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### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Of the twenty Campagna Academy students who participated in this year's 2008 Calumet Regional Science Fair, nineteen won awards, six of which were 1st place.

Campagna residents have joined forces with Habitat for Humanity and will be building quality housing for qualified community members.

95% of every dollar you give to Campagna goes directly toward impacting the children we serve.



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The seeds of Hoosier Boys' Town are blossoming in Campagna Academy!

Issue 1 Volume 2 - Spring 2008



Restoring Hope... Building Dreams

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### MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear Friends and Campagna Supporters,

One of the great things about this agency is that we are at all times encouraged and challenged to try new directions and undertake fresh enterprises. Sometimes this leaves us simultaneously excited and frightened. As we review our past sixty years and look forward to the next, we have every reason to be proud and to be hopeful, but this board will never allow ourselves the deadly luxury of complacency and self satisfaction.

Will Rogers was famous for saying, "all I know is what I read in the papers." Pick up any paper and you can quickly discern about the crisis of our youth. Unfortunately, what the papers do

not always tell you are the opportunities that agencies like Campagna Academy are making, by providing new directions and socially acceptable solutions to conflict. While the financial burden of these programs is great, it wanes compared to the long-term effects of doing nothing to save a child from a lifetime of despair. Campagna Academy is focused and committed to providing hope and opportunity, rather than on any 'crisis' that is before us.

We are not an isolated agency that operates in a vacuum, but one that has and continues to rely on the expertise of our own staff as well as the expertise, research and knowledge that a wide array of community resources provides to us. It is through this collaboration and strategic planning that we will continue to restore hope and build dreams. The challenges are formidable, but the task is not only rewarding, it is urgent and absolutely necessary. Thank you northwest Indiana for your continued support and the trust that you give to us to make a difference in the lives of our young men and women.

*Jeanne Wease*

Jeanne Wease,  
 President of the Board

### FIRST LOOK FOR CHARITY

Not even the frigid temperatures could chill the spirits of those attending the 2008 First Look for Charity event. Over 10,000 people attended the premier, helping to raise nearly \$2.5 million dollars for eighteen charities. Campagna continues to be the only Indiana-based charity benefiting from this fantastic event. We sold 345 tickets and raised over \$98,000.

We couldn't have done it without all of our guests and our corporate

sponsors: Berglund Construction, First Midwest Bank, Fribley & Associates, Harris Bank, NIPSCO, Peoples Bank, Porter Starke Services – and of course, our reception host, Horseshoe Casino.

Proceeds will directly impact our ability to provide a high quality of programs and services, giving our adolescent boys and girls a chance to restore hope and build dreams. For this, the youth of Campagna thank you.

First Look for Charity and the Chicago Auto Show are presented by the new-car dealers of Chicagoland and northwest Indiana, who form the Chicago Automobile Trade Association.



Mike Suggs, Holly Cooper, Bruce D. Hillman, Marsha Rigg and Dr. Charles Rigg enjoying the pre-event reception at Horseshoe Casino.

### HIS FAR REACHING LEGACY



Fr. Campagna and his vision were inspired by a rose.

Imagine... Monsignor Michael A. Campagna's humble beginning of then "Hoosier Boys' Town" was inspired by a flower, the rose, which he wrote about when he was only 16 years old as part of a school assignment.\* Later this year we will be forming 'The Rose Society' to recognize donors who themselves were inspired to name Campagna Academy in their estate plans. Gifts of bequests secure the future of this agency and its founding vision of restoring hope and building dreams for at-risk youth. We dare say Father Campagna probably never imagined his far-reaching legacy. Have you begun to imagine yours?

\*Read The Story of the Rose on our website or call for your complimentary copy of his book "A Little Love."

### YOUR LIFETIME LEGACY TO CAMPAGNA'S CHILDREN

A will is an easy way to remember Campagna Academy's mission and work. It represents a lifetime legacy that will live on to support adolescents in need of hope and dreams for a brighter future and a place in society.

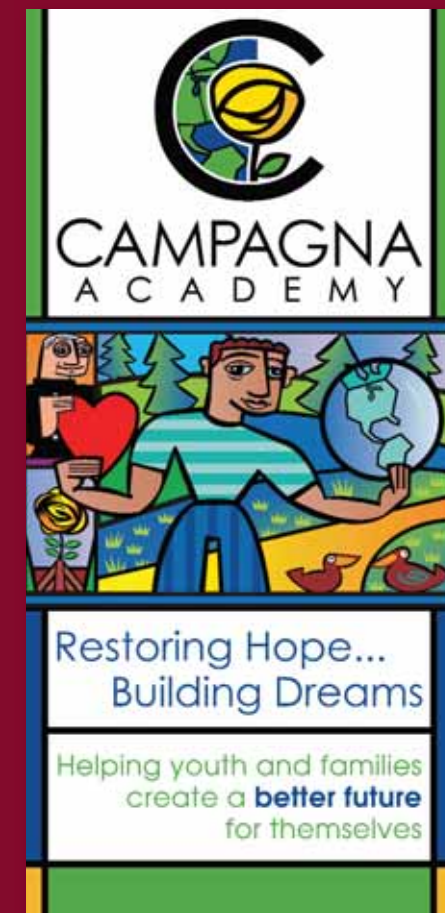
You can leave a specific dollar amount, a percentage of your estate or the remainder of your estate

after specific bequests. The entire amount of your gift is deductible for estate tax purposes. As always, consult a legal professional.

To find out how you can put Campagna Academy, Inc. in your will, please call one of our development professionals at 219-322-8614 x308 or ask for the office of development.

Confidentiality, if so desired, will be honored;

however, recognition of your gift can encourage others to do the same. Please let us know of your intent so we may thank you for your generosity and include you in our honorary Rose Society.



Throughout the year, kids at Campagna Academy have the opportunity to post notes to staff on a bulletin board in our administrative office. Below is a sampling of their messages.

*"Thank you for always being there for me (all seven years)." - Julius*

*"Thanks for always helping me in my treatment and not giving up on me." - James*

*"Thanks for helping me stay focused and for always being a positive role model." - Aaron*

*"Thank you for trying to help me and for the respect you give me." - Chris*

## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

In each issue of Campagna Connections, we feature an interview with one of our youths. Mark, a resident in our "Pathways" program, joined me on a sunny March afternoon to talk about his experiences at Campagna Academy. Initially quiet and reserved, Mark broke into a smile that lit up the room when talking about his future. In this interview, he helped me understand why.

**Mark, when did you first come to live at Campagna Academy and how would you describe your life before then?** *I came here when I turned fourteen and I've been here about a year and seven months. I had been to LCJC (Lake County Juvenile Center) six times before I came to Campagna. The police knew me because I was out on the streets gang banging, smoking weed, and drinking. I didn't care about school and didn't go. I'd end up in LCJC, but when I got out I'd go back to gang banging and drinking. This last time, though, I was sent to Campagna. I had never heard of residential placement, so it was all new to me. I figured it would be like LCJC.*

**And was it?**

*No, though to tell you the truth when I first got to Campagna I thought about running away all the time, at least for the first thirty days. That was the hardest part because I couldn't see any of my friends. But after the thirty days, I saw that I had a lot more freedoms than at LCJC. At Campagna, they don't just hold you. You get treatment and help with your problems. When I first got here, I didn't know what coping skills were. I learned those here and I learned what to do in stressful situations. Now I'm not as angry as when I first came. And I got help with my substance abuse problems too. I completed the Hazelden program and have been drug and drink free for several months now.*

**Mark, do you see your life differently since you've come to Campagna?**

*Yeah, it's hard to explain. I guess I'd say I woke up and changed. When I look back on all the stuff I did before I see that it's stupid. But at the time, gang banging made me feel like I had something to live or die for, something purposeful in my life. My mind said that I was going to die before I ever grew up anyway, so the future didn't matter. I also thought I was doing favors for those who loved me.*

***"People who love you won't put you in dangerous situations."***

*But now I realize that people who love you won't put you in dangerous situations. And my new purpose? (big smile) My new purpose is to live as long as I can...to 115! I plan on graduating high school, going to college, and owning my own barbershop some day.*

**Where do you think you'd be if you weren't here?**

*If I hadn't come to Campagna, I'm sure I'd be dead. I was involved in numerous, numerous activities that were dangerous. But coming and staying here... it took me off the streets.*

**What's one thing you'd like to tell people about Campagna?**

*If I could tell people about this place I'd tell them that Campagna Academy isn't all bad. And you know what? The kids here aren't all bad either.*

**Mark, are you grateful for anything today?**

*I'm grateful to be alive, and I hope my three little brothers can learn from my mistakes. They'll learn from their own, but I want them to learn from mine too.*

## VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING AT CAMPAGNA

It's 4 o'clock on a Friday afternoon when R.J. quickly slips on a black apron and runs out the door for his shift at the local Steak 'n Shake. Like hundreds of Campagna residents before him, R.J. has earned the privilege of working off campus, and now balances the demands of school with the responsibilities of work. That's a long way from where he began at Campagna. But R.J. didn't get there alone. Campagna residents who want to work have the help of Vocational Coordinator, Pat Passaro. "My goal is to give each of our kids an opportunity to work," Pat explains. "But we don't just throw them into it. We teach them the necessary skills, give them lots of practice, and offer them ways to gradually take on

more responsibility. With each step we help them achieve success." Campagna's vocational program offers residents "interest inventory" assessments, weekly workshops on interviewing techniques and resume writing, and assistance when securing a work permit. Before working off-campus, however, residents must hold an on-campus job for at least one month in areas such as maintenance, transportation, food service, warehousing, recreation, clerical, or landscaping. "Our on-campus positions mimic what a real employer would expect," says Pat. "The kids apply, interview, go through orientation, and have monthly evaluations." If successful, residents may then apply to work off campus at

employers such as Zuni's, McDonald's, Teibel's, and Von Tobel. "They sign a contract regarding their grades and overall treatment plans," Pat continues, "and if anything slips, they may lose the privilege of working off campus." Pat dreams of expanding the program, but future growth depends upon private contributions. "In terms of government funding, this program is considered 'non-essential,'" explains Jennifer Wojcikowski, Senior Director of Development. "But our alumni show us just how essential vocational training is to long-term success." So the next time you hear, "May I help you," remember that your donation to Campagna Academy may have already helped them learn vital vocational skills.



Gathering information at Campagna's vocational planning fair.



Learning vital hands-on construction skills.



Campagna staff sort presents from local churches and community members.



Director of Youth Care Services, Robert Blondet, delivers presents to Campagna youth.

## DONORS MAKE CAMPAGNA HOLIDAYS HAPPY

With the arrival of warmer temperatures, the holidays seem like a distant memory. But thanks to the generous donations from volunteers and donors, the warmth of Campagna's Christmas will remain in our kids' hearts the whole year through. While many of our children receive home passes over the holidays, those new to the program or lacking family resources remain on campus throughout the season. What is often a difficult time for the kids, however, has been transformed by Campagna's board, staff, and supporters into an opportunity for sharing cherished holiday

traditions and family recipes. Campagna's staff and kids get into the spirit by holding a decorating contest among the cottages. The campus favorite this year was Cottage 5, with its twinkle lights, Christmas music, faux fireplace, and a plate of cookies left out for Santa. Campagna board member, Tom McDermott, Sr. and his wife Jennifer hosted their annual Christmas party in their home for the kids. "I probably get a whole lot more out of it than they do," said McDermott. "I sit down in the living room and chat with them for a few minutes, encourage

them to make something out of their lives, and then we get on with the business of opening gifts and spending time together." But the most heart-warming thing of all was the hundreds of gifts that poured in from the community. "Churches and individual donors have turned this place into Santa's workshop," remarked CEO Bruce Hillman while viewing a conference room filled with gifts. "What a blessing it is to know that the children here are on the hearts and minds of so many at this busy time of year." Thank you!

