

- ▶ A Note from the Executive Director
page 2
- ▶ "From Adversity to Opportunity"
page 3
- ▶ Education Update
page 3

AGAPE

"SERVING FAMILIES, YOUTH AND EACH OTHER WITH EXCELLENCE" **FOR YOUTH**

August 4, 2007

19th ANNUAL

AGAPE FOR YOUTH, INC. FAMILY PICNIC

Dayton Firefighters Activity Center

3616 Needmore Rd, Dayton, OH

Picnic begins 11:30 AM

Lunch to be served at 12:30PM- 2:00PM

Please contact the Agape office to make your reservations

(937) 439-4406 ext. 22



WE'RE MOVING

The administrative office of

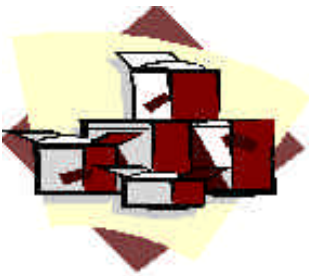
Agape for Youth, Inc.

is moving the last week of July.

Our new address is:

2621 Dryden Road, 2nd Floor

Dayton, Ohio 45439



Please watch for your invitation to our Open House being held in September.

A note from the Executive Director

Cha...Chaa...Chaaaa....Changes!!!!

The good news is that in the midst of “change” we are continuing to serve youth, families and one another...with excellence.

Angela Schwindt said “While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about”. As I have come to see it, life is more about how we adapt to, embrace, and celebrate change and what we learn through it, then “going with the flow” as some will say.

We at Agape for Youth, Inc. have had a continued pleasure of watching children grow to adulthood, and families come back together. Youth representing the first in many generations to graduate from High School, and then entering College has become expected and no longer just a “desire” for them. I am proud to report that 100% of the seniors eligible for graduation received their diplomas this past month. A couple of these youth have already inquired about and are beginning the college “journey” this fall.

On a monthly basis Agape conducts orientations for parents who are considering fostering with our agency. This past month an example of the “fruits of our labor” came full circle when a former foster youth with Agape, now an adult attended our orientation. She had become a nurse, and now desired giving back. She spoke of her foster family, who coincidentally are still active with Agape, and her positive experience in living with them and how it “changed” her life.

Change while inevitable, is not always as positive as we would like. Recently, a past co-worker here at Agape passed away. Alisa Miller-Allen had been with Agape during the early years of our agency, and returned to the agency after moving back to Ohio a few years ago. After leaving this time, health issues took over; she was not able return to work in our field. In talking to her son Joe at her funeral, he knew she was loved, and knew she made a difference in the lives she served. Alisa will be missed.

In closing, I have come to believe that change is “good”. I cannot say I will always know why it is good; however I believe that I am to trust that God will show me.

*Peace and Prayers,
Steve*

Donations

Agape For Youth, Inc. has been fortunate to partner with local companies and an international organization to receive donations to benefit the youth and families being served as well as individuals in need within the community and other non-profit organizations.

To come in and go through the available donations please contact Sandie at (937) 439 –4406 to make an appointment.

Please note: The area designated for donations is closed on the days that trainings are held at Agape. The items cannot be “tagged” or held for you to come in at a later time.

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 5 youth receiving tutorial services in their perspective schools and at local libraries. Students who received Cs or better on their second and third quarter report cards will be 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 first Young Mom's session will take place March 14th at St. Margaret's Episcopal Church in Trotwood. We had one mom show up for the meeting. 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. Classes are 1 hour sessions, which be held the second 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.

Julia Sizemore will continue to offer tutorial services for Agape youth and foster parent's biological children throughout the summer months. Tutoring will take place as needed at local libraries.

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

Mentoring Update

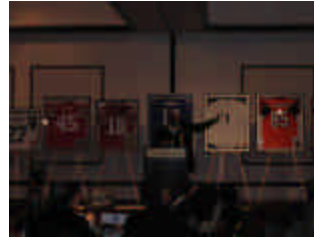
"Mentors can fill any number of different roles. Yet all mentors have one thing in common: they care about helping young people achieve their potential and discover their strengths." -www.mentoring.org

Katie began volunteering as a mentor for Agape in February 2005. She was matched with a sixteen-year-old foster youth, a teen mother of a four year old boy. Over the past 2+ years, Katie has offered her mentee social and academic support, taking her and her son on fun activities such as Kings Island and the Dayton Air Show, but also helping with school projects and encouraging her toward her goals. She has offered her mentee a listening ear and insightful advice as well as tangible support as this young mother has transitioned out of foster care and into her own apartment. In a nomination letter for Mentor of the Year, her mentee wrote of her, "Katie came to me at a time of struggle and confusion... I feel blessed to be able to call her in times of need and to see her in times of celebration." I once asked Katie to share with a new mentor about how she views her role. Katie explained that when she started mentoring, she decided that she would fill whatever role her mentee would allow her to play. She emphasized that in building a relationship with her mentee, she offered herself to whatever extent her mentee was willing to accept. Katie's mentee has stated, "[I] give everyone I have come across throughout my life, credit for my victories... Katie has done more than I could have ever asked of her and she has affected my life in so many ways." Katie's mentee is on track to graduate high school next month and has plans to continue her education post graduation while working and parenting her son.

If you are interested in "helping a young person achieve their potential and discover their strengths," through being a mentor, please contact me at 937-439-4406 x18.

Carol Strychalski, LSW, Youth Specialist Supervisor

"From Adversity to Opportunity"



The night progressed with dinner and the viewing of the Agape presentation video featuring former foster youth, the families that had become a part of their lives as well as current foster families that are serving youth in need.

Following dinner, the guest speaker Mark Baker spoke to those gathered about the need to continue to serve the youth and families of the Dayton community.



The 2007 Fundraising committee would like to express our sincere thanks to those individuals who helped to sponsor the event, donated merchandise or funds, and those that attended the event and purchased items that evening. Your contributions will help to provided continued support for programs for the youth being served by Agape for Youth, Inc.

"From Adversity to Opportunity", the 2007 fundraising event for Agape for Youth, Inc., was a fantastic success. The evening began with a silent auction featuring more than 60 packages available to be bid on. Our guest Mc Carl Day got the evening underway.



More than \$18,000.00 was raised for the "Youth and Family Enhancement Fund" and donations continue to be received at the Agape office. The "Youth and Family Enhancement Fund" provides opportunities for the youth being served at Agape to attend camps and sporting events, receive lessons and the serves of a full-time tutor. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, please feel free to contact the Agape office.



Foster Parent Advisory Board

Hello to all the foster and adoptive parents and a BIG THANK to the families that took the time to support the only fundraiser that funds the Youth and Family Enhancement account. There is still time to put make a donation to this fund.

Summer is just weeks a way with activities all ready on the calendar. A Dayton Dragon night, Pump it Up event and the annual agency family picnic. The Board would love to know what you would like to see planed. Call the hot line or me. Have a great summer.

Bonnie Simpson

Agape for Youth, Inc.

7755 Paragon Road
Suite 105
Dayton, Ohio 45459

Phone

(937) 439 - 4406

Fax

(937) 439 - 2908

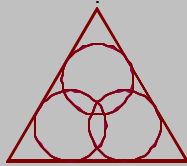
E-mail:

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*