



Spring 2026

Carry out a random act of kindness, with no expectation of reward, safe in the knowledge that one day someone might do the same for you. - Diana Spencer

Meet the New IYSA Staff
IYSA has welcomed 3 new members to our staff.
We are excited to have **Candra, Laura and Olivia** with us!

Candra



Laura



Olivia



Candra Yancey
Region Coalition Coordinator with Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program (ITVAP)

Candra is a nonprofit leader with over 15 years of experience in victim advocacy, prevention, and community collaboration. Her work has focused on supporting children, families, and survivors through trauma-informed, systems-focused approaches while building strong partnerships across agencies. She has extensive experience in program development, coordinating services, and strengthening community responses to exploitation and violence. Currently, she serves as the Regional Coalition Coordinator for Southeastern and South-Central Indiana with the Indiana Trafficking Victim Assistance Program (ITVAP), where she provides training on the impact of human trafficking on youth, facilitates community engagement, and supports service providers in delivering effective referrals and care.

Laura Sanchez
Special Events Coordinator

Laura is our Special Events Coordinator with a passion for creating meaningful experiences that support youth, families, and communities. She collaborates with organizations and individuals in the community to plan and execute events that raise awareness, build partnerships, and generate critical support for programs serving young people. Laura brings over two decades of event coordination and working with youth. She brings a detail-oriented and people-centered approach to every project. Her career has been driven by a long-standing commitment to helping children and families thrive and takes pride in work that creates a lasting and positive impact. She is energized by opportunities to connect people to causes that matter and to turn ideas into successful, purpose-filled events. Laura holds a bachelor's degree in Communication Studies with a minor in Sign Language from Indiana University.

Olivia Smith
Marketing & Communications Intern

Olivia is from Avon, IN and is a sophomore at Indiana University (Go Hoosiers!) and is studying Media with a concentration in sports media. Olivia works with the media school at IU as well as the club Hoosier Network. The Hoosier Network is a student-run multimedia platform at IU dedicated to covering IU sports through multiple platforms. She handles all of our social media and always brings fresh ideas to the team. We are so excited to have Olivia be a part of the team to highlight IYSA programs, their events and goals on IYSA's social media channels.

IYSA Statehouse Day & Annual Business Awards

On January 13th, we held our IYSA Statehouse Day! This event included networking and celebrating Youth Service Bureaus, youth workers, and students. We are grateful for all of legislators that attended the event to honor the award winners! Check out our 2025 Year in Review: [click here](#)



On February 25th, we hosted our Annual Business Meeting and distributed our 2025 awards to our winners. Dexter Smith and Becca Siener were our student emcees for the event. Dexter is a junior at Warren Central High School and is a member of the National Honor Society. Becca is a senior at Purdue University and serves as the student body President. We are so fortunate to work with amazing leaders and individuals in our community.

2025 Award winners

- Community Impact Award** – Rijenna Murray, Moorhead Community Resource Center
- Beacon of Hope Award** – Angela Stratton, YSB of Huntington County
- Business Partner Award** – Shelly Walters-Cifelli, Shelly Walters Realty Group
- Youth Advocate Award** – Adam Krupp, Director, Department of Child Services

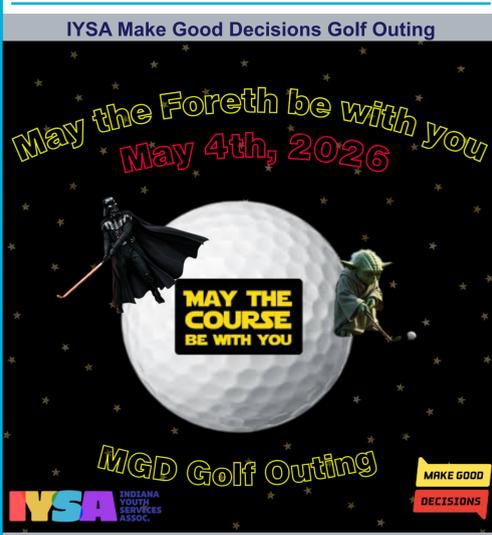
Congratulations to all of the well deserved winners!

To view our annual report, [click here](#)



To find a YSB near you, [click here](#)

IYSA Make Good Decisions Golf Outing



Don't miss this amazing event that benefits our Make Good Decisions program.

Use the following link to learn more or to register: [Golf Outing Registration](#)

To learn more about Make Good Decisions visit: [Make Good Decisions](#)

Safe Place

Safe Place is a program designed to provide access to immediate help and safety to young people. It provides help within the youth's own neighborhood 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Businesses, community agencies, schools, and buses are designated as Safe Place sites and prominently display a distinctive yellow and black Safe Place logo. Any youth can walk into a Safe Place and let an employee know that they need help. They are quickly connected with the local Youth Services Bureau or youth serving agency that can provide the help they need.



March 15-21 is National Safe Place Week. Across the state, Safe Place communities raise awareness about the community network that provides access to immediate help and safety to youth in crisis. NSP Week is also a time to recognize the host agency staff, program partners, and sites who work together to provide Safe Place services to youth.



Congratulations to 4 Indiana programs for being recognized by National Safe Place Network for being in top 5 agencies the number of youth receiving outreach cards in the 3rd quarter of 2025!

- Adult and Child Health**
- Bashor Children's Home**
- Youth Service Bureau of Huntington County**
- YMCA of Greater Ft. Wayne - Youth Service Bureau**

To Learn more about the Safe Place program visit: [Safe Place](#)

ITVAP

Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program



Indiana Trafficking Victims Assistance Program

On February 11th, WRTV 6 reporter Adam Schumes interviewed Genevieve Meyer, statewide coalition development coordinator for the Indiana Traffic victims Assistance Program about how families can educate our children on how to stay safe regarding gaming and human trafficking. This information is so important to share with all youth.

<https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/cybersecurity-experts-reveal-how-online-grooming-escalates-from-games-to-encrypted-messaging>

Together, we are not only raising awareness—we are moving the mission forward.

To learn more about the ITVAP program, please click [here](#)

The Journey

Last year, we celebrated the completion of two fellowship cohorts for 2025. A total of 55 youth workers concluded their fellowship year and were warmly welcomed into the Journey Community.



Now a dynamic network of more than 1,350 fellows from Indiana and beyond are a part of our Journey Community. With five regional crews active across the state, we continue to expand opportunities for meaningful engagement and collaboration. With five regional crews working across the state, we are expanding opportunities for meaningful engagement and connection.



To learn more about The Journey please click [here!](#)



The Grand Royale

Save the date for this year's Grand Royale! Join us on **September 24, 2026** for the second annual Grand Royale at the Ritz Charles in Carmel. More details to come.

A night of friendly gambling, live music, live and silent auctions and luxurious food and beverage tables is ahead of us!

For more information or to register click here: [Grand Royale](#)
Interested in booking a room at The Renaissance Hotel in Carmel click here: [Renaissance Hotel North](#)

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Our Contact Information
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Upcoming Events
March 15-21, 2026 National Safe Place Week
May 4, 2026 MGD Golf Outing - Broadmoor Country Club
May 7, 2026 Thank a Youth Worker Day
August 31-September 2, 2026 Staff Development Retreat - Country Lake Retreat Center
September 24, 2026 The Grand Royale - The Ritz Charles, Carmel