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File #071009



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PROGRAMS

Youth Shelters

Programs for youth in crisis

Counseling

Services for troubled youth and
people with substance abuse
and mental health issues

Prevention

Educating the community,
focusing on substance abuse
and high-risk
populations

March 7, 2008

Dear Community Supporter,

As you may know, since 1976 CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc. (formerly known as the Corner Drug Store, Inc.) has provided a safe haven for youth in crisis through its Interface Youth shelters. Each year approximately 1,200 adolescents who are runaways, truant, ungovernable, or victims of domestic violence receive shelter and counseling in either the Gainesville, the Lake City, or the Palatka facility. **These sanctuaries are the only shelters for youth available in North Central Florida.** Thousands of young people and their families benefit in a very real and lasting way from the counseling services provided. However, the cost to operate the shelters is very high and includes food, clothing, 24/7 staff supervision 365 days a year, licensed counselors, background screenings, transportation, physical plant upkeep, and on, and on.

On **March 30, 2008**, CDS will host the 9th Annual **Spotlight on Youth** as a fundraiser for its Interface shelters as well as for the many other community programs CDS supports. What makes Spotlight so special is that it is much more than a fundraiser. It is a chance for over 100 outstanding high school musicians, dancers, artists, and poets to experience the complete creative process, including auditioning, rehearsing, and performing on a professional stage with the assistance of a professional backstage technical crew. This event is vitally important because of its direct community impact. For most of these youth, performing at the Phillips Center in front of hundreds of spectators is the chance of a lifetime. It gives them a positive alternative to participating in potentially risky behaviors, which benefits us all.

We ask you to please help your community by financially supporting CDS and the Spotlight on Youth event. Your involvement is instrumental in keeping CDS active in breaking the cycle of unhealthy family relationships. At CDS, our mission is "Strengthening Communities by Building Strong Families." Will you help us build a stronger community?

Please find enclosed further information about CDS Family & Behavioral Health Services, Inc. and its full range of programs. Also, feel free to contact us or Erica Chatman, CDS's Resource Development Coordinator, with any questions you might have. We thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Pearce
CEO

Wayland Clifton
Chair, Spotlight on Youth Committee



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Major support from:

State of Florida, Department of Juvenile Justice; State of Florida, Department of Children & Families;
Partnership for Strong Families; Florida Network of Youth & Family Services, Inc.; U.S. Department of Health & Human Services;
United Way of North Central Florida; United Way of Suwannee Valley;
Alachua County Board of County Commissioners; Individual Contributions