

AGAPE FOR YOUTH, INC.

INSIDE YOU WILL FIND

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*Celebrating 20 years of Serving
Youth and Families*

Fall 2009

"BUILDING BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TOGETHER"

"Giving for a Better Tomorrow"

2009 has been an amazing year of giving for Agape for Youth!

From different companies and organizations, from different people, of different ages this has been a time of giving like no other in the history of Agape.

As many of you have heard me share; "the more we serve, the more opportunities we are given to serve".

We seek to meet youth and adults where they are and assist them in moving forward.

Our mission reflects the community we serve and the services we provide.

We humbly, yet proudly acknowledge that without the generosity of the local community, we could not continue to serve in the manner we have.

I would like to share a couple of examples of those who have shared generously with the Agency. Let us begin with Justin Sargent, one of the youngest "donors" to Agape. Justin, the nephew of one of our co-workers, Kristin called a couple months back and told her of plans for his upcoming birthday party. This was definitely going to be a birthday unlike one typically held for an eleven year old. You see, Justin had decided that all of the gifts received would be donated to the children of Agape! I had the pleasure to meet Justin the week after his party when he delivered the gifts he had received to Agape. Outstanding!!!!

The outpouring of donations from Epiphany Church to families involved with Agape's Reunification Program has been overwhelming and greatly appreciated by the families we are entrusted to serve. Agape co-workers have been continually touched by their community outreach, and this compliment to our services.

For the second year Back to Health Center, Dr. Van Merkle, his staff and patients have organized a summer food drive to help the families associated with Agape. This past summer the abundant canned food and other items donated were a vital blessing to the families we serve.

Still another example of giving is coordinated through our own co-worker Tiffani who has organized and has been a driving force of Agape's S.O.S. "Serving Our Soldiers" program.

At a minimum, every other month, donations are collected and sent to troop's adopted by Agape.

It has been a pleasure to accept donations and serve in this way and receiving correspondence from some of the troops thanking us for remembering them has been a blessing in and of itself.

I could go on and on about the endless blessings we have continued to both receive and have been a part of over the past year. To the many companies and individuals that have remained faithful in their giving, and to those "Friends of Agape" who have requested to remain anonymous, (we know and you who you are) thanks for your support of the mission of Agape and our "serving families, youth, and each other with excellence".

Attached is a flyer describing in detail an opportunity for you as an individual or your company to contribute to Agape for Youth, Inc. as you make your everyday purchases online.

If you have any questions please contact our office at 937.439.4406 ext.22

**Be safe,
Steve**

A Special Thank You!



Justin and the donations collected at his birthday party

Agape for Youth, Inc. wants to extend a special Thank You to Justin, pictured at the left. Justin requested instead of bringing him a birthday gift to his birthday party this year that his guests bring gifts that would be given to the children in care at Agape for Youth, Inc. It is this generous, giving spirit that makes a difference in the lives of children in foster care and in the lives of those, in need in our community. Justin, Thank you again for your generosity!

Education Update

Mentoring Update

Agape continues to encourage our youth to excel in their academics. We provide tutorial services for any students in our network in need of extra help with their academics. The staff of Agape, our families and friends organized a school supply drive in August and provided our foster and reunification families with the items collected and book bags for the school aged children in their homes.

It's that time of year again, back to school! And with that comes the return of our college student volunteers. At the end of August, I was able to attend a volunteer fair at Cedarville University to continue our partnership with their Fostering Friendships Ministry.

We are proud to announce that there are currently 8 youth attending college this year.

The colleges attended include, Xavier University, Sinclair Community College, Wright State University, and RETS College.

The Advanced Education Fund provides a monthly college stipend for these young adults.

At the fair, we were able to share with many students about the needs of youth in foster care and the opportunity to serve by providing positive role modeling and new experiences through the trusting relationship of mentoring.

If you have questions regarding tutorial services for the Agape youth in your home, or need information on how they can receive the college stipend, please contact Kristin Herman, Education Coordinator at 937-439-4406 extension 37 or by e-mail at kherman@agapeforyouth.com.

We anticipate another great year of mentoring relationships with youth in care!

If you would like more information about becoming a mentor, please contact Carol Strychalski at 937-439-4406 x18.

*S*O*S*

Foster Parent Advisory Board

This autumn, we have the opportunity serve three additional soldiers through the S.O.S program. We continue to pray and support our soldiers by sending monthly care packages. We ask that you please consider taking part in the S.O.S program. These soldiers risk their lives daily for our country. We welcome the opportunity to ease their time during deployment, and make things more convenient for them when possible. The items you can send are socks, non-perishable foods/snacks, toiletries, and handwritten cards and letters. Please continue to keep them in your thoughts and prayers!

The Agape for Youth, Inc. Foster Parent Advisory Board is looking for Foster Parents to become members of the Advisory Board. As a member of the Foster Parent Advisory Board, individuals are asked to attend a monthly meeting, held on the 2nd Monday of each month, participate, and assist in the planning of Agency activities.

**Christopher Branham Joseph Wyatt
Robert Brown Bobby Walker**

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Foster Parent Advisory Board, please submit a letter of interest to Steve Geib, Executive Director/Founder and it will be given to the Foster Parent Advisory Board for review and consideration.

We look forward to hearing from you.

"Great Food For All" (GFFA)

The GFFA program has gotten off to a great start here at Agape for Youth.

We have had foster families, staff, board members and individuals from our local community participate in the program. And the feedback regarding the food has been great. If you have not yet participated in the GFFA program, we encourage you to log on and place an order for the month of October and/or November.

Log on to <https://www.greatfoodforall.com/OrderForm.aspx?hostid=347> and place your order.

The deadline to order online for November is Monday, November 2nd
with distribution on Saturday, November 14th.

We look forward to our partnership with GFFA being one that continues to benefit the youth and families served at Agape as well as in the local community.

Still Need Email Addresses

We are still in need of the email addresses of some of our Agape family members.

When you provide your email address to Agape, you provide for yourself the benefit of having updates, reminders and training information sent to you.

Please remember to send us your email address if you change it. We want to make sure that you receive timely updates and announcements from the agency.

Please send your email address to Sandie at Sgeib2@agapeforyouth.com.

On-Going Trainings You'll Want to Attend

Saturday, October 10th

WISE Internet Safety & Other Ways to Protect Children

Time: 9:00am-12:00pm

Location: Agape

Presenter: Sandy Hunt

Saturday, November 7th

Two Weeks to a Less Defiant Child

Time: 9:00am-4:00pm

Location: Agape for Youth, Inc.

Presenter: John Ward

"Community Blessings" Room

We want to again thank Mrs. Rhea Ramey and her brother Alvin Dillard for all of their hard work in coordinating and handling the clean up of the Community Blessings Room.

We are grateful to members of the community for their generosity in providing donations for the Community Blessings Room and we ask that when you are putting together donations for that you please keep the following in mind.

We ask that the items donated are not broken and are gently used. Please no stained or torn clothing.

Please note that we are not able to accept used bedding. This includes pillows, sheets, pillowcases, blankets, and comforters.

We appreciate you and all that you do to help serve the youth and families associated with Agape for Youth.

Saturday, November 14th

Surviving the Holidays

Time: 1:00pm-4:00pm

Location: Agape For Youth, Inc.

Presenter: Dr. Pamela Gulley

Please remember to contact the Agape for Youth, Inc. office **(937) 439-4406 ext. 10** and register for ALL trainings you are planning to attend. Pre-registration for training allows for proper planning of handouts and materials for all that attend.

Thank you!

Contribute to Agape When You Shop Online

Agape for Youth, Inc. is beginning an ongoing fundraising initiative through the benefits of online shopping through Aisle 19 and Escape International.

AISLE 19 is an online shopping portal that provides cash back when individuals shop online by entering their favorite online stores and shopping sites through Aisle 19. There are **700+** stores where you can shop, including Wal-Mart, Target, Home Depot, The Gap, Nordstrom's, Bloomingdale's and Macy's just to name a few. There are stores that are online stores, book stores where you can save hundreds of dollars on textbooks, drugstore.com, overstock.com and ebay.com. All providing a savings for you and cash back to you.

The parent company of Aisle 19, Escape International, provides fundraising opportunities for non-profit organizations to raise funds through their supporters by making their online purchases through Aisle 19. Your donation to Agape for Youth, Inc. is the same amount of cash back percentage that you earn on your purchases through Aisle 19.

There are also five (5) incentive stores located in Aisle 19 that provide a higher percentage of donation to Agape for Youth, Inc.

These specialty stores are: ***Makaila Morgan***, an exclusive line of skin and body care products for women and men designed to nourish your skin. ***Xymetri***, a line of natural health products ranging from weight loss to products that promote and build a healthy immune system, to products designed to regenerate and grow healthy new cells.

Digital Discounts can save you money on your home and business phone systems, cell phones, Dish Network and Direct TV with pricing exclusive to Aisle 19 shoppers.

Addison Allen is a network of more than 100 banks and offers residential and commercial loans for new purchases as well as refinancing. ***My Escape Vacations*** provides Aisle 19 shoppers with massive discounts on travel around the world, with saving ranging from 500.00 to 1500.00 and more on travel and vacations.

The membership to Aisle 19 is free to everyone, and is by invitation only.

So please consider this your invitation to shop online, earn cash back, and contribute to Agape for Youth, Inc. and our mission of serving youth and families.

To join Aisle 19 visit

www.agapeforyouth.com and click on the Aisle 19 logo or click this link

<http://www.aisle19.com> and enter **196409** as your invitation code, sign up today and begin donating to Agape for Youth, Inc.

