

News Release

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Youthville announces “Fulfilling Dreams” Capital Campaign for Dodge City campus

(Wichita, Kan., Sept. 22, 2009) – Youthville hosted a news conference on Tuesday, Sept. 22 at its Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility in Dodge City, 11200 Lariat Way, to announce its official kick off of a \$1.2 million capital campaign entitled “Fulfilling Dreams.” The campaign will fund a new centralized kitchen and dining space, a FEMA-standard storm shelter, additional classrooms and office areas to the Dodge City campus.

Currently, the campus does not have a storm shelter or basement in a part of the country, which has endured disastrous storms. While the campus complies with new federal school lunch and breakfast regulations for food preparation, we are still transferring food by wagon outside to various cottage dining areas. The campus does not have a centralized kitchen/dining area that meets federal regulations. Classrooms are so small that desks are pushed up against each other and the bathroom facilities are adjacent to the classrooms.

“There’s such a need for the services Youthville provides and there are some things on campus that really need to be updated, especially the cottage dining room areas,” said Ted Metcalf, Youthville donor.

The total cost of the project is \$1.5 million and includes a \$303,800 federal fund line item appropriation supported by Congressman Jerry Moran and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts for the kitchen and dining portion, which must be expended by 2010. To date, Youthville has raised \$679,346.41 in gifts and pledges towards the “Fulfilling Dreams” capital campaign.

“We are very excited about the amount of our lead support. However, it is going to be extremely important given our economic times to keep the momentum going,” said Shelley Duncan, Youthville CEO. “Therefore, it is our hope that today’s announcement will spark businesses and individuals to get involved by participating in Fulfilling Dreams.”

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF) are for children ages 6 to 18 years who need time away to address issues and remove barriers in their lives. 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.

Youthville is one of the largest nonprofit, child welfare agencies in Kansas, specializing in foster care, adoption, psychiatric residential treatment and counseling. The agency's 600 employees are passionate about its mission of Giving Children Back Their Childhood to the 1,400 Kansas children who suffer from abuse, neglect, abandonment, and trauma. To learn more or to get involved with Youthville please visit www.youthville.org.

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