



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF OHIO

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

SHARELINE

Number 2

www.ccho.org

April, May, June 2011

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

“Thank you” for your continuous support. Your generous and loyal support, your financial gifts, donation of your time and talents, your notes of encouragement, and your prayers helped make our ministry possible.

We know that this past year was a challenging time on many fronts for our country, our churches, and families in general. Banks have collapsed...businesses have closed...record unemployment...and much uncertainty for many people.

Some certainties remained. There are still children being abused and neglected. The children we are serving are more damaged than ever in our ministry's history. Families are being ripped apart. More people are seeking answers to all of the issues they are facing and seeking counseling. Waiting children still want their “forever families”.

I am also certain that God deeply loves the children we serve.

The Lord continues to Bless us in many ways. He continues to send us children who need His love and He sends us staff to meet those needs. More people have come to our counseling centers than ever before. We see all of our staff, foster parents, and adoptive parents making an eternal difference in the lives of the children He sends our way and we give God the Praise.

Your gifts, thoughts and prayers have allowed us to look to the future with hope and certainty that we can continue to reach hurting children and families in His name. Please know that we appreciate all you do. May God continue to Bless you and your family.

For the Children,

Gary D. Porter
Executive Director



Aerial Photo of Main Campus, 2010

ADOPTION NEWS

Missy*, a teen who has been through many moves, just made her last move to her forever home in February. She is happy and relieved to now have a family she can call her own. She has made her last school change and will be able to attend the same high school for the next three and a half years.

Three Child Centered Recruitment teens are in the process of being adopted by their foster parents. This means that as they become young adults they will have the security of a parent to continue to guide and support them as they apply to college, vocational school, or the work force. We all need the support of family as we become adults. How much more is this support needed for children who have been suffered many losses in their lives, separated not only from biological parents, but siblings, neighbors, and extended relatives, along with many school disruptions.

Through Child Centered Recruitment efforts, another teen has been reunited with her biological brother, who she had not seen in ten years. Neither knew where the other was or how to find each other. Even though this youth was not adopted, her brother's family is now becoming her own.

We also recently celebrated the adoption of Alonna by Joe and Betty Sue, the adoption of Jimmy by Raymon and Miranda, and the adoption of Joshua by Jane and John. Congratulations!

ATTENTION GOLFERS!



Look for Caring for Kids Classic registration packets in the mail and online in mid-June! Never golfed with us before, but want to be mailed a packet? Send your name and address to info@ccho.org with "Golf" in the subject line, or send a note to Christian Children's Home of Ohio, PO Box 765, Wooster, OH 44691.

**NOW ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR
SUMMER INTERNS!**

**APPLY ONLINE
OR CALL
330-345-7949**

GIVING BACK



John Plegge, Co-Director of Poplar Ridge Stables, accepting the \$1,000 check from Miss Abigail Early.

Abigail Early had the opportunity to participate in the Andrus Family Youth Philanthropy Program. Youth family members have the opportunity to

volunteer at and research three non-profit organizations, then choose one as the recipient of a grant from the Andrus Family Foundation. The youth also writes and submits the request to the foundation.

Abigail, who had participated in Poplar Ridge Stables day camp a couple of years before, volunteered with the horse program, interviewed staff about Christian Children's Home of Ohio as a whole, and, chose Poplar Ridge Stables as the recipient of the \$1,000 grant.

The Board of Directors of the Surdna Foundation launched the Andrus Family Philanthropy Program (AFPP) in January, 2000 to engage and involve the family's younger generations in philanthropy and public service and to provide opportunities for younger family members to learn about and participate in organized philanthropy.

HEALTHY LIVING

Cottage 4, our Intensive Residential Program, is teaching the children and youth about nutrition and exercise. Most of the residents at CCHO have come from homes where healthy lifestyles were not modeled and healthy food was not available. Many of their diets before coming here consisted of high sugar, high fat processed foods. Teaching them about healthy foods can help to restore balance to their bodies that will not only make them feel physically better, but can help them to function better mentally.

Physical exercise is just as important as health eating. Many of the children and youth suffer from mood disorders such as depression, and have trouble with impulse control. Regular exercise helps tremendously with both, as your body releases serotonin (the chemical in our bodies that produces feelings of happiness and well-being) and other positive endorphins.

While we all know it's important, it's not easy to apply to our daily lives. Through this project, we're hoping to teach the knowledge and skills, and to provide the structure necessary for good habits to develop.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

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- Items Needed
- Poster board
 - Food scales
 - Measuring cups & spoons
 - Healthy cookbooks including **diabetic** and other specialized
 - Health and food magazines
 - Exercise DVD's
 - Treadmills and other exercise equipment
 - Fun & easy exercise and recipe ideas



New Beginnings Counseling coming to Mahoning County! New Beginnings Christian Counseling will be offered at Pine Lake Christian Church, Sebring, OH 44672.

Call 1-888-727-2021 to schedule an appointment.

WELCOME!



Valerie Turner-Harris, MA, LPC

Valerie Turner-Harris is our new Regional Director in Cleveland, and Cleveland Foster Care Supervisor.

Ms. Turner-Harris is a graduate of John Carroll University with a Master's degree in Community Counseling. She is also a Licensed Professional Counselor and offers over 14 years of experience in child welfare services. Previous experience includes managing foster care and early intervention programs, and providing counseling and case management services for youth and families dealing with a variety of mental and behavioral health concerns.

While her work experience has certainly had an impact on my commitment to providing services to children and families, parenting two children has also reinforced her understanding of the importance of providing a loving and safe environment for children. Welcome, Valerie!

A MOTHER'S HEART ~ A CHILD'S HEALING (part 1)

"Christian Children's Home of Ohio,

I am writing to give you an update and also to show you my extreme gratitude for everything you have done. My name is Stacey and my daughter is Madison.

You ALL have made an impact on our family that will last a lifetime! When I came to you for help about a year ago, our family was in a dark place. We had fallen into the trap of no hope. Our faith was challenged and our minds and bodies were weak. My personal struggle was trying to be the best mother I could but for unknown reasons, my daughter was struggling beyond my ability to help. As a mother, it is difficult to face the possibility that you can not always solve your child's problems alone. I felt like a failure to her and my other children.

The decision to place Maddie at Christian Children's Home of Ohio was not an easy one. I will never forget the day I drove away without her. In the months to come it would become an uphill battle of emotional turmoil and eventually the "break" of Maddie. Each time I came to visit and council, I could see the growing that Maddie was doing. She was conquering the hurt and anxiety that was

destroying her spirit! The time we spent together as mother and daughter counseling and with our family became cherished times and each one of us became closer. The education provided along with the support and acceptance we received helped us to improve our family and our lives!

Now, a year later, Madison is a star basketball player for her school! (She learned how to play at CCHO). She is working on learning the guitar. She has made new friends. She loves school and her grades and attitude reflect it. She now has confidence that she lacked since she was young, and she is setting and reaching new goals everyday! As a mother, I have learned so much and can approach my parenting from a whole new light. Most of all, I realized I am a strong woman who did exactly what she needed to do to improve her children's and family's life! For all this I can not Thank You enough!

My hope for all of you is that you can continue to use your gifts, your education and your strength to help many more children and other families just like you have done for us."

Sincerely,
Stacey

WHAT WORKS

Sara* is 11 years old and in 4th grade. She was placed in foster care due to abuse and neglect. While in foster care, she was receiving services for about a year from CCHO's Ashland office, New Beginnings at CityHill, for home-based therapy. She was then placed in CCHO's Children's Residential Center in July of 2010. In early April, she will be "stepping down" into a CCHO foster home. Sara has learned socially appropriate behaviors, has done remarkable in the public school setting, and has been able to keep open relationships with her birth family.

Her story is an excellent example of the continuum of care that CCHO offers. Through CCHO, she has been able to learn and grow and go through a life changing (Continued on page 5) →

"Defend the weak and the fatherless;

uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

Rescue the weak and the needy;

deliver them from the hand of the wicked."

~Psalm 82:3 & 4

A MOTHER'S HEART ~ A CHILD'S HEALING (part 2)

“ Dear CCHO,

Well, it's been quite a while—almost a year. I would like to thank you for everything you taught me. I still remember the day I walked into the building for a tour. I said, “I'm never going to go there.” But, I did. To be honest, I think that was one of the best experiences in my life. I learned so much and grew up.

I know you guys do this kind of stuff everyday, but it truly does mean so much to me. I went through so much there. Like making friends, learning new coping skills, riding horses, swimming, chores (I remember dreading the day I had to sweep and mop), and learning to play guitar.

I had some bumps, but somebody was always there to help. You know, to me you guys are some of the most amazing people in the world. Who knows where I would be without your help? Everybody was just so helpful.

I loved walking down to the office and having desk people say “hello” and seeing everybody. Living in the cottage had some difficulties sometimes, but in the end, I loved it. Listening to the guitar with Jill, making food with Kandy, making pies and desserts with Megan, funny bets with Matt, Bible time with Dorn, shopping with Tiff, and of course, bonding with all my friends.



Madison

I remember when I found out Kim was leaving. I was heartbroken. I remember all the rules I hated, like no tank tops or cami's, and no movies rated anything but PG. Those rules were good. They taught me to “get over” the rules I disagree with in life.

A lot has happened since I have been there. I made the basketball team, I raised my grades, and

family life has been great! Thank you everybody! My experience was truly amazing. I really miss and love you all!”

From,
Madison

WHAT WORKS (continued)



experience while being surrounded by a loving treatment team that allowed her to be the child she deserves to be. And, now she will be placed with a loving, Christian, CCHO foster home that will continue to help her heal and grow.

This continuum of care is important to providing uninterrupted treatment, with CCHO staff readily available for consultation at any point in her care. Because CCHO staff are trained in the same techniques, treatment is consistent in her care and throughout her journey toward healing.

As Sara continues this journey, please pray for a permanent, loving, adoptive family for Sara.

ADOPTION HELP

This is not a substitute for professional financial advice and should not be relied upon without consulting your tax advisor.

Think you can't afford to adopt? The Federal Adoption Tax Credit may be a solution. The tax credit is up to \$13,170 per child, and covers expenses such as adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, travel expenses, and more. Expenses that are reimbursed by the State or another entity do not qualify; however, if adopting a special needs child, you may be able to take the credit without any qualified expenses.

The credit may be used in both foreign and domestic adoptions, but the guidelines are different for each. Until the adoption becomes final, you take

the credit in the year after your qualified expenses were paid or incurred. If the adoption is finalized, you take the credit in the year your expenses were paid or incurred.



Please see the instructions for Form 8839, visit www.irs.gov, or consult you tax advisor for income limits, required documentation, and other adoption tax credit information.

WHERE WAS GOD?



One of the most frequently asked questions the children pose to our staff, foster and adoptive parents, and counselors is "Where was God when I needed Him most?" Where was God when I was starving and my younger brother was so hungry he couldn't even cry anymore? Where was God when my father and brothers raped me? Where was God when I was beaten and locked in the closet?

Why would God allow these horrible things to happen to innocent children? Those theological questions are difficult enough for those who've not suffered as these children have. Who hasn't at one time or another wondered "Why does pain and suffering exist, what purpose does it serve?" But when these questions come from a wide-eyed, tear-streaked, youthful face begging for answers, we get excited.

We get excited because it is the question that shows an open heart and allows us to give the glorious answer draped in God's love and mercy. It is the question that says, "I've been hurt and am broken and need healing." It is the first sign that a young heart is open to hear about Jesus Christ.

For Jeremy*, a young boy who came to us in a wheel chair, his legs, ankles, and other bones broken when he attempted suicide by jumping off of a bridge, it was the question he asked on his first night here. He said, "I want to believe in God, but where was God when I needed him most?"

That first night was a Crossroads night. Crossroads is a once a week youth group led by Campus Minister, David Hargrave. On this particular night, a church group was visiting. One of the members shared his journey and faith, which changed young Jeremy's life. Jeremy, already a believer, asked for prayer, confessed, repented, and renewed his faith.

With therapy and the support of staff members like David, Jeremy is growing in his faith daily and healing from his troubled past. He is now out of the wheelchair and casts, and this once sullen boy smiles regularly now. He is doing well in school, engaged in church, and learning to be open and honest, courageous, and most of all, to dwell in God's love for him.

CHAMPIONS

Randy Steiner, Poplar Ridge Adventures

The apostle Paul says, "You know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize. So run to win" (1 Corinthians 9:24).



Building trust and teaching teamwork.

When it comes right down to it, as a young boy growing up in eastern PA, being surrounded by professional sports teams that knew how to win, it was easy to draw from the excitement of winning another World Series, the Super Bowl and the Stanley Cup all in one year. "The City of Champions" and "We are Family" were a few of the slogans and banners you would see around the city of Pittsburgh.

Here at the Christian Children's Home of Ohio you might not see banners hanging from tall buildings, but the feeling of excitement and a sense of purpose, similar to what I felt

back in 1979 when Pittsburgh was "The City of Champions" is very present on the campus of CCHO.

Knowing that every child that comes our way is someone that God has created and loves like no other person in this world



Conquering fears, achieving goals, building self-esteem.

creates a passion within me, and I am privileged to work with them. I look forward to Mondays and Wednesdays, when I have the opportunity to lead or co-lead a social skills group for CCHO residents. The goal of the group is to assist them in learning and sharpening social skills, and better prepare them to make positive life choices.

Poplar Ridge Adventures benefits not only CCHO residents, but also

youth groups from all over the state of Ohio. After climbing to the top of Tango Tower, a 40' wooden tower, I often see some pretty scared youth who did not think they could make it to the top, but made it. Then, with a couple of deep breaths and loud screams, they find enough strength and will to come off the platform, down a 300 foot Zip Line. Their fear conquered, the first thing they say is "I want to do it again."



Letting go.

We are running the race toward Victory together, and even though we may not win every time, we should still "Run to Win."

Interested in bringing your youth group to Poplar Ridge? Call Randy to schedule your visit at 330-621-1669 or go to www.poplaridge.org to learn more.

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:

*"For your sake we face death all day long;
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."*

*No, in all these things we are **more than conquerors** through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

~Romans 8: 35-39

N Girls Bikes
Used Couches/Sofas

E Plastic Clothes Hangers

E Notebooks (not wire-bound)

D Windex

S Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Floor Cleaner
Scrubbing Bubbles
Laundry Detergent
Dishwasher Detergent

L Aluminum Foil

I Food Storage Bags & Containers (all sizes)

S Children and Youth Bibles & Devotionals

T Horse Hay and Grain



Memorials

GIVEN BY

Mr. and Mrs. Jay Grove
Mrs. Dean Von Almen
Blue Technologies
Ms. Linda Pritchard
Mrs. Cindy Hart

Mrs. Virginia Mallette
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Furney

IN MEMORY OF

Betty Germann
Roy Von Almen
Brian Johnson
Marge Starkey
Donald Hart
Pauline Hart
Charles Mallette
Richard Bethel
Robert Young

GIVEN BY

Mr. and Mrs. William Pollard
Mr. and Mrs. John Phelps

Mr. Darrel Rowland
Ms. Lindsay Panthofer
Mr. and Mrs. George Hilty

IN HONOR OF

Lindsay Meese and Kylie
Bob and Kay Hill
Rick Hill
Doloris Cline
Daniel A. Winkler
Bill and Pat Simmons' 50th
Wedding Anniversary

VBS

With spring comes Vacation Bible School planning. As you begin the process of choosing a program and activities, don't forget us as your VBS mission.

We'll supply you with an easy to use DVD, display and materials, and a missions speaker for the first day, last day, or any day in between!

With CCHO as your VBS mission, kids will learn compassion toward



others, and that there are kids just like them who need their help. More importantly, they will learn that no matter what happens in their own lives, Jesus is there for them, just as He is there for the children at CCHO.

To find out more, or to request materials, a display, or a missions speaker, call Erin Brown at 330-345-7949 ext. 2347 or email browne@ccho.org.



CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF OHIO, INC.

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