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December | 2006

AGAPE

“SERVING FAMILIES, YOUTH AND EACH OTHER WITH EXCELLENCE”

FOR YOUTH

“Blessings in the Midst of Challenge”

I have truly enjoyed the many opportunities for celebration and humor during the past year. In this being my last article of 2006, I'd like to “switch up a bit” and share regarding my perceptions of **“blessings in the midst of challenge”**.

As I reflect upon this past year, there have been many blessings, and yes, some challenges both professionally and personally. I recently had the pleasure of hearing Burnette Clingman, a professional speaker share on a topic of “what do you see?” That question brought me back to a personal question once posed of “in the midst of challenge, have you looked for blessings?”

Burnette encouraged us to **“surround ourselves with champions”**. I want to pay respect to, and applaud the “champions” of Agape. The youth we serve represent “champions”, allowing us to share in their lives and success. The parents who serve our youth are “champions” in providing opportunities for success as well, and along with Agape co-workers all equally dedicated to excellence, they represent a passionate team. **“Blessings in the midst of challenge”**

We were also encouraged to **“surround ourselves with people who will challenge us to the next level”**. I perceive this to be those persons who are dedicated to the caring for children. We must stand firmly together and continually model the providing of quality care to children.. This will be honoring of our combined “missions of serving”.

“Blessings in the midst of challenge”

Finally, I took from Brunette's sharing **“look for ‘great’ examples as you prepare for success”**. Jim Tressel, the coach of **The Ohio State Buckeyes**, my absolute, without a doubt, favorite sports team represents one of these examples. The components of the Buckeyes plan for success came together during the November game when OSU and “that other team from the north” settled any confusion as to who was the No #1 team in College Football. Coach Tressel's plan for coaching of football that day was, and continues to be impressive to say the least. However it will be the “life lessons of success” I believe that he seeks to teach his players off the field that will more accurately compliment his legacy at OSU.

In closing, I thanked Brunette then, and thank her again now for her time of sharing. I left encouraged, and inspired to not only be self reflective, but also to be a continual encourager of others to look for the **“blessings in the midst of challenge”**. I realize it is sometimes easier to look more at what we have lost than to look a little deeper as to what we have received. Take time in this Christmas season to think of, and thank others for the **“blessings”** they have brought, and be mindful of the **“blessings”** you will bring as you serve with “excellence”.

Peace and Prayers,
Steve

Upcoming Agape Family Events



*The Harlem Globtrotters
December 31, 2006, 2:00PM
The Ervin J. Nutter Center*

*The deadline to reserve tickets for this event is Monday,
December 18th.*

*The tickets provided by Agape
are available through reservation only.*

*Agape for Youth, Inc.
Family Appreciation Dinner
May 2007*

Please join us as we honor the families of Agape.

Summer of 2007



*The plan is currently being made for an
Agape for Youth, Inc. sponsored art camp with
Mr. Bing Davis*

Please watch for updates in upcoming newsletters.



*We are also beginning to plan our 2nd Basketball camp for
the youth we are serving. We will keep you up to date as
more information becomes available.*

Foster Parent Advisory Board

It has come to the attention of the Foster Parent Advisory Board that cellular phones have become a continual interruption during the trainings being held at Agape.

We are asking that you please place your cellular phone on vibrate or silent during the trainings that you attend.

There are breaks during the training so that you are able to check your phone for missed calls and/or messages.

We ask that you be respectful of the presenter and the other families in attendance.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

The Foster Parent Advisory Board

Mentoring Program

As we celebrate the holidays, we look forward to a new year of serving youth and families. January marks the sixth annual National Mentoring Month. This year the National Mentoring Collaborative will be highlighting the importance of recruiting mentors for children and adolescents in foster care. A press release from the Harvard Center for Health Communication states, "Studies have found that introducing a mentor into the life of a young person in foster care provides consistency, support, and encouragement, engendering trust and confidence in the future."

As we close the year 2006, approximately 20 of our youth are being served by mentors. We look forward to several other matches being made as additional volunteers are currently coming through the process to become mentors. We wish to thank our mentors for the investment they have made, are making, and will make in the lives of these youth. If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a child in foster care, please contact our Agency Services Liaison, Richard Calloway, at 937-439-4406 x38.

Happy Holidays, and as the National Mentoring Collaborative promotes, take time to reflect on "Who mentored you? Thank them... and pass it on."

Carol Strychalski, LSW
Youth Specialist Supervisor

2007 Agape for Youth, Inc. Fundraising Event

The 2007 Agape for Youth, Inc. fundraising event

"From Adversity to Opportunity"

is being held on Friday, April 20, 2007 at
The Mandalay Banquet Center in Dayton.

We are currently seeking sponsors and contributors for this event as well as items to offer in the silent auction and live auction portions of the evening.

The opportunity to purchase a reserved table of 10 for the evening is available.

If you know of an organization or individual that would be interested in sponsorship of the event, the contribution of items for the silent auction and/or live auction of the evening or would like to purchase a table for the event, please contact the Agape office at (937) 439 – 4406 ext. 22.

Agape for Youth Orientation



Agape for Youth, Inc. will be having two (2) orientation sessions in the upcoming weeks.

The first orientation is being held on December 18th at 6:00PM.

The second orientation is being held on January 8th at 6:30PM.

Both of these informational sessions are being held at the Agape for Youth, Inc. office located at 7755 Paragon Road, Suite 105 Dayton, Ohio 45459

These sessions offer the opportunity to share the mission of Agape, along with licensing and training requirements necessary to become a foster parent.

If you or someone you know is interested in attending one of these orientation sessions, please contact the Agape office at (937) 439-4406 and ask to speak with the Executive Director, Steve Geib.

A Special Thank You!

The staff and families at Agape for Youth, Inc. would like to thank the following organizations, businesses and individuals for placing the youth being served at Agape on "Angel Giving Trees" in their offices. Your generosity has made a difference in the lives of the youth you provided gifts for.



ICON Office Solutions – Elizabeth Riddell

Liberty Savings Bank – Ashley Hofele

WPAFB- Capt. Jennifer Diercks

Project Read – Becki Garvin

We would also like to thank Karen Kelly, Tim Fitzharris, Ashley Hofele and Strictly Gospel Ministries for sponsoring the toy drive which was held on December 15th at Miami Shores Baptist Church in Moraine. The toys given by those in attendance will be distributed to the families and youth of Agape for Youth. I

The Dayton community has made a difference that will not be forgotten in the lives of these children.

Education Update

Agape for Youth, Inc. continues to be blessed by serving the youth in our care. On the education front, we have scheduled four students for academic tutoring at their schools, but that's just a small start. Our vision is to encourage all youth to earn C or higher grades by providing good grades incentives, which usually are gift certificates to a popular restaurant. Tutoring is a way to assist all the youth in our care to not only succeed academically, but to get gift certificates!

The goals for the Educational Support Program are fairly lofty, but attainable. The first goal is to get tutoring established for all our youth who need basic assistance. We will take referrals for higher level learning and electives, and will try to get the help needed; but our first priority is the students who need help with the fundamentals.

Since we do have some youth who are parents themselves, we see a need to develop a family literacy program. The family literacy program will encompass topics such as reading to your children, understanding what your baby is trying to say, and the importance of family time. While the focus will be family oriented, we will be weaving independent living skills in the mix as well. This will also be an opportunity for our young mothers to discuss their educational needs, goals and dreams.

The most visionary goal for the 2006-2007 academic year is to develop a learning center site for our foster families to use. The site will be an after school help center for our students to receive tutoring and additional academic help. The plan is for students to come after school according to a schedule, have a light, nutritious snack, and focus on areas in which they need assistance. Even if the student has good grades, they will still be eligible to receive the learning center site 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 extension 37 or by email at kherman@agapeforyouth.com.

Make a Difference

As 2006 draws to a close please consider making year-end contributions to Agape.

DONATE TO OR ASSIST WITH YOUTH ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

Summer camps
Good grades incentives, Tutor, Volunteer
Extracurricular activities

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 and families
Foster parent recognition banquet
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 and journals

Please contact the Agape office for additional information.

Agape for Youth, Inc.

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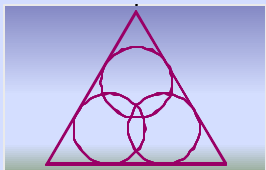
Stephen Geib, LSW
Executive Director/Founder

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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
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