

Grants...We don't take them for granted!

The CYS Development Office has written several proposals this year to help keep our programs strong and our funding base diversified. Though competition has been stiff, CYS has received more than 20 grants worth nearly \$2 million so far in 2009. The grants are both large and small and come from all levels of government and the private sector. While many are continuation grants, CYS received funding for some new programs, including federal stimulus funding for YouthBuild a three-year \$980,000 Dept. of Labor grant to work with youth who have

dropped out of school. Youth enroll in New Market Skills Center and receive training in construction trades. They build low income housing, while rebuilding their lives.

Other new funding includes: United Way of Thurston County's Women's Leadership Council provided \$5,000 to promote financial literacy among homeless young women. Costco gave \$10,000 of gift cards to buy food and hygiene supplies for Rosie's Place Drop-In Center. Inter-City Transit awarded CYS YouthBuild Program a used van to transport youth to construction sites and school.

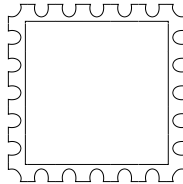
Who ya gonna call?
Graffiti Busters!

Graffiti Busters, a group of youth from the CYS Transitional Housing Program, painted over neighborhood graffiti last summer. The group, employed by the Summer Youth Employment Program, scrubbed, painted and cleaned up unsightly graffiti in three neighborhoods in Thurston County. Rhonda Ayers, program coordinator, hopes to see the program come back even bigger in the summer of 2010. "It hope to see it incorporate landscape work next summer," she said.



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New Directions. Brighter Futures.



New Directions. Brighter Futures.

The

Fall-Holiday 2009



Youth Connection

200 Youth Explore World of Work in Summer Jobs Program

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provided 200 teens and young adults, ages 14 to 24, entry-level jobs this past summer through the CYS Summer Youth Employment Program. They were paid with federal stimulus dollars received through the Pacific Mountain Workforce Development Consortium.

The summer jobs program, which served low-income Thurston County youth with various barriers to regular employment, was launched again after a 10 year absence.

"It's a collaborative, community-based, employment program," said **Kathy McLaughlin**, coordinator for the CYS Career TREK Program, who oversaw the summer jobs program.

Many program participants had their first real work experience through the program, in jobs that reflected their strengths and career interest. For some, the jobs continued after the summer.

"Employers have overwhelmingly found their participants to be excellent employees and have repeatedly praised their abilities, enthusiasm and hard work," said Career TREK case manager **Katherine Mahoney**.

Janell Stephens, 17, a program participant, took her interest in animals to the Yelm Veterinary Hospital this summer as a member of the animal care staff. Whether she was helping in surgery or cleaning animal kennels, she enjoyed the diversity of



Ruchty works on a wig as part of her job.

chores that came with the job. After her summer stint ended, Janell was hired by the Yelm Veterinary Hospital as a regular employee. Now in her senior year at the Yelm Extension School, Janell is attending school and earning income while working.

A single mom and CYS transitional housing participant, **Christina Ruchty**, 19, has long been interested in cosmetology and hair design. Through the summer program, she worked on the wigs and makeup crew at Capital Playhouse.

While she prefers to work on "real people," Christina has learned a lot by styling wigs. **Hannah Franks**, her CYS case manager, said Christina would take part in the fall jobs program as well. "We plan to support her in accomplishing her goal of getting her cosmetology certification and ultimately, finding a job in a salon," Franks said.



Wolfe concludes board service

Cathy Wolfe, center, recently retired from the CYS board after serving for 15 years. CYS would like to thank Wolfe for her long and faithful service. Here she is shown presenting Summer Youth Employment Program participant **Aaron Bartlett**, 18, left, with his first paycheck. Aaron worked in the mailroom of the Washington State Employees Credit Union over the summer. "Aaron has been a great help to us this summer," said **John Goin**, right, facilities supervisor at the credit union. "This program is great at helping kids get firsthand experience in the workplace that will help them in the future."

CYS director marks 30 years

Oct. 15, 2009 was a special date in CYS history. It marked the 30th anniversary of Charles Shelan leading Community Youth Services. The agency, which was a small non-profit when Shelan took over, is now one of the largest child welfare agencies in the region.

As executive director, Shelan plans, organizes and assembles resources to ensure that programs get the support they need. He often testifies before legislative committees and works on state and national public policy issues.

Under his leadership, CYS became accredited through the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services. The agency has 80 full-time employees and a budget of \$5.5 million.

E-newsletter in the works

Community Youth Services is in the process of converting this quarterly printed newsletter to an electronic version. This enables us to save paper and reduce and redirect significant printing and postage dollars to our youth programs and other direct services for at-risk children, teens and young adults.

We will continue to offer printed newsletters as well, so that both options will be available for our donors, supporters and professional colleagues who want them.

If you are interested in getting our newsletter via email, please let us know.

We appreciate your support in cutting costs and living a little more "green."

Here's all you need to do:

- Send an email to newsletter@CommunityYouthServices.org. On the subject line, write NEWSLETTER.
- In the body of the email, simply write your name, address, ZIP code and a phone number.
- Questions? Call Susan Alexander, 360-943-0780 Ext. 116, or Barbara Wakefield, 943-0780 Ext. 156.



New faces and places



A quick update on changes at CYS

Bruns moves to AmeriCorps

Robyn Bruns became CYS' AmeriCorps Program Director in August. She spent the last year as a Clinical Case Manager in Foster Care and three years as Lead Residential Counselor at Haven House. She's looking forward to working with the program's five staff, who oversee 81 AmeriCorps members.



Bruns

Robyn, a native of Washington, said, "The thing I like best about working for AmeriCorps is joining a dedicated team and experiencing a new challenge."

Bruns replaces **Beth Meyer**, who left as director, to take over the CareerTREK and Youth Build programs.

Board welcomes two new members

The board of directors at CYS is pleased to welcome two new members.

La'Tonja Hunter, 42, is the Workforce Diversity manager at the Washington Department of Personnel.



Hunter

Hunter feels strongly that community support can make a difference in the lives of young people. "You can't lift yourself up by the bootstraps if you don't have them or know where to go to get them," she said.

Gregory L. Burnett, 26, is a financial analyst with the Confeder-

ated Tribes of the Chehalis Indian Reservation. He, too, is optimistic. "We can make a difference by setting a good example for the young people around us to follow."



Burnett

Dean retires after 29 years

After 29 years working in youth employment programs, **Mary Dean** retired from Community Youth Services on June 30.

Not only does she have reason to celebrate many, many accomplishments, she can accurately claim that she is the very first staff member of CYS to join the ranks of the truly retired.



Mary Dean

Mary began her career with CYS in 1980 in the agency's new employment and training program. Her first year on the job marked a turning point for CYS as many other programs were added.

"Mary can look back proudly and reflect on the legacy that she is leaving behind," said Charles Shelan, executive director. "she has helped guide the careers of hundreds of young people, mentored dozens of staff and has made CYS a better and stronger force for change."

Dean hopes to enjoy gardening, her work on the Lacey City Council and more time for visits with family during her retirement.

Have a Heart for Kids 2010



Mark your calendars! The CYS breakfast to raise funds for CYS is

Feb. 25, 2010 at the Red Lion Hotel.