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AGAPE

“SERVING FAMILIES, YOUTH AND EACH OTHER WITH EXCELLENCE”

FOR YOUTH

“Support Services Room”

As a result of the hard work of the volunteers from the Berry Corporation the Agape for Youth, Inc. Support Services Room is now organized and ready for visitors. On Thursday, September 6, 2007 a team of 7 volunteers from Berry Extreme Community Makeover came in and put in place the floor plan and designs for the room. Bonnie Simpson, Chairperson of the Agape for Youth, Inc. Foster Parent Advisory Board, oversaw the project.

We want to thank Jill, Joy, Sarah, Jeff, Amanda and Matt for all of their work in organizing the Support Services Room. The generosity in giving of their time provides the opportunity for not only the youth and families of Agape to be able to utilize the donations that are available, but makes this room more readily accessible to others in need within our community. You have made a tangible difference in the lives of the youth being served by Agape for Youth.

2007 Annual Family Picnic

The Annual Agape for Youth Family Picnic was held on Saturday, August 4, 2007 at the Firefighters Activity Center on Needmore Road in Dayton.

We want to thank the Foster Parent Advisory Board for organizing and coordinating the games that went on throughout the day as well as the staff and family members that volunteered and ran the games during the afternoon. The attraction that received the most attention that day was “Clifford The Big Red Dog” inflatable bouncer. It was enjoyed by kids of all ages.

Please mark your calendar now for the 2008 Agape for Youth Family Picnic. It is scheduled to be held on Saturday, July 19, 2008 and will be held at the same location.

A note from the Executive Director

Are you ready for some FOOTBALL!! It's the time of year where friends and associates spend a great deal of their time "praying to the football Gods" for their team to win. Obviously this year's University of Michigan and Notre Dame fans need to pray harder!!! While my beloved Buckeyes are 2-0, my prayer is that they continue to improve.

As many of you know, Agape for Youth, Inc. has moved. We believe this relocation to be great as it opens up new opportunities to serve the community and youth, which we are entrusted. An especially exciting part of this move is our Support Services Room where donations provided to Agape are inventoried and then provided to youth and families associated with our agency, and to community organizations. The current goal is to create a clothing exchange area that we believe will benefit our youth and families.

In our continual effort to "serve youth, serve families and one another with excellence" we are working to expand our relationships within the Southwest Ohio community. Areas under consideration include expanding our tutoring services, expanding our mentoring services to youth, and developing host families that would provide a "family away from family" relationship with college students in our area. While there are a number of other relationship building initiatives in process, the above are in the forefront.

During these past couple of months I have taken time to reflect on some of the many blessings experienced by Agape, which I would like to share. We have had quite a number of youth adopted by our foster families during this year. I have been asked "doesn't your foster care rate cease when a youth is adopted? Don't you lose not only this revenue but also the foster family that adopted the youth?" My response has always been "what a great way to lose money"...permanency for our youth. Agape education services resulted in 100% (10) of our seniors passing the OGT and receiving their diplomas. Of these seniors, a few will begin college classes this fall!!! Although emancipated, these graduates will continue receiving a monthly stipend from Agape throughout their college journey. This stipend, along with other Agape activities is a result of our annual fundraiser.

In closing, I am continually encouraged by the serving spirit of my co-workers and foster families. You will continue to hear me say, "The more we serve the more opportunity we are given to serve". *"Give with a spirit of giving; serve with a spirit of serving, and live with the spirit that our lives are a gift"*.

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.

The members of the Foster Parent Advisory Board are currently developing a schedule for when the "Support Services Room" will be open. If you would like to volunteer your time please contact Bonnie Simpson at (937) 361-9431.

Please feel free to bring in donations of clothing and household goods for this "Support Services" room. It is yet another way that you can make a difference in the life of a child.

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

There were 45 Agape youth who received Cs and better during their last quarter of the 2006-2007 school year.

These students were awarded gift certificates to McDonald's restaurant. Agape continues to encourage our youth to excel in their academics by providing a variety of good grade incentives.

We have had 9 youth receive tutorial services from Julia Sizemore, Americorps Literacy tutor through Agape, at local libraries this summer. Julia's last day with Agape is September 21st, and we wish her well in her future endeavors. Thank you for your work with the children at Agape for Youth during this past year. Agape will continue to provide tutoring services to our youth through resources available within the community.

We currently have 5 young adults receiving a monthly stipend for attending college during the fall quarter. If you have any questions regarding tutorial services or educational needs for the youth in your home, please contact Kristin Herman, Education Coordinator at 937-439-4406 extension 37 or e-mail at kherman@agapeforyouth.com.

A Special Thank You

We want to thank Pastor Phil Esala, the congregation of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Mrs. Pat Malas and Emmanuel Lutheran Women in Mission for their continued support of Agape for Youth, Inc. through the donation of numerous suitcases to the youth and families here at Agape.

These individuals have been responsible for countless suitcases being donated through their annual Fellowship Garage Sale.

Your kindness and generosity have helped to make a difference in the life of a child.

THANK YOU!

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk is being held on Saturday October 20, 2007 at 5th 3rd Field in Dayton.

Please join us as staff members, family and friends join together and participate in this walk. This is a disease that has touched the life of someone you love, someone you work with or attend church with. We walk so that there is a cancer-free future for our children and grandchildren.

We invite you to join our team or make a donation.

Contact the Agape office at (937) 439-4006 for more information on becoming part of our team.

Mentoring Update

Summer 2007 has been another great summer for mentoring through Agape. Throughout the summer months, several foster youth participated in many fun activities with their mentors. One mentor and mentee spent time together at the Corn Festival and weekly church services developing their relationship. Another mentor-mentee pair enjoyed Sunwatch Indian Village, 4th of July fireworks, and the new Harry Potter movie. One mentor taught his mentee how to ride a bike and catch a baseball, and they had fun together at Splash Moraine and several outdoor concerts. I continue to be very thankful to our mentors who volunteer their time to invest in the lives of foster youth, exposing them to new experiences through fun activities and most importantly showing them that they have worth and that someone cares enough to spend time with them.

I am looking forward to seeing what is accomplished through mentoring relationships during this school year, as we will once again be continuing our partnership with Cedarville University's Fostering Friendships Ministry. The campus held their annual ministry fair on August 28, and several students expressed interest in mentoring through Agape. In addition to mentoring this school year, plans are in the works for the second annual Fostering Friendships Day of Service, where Cedarville mentors will be doing various work projects to serve Agape foster families.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor with Agape, please contact me at 439-4406 x18. Many youth could benefit from the time and attention of a caring, committed adult.

Carol Strychalski, Youth Specialist Supervisor

Online Donation Opportunity

Agape for Youth, Inc. is pleased to announce the addition of a donation page to our website. Visitors to the Agape website (www.agapeforyouth.com) now have the opportunity to make a charitable donation to the agency.

There are currently two options to choose from in making a donation: The Youth and Family Enhancement Fund or sponsorship for the 2008 "From Adversity to Opportunity" fundraising event.

We ask that you please take a moment and visit our website and help us make a difference.

Agape for Youth, Inc.

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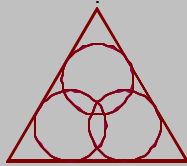
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*"Serving families,
youth and each other
with excellence"*



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.

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