

Dear Fellow TNOYS Members:

Every year, the TNOYS Annual Conference on Service to Youth and Families provides youth work professionals with leading edge thinking and program development. This year will be no exception. On August 18-20, 2010, more than 500 attendees will gather at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin to learn, build skills and competencies, and make connections with like-minded individuals interested in finding solutions to the critical issues facing Texas' vulnerable youth and families and the agencies serving them.

"I do not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future."

–Oprah Winfrey

This year's theme, **"Their Future Is Everyone's Business,"** is a play on our TNOYS tag line. As TNOYS prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary, we reflect proudly on a legacy of service to the youth services field. An innovator in the youth development movement, TNOYS' vision has shifted the paradigm of modern youth services from "fixing deficits" to celebrating youth as unique individuals with intrinsic value, talents, strengths, interests, and future potential.

Two special events will help us mark our 30th birthday. First on Wednesday evening, August 18, 2010, from 5-8 p.m., we will host our 30th Anniversary Celebration including dinner, our TNOYS Annual Meeting, and silent and live auction. One event ticket is included in every full conference registration. Additional tickets are \$25 at the door. Then, on Friday afternoon, August 20, 2010, from 1-4 p.m., we are thrilled to offer a special screening of the award winning film, *The Hip Hop Project*, featuring a live performance by the film's star, Chris "Kazi" Rolle. Admission is free for youth under age 21 and \$20 for adults.

Please Help Us... These events help raise funds to support TNOYS' vital efforts to serve you, our members, and to advocate for the interests of youth at risk and their families.

To make the auction a success and in keeping with long standing tradition, TNOYS members are asked to contribute items for the silent and live auctions. Thanks to member agencies and local businesses, the auction will have items for everyone and include a range of bidding prices for every budget. Items typically include:

- Arts and crafts
- Jewelry
- Gift certificates for merchants, restaurants and hotels
- Clothing
- Autographed memorabilia
- Books
- Toys
- Packaged food and beverages
- Gift baskets, and
- Unique and imaginative creations!

We ask that contributed items have an estimated value of at least \$25 for individual articles. In addition, we are asking member agencies to contribute a gift basket reflecting our theme and containing items of at least \$50 combined value. As an added incentive, we are hosting a gift basket contest. The most creative gift baskets will receive complimentary raffle tickets (3 for 1st place, 2 for 2nd place, and 1 for 3rd place). The 1st place basket also will receive one complimentary adult ticket to the *Hip Hop Project* film screening.

Attached is a sample request letter and a donation form to assist you in soliciting donations from community merchants and businesses on our behalf. Also attached is a flyer announcing our special events. Please print and distribute, and/or e-mail, the flyer to anyone you think might be interested in attending and also post it in a conspicuous place in your facility or offices.

If you wish, you may submit the completed auction contribution form in advance (by August 17th, please) to our TNOYS staffer, Helen Ross Petty, via email to hpetty@tnoys.org or fax to (512) 328-6860. Or, you may bring it to the conference along with your item(s). We'll have a receiving table set up near the registration area.

Thanks ever so much for your ongoing support of TNOYS. I appreciate all the things you do each and every day to help youth at risk and their families.

Should you need more Information or assistance, please contact Helen at TNOYS, 512-328-6860 or email above.

Best regards,

Gloria

Gloria Berumen Kelly
TNOYS Board Member
Auction Chair

(Please retype onto your agency letterhead.)

Date

Dear _____:

(Begin with a brief introduction to your agency or your connection to the business, and your agency relationship with TNOYS.)

The Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS) plays a major role in assuring our vulnerable youth receive quality services. TNOYS advocates for adequate funding and policies that help us provide the best quality services in our community.

Every year, the TNOYS Annual Conference on Service to Youth and Families provides youth work professionals with leading edge thinking and program development. This year will be no exception. On August 18-20, 2010, more than 500 attendees will gather at the Doubletree Hotel in Austin to learn, build skills and competencies, and make connections with like-minded individuals interested in finding solutions to the critical issues facing Texas' vulnerable youth and families and the agencies serving them.

"I do not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future."

–Oprah Winfrey

This year's theme is **"Their Future Is Everyone's Business,"** and as TNOYS prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary, reflects a legacy of service on behalf of youth in high risk situations and their families. An innovator in the youth development movement, TNOYS' vision has shifted the paradigm of modern youth services from "fixing deficits" to celebrating youth as unique individuals with intrinsic value, talents, strengths, interests, and future potential.

During the conference, two special events will mark TNOYS 30th birthday. First, on Wednesday evening, August 18, 2010, from 5-8 p.m., TNOYS will host its 30th Anniversary Celebration including dinner, Annual Meeting, and silent and live auction. One event ticket is included in every full conference registration. Additional tickets are \$25 at the door. Then, on Friday afternoon, August 20, 2010, from 1-4 p.m., TNOYS is thrilled to offer a special screening of the award winning film, The Hip Hop Project, featuring a live performance by the film's star, Chris "Kazi" Rolle. Admission is free for youth under age 21 and \$20 for adults.

These events help raise necessary funds so that TNOYS can continue to provide state-of-the-art training and consultation for our agency and others like it around the state and to advocate for the interests of vulnerable youth and their families. We are asking you to support our efforts to make a difference in the lives of young people in Texas by contributing **(item specific to the business)** to the auction.

(Name specific agency staff) from our staff will contact you next week to ask for your support and to answer any questions you may have about our request. Please feel free to contact me at **(your phone number)**. All donations to Texas Network of Youth Services and the auction are tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law and are acknowledged at the event and in print.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

(Executive Director or designated contact person)

You Are Invited

TNOYS Annual Conference Festivities

30th Anniversary Celebration
Including Dinner, Annual Meeting and Auction
Wednesday, August 18, 2010
5 – 8 p.m.

Special Screening of the Hip Hop Project
Including Performance by Chris “Kazi” Rolle
Friday, August 20, 2010
1 – 4 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel Phoenix Ballroom
Austin



Be sure to join us for a special celebration of the 30th Anniversary of TNOYS (our “legal” birthday, that is). TNOYS was “born” in 1978, at a time when the nation was making significant policy decisions regarding runaway and homeless youth, delinquency prevention, and juvenile justice reforms, a dedicated group of Texas youth serving agencies began meeting to exchange information and share resources. They discovered the power of group advocacy and the benefits of networking on behalf of young people in high risk situations. In 1980, they formalized the relationship and incorporated as the Texas Network of Youth Services (TNOYS).

Our 30th birthday party will be lots of fun. Enjoy dinner on us, a live and silent auction, our TNOYS Annual Meeting and meet new members.

Tickets—One ticket included w/each full conference registration. Additional tickets \$25 at the door.



From Executive Producers Bruce Willis and Queen Latifah, The Hip Hop Project, winner of 13 film festival awards, is the compelling story of Kazi, a formerly homeless teenager who inspired a group of New York City teens to transform

their life stories into powerful works of art, using hip hop as a vehicle for self-development and personal discovery. A special screening of the film will be provided following the TNOYS Conference from 1-4 p.m. on Friday, August 20th.

Kazi challenges these young people to write music about real issues affecting their lives as they strive to overcome daunting obstacles to produce a collaborative album. Russell Simmons, hip hop mogul and long-time supporter of the project, partners with Bruce Willis to donate a recording studio to the The Hip Hop Project.

After four years of collaboration, the group produces a powerful and thought-provoking CD filled with moving personal narratives and sharp social commentary. Frank Scheck of the Hollywood Reporter calls The Hip Hop Project an “inspirational...compelling, uplifting tale.”

Tickets—Youth under 21 free/Adults \$20

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the Texas Network of Youth Services at (512) 328-6860, or visit us online at www.TNOYS.org.

Auction Donation Form

Please list each item you are donating to the Auction, along with its value and description. Please make copies of this form if needed.

Donor Name & Address	Item	Value	Description
1.		\$	
2.		\$	
3.		\$	
4.		\$	

How will TNOYS obtain the item(s)?

- We will bring the item(s) to the conference.
- We will send the item(s) to the TNOYS office before August 17, 2010.

Your Information

Agency Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Street Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Please return this form to Gloria Berumen Kelly at the conference or send to Helen Ross Petty by August 17, 2010.

Phone: 512/328-6860

Fax: 512/328-6863

Email: hpetty@tnoys.org

Thank you for your generous support!