

AGAPE FOR YOUTH, INC.

*Celebrating 19 Years of Serving
Youth and Families*

June & July 2008

"BUILDING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER"

Upcoming Agape Family Activities



Take Me Out To The Ballgame

The Annual Dayton Dragon's Agape Family Outing is

Thursday, June 19, 2008

Please make sure you contact the Agape office to reserve tickets for your family to attend this evening of baseball and connecting with friends. Tickets are limited.



The Annual Agape Family Picnic is being held on

Saturday, July 19, 2008 at the

*Dayton Firefighters Activity Center
3616 Needmore Rd, Dayton, OH*

Please contact the Agape office at (937) 439-4406 ext.22

and confirm your family's attendance.



Supporting Our Troops Overseas

The staff at Agape has "adopted" a soldier currently stationed overseas. Lisa is the daughter of one of our co-workers Anita and is serving in Afghanistan. The first week in June we sent our first care package(s) to Lisa and the troops that she is serving with. We invite you to join and contribute items as we continue to send a monthly care package to Afghanistan. Items that are frequently requested by our troops serving overseas are: hair products, Coppertone Sunscreen, body wash, scented candles, Chapstick, hand sanitizer, unscented lotion, international phone cards, gum, individually wrapped snacks, lemonade mix, Pringles, hard candy, un-opened batteries of different sizes, magazines, books, DVDs, CDs, school supplies for the children there, Playstation/Gameboy games, MP3 players, earbud style headphones (\$.99 at Wal-Mart), crossword, word search and Sudoku books/magazines. Please Note: The most requested items are letters, notes and/or cards. Please consider including one of this items with your donations to our troops. All items can be dropped off at the Agape for Youth office. **Our next care package will be shipped out the 1st Tuesday in July.** For more information call Tiffani at (937) 439 – 4406 ext. 10 or Sandie at ext. 22. **Thank you ahead of time for supporting our troops serving overseas.**

Thoughts from the Director

Over the year's I have been told "it must be an age thing". The older you get the faster the seconds, minutes, hours, days and years go!!! This year seems to have been consistent with that mindset with us quickly coming up on the conclusion of the first half of 2008.

I remember being in grade school, honest I do remember that time of my life, and my third grade teacher Mrs. Stall asking us at what age would we be considered "old"? I remember raising my hand and screaming out "42"!!! Mrs. Stall which I came to realize later was much, much older than "42" hushed the rest of the class, who incidentally were calling out such ridiculous ages as "68", "75" and "95". She said "young Mr. Geib where did you come up with the age 42?" I recall looking up at my teacher and in my excitement saying "when I'm 42 that will be the year 2000, and anyone who lives that long, now they will be really old!!!" Not bad for an eight year old, wouldn't you agree?!!!

Well the year 2000 has come and gone, and I must say my thoughts of "old" have changed significantly since that time. Having an appreciation for a great number of our youth of today, the idealistic views they bring, and the boldness to which they deliver these views; the "overdrive" attitudes and abilities of our middle ager's in keeping us informed daily; and the "solid" wisdom of those who now have the status of being our "seniors" is ongoing.

Some of you are probably asking "what does this have to do with anything?" Nothing, and that's my point!!! We sometimes get so taken up with defining "life" that we forget to enjoy the "life" we have been given. The next thing we know is that it is years later and rather than saying "what a great ride" we find ourselves saying "where did the time go?"

Regardless of your age, are you enjoying the journey? I certainly hope so!!!

Peace and Prayers,

Steve

"From Adversity to Opportunity"

On behalf of Agape for Youth, Inc., we would like to thank you for your support of the 2008 "From Adversity to Opportunity" gala event. Please know that you have contributed to making a difference in the lives of the children that are being served by the staff and foster families of Agape for Youth, Inc.

We appreciate your sponsorship of the event, the donation of items for the silent and live auctions, your purchase of tickets to attend the event, the purchases of silent auction items that were made during the evening, and your purchases that were made to expand your personal memorabilia collections.

Again, thank you for your support again this year and the staff and foster families at Agape for Youth look forward to another year of "Serving families, youth and each other with excellence".

Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, May 5, 2009** and plan to join us for the 2009 Agape for Youth, Inc. gala as we continue to celebrate moving youth from "Adversity to Opportunity". Our keynote speaker will be **Robert Danzig former CEO of the Hearst Newspapers.**

The 2008 "From Adversity to Opportunity" Gala Committee

Education Update

There were 25 youth at Agape for Youth that received C's and better during the third quarter of the 2007-2008 school year. These students were awarded gift certificates to McDonald's restaurant in recognition of their academic success. Agape continues to encourage our youth to excel in their academics by providing good grade incentives and we provide tutorial services for the students in our network that are in need of extra help with their academics.

We currently have 2 young adults receiving the monthly college stipend for attending the spring quarter.

Agape is proud to announce that we have three youth graduating from High School this year.

Congratulations Michael, Deven, and Matthew!

All of these young men plan to attend college in the fall.

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.

"Support Services" Room

Agape For Youth, Inc. is 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.

There has been a schedule put in place to have the Support Services Room open for 3 hours at a time, for two days during the week.

Wednesday – 10am – 1pm

Wednesday – 4:30pm – 7:30pm

Friday – 10am – 1pm

*We ask that you please contact **Bonnie Simpson at (937) 361-9431**, after 6pm, to schedule a time to come in during the time the room is open. If you would like to volunteer to help out in the Support Services Room, please contact Bonnie.*

We are currently in need of donations of infant & children's clothing, clothing for teens, kitchen necessities, small appliances, bedding (twin size and double size) flatware and towels. Please keep us in mind when you have items you want to donate to a charitable cause.

Agape for Youth, Inc. is a 501 © (3) tax exempt organization and your donations may be tax deductible.

Please contact the Agape for Youth, Inc. office at (937) 439 – 4006 ext. 22 if you have any questions.

Mentoring Update

I would like to take the opportunity this quarter to highlight an Agape mentor who has served through our partnership with Cedarville University for the past four years. As a freshman in college, April Cooper joined the CU ministry team, Fostering Friendships, and mentored a youth in foster care with Agape.

She and her mentoring partner, Stephanie, provided the youth with activities and support for the 2004/2005 academic year and attempted to keep in contact with the youth even after she was reunified with a relative. The following academic year, April and Stephanie returned to the ministry and were re-matched with a youth who had been adopted by an Agape foster family.

In a nomination letter for mentor of the year, the then 13 year old youth described her mentoring relationship with April and Stephanie. "They have blessed me in so many ways. We do lots of fun stuff together... I can tell them anything when I am with them and don't feel they are just my mentors, I feel like they are my sisters." Over the past 3 years, April and Stephanie have invested time and energy into the life of this young teenage girl, providing for her a positive example, encouragement, and support.

In addition to her direct mentoring, April also became the student leader of the Fostering Friendships team for the last two academic years. In her role as student leader, April assisted in screening and supporting the other CU mentors who were matched with youth in foster care through Agape. April led weekly meetings where the students learned more about foster care and prayed for their mentees. She also assisted in planning the annual Fostering Friendships Day of Service, where the mentors completed different service projects for Agape foster families.

Because of April's dedication to the Agape mentoring program, several foster and adopted youth benefited from mentoring relationships during the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 academic years. Although April graduated from college this spring, she has accepted a job locally and plans to continue to mentor, stating that her mentee was a big factor in her decision to remain in the Dayton area.

We are so thankful for the investment April has made in the lives of youth in care.

If you are interested in serving as a youth mentor, please contact Carol Strychalski, LSW at 937-439-4406 x18.

Agape for Youth, Inc.

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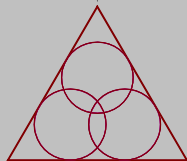
Stephen Geib, LSW
Executive Director/Founder

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*"Serving families,
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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."

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*2621 Dryden Road, Suite 202
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