

Senator Vaneta Becker
4017 Cobble Field Drive
Evansville, Indiana 47711
Residence (812) 469-3776

Committees:
Commerce, Public Policy & Interstate Transportation
Health & Provider Services
Public Health Subcommittee, Chair
Homeland Security, Transportation & Veterans Affairs
Public Safety Subcommittee
Natural Resources

April 13, 2009

Senator Richard Lugar
101 NW Martin Luther King Blvd.
Room 122
Evansville, IN 47708

Dear Senator Lugar,

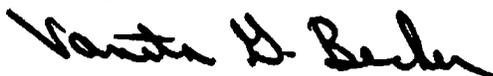
It is my pleasure to write today to urge you for your continued support of the Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life. I'm a supporter of the Youth First program and believe that it is a very valuable resource for helping young people and their families in Evansville.

As you're aware, Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome challenges that hinder learning, such as: a difficult home environment, a harmful relationship, the loss of a loved one, mental illness or substance abuse, hunger, homelessness, or criminal behavior. Social Workers are an instrumental aspect of Youth First's success and without their preventative services, the number of students that succumb to violence, substance abuse and untreated depression will surely increase. This will be costly to our state both emotionally and financially.

I know you recognize that Youth First, Inc. is a valuable investment and that preventative treatment for Evansville's at-risk students is a priority. With the right opportunity, Youth First can continue to develop their preventative treatment model, which I am confident could serve as a model for the entire state of Indiana.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. If you have further questions regarding my support of this issue of the Youth First, Inc. preventative program, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support of Evansville's youth.

Sincerely,



State Senator, District 50

Senator Bob Deig
Indiana Statehouse
200 West Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
(317) 232-9523
(800) 382-9467
Email: S49@iga.in.gov

Committees:
Commerce, Public Policy & Interstate Cooperation, R.M.M.
Agriculture & Small Business
Pensions & Labor
Utilities & Technology

April 5, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Thank you for supporting the congressionally-designated appropriation recently awarded to Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life.

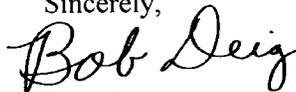
I am writing to encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First Social Work positions serving over 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome challenges that hinder learning, such as: a difficult home environment, a harmful relationship, the loss of a loved one, mental illness or substance abuse, hunger, homelessness, or criminal behavior. These highly trained and supervised professionals bring the expertise of an outside agency into the schools to help children and their parents/caregivers. Independent evaluations indicate that Youth First is achieving positive outcomes and lasting results.

The loss of Youth First's prevention services will be devastating not only for the youth and families served but also for the schools and teachers who rely on this specialized support. Without Youth First's Social Workers, more students will succumb to substance abuse, depression, violence, crime, and eventually drop out of school. This will be very costly to our community and our state, both in terms of lives and dollars... millions of dollars.

I know you recognize the value of investing in prevention, and Youth First is truly a valuable investment. If sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model could benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please make Youth First one of your priorities as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,



Bob Deig
State Senator
District #49

BD/tlw

Board of Education

Larry O. Lewis
Mark J. Seibert
Kathy A. Mauck
Stephen H. Bender
Joseph D. Neidig

Board Attorney
William H. Bender

**Metropolitan School District
of North Posey County**

101 N. Church Street
Poseyville, IN 47633
Phone 812-874-2243 FAX 812-874-8806
www.northposey.k12.in.us

John D. Wood
Superintendent
Todd E. Camp
Assistant Superintendent
Carol A. Lupfer
Corporation Treasurer
Amy D. Motz
Administrative Secretary

April 7, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Thank you for supporting the congressionally-designated appropriation recently awarded to Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life.

As Superintendent of the Metropolitan School District of North Posey County, Poseyville, Indiana, I am a staunch supporter of Youth First, INC. North Posey High School students receive tremendous benefits from the Social Worker provided at no cost to the School District. Current funding restraints do not allow local payment of this service. This is a proven program that works in our school community.

Thus, I am writing to encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First Social Work positions serving over 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. I want these programs to continue as well as the program at North Posey High School.

Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome challenges that hinder learning, such as: a difficult home environment, a harmful relationship, the loss of a loved one, mental illness or substance abuse, hunger, homelessness, or criminal behavior. These highly trained and supervised professionals bring the expertise of an outside agency into the schools to help children and their parents/caregivers. Independent evaluations indicate that Youth First is achieving positive outcomes and lasting results.

The loss of Youth First's prevention services will be devastating not only for the youth and families served but also for the schools and teachers who rely on this specialized support. Without Youth First's Social Workers, more students will succumb to substance abuse, depression, violence, crime, and eventually drop out of school. This will be very costly to our community and our state, both in terms of lives and dollars... millions of dollars.

I know you recognize the value of investing in prevention, and Youth First is truly a valuable investment. If sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model could benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please make Youth First one of your priorities as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,





Carl L. Chapman
President and Chief Operating Officer

Vectren Corporation
One Vectren Square
Evansville, Indiana 47708
Tel: 812 491 4208
Fax: 812 491 4684
Cell: 812 430 8937
cchapman@vectren.com

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

First, let me say thank you for supporting the congressionally-designated appropriation recently awarded to Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life.

I am the President and Chief Operating Officer of Vectren Corporation, the largest New York Stock Exchange company based in Evansville. I have been involved with Youth First for over six years having served as an officer for most of that time and as a board member for the entire period, including currently. Although my two children are grown I continue to have great interest in the success of our youth both personally and professionally. I believe Youth First has and is making a real difference in the lives of many of our area children and their families.

I am writing to encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First Social Work positions serving over 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. While the recent appropriation is very helpful, it covers less than one third of the existing positions covered by the federal grant that is ending.

Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome numerous challenges that can hinder their learning experience. These graduate-degreed and supervised professionals bring the expertise of an outside agency into the schools to help not only the children, but also their parents/caregivers. I would also like to highlight that independent evaluations indicate that Youth First is achieving the positive outcomes and lasting results we all desire.

The loss of Youth First's prevention services will be devastating not only for the youth and families served, but also for the schools and teachers who rely on this specialized support. Without Youth First's Social Workers, more students will likely succumb to substance abuse, depression, violence, crime, and eventually may even drop out of school. This of course would be very costly to our community and our state, most importantly in terms of lives but also dollars...millions of dollars.

I'm sure you recognize the value of investing in prevention, and therefore you can be assured Youth First is truly a valuable investment. I also believe that if sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model can benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please continue to make Youth First one of your priorities, especially as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,

Carl L. Chapman

William G. Wooten, MD

April 15, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Thank you for taking time to read my message about Youth First.

As founder, past Chairman, and current volunteer for this non-profit organization, I am asking for your enthusiastic support of the request for appropriation dollars for Youth First in the 2010 Federal budget.

I am a retired family, & addiction medicine, physician who practiced with Welbom Clinic and Welborn Baptist Hospital's Mulberry Center from 1977 until my retirement in 2004.

During my years in addiction medicine, I cared for thousands of children, ages 8 to 18, with complex psychosocial and addiction problems. This experience moved me to try to seek better solutions, and I continue to spend numerous hours weekly as a Board volunteer.

"What more could we do to address this public health issue among our children?", "What works to prevent this type of behavior?", and "Why am I so busy seeing addicted kids if current community prevention strategies are effective?" are questions I tried to answer during the mid 1990's.

After considerable research, discussion with community leaders, and planning, I founded Youth First in 1998. Since then, Youth First has grown to serve over 30,000 individuals yearly and more than 50 schools with effective prevention and Youth First school social worker services. Our progress and results are well documented, but the work must be sustained.

As a young organization, we are working diligently to increase community understanding, awareness of the need, and improve our donor development capacity. Your continued appropriation support will provide us additional time to further develop local and State resources to sustain these services that are saving numerous young lives.

You are probably aware that "denial" is one of the hallmarks of addiction and a major challenge for treatment of the addicted individual. However, you may not be aware that denial exists at many levels (individual, family, school, community, etc.). We have overcome numerous challenges in many places, but in some circumstances, we need additional time for those we work with to see the value of this model of prevention. Speaker events, scare tactics, and simply providing information about adverse effects of alcohol and other drugs are not effective, yet resources are still, to often, being used for these approaches.

Adolescent substance abuse is a public health/behavioral health problem needing a regional, comprehensive, well coordinated, accountable, scientific, behavioral health solution. Youth First provides such a model and, with proper resources, could potentially be replicated in other areas of Indiana. Your support of the Youth First appropriation proposal is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



William G. Wooten, MD



April 5, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Thank you for supporting the congressionally-designated appropriation recently awarded to Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life.

I am the Human Resource Director for Fifth Third Bank in Evansville, Indiana and in my role, I certainly see the impact of families who face troublesome family issues. Our children are the citizens and workforce of tomorrow and we need all of our resources to be socially, intellectually, physically and emotionally at their best. I also serve on the Youth First board and I am very familiar with the programs provided by Youth First. I believe that Youth First is an organization that helps drive the resource excellence described with the linkages in the schools with social workers and programs aimed at developing strong kids and families.

I am writing to encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First Social Work positions serving over 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome challenges that hinder learning, such as: a difficult home environment, a harmful relationship, the loss of a loved one, mental illness or substance abuse, hunger, homelessness, or criminal behavior. These highly trained and supervised professionals bring the expertise of an outside agency into the schools to help children and their parents/caregivers. Independent evaluations indicate that Youth First is achieving positive outcomes and lasting results.

The loss of Youth First's prevention services will be devastating not only for the youth and families served but also for the schools and teachers who rely on this specialized support. Without Youth First's Social Workers, more students will succumb to substance abuse, depression, violence, crime, and eventually drop out of school. This will be very costly to our community and our state, both in terms of lives and dollars... millions of dollars.

I know you recognize the value of investing in prevention, and Youth First is truly a valuable investment. If sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model could benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please make Youth First one of your priorities as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,

Donna Harris, PHR
Vice President, Sr HR Business Partner
Fifth Third Bank Southern Indiana

April 6, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Several weeks ago I had the privilege of coming to Washington, DC on behalf of Youth First. Parri Black and I felt honored to be in your office and to have time with LeAnne R. Gibbs. We were thrilled to have the chance to tell the Youth First story, to show our video, to agree with LeAnne on our mutual concerns for young people, and to convey to her our great respect and appreciation for your support of Youth First's efforts to fight substance abuse and all the life issues associated with families at risk.

I came as a volunteer board member for Youth First, but I also came as a Mom. I have a passion for the innocence of youth and protecting our young people from all the devastating problems present in our communities. I know you share these same concerns for your children and grandchildren and for all the communities of Indiana. I believe strongly that Youth First has a proven track record of turning these problems around.

I am asking you join the Youth First family with your continued financial support of our research proven programs. Our research shows that we are making a major difference in our youth and families. We want to be a model for the state of Indiana. Our Youth First social workers are on the front line providing these services in our area schools. Each week, I am amazed at the stories they share of how they have helped families that have no place to turn. Issues such as hunger, clothing, truancy, anger management, substance abuse, and divorce are daily issues for our social workers. Families see the social worker not as an agency, but a friend located right in their school providing free help and prevention.

Please help us fight for area youth and families by supporting our truancy program and our social workers in the FY10 budget.

I know you get many request for appropriations, but we are a home grown organization that knows the families in our community. We use research proven programs and we are fighting for the people in our own backyards.

You have been a champion for the families of Indiana since before you were the Mayor of Indianapolis. We need your support and I know your heart is in the families and children of Indiana.

You have fought for Indiana for many, many years. Please help us fight for the families and children here in Southern Indiana and show the rest of the state of Indiana and the nation that with Youth First.....the Results Last!!

Sincerely and with great respect,


Carol Lynch, Board Chairman for Youth First

KINNEY, KASHA & BUTHOD, LLP

Attorneys at Law

20 N.W. First Street, Suite 200, Evansville, Indiana 47708 • (812) 425-5200 • Fax (812) 425-2464

Rebecca T. Kasha
E-mail: rkasha@kkbevansville.com

April 8, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Three of my son's high school classmates flipped a car driving home from party this past weekend. Fortunately no one was killed, but there were injuries. And, as you can imagine, these young men and their families will be scarred by this forever. It is with this tragedy in mind, that I write to you about Youth First, Inc.

I encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First social work positions in 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. The loss of these counselors would be a huge set back to the substance abuse prevention efforts YFI has in place in these schools.

I assist YFI with its fundraising efforts, so I know that this organization takes its responsibility for its own financial security very seriously. They don't sit back and expect to be taken care of, but they can't do it alone.

We need to invest in prevention, and Youth First is truly a valuable investment. If sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model could benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please make Youth First one of your priorities as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,

Rebecca T. Kasha

Rebecca T. Kasha

Libby Scheessele
6360 Mayfield Court
Newburgh, IN 47630

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Thank you for supporting the congressionally-designated appropriation recently awarded to Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life.

I am currently a Youth First Board member and Program Chairperson of 6 years, a full-time banker and a mom to a child that will soon be in school. Youth First has had an emotional impact on my life. As Chairperson of our Program Committee for Youth First, I have witnessed first hand the programs in which our school social workers provide to students, families and teachers. I pray each day we will be able to maintain social workers in our schools to be there for any child or family in need.

I am writing to encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First Social Work positions serving over 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome challenges that hinder learning, such as: a difficult home environment, a harmful relationship, the loss of a loved one, mental illness or substance abuse, hunger, homelessness, or criminal behavior. These highly trained and supervised professionals bring the expertise of an outside agency into the schools to help children and their parents/caregivers. Independent evaluations indicate that Youth First is achieving positive outcomes and lasting results.

The loss of Youth First's prevention services will be devastating not only for the youth and families served but also for the schools and teachers who rely on this specialized support. Without Youth First's Social Workers, more students will succumb to substance abuse, depression, violence, crime, and eventually drop out of school. This will be very costly to our community and our state, both in terms of lives and dollars... millions of dollars.

I know you recognize the value of investing in prevention, and Youth First is truly a valuable investment. If sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model could benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please make Youth First one of your priorities as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,


Libby Scheessele

April 16, 2009

Mrs. Amy M. Clark
7821 Taylor Ave
Evansville, IN 47715

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

Thank you for supporting the congressionally-designated appropriation recently awarded to Youth First, Inc. in Evansville, Indiana. Without your support, thousands of children and families will lose a vital lifeline helping them succeed in school and in life.

As the mother of two college students I understand the importance of Youth First. As a parent I understand the importance of Educating both parents and students and Youth First has been an excellent resource for me recently but this hasn't always been the case. Many years ago when my children were in Elementary School there was no Youth First Agency. There was no such thing as Social Workers in each school. It would have been a blessing to have had a Social Worker to contact when my daughter was the victim of bullying. There was no one to call, we were alone and she suffered horribly because of this. I would never want another child to experience what my daughter experienced at the hands of a few "mean girls" with adults that thought it was just normal behavior and we just had to accept this. This would never happen in our school today.

I am writing to encourage your continued support for Youth First and its requests for appropriations in the FY10 federal budget. Federal grant funding comes to an end this year for 22 Youth First Social Work positions serving over 30 schools in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

Youth First's Social Workers help students overcome challenges that hinder learning, such as: a difficult home environment, a harmful relationship, the loss of a loved one, mental illness or substance abuse, hunger, homelessness, or criminal behavior. These highly trained and

supervised professionals bring the expertise of an outside agency into the schools to help children and their parents/caregivers. Independent evaluations indicate that Youth First is achieving positive outcomes and lasting results.

The loss of Youth First's prevention services will be devastating not only for the youth and families served but also for the schools and teachers who rely on this specialized support. Without Youth First's Social Workers, more students will succumb to substance abuse, depression, violence, crime, and eventually drop out of school. This will be very costly to our community and our state, both in terms of lives and dollars... millions of dollars.

I know you recognize the value of investing in prevention, and Youth First is truly a valuable investment. If sustained and developed further, Youth First's prevention model could benefit the entire state of Indiana. Please make Youth First one of your priorities as you consider funding for FY10.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy M. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "A" and "C".

Amy M. Clark

**Mary Ellen Farabaugh
850 S. Meadow Road
Evansville, IN 47714
812-477-2125**

April 16, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510 -1401

Dear Senator Lugar:

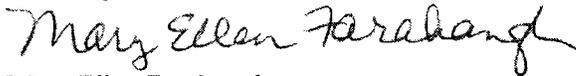
I am writing to request your support for federal appropriations for Youth First social work services in the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation in 2010. I have been associated with this organization as a volunteer for 10 years. As the mother of two sons in college, I know first-hand the value of having a Youth First social worker at our high school.

Everyday, news reports include accounts of adults being arrested for drug and alcohol related offenses. Intervention and treatment programs for these adults have a poor record of success. Most of the time, these incarcerated adults are uneducated and unemployable in the mainstream community. Without good paying jobs, their chance for a productive and self-sufficient life is dim.

Youth First offers a wide array of research proven, evidence-based programs to aid students and their families facing problems with communication, dysfunctional relationships, inadequate disciplinary skills, and other life challenges. The goal is to help these students complete their high school education prepared for college, trade school, or the military. The research shows that educated students with good decision-making skills are much more likely to become productive, employed, and law-abiding adults.

Studies show that one uneducated, unemployable, drug and/or alcohol addicted adult costs the United States \$2,000,000 in public support during their lifetime. Won't you please support a federal appropriation for \$1,000,000 to allow Youth First to maintain its staff of public school based social workers? It's a great investment in our future economy.

Sincerely,



Mary Ellen Farabaugh