

## Get Off The Bench! How You Can Help.

## Be a Part of Our WINNING TEAM!

**Contribute Your Time** – If you have time to spare, you can mentor, tutor or just help youth with their homework. You can also serve as a member of our advisory board. Let us know how much time you can volunteer and when you would like to do it, and we will provide you with everything you need to make a tremendous change in a young person's life.

**Contribute Your Expertise** – Do you have a job skill you could teach a teenager? Can you help our youth find jobs in the community? Can you help coach a youth in job interviewing skills? We can use your help!

**Contribute School Supplies** – A surprising number of teenagers who are having trouble in school are not doing well simply because they don't have the supplies – book bags, notebooks, pens, paper, calculators and other items.

**Make a Donation** – Our youth are in need of the extra money required to join sports leagues and cover entry fees for a variety of extracurricular activities that will keep them active while building character and self-worth. Donations are tax-deductible and can be specifically targeted to an item or activity.

- **The teens will win!**  
They will have developed skills and attitudes that will help them to succeed at home, in school, and eventually, at work.



- **The family will win!**  
Parents will learn valuable skills, including how to access support available from the community. Family members will understand how to better support their teenager.
- **The community will win!**  
It will have a young adult who is focused on a positive future and who can contribute to the community.



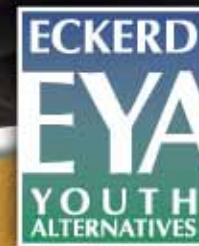
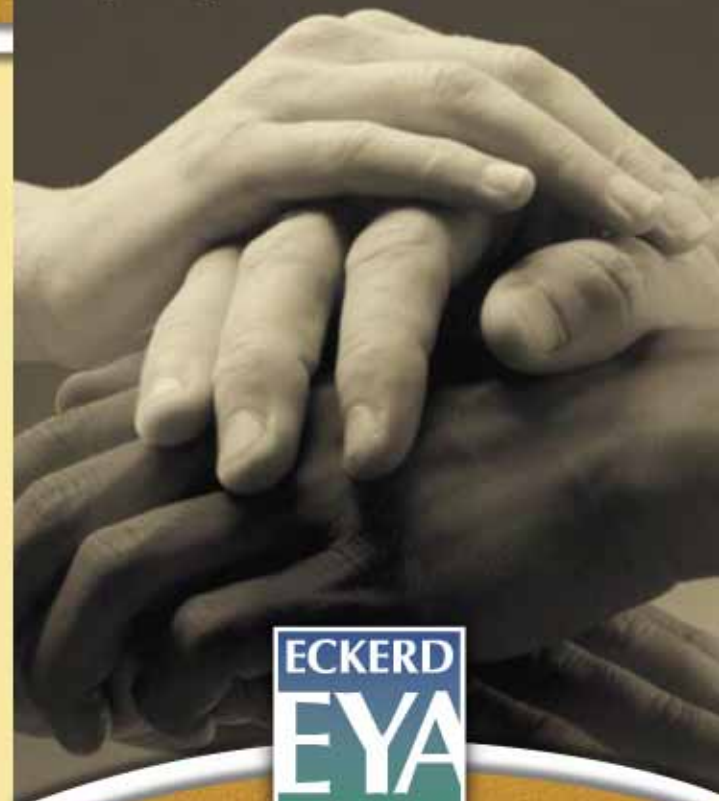
### **Eckerd Community and Home Outreach (ECHO) Program**

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Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. strictly adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in the admission of students without regard to race, color, religion, sex, handicap or national origin. Eckerd Youth Alternatives, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer.

# JOIN THE ECHO TEAM

*Improving the Future, One Child at a Time*



## **Eckerd Community and Home Outreach Program**

*Engaging the Community to Help  
Troubled Teenagers & Their Families*



# Eckerd Community and Home Outreach Program

## A TEAM APPROACH for Turning Young Lives Around

At Eckerd Youth Alternatives, we have worked with troubled teens for more than 40 years. We have learned that the best chance of success takes teamwork involving the youth, the family and the community.

The Eckerd Community and Home Outreach (ECHO) Program is a youth skill-building, mentoring and tracking program. Youth ages 10 to 20 years old are referred to ECHO by the District 3 Louisiana Office of Youth Development (OYD).



*ECHO is based in Hammond, Louisiana and serves St. Helena, Livingston, Tangipahoa, Washington and St. Tammany parishes.*

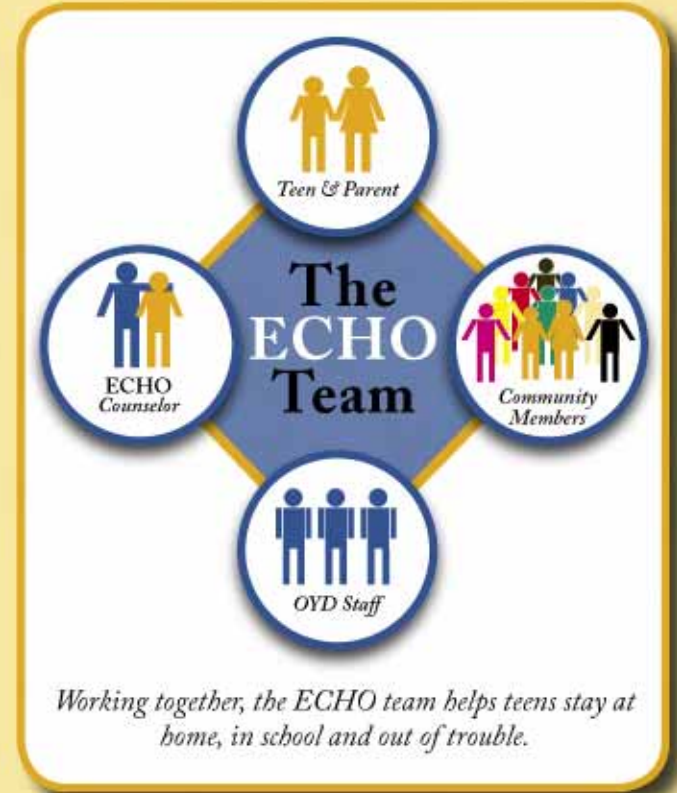
## The ECHO Game Plan

ECHO helps teens stay at home, in school, and out of trouble. We accomplish this utilizing a team concept, including the teenager, the parent, the ECHO counselor, OYD staff and the community. Over a six-month period, the team works together to accomplish program goals.

The ECHO counselor meets with the youth and family within 24 hours after the OYD referral is made. The youth completes a risk and strength life skills assessment and agrees to participate in ECHO's daily sessions, community service programs and recreational activities. Together, the ECHO team develops an Individualized Treatment Plan for the youth that outlines responsibilities, expectations and consequences.

After the plan is developed, an ECHO counselor:

- ▶ Meets face-to-face with the youth seven days a week to provide mentoring, support, tutoring and life skills training.
- ▶ Meets with the parent(s) at least once a week to offer support.
- ▶ Has daily phone contact with the youth to ensure that he/she is making curfew.
- ▶ Supports the youth's achievements in school and work.
- ▶ Keeps the Louisiana Office of Youth Development informed of the youth's progress.
- ▶ Educates the family on what support is available in the community and how to access it.



The family provides support and encouragement to the youth to meet the Treatment Plan goals and participates in family activities and program events.

The community can help in providing volunteer mentoring and employment opportunities, as well as helping the family to access available community services.

Educating the family on what support is available in the community and how to access it will impact the quality of life of all the children in the family.