

Media Release

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Youthville To Host Chalk Art Festival Saturday, May 30

(Wichita, Kan., April 29, 2009) – Let the sidewalks inspire you on Saturday, May 30 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Youthville's 2nd annual Chalk Art Festival, an event presented by the agency's Expressive Arts Center. Chalk Art Festival is an opportunity for families to experience a day of expressive arts in downtown Newton, Kan. The day is filled with demonstrations by some of Kansas top professional artists, live music, sidewalks to create chalk art and an opportunity to buy art pieces during a silent auction. Attendees can stay a few hours or spend the whole day experiencing art, shopping at the downtown shops, and eating at various food vendors. This event is **free and open to the public** because of the support of Central Kansas Community Foundation and Newton Medical Center. The rain date is Saturday, June 7.

"The Chalk Art Festival was designed to create awareness about Youthville's mission of *Giving Children Back their Childhood* through the use of expressive arts," said Micala Gingrich Gaylord, Youthville's Expressive Arts Center Coordinator. "We hope that the festival will inspire other youth to realize the power that creative arts and expression can have in one's life."

Youthville's Expressive Arts Center on the Newton campus was started to give disadvantaged youth a creative place to express their experiences through art. It offers a comprehensive array of programs, including: incentives for improved behaviors, outings, recreation and opportunities for service within the community. These programs allow the children to reframe their difficult life experience to help them create new tools for coping.



Additionally, two weekly groups are offered, the Window Between Worlds art group and the Creative Arts Program group, that serve as platforms for reaching clients. Youthville uses visual arts, drama, dance, music and play to help address issues such as abuse, anger and drug abuse.

A Window Between Worlds originally started in Los Angeles in 1991. It's a program based on the assumption that through art, a healing process can and does happen for people who have experienced trauma through domestic violence. Youthville residents have weekly art groups and work in many different mediums. Finished artwork has become part of gallery exhibits.

Youthville's vision is to provide the best sources of help to children who have been abused, abandoned, or neglected with its mission of ***Giving Children Back Their Childhood***. Over 3,000 children are cared for annually by Youthville. To learn more or to get involved with Youthville visit www.youthville.org.



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