



Welcome to the Youth's Benefit Elementary School PTA! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your decision to join this organization and let you know a little bit about what we do and how you can stay involved.

The PTA is oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the United States. Throughout our over 100 year history, the PTA's purpose has been championing children's rights. Our current mission statement focuses on three areas: promoting parental involvement, advocating safe and nurturing environments for our children and youth, and continuing support of public education.

How does this affect you and your child? In 1997 a landmark study was done at Johns Hopkins University that affirmed that parent and family involvement in school increases student success. Based on that study, the PTA published the comprehensive work, *Building Successful Partnerships: A Guide for Developing Parent and Family Involvement Programs*, which advocates strategies for building effective parent involvement in the school. At Youth's Benefit, the PTA tries to provide the framework and support necessary for busy families to stay connected with each other and the school.

What we do? A better question might be what don't we do! A sample of some of the things that the YBES PTA is involved with:

- We publish a school directory and yearbook so school families can stay in touch with each other and maintain our school relationships.
- We raise money through fund raisers (Scholastic, Yankee Candle, Box Tops) to purchase books, Time Magazine for Kids, and Weekly Readers for our students and teachers.
- We provide fun and unifying activities for our school community (Bingo, Spring Bazaar, 5k run/walk, Barnes and Noble night, Ice Skating, Spirit Wear)
- We provide many opportunities for parents to get involved in the school (Cafeteria Duty, New Student Committee, Parent Enrichment Program)
- We provide student assemblies and the Reflections program.

How can you help? Any way you can!!

- Please contact us if you have free time you are able to use to volunteer and we will try to connect you with the program that you feel you are best suited for and best meets your needs. (Our volunteers can do as much or little as they like. Some jobs require just baking an item and sending in while others require coming into the school on a regular basis.)
- Join us every year and encourage neighbors and friends to join. You don't have to have a child at YBES to be interested in helping the children in our community! (Grandparents make great PTA members!)
- Help our fundraisers, not able to sell, just clip box tops and register your Target and Giant cards.
- Come to our events; let your child know that their school is important.
- Contact us with your suggestions, questions and concerns. We have suggestion boxes in the building lobbies.
- Look out for our updates and information in the Gator Aid and school website. (We are hoping to have an electronic newsletter soon!)

Thank you and Welcome!