

# Media Release

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## Youthville Celebrates Completion of First Leadership Program

*(Wichita, Kan., October 1, 2009)* – Youthville is proud to announce the completion of their first Leadership Youthville Program. The agency will recognize ten employees who completed the program at an awards ceremony on Monday, Oct. 5 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Youthville, 4505 E. 47<sup>th</sup> St. South in room 290. Each participant will be awarded a plaque for successfully completing the program.

The ten Youthville employees who completed Leadership Youthville are: Teri Augustus, Angel Chandler, Becky Douglas, Liane Felton, Micala Gingrich-Gaylord, Misty Harding, 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 we could provide our employees with this opportunity.”

The Leadership Youthville Program was an extensive six month program designed to identify, educate, and inspire current leaders within the organization. The Leadership course incorporated some of the elements used in Leadership Wichita as well as mentoring, book discussions, and special projects.

“It was a privilege to be selected as a participant in the first Leadership Youthville, said Brenda Stewart, Youthville employee and program graduate. The program allowed me to gain essential building blocks to enhance professional development through thinking critically, broadening organizational structure, and experiential learning.”

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

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