

YSS of Eastern Story County 830 Sixth Street Nevada, IA 50201-2002
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Youth and Shelter Services of Eastern Story County Community Advisory Board Members

Linda Zaletel, Chairperson

Judy Mersman, Vice-Chairperson

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Dear Friends,

Youth & Shelter Services of Eastern Story County (YSS of ESC) partners with communities to provide comprehensive prevention services that advocate for children, youth, and families while promoting healthy behaviors and choices. The office, located in Nevada, provides residents of Collins, Colo, Maxwell, McCallsburg, Nevada, and Zearing with prevention, youth development, intervention, and counseling services *close to home*.

With shifting federal and state funding for human services and inconsistent mental health coverage by insurance providers, local support is essential to these services. The Community Advisory Board voted to pursue an endowment campaign in celebration of the 25th anniversary of YSS in Eastern Story County. Increasing our endowment will both honor our history and provide a stable source of funds for critical services in the future. Your gift to the endowment today means children, youth, and families served by YSS of Eastern Story County receive an annual gift from you every year, forever.

The YSS of Eastern Story County Endowment Fund helps provide direct services to children, youth, and families participating in:

- Great Relationships in Pairs (GRIP) Mentoring
- Individual, family and crisis intervention, and counseling
- In-school child safety and substance abuse prevention programming
- Positive youth development

Your support can help ensure that YSS staff, volunteer mentors, and our young people will be able to make and sustain these local connections and benefit from these significant relationships. You can take pride in knowing that the revenue from your gift contributes to the type of services that newcomers and residents value most.

There are many ways to contribute to the YSS of Eastern Story County Endowment including: outright gifts of cash, multi-year pledges, appreciated stock or other property, deferred gifts such as bequests, insurance benefits, annuities, IRAs or charitable remainder trusts. Our staff can assist you and your financial advisor to help meet your charitable goals. Please contact us to discuss gifting options.

The need is significant. Your generous gift to the YSS of Eastern Story County Endowment will help make a difference to children, youth, and families *close to home*.

Linda Zaletel, Chairperson
YSS of Eastern Story County Advisory Board

YOUTH & SHELTER SERVICES OF EASTERN STORY COUNTY

THEN & NOW



Youth and Shelter Services of Eastern Story County began in response to needs identified by Nevada school and community leaders. Youth & Shelter Services (YSS) opened an outreach facility, known as the Nevada Youth Service Bureau, in 1984. The office, first located in the basement of the Nevada Post Office, provided crisis intervention, counseling, and support groups for youth and their families. It was not long before the service area expanded to include Collins, Colo, Maxwell, McCallsburg, Zearing, and all Eastern Story County schools. Area schools partnered with YSS to provide students with school-based substance abuse intervention in 1985.



As time went on, a new need was identified. The Youth Service Bureau worked within the confines of the Nevada Post Office for six years. The basement location had limited lighting, cramped office space, and was inaccessible to the physically disabled. The location's high visibility also made client confidentiality difficult. The Community Advisory Board and staff agreed a new location would meet increasing needs and provide quality services.



In 1991, when the building at 830 Sixth Street became available, the board and staff jumped at the opportunity! The building was purchased with generous contributions from the City of Nevada and the County Board of Supervisors. Thanks to local donors, the *Brighter Visions: Moving to Serve Youth in Eastern Story County* campaign successfully retired the outstanding \$15,000 balance that same year.



Members of the Community Advisory Board have provided strong leadership and direction, identifying community needs and advocating for services since 1984. During a Community Advisory Board meeting in November 2007, members decided to celebrate the 25th anniversary of YSS in Eastern Story County with an endowment campaign. The **Endow Youth Services Close to Home** campaign will honor our history and celebrate our future commitment to the communities we serve.

Since then, much has been done to help meet the needs of children, youth and families in Eastern Story County. Treatment Services staff continue to provide clients and families with crisis intervention, individual and family counseling and outpatient substance abuse treatment services. Other direct and integrated substance abuse and mental health evaluations, interventions, and management and care coordination services are also provided.



From the beginning, youth development has been a primary focus. High school students partner with staff to build the strengths and skills of the youth, help create a positive network of peers and mentors, and provide safe environments to foster these relationships. *Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)*, *Collins-Maxwell Celebrating High Achievers Making Positive Stands (ChaMps)*, and the *Story County Teen Task Force* groups are the portals through which youth give leadership and advocate.



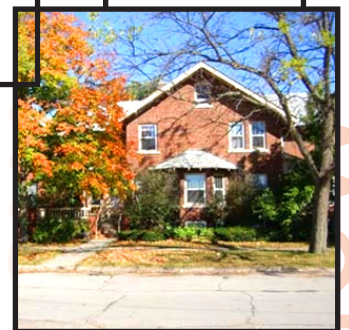
YSS of Eastern Story County is also very proud of our Great Relationships in Pairs (GRIP) Mentoring program. The mentoring relationship is a mutual commitment to a long-term friendship that develops through weekly meetings at school. A mentor has a genuine interest in making a positive difference, supporting the potential of a child and realizing dreams. Facilitating matches for more than a decade, GRIP is the only school-based mentoring program in Story County.



YSS of ESC has initiated School-Based Prevention Programs into the Eastern Story County school districts. Prevention Specialists facilitate age-appropriate science-based programs in elementary and middle school classrooms that focus on child safety, decision-making, resistance skills, and substance abuse prevention. Collins-Maxwell middle school students also receive homework support and use their energy to serve their school and communities after-school at *Teen Club*.



YSS of Eastern Story County continues to provide services that have been in place from the beginning. Our Youth Employment Specialist provides vocational and occupational counseling to young people as they make a successful transition to the working world. Family Development Specialists partner with families headed by young adults to identify strengths and overcome barriers on the pathway to self-sufficiency. The 24-hour help line and Rosedale Shelter in Ames serve youth and families in times of crisis.





While the name and location have changed over the years, our effective programs and successful outcomes continue to be the result of dedicated employees, volunteers and strong community support. School personnel, public safety staff, medical professionals, leadership from the faith community, other service providers, and concerned citizens all partner with us to provide for the needs of residents in Eastern Story County. The presence of our office and staff in Nevada signals our commitment to advocate for children, youth, and families who live here in Eastern Story County. Our collaborative work in these communities, coupled with the services we provide, contributes to our quality of life.



"All the programs provided by YSS of Eastern Story County that I and my grandsons have participated in have been extremely helpful for all of us. Raising special needs grandsons have challenged my parenting skills, and, without the assistance of YSS, I would not have been able to give them the help they needed. This organization needs to continue providing the services that will help other parents and children be and do their best in times of adversity and what may seem like impossible challenges to soar to a brighter future."

-- Grandparent of YSS clients



"After retiring from teaching, I trained to become a mentor. I was matched with a first-grade girl in 2005, and we have been a 'pair' ever since. This is a very rewarding experience for both of us — she is receiving my encouragement, support and undivided attention and I get to spend time with children at school. This is a 'win-win' situation for us both!"

-- Current YSS Mentor



"This letter is in regard to the YSS of Eastern Story County. I feel having them in our town is a great asset to our community. Our family was in need of some help, and we needed it pretty quickly. I did not know where to reach out for help, so I called them and explained my situation. The staff was very understanding, helpful, and responded quickly to our needs. It was very comforting to us to find familiar faces, due to a lot of the staff being local. They gave me some options and were of great support.

I feel that without the help and guidance of YSS of Eastern Story County being right here, close to home, we would not have been as comfortable as we were to reach out for help and we would not have made the progress that we have."

-- Parent of YSS client