

PRESSRELEASE

Mayor's Office • 100 East Michigan Blvd. • Michigan City, IN 46360 • (219)873-1400 • Fax: (219)873-1515

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For Immediate Release

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Holiday Magic Fundraiser for Local Youth

Michigan City, IN (December 27, 2005) - There's still time to purchase your ticket to the Holiday Magic fundraiser for the LaPorte County Coalition of Youth-Serving Agencies (YSA). The event will be held on January 8, 2006 from 6-9 p.m. in Marquette Mall's Center Court. Tickets are \$15/person before 1/8 or \$20/person at the door.

Bruce Zahn, Coalition Chair for 2006, said, "The Tom Milo Band will provide dancing music for this exciting event while local restaurants bring a "Taste of Michigan City" to the evening. A silent auction will be held during the event as well as a wine-tasting, and all event proceeds benefit the YSA."

The LaPorte County Coalition of Youth-Serving Agencies was formed in late 2003 with the following goals: to share resources and minimize duplication of services; to provide additional opportunities for education and enrichment to a broad-based audience of children between the ages and 5 and 14; to apply for grants to provide programs and enhanced resources to all members; to provide training for all staff and volunteers on CPR, First Aid, Universal Precautions and behavior management strategies amongst other training opportunities.

YSA members include Boys & Girls Club, Even Start Literacy Program, HOPE, Inc., Imagination Station, Leadership LaPorte County, Lubeznik Center for the Arts, Michigan City Parks & Recreation Department, Michigan City Mayor's Office, Michigan City Public Library, Michigan City YMCA, Minority Health Coalition, North Central Community Action Agency, Safe Harbor, Healthy Communities, and the Youth Service Bureau of LaPorte County.

Herb Higgin, Coalition Chair for 2005, said, "Children involved with these programs benefited from a number of educational and entertaining activities during the 2005 Summer Adventure Camps. The camps provided academic enrichment, art, music, and dance, body safety classes, weekly visits to Washington Park Zoo, health and nutrition programs, recreation/physical fitness classes, swimming lessons, computer classes, and youth development programs. With the assistance of grants and local fundraisers, the Coalition members were able to provide these additional activities to over 450 children throughout the summer."

“Funds from the Holiday Magic event,” said Zahn, “will be used for operational expenses such as training programs for staff and volunteers, transportation expenses such as hiring bus drivers, and materials for our annual Challenge event which brings all the children together for an afternoon of fun and games.”

Mayor Chuck Oberlie said, “Cooperation and communication have resulted in exceptional programs and experiences for Michigan City’s children. The LaPorte County Coalition of Youth-Serving Agencies provided more than 54,000 hours of service to our youth during this past summer alone. I encourage the parents, grandparents, teachers, family, friends and neighbors of children to support the Coalition by attending Holiday Magic.”

The Holiday Magic Fundraiser, for adults 21 and over, is sponsored by Marquette Mall and Horizon Bank. Contact any of the Coalition member agencies or Jan Kostielney (via email at jkostielney@emichigancity.com or cell phone at 229-4309) to secure your tickets for this exciting event! Tickets will be available at the door.

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Contact: Jan Kostielney
Phone: 219/229-4309
E-mail: jkostielney@emichigancity.com