

Boys Town in Denison free resources for par

by Emma Struve

Through federal grant funding, the Parent-Child Connection Services program, which offers a variety of free core services to families in need, is now available at Boys Town in Denison.

"Boys Town has been in Iowa since 1989," remarked Brian Fox, Boys Town program director. "We have provided in home family services, family support services."

Since that time, Fox said, "We saw an increased need in families that have been torn apart by divorce or legal separation. What we found is the first thing that happens is the kids are separated from either parent."

To address these expanding needs, the Parent-Child Connection Services (PCCS) program was developed and launched in 2010.

Services offered, free of charge to any Iowan, through PCCS include neutral drop-off and pick-up, family mediation, visitation counseling, parenting consultation, and resource support.

Through Boys Town in Denison, families can also access the resources of the national Boys Town hotline, whose motto is "Any problem, any time."

Neutral drop-off and pick-up does not have to be at the office in Denison, though, Fox noted. If the family needs intervention elsewhere, staff is available outside the Denison area with prior arrangement.



The Boys Town office in Denison, which opened in Kenney (seated) Assistant Coordinator Chad Tedrow, pictured is Lori Londo. One of the many family services in a comfortably equipped family room, shown here.

continued, is really a visitation schedule or plan specific to each family's situation that can include items such as meals, activities, chores, and other expectations.

Visitation counseling can include plans for the actual structure of visitation time: discipline, behavior expectations and creating a communication log.

Parenting consultation involves "sitting down and coming up with strategies," what to do if "Johnny won't sit in time-out." This can also include family enrichment activity ideas, Fox continued.

Chad Tedrow, assistant coordinator whose office is in Denison, made sure to point out that all services

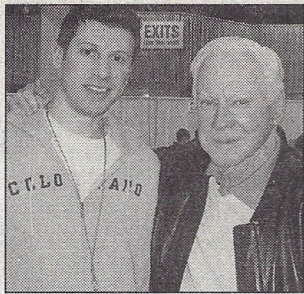
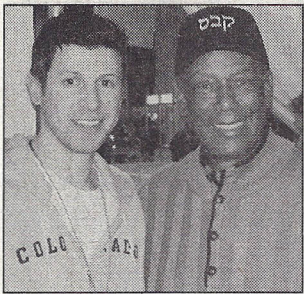
tion about supervised visitation contact Carrie demore at 402-660-5

"We'll bring our sources together, bring our knowledge we're all trained through common parenting and we'll you come up with a plan and we'll help come up with a schedule of events," Fox stated.

"What we're trying is be accessible to community."

One of the challenges he added, in rural areas to even find services which Boys Town is and able to help families do.

Help is offered to parents requesting it by directly providing services or by linking them



Card collector and enthusiast Michael Osacky is pictured with Ernie "Mr. Cub" Banks (above left) and Hall of Fame Yankee pitcher Whitey Ford (above right). He had the opportunity to meet them through his appraisal business. Photos submitted

What treasures are in your attic?

by Emma Struve

"I really got started collecting old baseball cards as a teenager," remarked Michael Osacky, sports memorabilia aficionado, as well as owner and operator of Baseball in the Attic appraisal service, with a few full sets of vintage 1950s cards.

Osacky's fascination with sports cards goes further back than that to purchasing modern packs at drug stores in the early 1990s as a youth.

For that special adolescent birthday, though, his grandfather gave him a shoebox full of antique cards, "which really got his blood flowing," Osacky explained. A neighbor had been cleaning out the basement and came across the collection. Osacky's grandpa claimed them for him, since he was well aware of Michael's interest in the collectibles.

After receiving the shoebox full of cards, Osacky started traveling around Illinois, the state in which he grew up and where he still resides, to shows with his dad.

"To see what all the dealers had for cards, I was like a kid in a candy store," Osacky exclaimed.

What started out as an intense hobby exceeded the limits of a side-line passion and became Osacky's profession. In addition to being featured on major Chicago media outlets, including a WGN baseball card segment broadcast live at Wrigley Field on opening day during which Osacky got to "show and tell" about his collection, he now travels to meet with other collectors, appraises collections, and deals in sports collectibles.

He learned about other collectibles, Osacky explained, because "most people who have cards are collectors and have other things as well, autographs, ticket stubs, and a lot of different aspects of the game."

Amassing knowledge has been a long, and continues to be an ongoing, process. Osacky utilizes not just price guides to familiarize himself with values, but by handling sheer volumes of items gains an appreciation for items' desirability; he has been in the business approximately 15 years.

"Condition is everything as far as value goes," he said.

A notable experience, Osacky related, was appraising the collection of Red Kerr upon his passing.