

# Here's a scoop: Teen Response ice cream business finds home

By Amy Monahan  
Staff Reporter

The simple store-front building doesn't look like much from the outside, but it houses the hopes and dreams of five teenage entrepreneurs.

Logan Reynolds and Tommy Eppens, 15, and Joe Keuffer, Jon Kamp and Ricky Gregory, 14, plan to open a creamy whip on Norwood's Worth Avenue this spring.

The teen-agers are all members of the non-profit group Teen Response Inc. in Oakley.

John Keuffer, Joe's cousin, founded the organization in 1993.

"We try to provide positive opportunities for kids to succeed and teach leadership skills and boost self esteem," John Keuffer said.

The group holds weekly meetings for its 25 members and completes at least two major community service projects per year, such as litter clean-ups.

The Community Press has sponsored Teen Response Inc.

A former Terrace Park police officer, as well as counselor and residential director at Bob Hope House, John Keuffer said, "When I was in a uniform and carrying a gun and looked like Smoky the Bear, it didn't invite communication. I enjoyed doing (counseling) much more than lock(ing) people up."

The ice cream business came about as a way to fund programs at Teen Response Inc., John Keuffer said.

The group of teen-agers helped plan and design the business, and will help renovate its space over the slow ice cream-selling months in fall and winter.

The plan to open the business did hit some hitches though. The group, which has been given a \$12,000 business start-up funding grant from Fifth Third Bank, thought it had a lock on another location. The property sold as the group was finalizing its funding, John Keuffer said.

"At first we thought we saw the light



Amy Monahan/Staff

Teen Response founder John Keuffer shows off the space where five of his program's teenage members helped initiate plans for an ice cream business.

at the end of the tunnel, and then we had to start over," Joe Keuffer said.

"(Now) it's very quick, busy. Everything's coming at once. I'm thinking about it 24 hours a day," Evans said.

Evans designed blue prints for the

store, and built a 3-D project model of what the space will eventually look like.

John Keuffer, who is a semi-professional football coach, has many ties with

**Ice cream**

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professional athletes, including Cincinnati Mighty Ducks and Cleveland Browns. Athletes have spoken with members of Teen Response Inc., and some have sponsored the group, including New York Rangers coach Eddie Johnstone and Mighty Ducks coach Moe Mantha.

The store's space is leased from owner Marc Edwards, a Norwood

land Browns.

"Each area (in the store) will be devoted to the team that's sponsored (us), and something donated, a hockey stick or bat helmet, put up," Evans said.

Along with Fifth Third Bank, The Helen Steiner Rice Foundation and the Mayerson Foundation are set to grant matching funds for the store.