

Media Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: **Megan Smith**
PR Manager
Youthville
4505 E. 47th St. South
Wichita, KS 67210
Phone: 316-529-9100 ext. 8105
Email: msmith@youthville.org

Youthville unveils *Mural of Change* wall art created by Youthville's Newton Psychiatric Treatment Facility residents

(Wichita, Kan., Oct. 9, 2008) – Youthville will unveil a *Mural of Change*, wall art created by the children of the Youthville campus on Wednesday, Oct. 15 from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. during the Newton Chamber After Hours event at Youthville, 900 Broadway in Newton. More than 30 children from the Youthville campus painted and personalized butterflies as a part of the mural located in the Eby School. Highlighted within the mural is a quote from Shakespeare connected to the principles taught at the campus; “*We know what we are but know not what we may be.*”

The mural was conceived by Micala Gingrich-Gaylord, Youthville expressive arts worker and painted in part by the children on the Youthville campus. The children were encouraged to make a historical record of their time at Youthville while using the mural as a creative outlet to voice their feelings.

“The intention of the mural is to use the metaphor of the life cycle of butterflies to inspire the children to think about the changes they are going through while staying at Youthville,” said Gingrich-Gaylord. “I also hope the mural may inspire others to think about the possibility of change in their life when they walk through the doors at Youthville.”



The mural will be an ongoing project in which new children coming to the Youthville campus will create butterflies on the wall during their stay. “Youthville’s mission is to give children back their childhood; this mural is one of many steps in that direction,” said Gingrich-Gaylord.

The Youthville Psychiatric Treatment Facility is for children ages 10 -18 who need time away to address issues and remove barriers from becoming a family again. This 24-hour, highly structured treatment is for youth whose behaviors threaten the safety of themselves or others. Youthville is committed to caring for children in an innovative way that encourages growth mentally, physically, and creatively through all forms of expression. As an in-patient treatment option, residents are engaged in fun, creative, and meaningful outlets of expression through the Expressive Arts Program.

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.

###

* **Two of the residents who painted butterflies in the mural have also agreed to be interviewed to share their perspective of what the mural means to them. Please contact me to set up an interview time. ***