

# Media Release

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## **Youthville focuses on building leaders within organization through Leadership Youthville program**

*(Wichita, Kan., April 6, 2009)* – Youthville is proud to announce the launch of its newly created Leadership Youthville program. The program is an innovative approach to succession planning that focuses on building leaders from within the organization and cultivating and retaining current talent. The eleven Youthville employees chosen for the first Leadership Youthville class were announced on Tuesday, March 31. The program will kickoff on Wednesday, April 15 at Youthville’s Dodge City campus.

The eleven Youthville employees chosen to participate in Leadership Youthville are: Teri Augustus, Angel Chandler, Becky Douglas, Liane Felton, Micala Gingrich-Gaylord, Misty Harding, Dan Little, William Purdy, Lucas Stevens, Brenda Stewart and Aaron Walker.

“Developing employees is something Youthville strongly believes in and I think this program is an essential key to the organization’s long-term sustainability and success,” said Shelley Duncan, Youthville CEO. “I am very excited to be able to provide our employees with this opportunity.”

Tailored to meet the organization’s needs, the Leadership Youthville model incorporates some of the elements used in Leadership Wichita as well as mentoring, book discussions and special projects. The program is an intensive six month leadership development program designed to identify, educate and inspire current and aspiring leaders within the organization.

“The timing of this program couldn’t be better, because we have great leadership in place,” said, Todd Lewis, Human Resources Coordinator. “We need to help our leaders pass on their knowledge to the rising stars in the organization.”

After attending the American Society for Training and Development conference in Chicago in August of 2008, Lewis worked to help build the framework for the Leadership Youthville program. Employees interested in participating in the program were required to submit a letter of interest and reference letters. A nine-member selection committee interviewed and chose the eleven employees to participate in the first class.

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](http://www.youthville.org).

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