

Media Release

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**Youthville to share powerful traveling art exhibit, allowing audiences to
Walk A Mile in a child's shoes in the child welfare system**

Now Showing...



Art Exhibition

August 17-31, 2009
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
UMB Bank, 130 N Market St., Wichita, Kan.

Audiences are invited to visit the Youthville *Walk a Mile* traveling exhibit. Take a moment to experience a powerful showcase of artwork by Youthville's Psychiatric Residential Treatment kids who have redesigned old shoes to express their stories and experiences in the child welfare system.

"My name is Rickey and I am 11. I have been in Youthville for a while. I am here because I was using drugs and getting into trouble with the law and family. My shoe talks about all the times my heart has been broken and the times that I have broken other peoples hearts. I feel trapped a lot by things inside my head and the things that I have done. I hope that I can change while I am here."

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) are for children ages 10 to 18 years 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 has two campuses one in Dodge City and the other in Newton. Youthville is committed to caring for children in an innovative way that encourages growth mentally, physically, and creatively through creative forms of expression. Only 8 percent of the children in foster care reside in PRTFs.

"When I see the Walk a Mile project, I am always humbled by the courage our youth continue to show even in the face of great adversity," said, Micala Gingrich-Gaylord, Youthville Expressive Arts Center. "We are allowing the kids to tell a story, their story, so that healing happens. It's the way the soul speaks when words cannot."

Youthville is one of the largest nonprofit, child welfare agencies in Kansas, specializing in foster care, adoption, counseling and psychiatric residential treatment. The agency'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 about Youthville visit www.youthville.org.

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