

## The Invisible Youth Network

The Invisible Youth Network has formed a new nonprofit, charitable chapter in Fulton County!! IYN is committed to recruiting youth 7-19 years old who are interested in working with the community as advocates and volunteers. Our goal is to continue to motivate our youth to become engaged in activities that are in their best interests as well as those of our community and society as a whole. Invisible Youth Network was officially launched on March 26, 2007 in San Diego, Ca for the purpose of reaching out to homeless youth in the area. Since then they have expanded and are inviting new chapters across the country to be formed with their own community needs in mind. You may be interested in becoming familiar IYN – Fulton County by visiting our website: [www.fultoncountyiyn.com](http://www.fultoncountyiyn.com)

Our official kickoff meeting was held Monday Feb. 8, 2010. It went well and we had 15 youth attending. We are very proud to represent many of the local school districts! We had 2 children representing Fayette schools, 1 from Delta schools, 5 from Evergreen schools, 1 from Pettisville schools and the rest of the group represented Wauseon schools! We talked about various ways we can help the community, ways to raise money and ways we can partner with other organizations. We decided our first project will be to help out at a benefit for Tiffany Bates. She is a 14 year old girl from Fayette, Ohio who was badly burned by a corn burner in October 2009. On March 6, 2010 at 6pm, St. Casper's Church in Wauseon will be holding a benefit for her and her family to help with the medical expenses. Our youth chapter will help with the dinner and clean up and in any other ways needed.

Despite our motto "Advocating for America's Youth," our endeavors are focused on our community here in Fulton County and our at risk youth. Mahatma Gandhi said, "You must be the change you wish to see in the world," and with that in mind, The Invisible Youth Network envisions better lives for those who cannot currently see it themselves. We hope to carry out our mission through partner organizations and volunteers who "go to the streets" in order to find, stabilize, and otherwise help those at risk and improve the lives of those in need in our community.

We are currently recruiting youth 7-19 years of age in Fulton County who are interested in making a difference in their community through volunteer work and fundraising to help better the lives of others. The bigger we grow the more help we can give! Specific areas of focus will depend on the youth in our group and where they choose to focus their talents, time and funds. Our goal is to make this as meaningful and as enjoyable as possible for all involved.

### Some areas of focus may include:

- Supporting our "homeless" shelters in Fulton County by helping plant a garden, providing a birthday committee to ensure children get to have a party, helping provide items the house needs, yard care, & babysitting
- Supporting our local animal shelter
- Food & Clothing drives for those in need in Fulton County
- Becoming a pen pal mentor to disadvantaged or at risk youth
- Sending support/encouragement to our soldiers
- School supply drive for schools in Fulton County
- "Adopting" local families in need during the holidays

The Invisible Youth Network supports the leaders of tomorrow by partnering with them today! Our youth, especially teens can bring refreshing insights into our organization. What we forget is that some of the greatest minds in the world were teens when they came up with their great ideas. So, shouldn't youth as young people have a voice in issues that directly concern them? They will not mysteriously learn how to full fill their civic duties the day they turn 18. They are a large presence in our community and accordingly, they should have a voice in its decision-making. And, shouldn't adults recognize that the tradition of making decisions for youth without youth has failed and that their ideas and solutions need to be taken seriously? In addition youth are 28% of the United States population; they are active participants in community activities, spend more than \$150 billion a year and are 100% of the future. The benefits of their involvement and the experience that they gain are invaluable to all concerned. We're anxious for your support in helping us spread the word!!

For more information, please visit our website at [www.fultoncountyiyn.com](http://www.fultoncountyiyn.com) or contact Renee at 419-388-9842 or Robin at 419-583-7520.

## South Fairfield Arbor Celebrates 105<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*"St. Patrick's Day" is an enchanted time, a day to begin transforming winter's dreams into summer's magic.*  
Adrienne Cook

### HAPPY 105<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY South Fairfield Arbor!

The S. Fairfield Arbor was chartered on March 14, 1905. Congratulations South Fairfield Gleaners on holding the honor of being the oldest active Ohio Arbor.

"Doctors without Borders" was anged \$200 for the Haiti Relief by the South Fairfield Arbor in February.

The S. Fairfield Arbor will again be collecting non-perishable foods, paper products and personal care items for the local Assumption Food Pantry from March 1-29<sup>th</sup>. A drop box is located at the Evergreen Community Library for your convenience. We wish to thank you in advance for your generosity in helping provide something extra for a special Easter dinner.

Please note the S. Fairfield Arbor is no longer accepting cancelled stamps for the Heifer Project, as they currently don't have a buyer source available. We THANK all of you who did contribute your cancelled stamps earlier to help support this wonderful program.

Guest historian speaker, Fred Folger will present an excellent slide program on "Henry M. Flagler" (noted for the Flagler Railroad System.) on March 8, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the Evergreen Community Room. EVERYONE is welcome to attend this free family program.

Upcoming South Fairfield Arbor activities include business meetings on Wednesday, March 3 and Monday, April 3 at 4:30 pm. In the Evergreen Community Room ( Please note Arbor meetings return to Mondays in April.) Our Join Hands Day and 4-H meeting is scheduled Sunday, March 7 at 5:00 pm. with a potluck dinner in the Richfield Township Hall.

### An Irish Prayer

May God give you, for every storm a rainbow, for every tear, a SMILE, for every care, a PROMISE, and a BLESSING in each trial. For every problem life sends, a FAITHFUL FRIEND to share, for every sigh a SWEET SONG, and an answer for each PRAYER.

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