



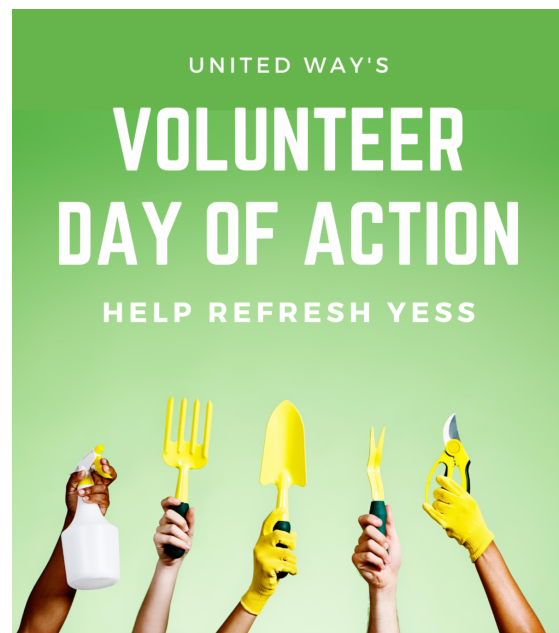
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HELP REFRESH YESS

Sept 15: Volunteer Day of Action

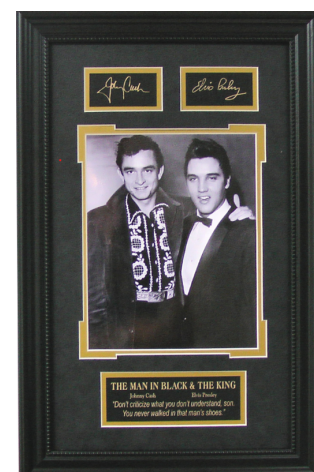
Have you been cooped up in your home office? Get some fresh air while refreshing our courtyard. With COVID shutting down our volunteer program and reducing our staffing, our courtyard has become a bit unruly and overgrown. Help give our kiddos a comfortable courtyard by joining United Way's Day of Action on Tuesday, September 15.

Learn More or Sign-Up Today!



MEET KATIE

Can't Help Falling in Love with...



When she found the cigarette lighter in her dad's car, she grabbed it and stuffed it quickly into her pocket before he could see what she was doing. When she got home, she jumped out of the car, picked up some old newspapers in the garage and ran two blocks to the city park. After making sure no one could see her, she lit the paper and placed it under an old wooden teeter-totter. *WOOSH!* The flames climbed up to the seats and soon the playground equipment was a blazing inferno.

Katie did get caught red handed and the Juvenile Corrections Officer ordered her to go to YESS' youth shelter. The JCO did not want her to return home where the fighting between her parents seemed to never end. The JCO recognized Katie herself was a powder keg ready to blow and she needed a break.

Katie was a lot like the fire she set. Once she got into the shelter, her scorching temper, her violent actions, and stormy personality kept her from making any friends or building relationships. One therapist however saw beyond Katie's behavior to see a child in need who was buckling under the pressure of home and an untreated mental illness.

Tina held therapy sessions with Katie and continued to help her manage behaviors and create better relationships with her parents. This took time. In fact, it took more than 4 years, but eventually she improved.

This story does have a happy ending for when she graduated from high school, Katie's record was cleared of all charges. Katie will be the first to testify that her therapist and Hope Hall lived up to its name, giving her the tools she needed to build a hope-filled future.

You can place a bid on this framed photo plaque of Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash at various silent auction locations around the metro. Memorabilia from other "greats" like Muhammad Ali, Babe Ruth, Patrick Mahomes, and Kobe Bryant are available for your winning bid. The plaque will be shipped directly to you, framed and ready to hang.

You can find this photo plaque and many more at these locations around the metro:

- Holiday Inn & Suites (Urbandale)
- Genesis Health Club (DSM)
- Sleep Inn & Suites (Ankeny)
- Holiday Inn & Suites (WDM)
- Hilton (Downtown DSM)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT YESS

YESS Video Featured During National Convention

YESS is the official Safe Place for Central Iowa because of our relationship with National Safe



Place and QuikTrip. In August, we attended Safe Place's annual conference, Focus 2020, where this video was featured. This clip follows a young girl, Jamie, after she ran away from home. Jamie learns about Safe Place, Respite Care, and therapy. **Watch the video here.**

Breaking Ground in 2021

We are beyond excited to announce a new project soon to be in bloom. A healing garden will provide our kiddos with a tranquil place for reflection or just to find peace and quiet. Fit with raised planting beds, an outdoor classroom, cozy seating, a shady nook, and musical instruments, this interactive garden will be cherished by many kids for years to come.

Help grow The Garden by donating today.



DONOR HIGHLIGHTS

Much-Needed Furniture Upgrade



Our hearts are filled with gratitude to True North and Saxton for their donation and time. Thank you to True North for the furniture upgrade and thank you to Saxton for transporting this heavy furniture to

\$10,000 Golf Outing



During their 70th annual company meeting, Affinity Credit Union presented YESS with a \$10,000 donation. These funds were raised during their annual charitable golf outing. Our hearts are grateful for

YESS. Pictured above is YESS' CEO, Leisa Fox, as she describes the impact of the donation. **Check out the full donation video here.**

their invaluable support. Thank you so much.

HOW HOPE HALL HELPS Respite Care



During this uncertain and stressful time, our Respite Care unit has become a safe haven for many kids. Hope Hall provides families with a safe place for children to spend up to 72 hours, at no cost, when there is extreme stress or a crisis situation at home.

Children and families who turn to Hope Hall Respite receive a private living space and services like mental health assessments and case management.



Learn more about Respite.

BE THE GREATER GOOD

We are seeking an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer to serve a one-year term. Tasks include:

- Develop a volunteer infrastructure for our organization
- Develop creative volunteer recognition programs
- Fundraising and grants management
- Create a marketing plan



Learn More and Apply Today!

Anyone Got a Crystal Ball?

Leisa Fox, CEO

“Great leaders are the ones who think beyond 'short term' versus 'long term.' They are the ones who know that it is not about the next quarter or the next election; it is about the next generation.” – Simon Sinek, The Infinite Game

Todd Christy, our CFO, and I spent time last week filling out an 86-question survey predicting our future in a post-COVID environment for United Way.

What do you anticipate will be the long-term impact? The short-term impact? How will COVID impact the way you deliver services? The list went on and on...

Between us, we said, "let me get my crystal ball" about 8 times. While some questions were impossible to answer accurately, it did offer us opportunity to pause and reflect on the possibilities. Thanks to our amazing and committed staff, we do powerful work for our kids. Every day, our therapists, our residential advisors, our skills-based counselors, they all make a world's difference to the kids in our care. Even when the world is so uncertain.



As we survive these next months as life begins to "normalize," I ask you to cast your vision on the future. Not this winter, not next spring, but a year from now, three years from now, a decade, because the impact of COVID will reverberate forever. This young generation will be impacted for the rest of their life, some more than others. Our goal is to more easily identify these kids, provide quick access to our services, and then deliver solid, proven outcomes that will positively impact them.

I so appreciate all you do to "change lives by protecting children and empowering families." The future is amazingly bright for organizations like ours who are taking this time of chaos to reset, realign and rethink their operations. Please trust that this is happening. This tireless work will ultimately position YESS as a leader and partner in building an Iowa where all children thrive in a safe home. Your patience and support as we navigate the unknown is appreciated more than you know. Thank you for all you do for our kids.



Youth Emergency Services & Shelter
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