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TVN-Uhrichsville Has A Great Story – More Than 400 Of Them!

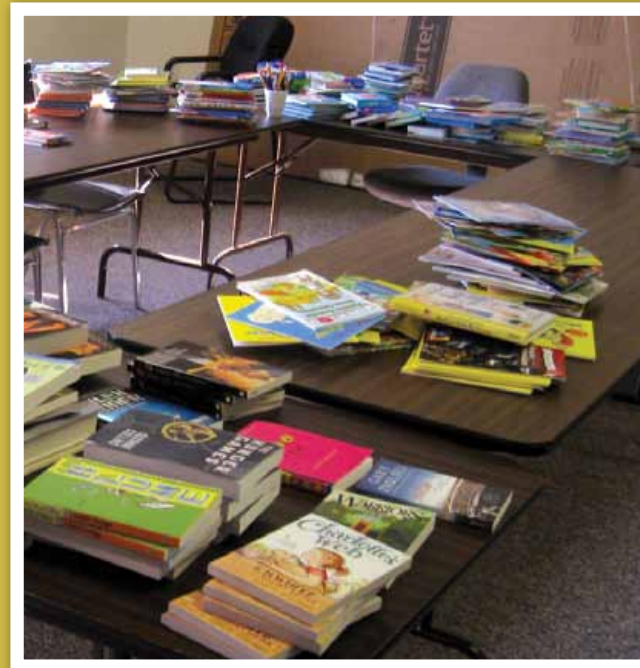
Children inside TVN-Uhrichsville have over 400 books to choose from thanks to a recent donation from Waldenbooks, New Towne Mall, New Philadelphia, Ohio. Each child had the opportunity to look through the network's library of new stories and take one home to keep.

"I was very happy we were picked this year to receive the books," said Brandi Ankrom, Assistant Coordinator for TVN-Uhrichsville. "The variety and quality is unbelievable. We have everything from infant to young adult books."

The book giveaway is a yearly program offered through the local Waldenbooks. The donation program is sponsored by Borders Group who owns Waldenbooks.

Both Day Treatment and Foster Care boys and girls received new books. The donation included books for general reading, activity books, paper dolls, infant books with rattles and a variety of teen selections.

"The children were so excited and they put a lot of thought into choosing their book," said Ankrom. "After they made a choice, they rushed over to show us their picks and tell us why that book was special to them. It was a great feeling!"



Sorting the books was great fun for the staff. Wall shelves and traditional books shelves house the collection at TVN-Uhrichsville.

SERVICES

Residential
Day Treatment
Treatment Foster Care
Community Based
Alternative Schooling

LOCATIONS

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



NetworkNews

FALL 2011

Creating Positive Change for Responsible Living®



TVN Opens 12th Location

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.

The Village Network opened its 12th location with a Treatment Foster Care Program in Richland County. The newest office is at 1221 S. Trimble Rd., Mansfield, Ohio.

"The expansion into Richland County fit the agency's mission, filled a gap in services for the county, extended TVN's treatment area and built on TVN's core strengths," said **Rick Rodman**, Associate Director for TVN.

The new location has a four-member staff, **Angie Speigle**, Foster Care Network Coordinator; **Diane Sours**, Administrative Assistant; **Sarah Dean**, Clinical Case Manager and contract employee **Julie Taylor**.

Opening a new office is exciting but a little hectic too, according to Speigle. The staff is balancing foster parent training, services for the children in care and establishing relationships with the local agencies.

Currently the staff is working with 35 foster homes and 28 children.

"I like the teaching aspect," said Speigle. "Our foster parents are excited to learn the TVN model and are eager to hear and study how to help their children."

Administrative Assistant **Diane Sours** (left) and Network Coordinator **Angie Speigle** (right) are one-half of the team working with foster parents in TVN's newest location.



TVN-Columbus Hosts International Social Worker

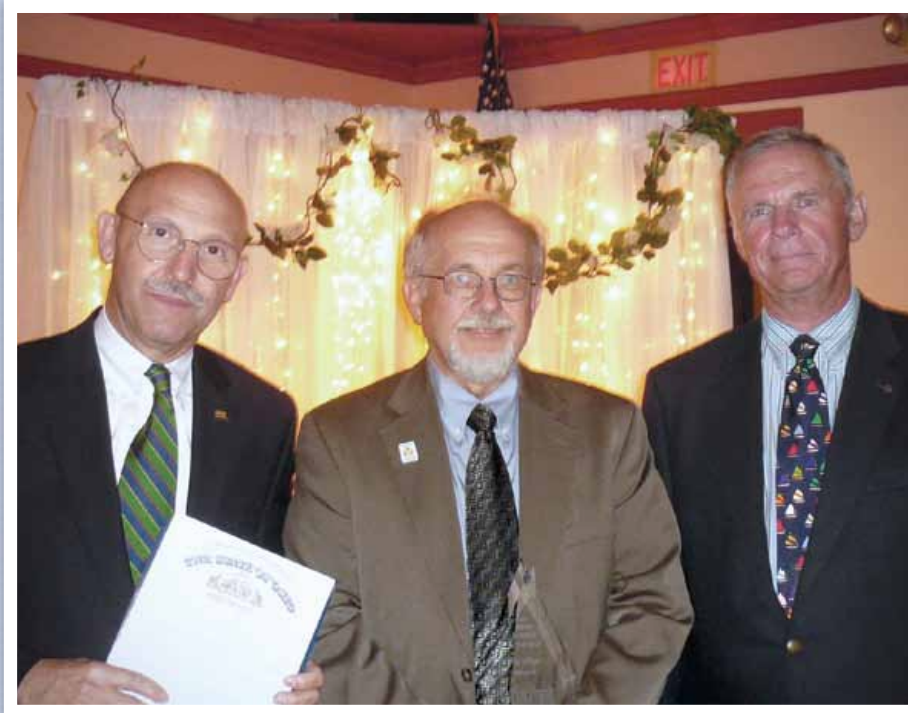
Patrizia Kasik, a social worker from Frankfurt, Germany, will join the TVN-Columbus office for a four-month job sharing and training mission. Ms. Kasik is the second international professional to visit and work with The Village Network as part of the Columbus International Program (www.cipcolumbus.org).

Ms. Kasik works with troubled children and adolescents in the Child Protective Social Services Department in her native country. She hopes to share her professional experiences with her U.S. colleagues and to increase her personal growth through the training here.

She will be based at the Columbus Poth Road office and work with our Foster Care, Community Based Foster Care, Respite Foster Care and Day Treatment programs. She will also have the opportunity to tour and work at several other TVN locations including the main campus in Wooster, Ohio.



TVN Named Small Business Of The Year At Licking County Chamber Celebration



Patrick Guanciale, Licking County Chamber Board Chairman (left) and Chamber Treasurer Larry Parr (right) present Jim Miller (center), Executive Director TVN, with annual award at the recent Chamber dinner.

TVN-Newark is the Small Business of the Year for Licking County. The award was presented to **Executive Director Jim Miller** at the Chamber's recent dinner celebration.

Since 2005, TVN-Newark has worked with 177 youth and their families to provide counseling and insight into family reunification. Those children who are not able to return to their birth families are partnered with supportive, compassionate foster parents. This past year the Licking County location helped facilitate 19 adoptions by foster parents.

"The commitment to our county's children and tremendous amount of work done by the small staff were impressive and worthy of recognition," said **Cheri Hottinger**,

President of Licking County Chamber of Commerce.

Criteria for the Chamber's prestigious award includes demonstrating excellent customer service through dedication and service; active/involvement community member; display community support through time, energy and donations and present a positive image of the community.

"Our TVN-Newark staff works long and hard to help at-risk boys and girls in Licking County and it's wonderful to see them recognized for their efforts," said **Dave Paxton**, Southwest Regional Director at TVN.

In addition to the Chamber award, TVN-Newark received commendations from the Ohio Senate through Senator **Tim Schaffer** and House District 71 through Representative **Jay Hottinger**.

Friendship Brings Helping Hands To TVN-Akron

Funny how people meet, start a conversation and something clicks. Then it grows. Church and Bible Study brought **Dave Stauffer**, Program Manager at TVN-Akron, together with **Norman Kettenbauer**. Kettenbauer snagged **Scott Hulet**, **Derek Decker** and **Jen Fuss**. Today, over 10 people from the Northside Christian Church in Wadsworth volunteer every Tuesday at the Akron network.

Several hours every week for the past three years this dedicated group play games, watch movies, help with homework and just listen to the boys and girls in care at TVN-Akron's residential facility. It's all about making a difference and sharing God's love according to the volunteers.

"We have a strong faith and we're not afraid to get a little dirty," said Kettenbauer, founder of the group. "Working with these boys and girls is not a sanitary situation. You take some pain, give some joy, laugh, cry and sometimes ring your hands."

Rachel and Brandon Newcomer (left), Derek Decker and Scott Hulet (right) take a break from a team Frisbee game with the youth for a group photo. Members of the Northside Christian Church take turns volunteering every Tuesday evening.

Kettenbauer was not familiar with TVN before he met Stauffer but he was well acquainted with the system. At 16, he was in a similar situation. He vividly remembers the people who made a difference in his life and he recalls the things said to him like it was yesterday.

"I was comfortable with the agency environment and knew what to expect," said Kettenbauer. "Most of the other volunteers had never been to a facility like TVN."

Hulet admitted the idea of working with troubled youth seemed daunting. But after his first visit he was hooked. He realized, just as the others who volunteer at TVN-Akron, creating trust takes time and commitment.

"The kids want to make sure you are the real deal before they begin to trust," said Hulet. "They are geared to look for an ulterior motive. Once they see a consistency and realize you are giving of yourself and not getting paid to visit, things change."

Decker has been volunteering for about a year now. He remembers when Hulet and Fuss approached his class, a second Bible Group of slightly

younger adults, and pitched the TVN-Akron volunteer program. There was an immediate excitement about the opportunity according to Decker and several joined the group.

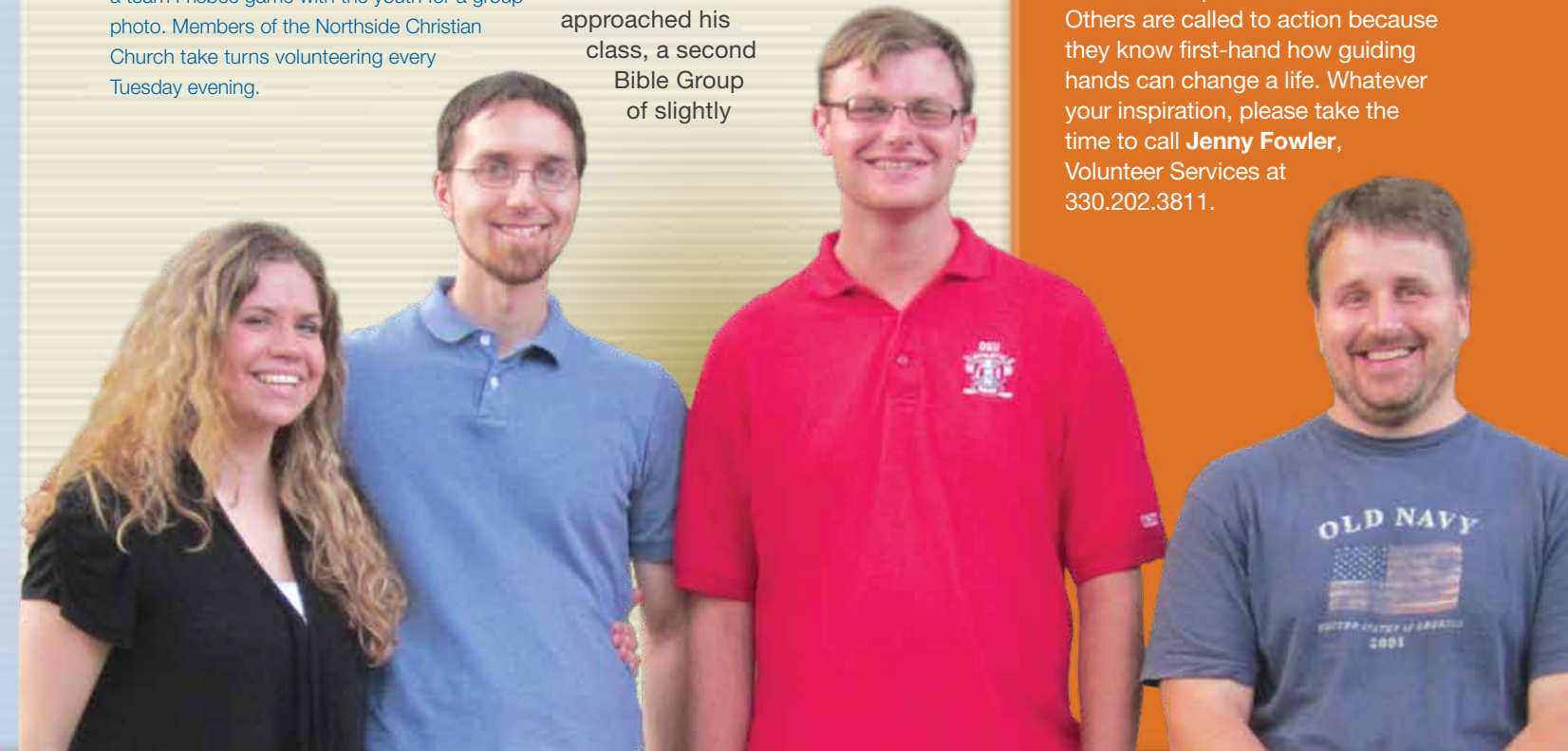
That's how **Brandon and Rachel Newcomer** got involved. The newlyweds volunteer every-other month so they have 4 weeks in a row and then a break. It fits with their work schedules and still gives them time to develop relationships with the youth.

At the end of a recent volunteer session one of the girls living at TVN-Akron came rushing into the activity room. Her excitement was contagious as she said, "Guess what! I'm going home tomorrow! Yeah!"

Hulet replied, "That's good news! But sad for us. We will miss you."

Lend A Hand!

The volunteer group from **Northside Christian Church**, Wadsworth is motivated by their faith. Some of our volunteers are motivated by a need to help at-risk children. Others are called to action because they know first-hand how guiding hands can change a life. Whatever your inspiration, please take the time to call **Jenny Fowler**, Volunteer Services at 330.202.3811.



Wayne County Community Foundation Funds Capital Improvements

Major capital improvement projects were completed on TVN-Boys' Village Campus, Wooster, thanks to a very generous grant from the Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF).

The dollars were used to repair and upgrade the campus drainage system and for new gutters and downspouts on several buildings. New kitchen cabinets and counter tops were installed in Knapp Cottage and the windows were replaced at Smucker Cottage.

"Funding for capital improvements is not readily available," said **Reza Khoramshahi**, Foundation & Government Funding Manger. "TVN is appreciative of WCCF's willingness to support the necessary capital projects that help us improve the quality of life for the very vulnerable children in our care."

WCCF is a charitable community organization established to accept contributions, create and administer funds and make grants for the benefit of the people of the greater Wayne County area. Created in 1978 with a gift of \$1,000 from William Baer, President of Will-Burt Co., Orrville, the WCCF has provided over \$48 million in grants and scholarships back to the community.



Rugby Rules On Wooster Campus

"Soccer is a gentleman's game played by hooligans. Rugby is a hooligans' game played by gentlemen."

– Disputed Source

The Akron and Canton Rugby Football Clubs (RFC) recently held a clinic on TVN-Boys' Village Campus for the 50-plus youth in residence at the Wooster location. The afternoon included a review of the "Laws" of rugby, drill workouts and some two-hand, touch rugby. For most of the boys, this was their first exposure to the sport.

For **Jamie Keeney**, TVN staffer and member of the Akron Rugby Club, it was an opportunity to expose the guys to a sport he has played for 14 years.

"This is a sport some people never see up close, and it's great," said Keeney. "You get a solid workout and it's a good way to channel energy and stress. Rugby offers a positive way to handle pressure."

Akron's Coach **Tommy Little** agrees with Keeney. Little has been involved with rugby for 30 years first as a player and now as a coach. He admits he would have never found rugby on his own. A friend introduced him to the game.

"This sport requires a high intensity level and the mind and body must be fit," said Little. "The young men at TVN can benefit from rugby because it demands physical strength, discipline, focus and structure."

Keeney got hooked on rugby while attending Edinboro University. He liked the teamwork, the competition and the atmosphere of "leave it on the field" when the game is over.

"After our club games everyone sits down together, eats and talks about the day," said Keeney.

Dan Sturtz, president and coach for Canton RFC, has been involved with rugby for 18 years. He too began as a college player. Today, in addition to coaching the Canton team, he works extensively with Stark County's high school and middle school youth. The school program offers a Rookie Rugby curriculum as part of physical education and there is structured league play.

Like many others, Sturtz is excited to see rugby back as an Olympic sport in 2016.

"Today there are a lot of opportunities for men who excel in rugby to play and compete," said Sturtz. "It has become more main-stream with prospects in middle and high school, college, club play, professional and the Olympics."

TVN's Jamie Keeney was key in bringing the recent rugby scrimmage to the Wooster campus. He and his teammates hope the exhibition sparks an interest for the boys in the contact sport.



TVN-Newark's Cindy Saling Makes It Official



When Cindy Saling isn't manning the desk at TVN-Newark, she has control of the court – the volleyball court!

Cindy Saling, Administrative Assistant at TVN-Newark, was inducted into the Ohio High School Athletic Association Officials Hall of Fame. Saling, a TVN staffer for five years, spent the last 35-plus years officiating volleyball, basketball and softball at junior high through college events. And in her spare time, she is heavily involved in local 4-H programs!

"Keeping busy helps me stay young and it's good for my health," said Saling. "I'm not sure what I would do if I wasn't doing all this!"

Before coming to TVN she worked with a smaller childcare agency housed inside the same Newark office. That agency became part of the TVN network.

"Being a part of TVN is wonderful," said Saling. "A larger agency offers stability to the families and foster parents."

Saling starred in three sports while at Sheridan High School. After graduation she planned to attend college and begin a path toward a coaching career. But life doesn't always go according

to plan so she regrouped and began officiating. In 1996 she regrouped again after being diagnosed with lupus.

"When you hear the words 'you have lupus' it's a startling thing. It can really bring you down," said Saling. "The disease doesn't go away it can only be maintained which is what I have done these 15 years. I don't let it get to me. I keep busy."

Saling concentrated on volleyball after her diagnoses. From mid-August through state tournaments in November she can be found on the court – sometimes six days a week. While volleyball is mainly a women's sport there is a move to start men teams at the high school level – and yes, Saling officiates!

She's heard the crowd yell the typical lines – "Are you blind! Can you see? Have you read the rule book?" After all these years it just rolls off her back. She has yellow-carded a few coaches but has never pulled the dreaded red card.

"I really believe in preventive officiating," explained Saling, "I nip it in the bud and stop them before it starts. They understand they can't get away with it on my court."

When asked if she ever steps into the officiating role at the office or at home Saling smiled and said, "I could definitely pull a yellow card sometimes, but I haven't yet!"

Saling took a short break from the childcare industry once, for six months where she tracked rental properties and sometimes traveled. While others thought that position was a dream job, she felt something was missing.

"I missed not being a part of helping children," said Saling. "My children are grown and I have grandchildren but there's something about the excitement of new foster parents looking forward to their first foster child."

Open Your Heart

Foster parents have been called everyday heroes. They have been described as "a work of heart." They have been credited with extraordinary powers and exceptional strength. The truth is foster parents are everyday people, in all walks of life, with extra love, patience and faith.

Qualified foster parents are crucial in helping TVN make the best match for the ever-changing needs of the youth in our care. Join our professional team today.

Visit the website or call us at 880.638.3232 for the TVN Foster Care location near you.



Smart Phone Users

Scan code to access Foster Care verbiage

New ODMH Director Takes Time to Answer Questions



Tracy J. Plouck, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health, spoke briefly to the 400-plus crowd at TVN's Celebration Day. She had an extensive

tour of TVN-Boys' Village Campus and made it a point to talk with some of the youth, clinicians and administrative staff while on campus.

Director Plouck is just a little over nine months into her new position but pledged her department would share the direction of ODMH and address some long-requested changes.

Recently, Director Plouck took the time to answer questions submitted by this newsletter editorial staff. The complete interview is available on our website at (specific web link here).

Q: How is the first 6-9 months in office going – what priorities are set for the coming year – challenges?

I'm really enjoying this role and the opportunity to help improve Ohio's

mental health system. Now that our department has a budget established for the next two years, we're working on implementation of many initiatives including: sharing best practices among our six inpatient hospitals; physical and behavioral health integration; housing; the creation of new community Medicaid services for next fiscal year. People are generally very excited about the projects that we are undertaking. While there is no shortage of challenges to address, I feel that there is a lot of positive energy and collaboration in the mental health system at this time.

Q: We are grateful for your recent visit to The Village Network. Can you comment on your visit, the tour, the discussion with leaders and youth and views on agencies like TVN and our services?

The Village Network serves youth with very intense needs and fills an important role in Ohio's mental health system. During my visit, it was very clear that respect for the youth and the families & staff that care for them is the #1 priority. Safety, resiliency and the importance of education were very visible factors as I toured the campus and asked questions.

Q: Do you have a vision on how you see the department evolving giving the declining resources and what might need to be done to efficiently and effectively continue to meet the needs of children and adults with mental health issues?

I really feel like we need to change the paradigm of how we talk about funding. Rather than focusing on the losses that have occurred, turn the conversation around to focus on the positive things that could be accomplished with a specific amount of additional resources. For example, we should be making a comparison between the average cost of adult incarceration (and all of the related negative social consequences) and the cost of effective treatment for mental illness in a community setting (and all of the potential positive social consequences). Using The Village Network specifically, time-limited intensive treatment for a teen has the demonstrated capacity to alter the trajectory of his life – AWAY from violence, criminal justice, unemployment, etc. This results in greatly improved outcomes for the young man and lower overall costs for the taxpayer.

MDRT Grant Supports Staff Training

Long-time TVN friend and supporter, **Kenneth J. Kohlmyer**, of Wooster, Ohio, secured a \$1,000 grant from the Million Dollar Round Table Foundation (MDRT) on behalf of The Village Network. Kohlmyer, a local investment advisor, is an eight-year MDRT member.

The MDRT Foundation is the philanthropic arm of the Million Dollar Round Table, The Premier Association of Financial Professionals®. It was created in 1959 to provide MDRT members with a means to give back to their communities.

Since its inception, the Foundation has donated more than \$26 million in 80 countries around the world and in all 50 U.S. states. The majority of these funds were raised by MDRT members from MDRT members.

TVN will use the grant dollars for staff training across all TVN Networks, according to **Reza Khoramshahi**, Foundation & Government Funding Manager at TVN.

Ken Kohlmyer's love of golf accompanies him everywhere. During a recent Orientation Training he stopped by to meet the newest TVN associates and show off his antique golf clubs.



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.



Thursday, October 6

Wine Tasting | Wine on High Bar & Retail – Columbus, Ohio

Taste a variety of fine wines and champagnes! Hors d'oeuvres provided. Bid on silent auction items. \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door. Order tickets online at www.thevillagenetwork.org or call Keri @ 740.390.0631



Saturday, October 15

10th Annual Sweet Jubilation | Wooster, Ohio

It's a night to remember! Dinner, dancing, live and silent auctions – fun you won't want to miss! There's still time to purchase a ticket to this black tie-optional evening. Order tickets online at www.thevillagenetwork.org or call Lacie @ 330.202.3857

Local Grant Purchases TVN-Mount Vernon Furniture

The Village Network-Mount Vernon recently received \$9,200 from The Community Foundation of Mount Vernon & Knox County. The grant purchased bedroom and common living area furniture for its residential facility, Children's Resource Center (CRC) on Coshocton Road, Mount Vernon.

The TVN-Mount Vernon location is the result of a partnership with the Knox County Department of Job and Family Services (KCJFS). CRC is a co-educational residential program for 20 youth with emotional and behavior challenges. It also houses transitional living space for older adolescents. Other services include day treatment, treatment foster care, respite care and crisis assessment services.

"The Foundation is pleased to help create a living environment more conducive to the healing of at-risk children entrusted to the care of The Village Network," said **Sam Barone**, Executive Director at the Foundation. "The grant emphasizes the Foundation's message of improving the lives of area youth."

TVN-Mount Vernon has operated inside Knox County for 10 years. The location has directly served over 230 of Knox County's most vulnerable youth. Other county youth have been helped through one or more of TVN's additional locations.

The Knox County staff also provides outpatient and in-home mental health services through KCJFS and 24/7 emergency admission and respite care for children in crisis. TVN-Mount

Vernon is on the forefront of the evidence-based practice of Trauma Informed Care (TIC). TIC focuses on past traumas in a child's life that result in current behavioral issues.

The practice is credited with reducing restraints and critical incidents. The TVN staff present at state conferences and provide TIC training sessions to other local non-profit child-caring agencies in the county.



"Nice, homey surroundings are very important to progress with at-risk children," said Dave Paxton, Regional Director for TVN. "The new furniture is a wonderful change for the CRC."