

- ▶ A Note from the Executive Director
page 2
- ▶ Youth and Family Enhancement Fund
page 2
- ▶ Mentoring Update
page 3

AGAPE

“SERVING FAMILIES, YOUTH AND EACH OTHER WITH EXCELLENCE”

FOR YOUTH

“From Adversity to Opportunity”



The 2007 Agape for Youth, Inc. fundraiser, **“From Adversity to Opportunity”** will be held on Friday, April 20, 2007 at the Mandalay Banquet Center in Dayton.



The program for the evening will include a keynote speaker, a variety of silent auction items and a live auction featuring autographed sports memorabilia. Mark Baker, 1988 graduate of Dayton’s Dunbar High School, Ohio State University basketball player from 1989-1992, NBA player for the Toronto Raptors and CEO of the Mark Baker Foundation, will serve as keynote speaker. Items available for auction that evening include but are not limited to: a team signed helmet from the *Indianapolis Colts - Super Bowl Champions*, a 2006-2007 team signed Chicago Bears helmet, a 2006-2007 team signed Ohio State helmet, a team signed 2006-2007 Ohio State basketball, an NFL football autographed by John Madden, a New York Yankees jersey autographed by George Steinbrenner, an autographed Johnnie Damon jersey, a Super Bowl XL helmet autographed by Jerome “The Bus” Bettis, a Jim Brown autographed football as well as a variety of autographed jerseys.

All of the proceeds from this event are designated for our “Youth and Family Enhancement Fund”. This fund provides the youth we serve with the opportunity to attend summer camps, sporting events, and community events offered by the Nutter Center, the Schuster Center, and the Victoria Theater. Agape’s Family Picnic, Annual Holiday Celebration and Dayton Dragons Day, which more than 300 parents and children attended, were made possible through this event. This fund also hosted a New Year’s Eve outing to see The Harlem Globe Trotters. During this past summer we have had pool parties, a “Pump it Up” party and we were able to sponsor our first summer basketball camp for our families. Plans are currently being finalized for an Art Camp and a Dance Camp for the summer of 2007.

The Education Stipend is a part of the Youth and Family Enhancement Fund and was established in 2005 to provide monthly financial support for youth placed with Agape who are attending college. This fund has also provided for a fulltime tutor to work with Agape youth during the 2006-2007 school year.

Carl Day, from WDTN, has agreed to serve as our Guest MC for the second year in a row. Our Guest Auctioneer is Doug Sorrell. Deron Bell will be providing the musical entertainment for the evening.

For additional information regarding this fundraiser or to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.agapeforyouth.com or contact our office at (937) 439-4406.

If you are interested in being a volunteer for the event, please contact Sandra at (937) 439-4406 ext. 22.

We look forward to seeing you on April 20, 2007.

A note from the Executive Director

Change Is Inevitable....What's the real cost?

This coming March will mark the beginning of our 19th year of serving youth and families through Agape for Youth, Inc. foster care and adoption programs. I have seen and been a part of continual changes in policy and procedure during these years. One important area that has remained in our agency's forefront is that of building relationships. With all the changes encountered, the building of relationships appears to have never gone out of style for us. I believe a cornerstone of our success has been directly related to the time and priority we have committed to the building of relationships.

Remember when working together was not about being "associates" and more about the value in building a relationship with others? When the bottom line had a greater value than just financial? When the success of our business was celebrated both individually and collectively as a team? When working together was truly a commitment to help each other do their best? Remember a time when a handshake was considered one of the truest forms of commitment and agreement? When filing a lawsuit against another was the last resort, not the initial thought when differences arose?

I recall a commercial of years ago where the CEO came into a meeting and began with "we lost one of our senior accounts today. They said they did not know us anymore". He went on to hand out assignments to his staff to visit all their clients. As he finished, one of his staff said, "What are you going to do?" He said, "I'm going to visit an old friend... whose company used to be one of our biggest accounts".

At Agape for Youth, Inc. we have a relationship commitment to those we are blessed to be partnered. We end our week with "3 thank you Friday" where it is our commitment to one another that before we leave for the day we will call or write (at least) three people and thank them for something positive they did during the past week. As a mutual act of "passing the blessings" we forward emails to one another sharing our "thank you's" to those who have touched our lives or the lives of others, and those we hope to have touched.

I learned a valuable "life lesson" from a friend a few years ago that I've shared with others, and share with you now. On a day he appeared not quite himself, I asked him "are you having a bad day?" Bruce flashed a slight grin and said, "No, I'm just having a bad moment". Seeing the puzzled look on my face, he went on to explain, "In my life, I have found that acknowledging "bad moments" is my healthy way never allowing for them to consume my entire day". What a positive point of view!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

In closing, this is a new day!!!! Take time now, today to reconnect, and touch a life. Call someone and thank them for being who they are. Email a co-worker with a word of encouragement. When you ask someone "how are they doing?" take a moment to really listen to their response. Celebrate the opportunity to build a relationship

Peace and Prayers, Steve

Upcoming Training

Please mark your calendars for this upcoming training.

In the know: Rules, Policies and Procedures for 2007

Date: Thursday, March 15, 2007
Time: 6:30 pm -8:30 pm
Location: United Theological Seminary
4501 Trotwood, OH 45426
Presenter: Helen Baker

Recently, several foster care and adoption rules have changed through the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS). The new 2007 foster care and adoption policies will be released. We want you as foster and adoptive parents to have a good understanding of the changes so you will know why Agape will be required to have additional paperwork in your foster care/adoptive record. Please make arrangements so you can attend this training that will increase your knowledge as foster and adoptive parents.

Make a Difference

There are numerous ways to make a difference in the lives of the children and families we are serving here at Agape for Youth, Inc.

**DONATE TO OR ASSIST WITH
YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND
PROGRAMS**

Summer camps
Good grades incentives, Tutor,
Volunteer

**TICKETS TO COMMUNITY
EVENTS**

Sporting events
Movie tickets, theater tickets,
museum and zoo outings

**HELP SPONSOR AN AGENCY
ACTIVITY**

Annual picnic
Holiday Celebration
Agency outings for youth & families
Foster parent recognition
Annual Fund Raiser

PROVIDE MATERIAL ITEMS

Bikes and other sporting
equipment
Books and games for youth
Suitcases, tote bags
Duffel bags and backpacks
Cameras (may be disposable)
and film
3 ring binders, photo albums
journals and school supplies



Education Update

We currently have 7 youth receiving tutorial services in their perspective schools. Students who received Cs or better on their first quarter report cards were awarded gift certificates to McDonald's Restaurant. Agape will continue to encourage our youth to excel in their academics by providing good grade incentives.

The family literacy program was scheduled to start February 14, but it was postponed due to weather and illness. The first Young Mom's session took place March 1st at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Trotwood. The mission of the Young Mom's Program is to provide support for parenting teenage mothers in *Parenting Skills, Understanding Their Child's Development Needs, and The Importance of Family Literacy including skills such as Reading to Baby, Choosing Music for Babies, and Finger Plays for Babies*. The classes are 1 hour sessions held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The classes precede the Life Skills Program offered by St. Margaret's Church. All attendees are encouraged to stay for the Life Skills class and family evening meal.

Agape is still working on securing a learning center site for our foster families to use. The goal is to utilize a permanent site by the 2007-2008 academic school year. The building will be an after school center for our students to receive tutorial services.

If you have any questions regarding tutorial services for the youth in your home, please contact Kristin Herman, Education Coordinator at 937-439-4406 ext. 37 or by e-mail at kherman@agapeforyouth.com.

Youth & Family Enhancement Fund

The Youth and Family Enhancement Fund was established as is a direct result of the generosity of the community and their support of our annual fundraiser. This fund has provided opportunities for the youth and families being served by Agape that include:

- ?An evening at Fifth Third Field where 300 members of the Agape family watched the Dayton Dragons.
- ?A family picnic at the Dayton Firefighters Activity Center attended by more than 300.
- ?Our first basketball camp taught by Mark Baker.
- ?Tickets for our littlest ones to see "Barney Live"
- ?An afternoon with the legendary Harlem Globetrotters
- ?Art Lessons, Driving Lessons, a swim party, "Pump it up" party, museum trips and summer camp fees.

We have been able to help one of our families that lost their home to a fire and we continue to send a monthly stipend to the youth from Agape who are attending college. Plans are underway for an art camp and a dance camp for this summer.

We are grateful to the businesses and individuals that have donated their time, their services and their funds so that the children that are being served by our foster families, adoptive families and staff can experience a part of life that before had been out of reach.

Mentoring Update

The Montgomery County Mentoring Collaborative celebrated National Mentoring Month this January, honoring outstanding mentors and providing a day of fun for mentees. Mentor of the Year nominees were recognized at a luncheon held on January 26 at the Girl Scout's new Urban Campus. Former NBA star, Lawrence Funderburke, spoke on the importance of responsible adults investing their time and attention in the youth of today. The 4th annual Super Mentoring Saturday event was held on January 27th. Mentors and mentees celebrated mentoring through a day of fun, which included inflatable games, face painting, balloon creations, crafts, music, dancing, and a talent competition "Mentor Mentee Idol". Several Agape youth were able to participate in the event with their mentors, and everyone had smiles on their painted faces.

Currently 25 Agape youth are matched with mentors from the community who volunteer their time. We are very grateful for the investment they are making in our youth. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please contact me at 937-439-4406 ext.18 or by e-mail at cstrychalski@agapeforyouth.com.

Carol Strychalski, LSW
Youth Specialist Supervisor

Donations

Agape has been fortunate to partner with several area businesses that provide donations that can be utilized by our foster youth, adoptive youth and their families.

We ask that you please use the following schedule to come in and go through donations:

The **1st, 2nd and 3rd Monday of each month**, you are welcome to come in between the hours of **10:00AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00PM – 4:00PM**.

We request that you call and schedule a time to come in.

The 4th Monday of each month the donations are made available to other non-profit organizations in the area.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandie at (937) 439 – 4406 ext. 22.

Foster Parent Advisory Board

Spring will be with us soon and it's time to start marking you calendar for up and coming events. But first I want to take the time to say a big thank you to Sandie and the staff for such a great Holiday Celebration. They are able to make events happen through the funds raised at our fundraising gala's held in 2005 and 2006. The 2007 fundraising gala is being held on April 20, 2007 at the Mandalay Banquet Center. As the Foster Parent Advisory Board we request your support by purchasing tickets, attending the event, selling tickets, volunteer that evening, help secure donations from local businesses that you frequent, i.e.: hair salon, restaurants as well as business owners you may know. Thank you in advance for your support.

Please know the Foster Parent Advisory Board is here to support you the foster parents. Please feel free to call the office and leave a message at extension 41 or contact me directly at (937) 361-9431.

Love & Blessings
Bonnie Simpson

Agape for Youth, Inc.

7755 Paragon Road
Suite 105
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Phone

(937) 439 - 4406

Fax

(937) 439 - 2908

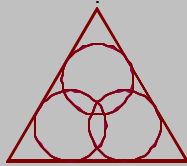
E-mail:

Stephen Geib, LSW
Executive Director/Founder
sgeib@agapeforyouth.com

Website:

www.agapeforyouth.com

*"Serving families,
youth and each other
with excellence"*



About Our Organization

Agape for Youth, Inc

began providing services to youth and families in March of 1989.

As a Foster Care Network, we embrace the principle that each individual youth is a person of worth.

Our commitment is to assist youth in finding viable alternatives to meet the special needs in their lives.

Agape demonstrates an acceptance that has no conditions attached due to dysfunctional behavior, physical limitations, culture, sex, religion, or national origin.

Our Mission Statement

"Creating a healing environment within a familial structure which includes acceptance, respect and the celebration of unconditional love."

AGAPE FOR YOUTH, INC.

*7755 Paragon Road, Ste. 105
Dayton, Ohio 45459*