

## What does it mean to do the “next right thing”?



Where do messages of hope and authentic direction come from? Sometimes unusual places. And for so many little ones and their parents and grandparents, perhaps the words of Princess Anna, the little sister from Frozen 2 who gains so much courage, mean the most.

*Do the next right thing.*

You see, Anna finds herself alone, struggling to find the truth and the way. What does it mean to do the next right thing? What does it mean to be a force for good amidst the most difficult and challenging times? How do we face a world of chaos and division and still remain honest and determined?

For the past 12 years, I have served this community as the Rochester City Councilwoman representing the East District, and what an honor it has been. Now my sights turn more directly to the work at The Center for Youth. As we face a 2020 of uncertainty and despair, we face it with more determination and direction than ever.

Doing the next right thing is easier when that next thing means that a young woman no longer faces her sex trafficker, or a young man can attend a school program designed for his success. Doing the next right thing may mean that a series of restorative justice sessions bring meaning and resolution to disputes that may have resulted in incarceration.

Perhaps it gives young families the crisis support they need to continue their employment or education, or just to know that the Crisis Nursery program can be exactly what is needed at that emergency moment with few questions asked and no need for payment. Doing the next right thing may be reflected in a generous family who opens their home to a young homeless mother and her baby and makes their home, her home.

Or, as we prepare for a new decade, maybe doing the next right thing is simply making every interaction—at the grocery store, the bank, via email—the kindest and most compassionate. These are not difficult steps, and they are largely free and take little effort. Let’s give those closest to us our very best and those we don’t yet know the benefit of the doubt.

While the world and our community are being led by elected officials, world leaders, kings and queens, the simple words of a make-believe character may mean the most. When we find ourselves lost or without direction, help

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Elaine Spaul - Executive Director





The Dutton Family holiday party provides such wonderful supplies to our Crisis Nursery program!



Our friends from Macy's Eastview joins our team to present a \$5,000 donation to The Arnett House!



Forteq North America present a donation in support of our homeless youth programs & services.



The 4th annual Work it Out event, organized by our Associate Board at Compass Cycle, with a reception at Lost Borough Brewery, raised money for our Arnett House - the LGBTQ & trafficked homeless youth residence opening later this winter.



Guest Bartenders - including board members, provided their time during a fundraising happy hour event at 80W, raising nearly \$2,000 in just over two hours!



The Genesee Valley BMW Car Club stopped by to share a generous holiday donation to The Center!



Aaron Newman celebrated the holidays with a party, encouraging guests to donate much-needed supplies!





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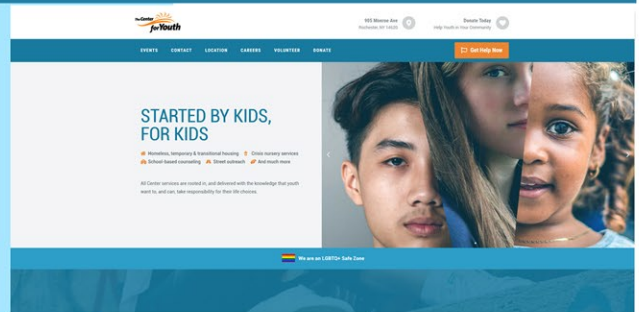
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[www.centerforyouth.net/#donate](http://www.centerforyouth.net/#donate)



## Check out our new home on the web!

### Our web page received an overhaul with a brand new look!

The Center for Youth's home on the internet has received a makeover, allowing us to share our story in an updated and refined way. And, we are just getting started! We'll continue to update our site with fresh content and robust information on our programs & services that are vital to young people and families. Be sure to visit us online to check out our new site: [www.centerforyouth.net](http://www.centerforyouth.net)



## Save the date for these upcoming events!

March 21, 2020 / The Center for Youth **Spring Gala**

May 14, 2020 / Monroe County Bar Association Young Lawyers Section **Teen Court** Silent Auction

June 4, 2020 / **Strings for Success** Spring Benefit Concert

June 18, 2020 / Fashion Week Rochester **Hot Summer Nights**

October 12 - 17, 2020 / **Fashion Week Rochester**

For more information visit us online at  
[www.centerforyouth.net](http://www.centerforyouth.net) and [fashionweekofrochester.org](http://fashionweekofrochester.org)