did not make a gift, you contributed to the recovery and well-being of the children we serve. Each of you, either as a donor or a person who directly impacts the lives of the children, is important to our mission and the gift of hope we provided to more than 1,200 young people and their families this year.

Our donors outnumber our clients two-to-one. This is not an accident. The Culture of Philanthropy we strive to spread among our friends and donors, referral agencies and staff is a key component to ensure we will always be here for the youth. We cannot do it without you as our friend, loyal donor, community partner or employee.

We hope you enjoy this newsletter. Please pass it on to a neighbor or a friend! Take pride in being an agent of change for troubled youth throughout Ohio. Take pride in being a partner with The Village Network and take pride in being a financial supporter of the amazing work we all accomplish every day!

Pass it on! Thank you,

Tim Homan
Director of Organizational
Advancement

