

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

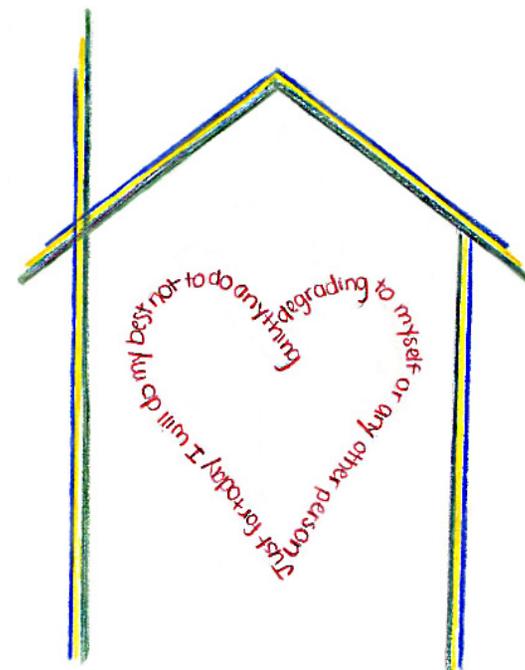
pam.ferguson@boyd.kyschools.us

Amy Marshall

amy.marshall@eku.edu



Where the Heart Is



Creating a sense of belonging
for youth in transition from
one educational setting
to another

Building Enhanced Services for Transition

“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.

“Where the Heart Is” seeks out individuals who are actively engaged in the lives of Kentucky youth. The program aims to provide a tool in the form of the “Where the Heart Is” symbol. This tool can be displayed in your work area so that transitioning youth and people impacting the youth of this state can recognize each other. The symbol is the metaphorical bridge which is meant to provide a connection between placements across the state and individuals that are working with youth in more traditional academic settings. The potential to impact troubled youth at this crucial point in their lives is huge. It could be as simple as opening your door or showing an interest in a young person’s life.

“*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

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.

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

“*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 nervous. I’ve never been in my foster home even for a visit. I don’t know what school I’ll go to. I’ve always been bullied.*”
~15 year old boy