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youth matters

a newsletter of alternatives for youth

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July 2010

Dear Alexa,

Alternatives for Youth's building is still buzzing with the sounds of kids of all ages attending our Summer Program, and administrative staff is continuing in regular activities and planning for the fall. Otherwise, July is a quiet month at AFY, and this month we bring you a lighter version of Youth Matters.

We hope you are enjoying your summer!

afy's august 14 francis street festival

Join Us for Festival Fun!

On August 14, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., Alternatives for Youth will co-host a street festival on Longmont's Francis Street between 11th and 12th Avenues. Join us for a family-friendly, fun day of:



- Live music
- Face painting
- Bouncy house
- Local food
- Best salsa contest
- Best homemade pie contest
- Best wings contest
- Best ribs contest
- Informational booths
- Prettiest and ugliest dog contests

Admission is free. Donations will be accepted, and all proceeds benefit AFY. For more information about the festival, including entering a contest or sponsoring the event, please call AFY at 303-776-8184. We hope to see you there!

afy: fyi



Program Updates

Summer at Alternatives for Youth brings a lighter load for our programs while we also make plans for the coming school year and next year. Following are updates about our core programs:

Celebrando la Familia's Summer

quick links

[Calendar of Events](#)

[AFY's Supporters](#)

[No "Kid"ding Articles](#)

[More about AFY](#)

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spotlight: you and youth

This month, the "Spotlight" takes a summer break from spotlighting our youth, staff, board members, and volunteers. We want to take this space to remind you that summer is the perfect time to spend time with the youth in your lives and put the spotlight on them!

For ideas of ways you can spend time with the youth in your life, check out these two articles:

[Summer Solutions for Connecting as a Family](#)

and

[Celebrate Your Freedom with Your Family](#)

afy board of directors

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Assistant Superintendent for Student Achievement, St. Vrain Valley School District



Program continues this month through July 30. Over 60 elementary students will continue to participate in reading and math work, swimming, crafts, and games. 20 Teen Assistants will help the younger youth as mentors, chaperons and tutor as well as participating in leadership training on Fridays.

Our **NorthStar, Attendance Advocate and Clearview Educational Center** programs resume in August. Program staff are taking the summer to rest, travel, and gear up for the 2010-2011 school year.

iThrive Longmont continues to move forward with plans to begin a pilot program to provide services to adolescents struggling with substance abuse and their parents. We plan to begin the low cost program in the fall. The Longmont Asset Coalition, which oversees the program, continues to seek expanded funding for the program and to design marketing materials. For more information, visit the [iThrive Longmont website](#).

no "kid"ding...

Did You Know?

Along with family, peers, and school, a youth's community contributes to the success of youth. According to the [40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents](#), a community contributes positively to youth's lives when they value youth and gives youth useful roles, and youth serve and feel safe in their community. You can help create a community that empowers youth. Did you know . . .



Neighborhoods with green spaces and trees encourage residents to go outside where they can connect and build friendships.

Frequent, friendly interaction between neighbors helps to create neighborhood ties, which help to encourage neighbors to help and protect each other.

Involvement by residents in their community makes for a better neighborhood.

The first Tuesday of August is [National Night Out](#), a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. This year, organize an event in your neighborhood on August 3 and get to know your neighbors a little better. Make it youth friendly to encourage youth to attend.

Show youth in your neighborhood you care through small actions like buying lemonade at their lemonade stand.

Unsafe neighborhoods have a physical effect on youth. Unsafe urban neighborhoods have shown to be a [factor in a teen's risk for being overweight](#).

Reporting crime and graffiti can help keep your neighborhood safe and clean. In Longmont, see the [Graffiti Information](#) webpage.



Along with student councils at local schools, Longmont also has an active [Youth Council](#). Involving youth in community decisions is an important part of valuing youth and giving them useful roles.

You can encourage the youth in your life to serve in the community by doing something together - do something nice for a neighbor, volunteer at a local non-profit, participate in school service activities, or send a care package to a service person overseas.

Knowing your neighbors can create a safer neighborhood. Helping your neighbors can create a sense of community and improve your quality of life.

You can find more information about creating safe, strong neighborhoods at the following websites:

[How Trees Build a Neighborhood](#)

[City of Longmont's Handbook for Better Neighborhoods](#)

[USA on Watch](#)

[What Makes a Great Neighborhood?](#)

Note: Websites are provided for information and do not indicate an endorsement by Alternatives for Youth. You can find past No "Kid"ding . . . Did You Know? articles on our website by [clicking here](#).

Alternatives for Youth, Inc.'s mission is to promote academic persistence and success of youth by instilling values that lead to positive choices and positive community impact and by encouraging social, cultural, and self development. Since 1978, Alternatives for Youth has been providing services to youth and their families in the Longmont community. Last year, over 1,000 youth and their families received services through Alternatives for Youth, including after-school homework clubs, parenting education, an alternative school for expelled youth, positive recreational activities, youth leadership opportunities, academic enrichment activities, and service learning activities.

Thank you for your support!

Alexa Van Dalsem
Resource Development Director
Alternatives for Youth

get involved!

Yes! I/We want to help young people succeed! I/We wish to support Alternatives for Youth's work in helping youth succeed by:

Volunteering

Making a gift donation of: \$

Name:

Address:

Phone:

City, State, Zip:

E-mail:

You can make a secure credit card donation to Alternatives for Youth using GivingFirst or Google Checkout at www.alternativesforyouth.org/contribute.html. To make a donation by check or cash or to volunteer please return this form to Alternatives for Youth, 24 Ninth Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501 or call 303.776.8184.

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