

## Ryan White Foundation will focus on AIDS, teens

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INDIANAPOLIS — Ryan White died more than three years ago, but his fight to teach the world about AIDS continues through the people who knew him, his mother said yesterday.

The Ryan White Foundation opened yesterday in Indianapolis. It will be a resource center for groups serving teens with AIDS, or anyone working to educate teens, Jeanne White-Ginder said.

"We want to get teens involved," she told the crowd of about 200 people, most of whom were family and friends of Ryan. "We want teenagers to realize that this is their disease. If you have sex, you're at risk."

Though only 1 percent of Hoosiers with AIDS are age 13 to 19, that age group makes up 3 percent of the state's HIV-positive population, said Dirinda Naylor, with the state Department of Health.

Fifty-eight teen-agers have tested positive for HIV as of Nov. 1; 17

have been diagnosed with AIDS, she said.

"Nobody is addressing the real issue, and that is teen education," White-Ginder said. "We know teens are most likely to experiment with sex and drugs, and they are at risk."

For Ryan, a hemophiliac who contracted AIDS through tainted blood products, educating people about the disease and dispelling myths about it became the focus of his life until he died in April 1990.

The work he did was evident last night, as the crowd watched footage of his TV appearances.

"I not only do this for Ryan, I do this for all the people who helped us along the way, when nobody else would listen," White-Ginder said.

TV talk show host Phil Donahue has agreed to be the group's spokesman.

The foundation also raises money by selling sweatshirts, copies of Ryan's book, "Ryan White: My Story," and copies of Michael Jackson's song, "Gone Too Soon." The song's video features Ryan.