



# CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF OHIO

*Bringing healing to hurting children and families . . . In His Name*

## SHARELINE

Number 1

[www.ccho.org](http://www.ccho.org)

January, February, March 2011

### THANKFUL HEARTS

By Gary D. Porter, Executive Director

I love Thanksgiving...I love the holiday...I love the word itself...I enjoy being thankful. And why wouldn't I be thankful. I have been Blessed with a wonderful wife, three great kids, and five grandchildren. I am saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. I have had over 42 years in ministry and get to do meaningful work every day in a Christ centered environment touching the lives of hurting children...Praise God!!!

I am thankful for each of you. You have helped make all we do possible. Some of you have been supporting this ministry from the beginning. As I sit here today looking over the campus with 5 large cottages and our Worship/Retreat Center, I can easily remember just a few children in the old farmhouse. Your gifts have provided all this.

I am thankful for so many people who have opened their hearts and homes to become foster and adoptive parents to hundreds and hundreds of children. I am thankful for our 11 New Beginnings Counseling Centers throughout Northeast Ohio providing Christ centered counseling to hurting children and families. I thank God that Zack and Mitchell just celebrated Thanksgiving with their new forever families. Praise the Lord.

I am thankful for our houseparents who give up their own home, friends, and careers to come and live in our cottages and pour themselves out daily to hurting and often times angry children. I am thankful they can see past the screaming and hitting to the pain our children feel and love them as God loves them. Thank God for these special servants as they are the hands and feet of Jesus.

“ Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.”

~Psalm 100:4&5



Gary Porter, center, with staff and kids from Cottage 4, who were dressed for a Harvest Celebration in October.

I am thankful that many of these children have come to know Jesus this past year as their Lord and Savior. I am thankful that several are in extensive Bible study right now preparing for that same decision. I am thankful for so many churches and Sunday School Classes and individuals who are already buying and wrapping gifts to make this Christmas very special for the children in our care. We are so Blessed.

As you join with family and friends, take time to share what you are thankful for. Recall how God has Blessed your life this past year as we celebrate His great gift to us in Jesus Christ.



**AVAILABLE for ADOPTION!**



**Cedric, age 12**



**Tatiana, age 15**



**Keyerra, age 17**



**De'Marreeh, age 15**



**Paul, age 13**



**Jenna, age 16**



**Daniel, age 17**



**David, age 17**



**Raylon, age 17**



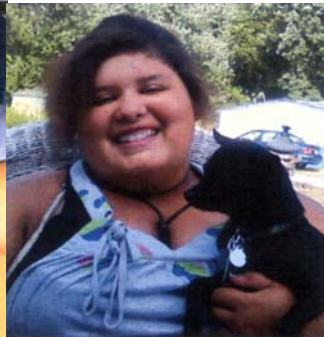
**Raisha, age 16**



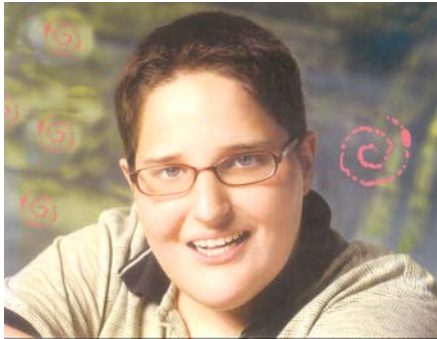
**Nathan, age 13**



**Jerrone, age 17**



**Jammit, age 17**



**Daniel, age 16**



**Tomquan, "Tommy", age 9**



**Harley, age 8 and Edwin, age 11**

**The children pictured here are waiting to be adopted. We've been given the responsibility to find permanent homes for them. Please call for more information about a specific child or children, or to learn more about adoption in general. Rhonda Greer, Adoption Supervisor, can be reached in the office at 330-345-7949 ext. 2336 or on her cell phone at 330-621-1090.**

## ADVOCATING *for* ADOPTION

Rhonda Greer, CCHO's Adoption Supervisor, gave adoptable children a voice in Columbus on November 30, 2010 at a Statehouse event highlighting the need for adoptive families.

Said Penny Wyman, executive director of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA), "The event showcases the need for Ohio to step up its commitment to Ohio's 3,000 waiting children who need families. At this time of year, when so much of our activity revolves around our families, we should be particularly mindful of the children who have never had the opportunity to feel the warmth and sense of belonging that being part of a family gives us. As we treasure our own families, we have to redouble our efforts to find families for these young people."

Rita Soronen, executive director of the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and one of the event's featured speakers, added "There is a critical need for Americans to become aware and involved. Everyone can make a difference – either by adopting a child from foster care or by supporting the work of agencies finding forever families for waiting children."



## FOSTER CARE CHRISTMAS



By Gary Porter, Executive Director



Steve Ferguson has served CCHO in a variety of positions for 18 years. He and his wife, Joan, came originally as Houseparents. Later, Steve became our first Campus

## FAREWELL, AGAIN

Minister providing spiritual leadership to the children in our care. Most recently, Steve has been serving as the Director of Advancement. He has done well in every area of service to our ministry.

Steve's first love is preaching and teaching. During the last couple of years, as he did more supply preaching, his heart was calling him back into church ministry. He and I talked openly about this, so it was no surprise when he came into my office to tell me that he had accepted the position of Senior Minister at Southport Heights Christian Church in Indiana.

Steve will be missed. He had built a team in the advancement area that appreciated his leadership, encouragement, and friendship. He was well known among our churches and donors. I will miss him as part of our management team and as a friend.

We all wish Steve well in his new position and pray that God will give him joy as he serves Him in what he loves to do most.

To wish him well, send mail to:

Steve Ferguson  
Southport Heights Christian Church  
7154 McFarland Rd  
Indianapolis, IN 46227



By Beverly Richards, Director of Foster Care & Adoption

It's with sadness that we say good-bye to Terri Turner. Terri has been with us for 2 1/2 years as our Foster Care Supervisor in the Cleveland office. Terri has a long history with CCHO as she started her career as an intern in our Children's Residential Center.

Terri is leaving to pursue a doctorate. We wish her the best as she furthers her education and in her future career path.

## VENTRAC VOLUNTEERS

Ventrac by Venture Products in Orrville, Ohio (formerly Steiner Ag Products) came to CCHO in September to re-do the ball field and volleyball court. They trucked in sand and a variety of Ventrac equipment, and had both ready for a game in no time! Thank you to the Steiner family and their employees who helped with this project!



## VETERANS DAY

The on-grounds school welcomed Veterans from Hilltop Villa in Wooster into their classroom to honor the Veterans for their service, and make Christmas ornaments together. Each Veteran received a gift of appreciation and was recognised in front of the class. Then they were assigned to tables where the students taught them how to make different ornaments from recycled materials.



Jess explaining the project to her group of Veterans.



Jamika and Stephanie working with two gentlemen.

Mikel enjoying his time with these men.



“The kids are always so respectful when the veterans visit. Each student organized his/her work station and patiently taught the procedure for their ornament to the veterans who were assigned to them,” said Mrs. Miller.

The students all commented that they liked getting to know the veterans. Mikel, who taught them how to make a star ornament out of corks, said, “I liked talking to them and really respect what they did and what they stood for.”

Amber thought it was fun to get to know them and to hang out with them. Of the day, she commented, “They were here to help us, today we can help them.” †

**The Veterans served to make our everyday lives better. Below are the student’s ideas of what we can do everyday to make life better for the people around us.**

- ✧ Smile
- ✧ Laugh
- ✧ Be understanding
- ✧ Don’t judge
- ✧ Don’t be mean
- ✧ Respect others
- ✧ Be honest
- ✧ Follow the Golden Rule

## CAMPUS MINISTRY

By David Hargrave, Director of Spiritual Development

Greetings from the desk of Campus Ministry! May we each continue to receive and experience the "gift that keeps on giving" in greater ways this Christmas, which is Christ the Lord! I recently had a conversation with one of our young men about thankfulness. In the conversation, I asked things like, how can a donor/giver really know how a youth felt about the gifts he/she received? Are they (the kids) really thankful? Do the gifts really bring joy? My intention was not to be instructional, but rather to better understand this subject from his perspective. It was a very interesting conversation! A few days later, without any prompting, he gave me a summary of his feelings regarding our conversation. He told me that he was inspired to write it after much thought and discussion with his peers... I hope it blesses you! Merry Christmas!

"Thankful or not? That is a very good question. First let me start by saying this. Kids love Christmas. It's a known fact. With all the gifts and food who wouldn't, right? Well the truth is that a lot of kids don't experience a very merry time. There are some kids who sadly can only hope that the staff in charge will be so kind as to allow a few extra minutes on the phone to talk to their parents. There are a lot of kids who only look forward to a pair of jeans, or a school supplies or hygiene supplies. But these kids are truly thankful, no, GRATEFUL, for any and everything they get!

You know, in reality there are two types of happiness. The first and most common is what I call happiness of the brain. There's nothing wrong with this kind of happiness. It's when you watch a kid open up that cell phone or brand new mp3 player.\* They shout with joy, and thank you a billion and 1/2 times and grin from ear to ear. Then there's happiness of the heart. This is a much deeper happiness. This is when you give a kid a gift and they open it with a very content look on their face. Then they very seriously tell you thanks, I can really use this. These are very different indeed, but they are both happiness regardless.

The point I am trying to make is simple. Don't let what your eyes see decide what your heart believes! Whether you see a massive grin, hear a joyful shout, or just a basic thank you, we are very thankful for your caring about our Christmas! Thank You!"

*\*Please note: cell phones, MP3 players and Ipods are things the children here are not allowed to have.*



"Thank you" to RiverTree Christian Church, Orrville Christian Church, and Abundant Life Christian Fellowship for providing the CCHO staff Christmas luncheon. It was WONDERFUL!



## WELCOME *to* FOSTER CARE & ADOPTION



**Olga Rafidi**

I was Born and raised as an Orthodox Christian in the Middle East (Jerusalem, Palestine). As a teen-ager I immigrated to the United States with my family in search of a life where Christianity is accepted and Christians are not persecuted for their belief in Christ. I attended Walsh University where I received a BA in Psychology and an MA in Counseling and Human Development.

I worked as a counselor for most of my career; however, I became interested in adoption after I worked with several birthmothers in a counseling setting. These experiences led me to look into adoption and I enrolled into the Tier Training to learn more about it. I discovered that I have a passion for adoptions and working with children and foster/adoptive families; and their path that lead them to each other. Most importantly, for the children that need good, stable and loving homes. I have been working in this field for the past 8 years. I believe that adoption is more than work, it is a ministry; and it is witnessing God's hand at work in every adoption that takes place.

I feel that I have been lead to Christian Children's Home of Ohio for a reason. Everything from finding the job posting to interviewing for the position and beginning my work here seemed to be God-inspired. I believe that God's hand is in this agency and it's leading me as well as everyone I have met here so far into doing His works.



**Laura Mulliken**

"I graduated from Cedarville University May 2009 majoring in Social Work with a minor in Bible.

I became a social worker because I felt called to work in the foster care and adoption field ever since my aunt and uncle adopted four children."

Laura recently joined CCHO as a Case Manager, and is doing a great job. On December 8th she was awarded the first COMPEL Award at the CCHO staff Christmas luncheon. The COMPEL Award is based on 2 Corinthians 5:14, *"For Christ's love compels us, for we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died."*



**Melanie Barber**

Melanie graduated from Ashland University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work in 2001, and from Ashland Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling in 2006. From July 2008-May 2009, Melanie took a mission trip around the world, visiting 11 countries in 11 months.

Melanie has a heart for children and families, and recently came to Christian Children's Home of Ohio as a Child Centered Recruitment (CCR) worker. CCR is a focused effort to find a permanency for children who have been waiting to be adopted for a long time. CCR emphasizes the importance of current and past relationships in a waiting child's life to identify people with whom the child can form life-long, permanent and meaningful relationships.

**N** 60 Vinyl Mattress Covers (Heavy duty, deep pocket, twin sized)  
 Toilet Paper

**E** Kleenex  
 Deodorant (boys and girls)

**E** Bath Soap (gentle)  
 Canned Goods

**D** Bath Towels  
 Sheets

**S** Laundry Detergent  
 Cleaning Supplies  
 Window Cleaner  
 Scrubbing Bubbles

**L** Dishwasher Detergent  
 Dish Liquid

**I** (2) Five-Shelf, Heavy Duty Metal Racks

**S** Used, Sturdy Couches/Sofas  
 Vinyl Couch

**T** Washable Furniture Covers for Couches  
 Large, Clear Storage Containers



“Thank you”, Knotting Ladies for the lovely quilts and Palmyra Church of Christ Women’s Fellowship for the supplies they donated.



“Thank you” to CertainTeed and P & W Roofing Supply for making the roofing project on the farmhouse, where CCHO began in 1969, possible!

## Memorials

### GIVEN BY

Mr. & Mrs. Francis Nash  
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Furney  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dominic Rex  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Conrad  
 Children & Grandchildren  
 Ms. Jeanne Wuske

### IN MEMORY OF

Donald Nash  
 William R. Frederick  
 Sarah Romano  
 Sydney Beck  
 Rudolph & Mary Rex  
 Ward Wuske

### GIVEN BY

Mr. & Mrs. Gary Dolan  
 Ms. Emily Prather  
 Ms. Abby Wells

### IN HONOR OF

Alan and Julia Neal  
 Tom Prather  
 John Livergood

If you would like to receive occasional email updates and prayer requests please send an email to [info@ccho.org](mailto:info@ccho.org) with “Updates” in the subject line.



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S  
 HOME OF OHIO, INC.

Editor: Gary D. Porter

Please send all contributions to:  
 Christian Children's Home of Ohio  
 PO Box 765, Wooster, OH 44691

Contributions are tax deductible.

Telephone: 330-345-7949  
 Fax: 330-345-5218  
 Website: [www.ccho.org](http://www.ccho.org)

SHARELINE

Shareline (USPS 916860) is published quarterly by Christian Children's Home of Ohio, 2685 Armstrong Road, Wooster, OH 44691.

Periodicals postage paid at Wooster, OH 44691.

POSTMASTER:  
 Send all address changes to Shareline, c/o Christian Children's Home of Ohio, PO Box 765, Wooster, OH 44691