



MISSION

YSB's mission is to move children, youth and families in crisis from surviving to thriving.

VISION

Our agency will be the key player in crisis prevention and the regional safety net for vulnerable families.

Trauma-Informed Care

Youth Service Bureau has taken steps to become a trauma-informed agency. Every part of our organization, management, and service delivery system is being assessed and potentially modified to include a basic understanding of how trauma affects the life of a youth seeking services. Trauma-informed organizations, programs, and services are based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities or triggers of trauma survivors that traditional service delivery approaches may exacerbate, so that these services and programs can be more supportive and avoid re-traumatization.

SAFE STATION EMERGENCY SHELTER

Safe Station is a temporary shelter for teens ages 12-18. Some teens needing services are runaways, homeless or victims of abuse and neglect. Some teens and their families need a "time out" due to family tensions.



Our program goals are to provide safe, temporary housing for teens (most stay 21 days or less) and to work with teens and families for reunification. Teens at Safe Station participate in individual and family counseling and work with a service coordinator for problem-solving and skill building. Most teens continue to attend school while staying at Safe Station.

SAFE PLACE

Safe Place is affiliated with the National Safe Place program. A youth in need of a "safe place" can go to any St. Joseph County public library, fire station, Transpo bus or the South Bend Airport for assistance. Over 70 businesses and agencies and all Transpo buses displaying the black and yellow Safe Place sign, have staff trained to welcome youth seeking assistance. A YSB Safe Station staff person or a trained Safe Place volunteer will be called to meet the youth and provide assistance on-site or bring the teen to Safe Station for additional services.



All YSB services are free and confidential.

STREET OUTREACH

Street Outreach teams talk to kids right where they are – in the neighborhoods, at the basketball hoop in the parks, around school property, on the street and at other hang-outs. The team seeks out teens and young adults who are facing neglect or homelessness, street or family violence.



Young people who are pregnant or parenting are also in this target group. The experienced team of staff and volunteers develop trusting relationships with youth in an effort to provide needed support and assistance, aid them in what may be difficult choices and help them navigate their options.

YSB Street Outreach seeks to:

- Provide access to safe shelter
- Provide food, clothing, health products and other essentials
- Help with connections to counseling, mental and physical health services
- Connect youth to education and employment training

DROP-IN CENTER

The Drop-In Center is a place where teens in crisis or in need of services can get help. The Drop-in Center provides food, laundry facilities, computers/ internet, job leads and recreation. Someone to talk to is an important part of the help available and Street Outreach team members, volunteers and therapists are all available to help youth talk through the challenges they are facing. The Drop-In Center is open weekdays, after-school. Call for times (as we will soon be open later) or just drop by.

