



SUNSHINE
Youth & Family Center

From Drug House to Clubhouse . . .

NEW TEEN CENTER TO OPEN FALL 2007!

It may look like a junk yard right now, but by next Fall a new modern Teen Center will open its doors for the at-risk teenagers served at Sunshine Ministries!

After opening our fantastic Youth & Family center in 2005, we learned that one of the neighboring buildings was a major hub for drug dealing and prostitution. We knew we had to try to do something to protect the children that passed by this building each day on their way to and from the Youth Center.

We tried everything . . . we talked to the local police, we tried to get the attention of our city officials and we even had the Drug Enforcement Agency come to help us. The DEA was able to make a difference for a short time, but it reverted to “business as usual” within weeks.

covered that the stranger was the former owner of the building next door! (At Sunshine we call a “coincidence” like this a “God Thing!”)

With the former owner’s help, we were able to contact the current owner (who had rented out the property and was unaware of the illegal activities that were going on inside) and negotiate a deal to purchase the building and shut down the horrible activities that were endangering our kids.

On December 12, 2005 we took possession of the building. After a year of working with our architects and general contractor, we will begin

construction this winter to transform this old drug house into a “cool” Clubhouse for our teens.

The rehabbed facility will include a lounge area full of fun (but wholesome) video



Back



Front

an enclosed computer center for a quiet place to study.

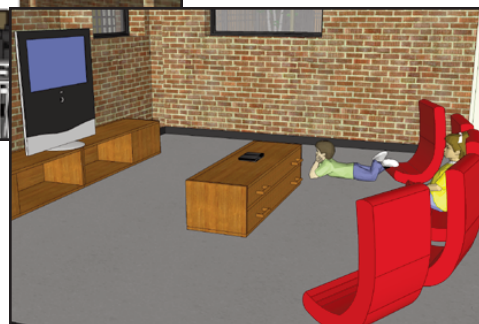
To keep these young people off the dangerous, crime-ridden streets and away from the local gangs, it is essential to offer them a healthy alternative that will meet their needs for security, love and acceptance.

All of our youth programs are designed to offer at-risk young people a safe place to meet and a caring staff who can help and encourage them to make wise life choices that will equip them to succeed in school, avoid the addictions that will destroy their lives, and plan for a purposeful and productive future.



Drawing of future snack bar, meeting area and computer center .

In the Fall of 2005, Jim Clarkson, Sunshine Ministries’ Executive Director, was attending a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game and struck up a conversation with a stranger seated nearby. After exchanging introductions and sharing a bit about each other, Jim dis-



Drawings of future video game area.

games, a study area for group meetings, a dining area for eating and playing board games, a great snack bar, an outdoor basketball court and

For further information and to discover how you can partner with Sunshine Ministries in this project to help at-risk teens, please contact:
Jim Clarkson, Executive Director
314.231.8209
jclarkson@sunshineminstries.org