**Mission**
Create a sense of belonging in a safe and caring environment to build and enhance services for youth in transition

**Vision**
Provide Kentucky state agency children with a transitional safety net in all educational settings

**Objectives**
- To define the transitioning process from placement to all education settings
- To demonstrate the need for a transition program
- To define the transition program
- To raise staff awareness of the program and its benefits
- To explain the role of a proactive contact within the school setting
- To identify proactive contacts within the schools

**Are you interested in becoming a “Where the Heart Is” contact for your school?**

“Dare to reach out your hand into the darkness, to pull another hand into the light.”
Norman B. Rice

**Contact us for more information!**

Ann Brewster  
ann.brewster@boyd.kyschools.us

Pam Ferguson  
pam.ferguson@boyd.kyschools.us

Amy Marshall  
amy.marshall@eku.edu

Creating a sense of belonging for youth in transition from one educational setting to another
“Where the Heart Is” is a network of caring educators with the common goal of creating a sense of welcome and belonging for students transitioning to new schools and education programs. Going to a new school is difficult for any student, but at-risk students coming from alternative settings face additional barriers. Many of these youth have been in alternative placements due to abuse, neglect and behavioral challenges. One of the greatest fears these kids have is returning to their original schools, environments where perhaps they were “getting in trouble” or falling behind academically.

“So How Do You Get Involved?”

It’s as simple as placing the “Where the Heart Is” sign on your door or in your work area. This will help students identify you as a safe person to talk with if they’re having problems adjusting.

“It’s much easier dealing with the streets than dealing with the kids at school.
~15 year old girl

“I’m afraid to leave. I know what I’m capable of. There’s a lot of bullying at school.
~17 year old boy

“I’m afraid to leave. I know what I’m capable of. There’s a lot of bullying at school.
~17 year old boy

“I want to leave but I just don’t want to go to school
~16 year old boy

“I’m really scared to go back to a public school. I feel safe here, and I never felt safe at school before.
~15 year old girl

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“A Transitional Safety Net for Youth