



Youth Connections

# The Youth Connection

FALL 2014

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NEW SAFE PLACE SITE  
GRACE UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH



## BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Youth Connections' annual breakfast fundraiser took on a little down-home look this year with homemade pies, available for purchase, adorning every table.

Stephanie Deeter was presented with the first ever *Youth Worker of the Year* award and guest speaker, The Honorable Judge Mark Loyd, did any excellent job in bringing an understanding of and awareness to the important role our programs play for the court system.

The morning was wrapped up with a live auction headed by auctioneer, Kevin Findley. Auction packages included items that ranged from golf outings to jewelry and even airline tickets and a week's stay at Pompano Beach. To all who sponsored, supported and attended our annual breakfast fundraiser... THANK YOU for being a piece of the pie!



SUPPORTING YOUTH CONNECTIONS  
IS AS EASY AS PIE

## JUMPSTART SHIFTS GEARS

The Jumpstart After-school Mentoring Program has shifted it's focus to include elementary, intermediate and middle school students this year.

Last year, Youth Connections joined with Needham Elementary in Franklin to run a pilot Jumpstart program for elementary students. This year, we have been able to expand that program, with our new ARISE curriculum, into two additional elementary schools, Sugar Grove in the Center Grove district and Smith Elementary in Martinsville, along with Custer Baker Intermediate School in Franklin.



We are very excited about this growth and having the opportunity to equip these young members of society with practical information they can use in every day life as we strive to improve character development and life skills. The ARISE curriculum is a structured program that uses group dynamics and active participation to stave off boredom and prevent frustration, two key components for students with attention deficit disorder. This easily understood curriculum is particularly appropriate for youth with limited reading/writing abilities, but engages the group for a much higher level of intellectual discussion.



## United Way Day of Caring



## TOM THE TOOLMAN'S TOOL BOX

### TOOL # 14 - FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

We say this a lot, but we think it's worth repeating: It's important to get involved in your kids' lives -- and your kids will love it too (within reason!). What is a sure-fire way to stay involved and create an opportunity to connect as a family?? ..... FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT!

Some tips for making it work:

**Schedule it.** Make it a regular date and time and don't break it. Turn off cell phones and ban multitasking during the show.

**Take turns choosing the movie.** If you've got little kids, pre-select a group to choose from (to avoid watching *Care Bears IV* over and over again). If you've got teens, tell them you'll watch anything they choose as long as they return the favor when it's your turn. Enforce a "no complaining" rule.

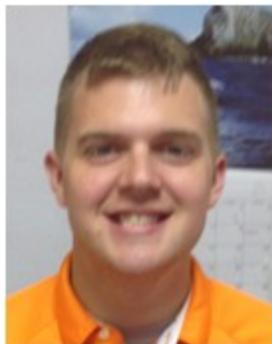
**Location, location, location.** Hang a sheet in the backyard, rent a projector, and sit on beach chairs to celebrate a classic like *The Wizard of Oz* or take family movie night on the road during vacations or to the grandparents' house.

**Make it a theme night.** This can be simple or elaborate. Eat popsicles with *March of the Penguins* or make food art with *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2*. Dress in costume for *A Princess Bride*, or learn a few magic tricks before *Harry Potter*.

**Talk about it.** When credits roll or the next day, make time to chat about what you watched. Kids might be interested in learning more about animation or Hollywood history. Visit the library to follow up on interests spurred by the movie. Talking with kids about how movie characters handled fictional situations can be a subtle way to reinforce your family's values or get kids to open up about their lives.



## WELCOME ABOARD



**PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
JUMPSTART MENTORING AND  
CHILDREN'S VISITATION CENTER  
CHRIS WILHAM**

Chris joined Youth Connections in August 2014. He is a graduate of Center Grove High School and holds a Bachelor Degree in Sociology from Franklin College.

While in high school, Chris played lacrosse and helped lead an annual youth lacrosse clinic for elementary and middle school students. During his time at Franklin College, Chris developed a passion for helping kids through his fraternity's work at the local Boys and Girls Club and while interning during

his junior and senior year at the Johnson County Courthouse. Chris spent two years reorganizing the previous two decades of CHINS files as well as collecting statistical data to better assist the program in the future.

Chris is excited to be a part of the Youth Connections team and looking forward to bringing new energy and ideas.