



edgeteencenter.com

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Dear Teen Parent,

It is hard to believe, that as of February, Edge Teen Center will have been open or over two years, and what an incredible two years it has been. We continue to be a quality place for teens to hang out after school, on average, over 200 different teens safely spend their after-school hours at EDGE each month. In addition, weekend events typically draw between 50-150 students every Friday and Saturday night. All these programs are under the supervision of caring adults who have each had background checks in order to keep your teen(s) safe.

We have been successful in partnering with the administration and teachers at Lakota East main campus and Freshman campus. We have received corporate sponsorships and grants from Kroger, Children's hospital and the Rotary of Butler County. In the last few months we have had the honor of receiving a grant from the Arrington Foundation which has allowed us to put our community service program in place. In August we hired Molly Hare to be our Community Service Director and she has hit the ground running. After visiting the government classes at East, she and her volunteers have taken over 60 teens to Middletown Food Market and Hope House. We also have 14 students volunteering to mentor kids at Independence Elementary School through Whiz Kidz. Allow me to tell you a story that Molly shared with me: *"The director of the Middletown Food Market lives in poverty herself. She "lost everything" when she lived in FL. and moved here. She has 3 kids, oldest 12 and then two younger. Last week when she was talking to the kids about poverty and who utilizes the market, etc, one of the students asked her if she gets paid to work here and if so how much. I think the heart of the question was: "is this enough to live on..." but she explained she doesn't get paid, the state requires that she find employment for what she gets from the state...Then she said something like "it's hard to make Christmas for three kids when you are just getting by in life..." Two of the students (Kyle and Jessica) really took this to heart and talked to Bill about helping her kids out for Christmas. On Thurs. Kyle handed over his X Box 360 player and a bunch of games for her 12 year old. The cool thing to me was how he did it in secret. When I got to Edge he asked me if the van was unlocked because he needed to put something in the van. When we got to the Food Market he didn't bring the box in right away but went to work stacking shelves. When there was a break in his work he asked Bill for the keys to get the box for the Food Market woman and just handed it to her. I had to leave the market early, so I don't know how the day ended, I will need to ask Bill one of the adults in charge of transporting students. But to see this student who, before Oct. or Nov. hadn't been in Choice Food Market, now give this woman something for her son was amazing to watch."*

It's stories like these that encourage our staff, board and volunteers to keep pressing forward to the mission of "Empowering Teens To Impact The World!" Yet as wonderful as this story is and as great as the grants and donations are from corporate sponsors these funds are earmarked for programs. They do not pay for the day to day operating costs of the teen center and this is where we need your help.

In order for EDGE to fully continue its vision, we also need the support and participation of parents and individuals. Toward this end, EDGE is launching a 20/100 Campaign. The goal is that individuals and families will cover 20% of the annual budget, which is about 20,000. This may seem like a lot, however, when we break it down, if 100 families donate \$20/month, our goal is reached! This will allow EDGE to remain a no-cost after-school safe spot for your teen, while also expanding our offerings and support systems.

Here's how to donate: Enclosed is a card that you can return with your contribution or pledge. You can use the pledge card to initiate a monthly transfer from your credit/debit card or bank account. You can also make a single gift using your card or bank account, or you can simply send a check payable to Axis Teen Centers. Please provide your contact information on the card and return it to us by mail or by dropping it by Edge Teen Center.

Thanks so much for your time!

Edge Community Relations Director

*Steve Holt*

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