



Month Year

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April 2010 Newsletter

2010 "from Adversity to Opportunity" Fundraising Event

We are pleased to announce that the date for the 2010 Agape for Youth, Inc. fundraising event "From Adversity to Opportunity" has been set.

The event will be on Thursday, September 9th and the location of the event will be announced within the next few weeks.

We are thankful to the dedicated friends and supporters of Agape that have come together to form the committee that will put this event together.

Please watch you email for updates and announcements as the event draws closer.

"Positive, Professional & Progressive"

Remaining "positive, professional and progressive" has been a foundational principle for a number of years for Agape for Youth, Inc. We have continued to embrace the numerous changes in our field, and have done this without compromising the ethics and principles from which Agape

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A Special Thank you!

We want to thank each prson that participated in the Elder Beerman Community Days fundraising event. Through your efforts of selling coupons books and purchasing these coupons

was founded.

I was recently asked about the amazing past year of the Agency and the specifics of our "strategic plan" that lead to our success.

Quite honestly, I could refer to graphs and other specific goals established by our Administrative Team, however the truth of the matter is that we centered ourselves on the serving mission of Agape, we continually choose to take every opportunity to educate others as to the programs and services offered through the agency.

The following are some of the highlights of this past year

* Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services recertification and unannounced visit reviews of Agape found us to be in full compliance. There are presently over 85 foster families licensed with our Agency. Nearly half of these families are approved for adoption as well. Helen Baker, Director of Licensing and Compliance and Supervision, along with Bruce Bridges, Supervisor of Licensing and Intake are responsible for monitoring this component.

* Agape's annual financial audit conducted by Brady Ware Accounting found the Agency to be in full compliance.

* As a 501 c3 not for profit agency, Agape has met 100% of the standards of the Better Business Bureau as an accredited charity. During 2009 we were nominated for the BBB Eclipse Integrity Award, and were honored in being named a finalist for this award. Again in 2010 we have been nominated for this award.

* Agape Foster Parent Advisory Board met consistently on an average of an every month basis. Commonly refer to as a "pulse" of Agape they have provided valuable input as to the direction and services of Agape.

* Youth Specialists under the supervision of Helen Baker, Director of Licensing and Compliance and Carol Strychalski, Youth Specialist Supervisor continued to provide quality services to our foster families and youth served.

* During 2009, through the efforts of Kara Sweeney, Adoption & Training Coordinator, 10 adoptions were completed and there have been three adoptions completed so far this year.

* Agape Trainings coordinated by Kara Sweeney have continued to be of high caliber, adding to the educational growth of our Professional Care Providers and Co-Workers.

* Agape's Reunification Services component under the direction of Ann Morrissey, Reunification Services

and purchasing these coupons books yourselves, Agape for Youth, Inc. was able to raise more than \$1,000.00 for the Youth and Family fund.

We appreciate your dedication to helping the youth and families at Agape for Youth, Inc.

Great Food For All



The Great Food For All April menu is now available online. Simply click the GFFA logo and you will be redirected to the GFFA order page.

The deadline to place your order online is Thursday, April 8th at 9:00pm. The deadline to place your order at the Agape for Youth, Inc. office is Friday, April 9th at 3:00pm. Distribution Day is Saturday, April 24th at the Agape office from 8:00am - 8:30am.

"Getting to 30"



A path to financial independence for a high school graduate.

The book discusses the five critical financial principles they must follow to achieve financial independence, and avoid a destitute life, funded exclusively by the benevolence of a bewildered government.

Coordinator has over the past two plus years experienced nearly a 96% success rate of families who have completed this program, have been reunited with their children and remain together as a family. The Agape Reunification Services program has also been expanded to serve Butler County Children Services families as well.

* The education of our youth remains a cornerstone of the Agape program. For the fourth consecutive year all seniors in our care graduated from high school. (One case a GED was achieved) Agape Education Coordinator Kristen Herman also noted achievements of students through providing the Agape good grades incentives and implemented a care packages program for our College Students. Currently we are assisting eight youth in college through our Advanced Education Stipend.

* Mentoring services coordinated by Carol Strychalski resulted in youth being matched to mentors primarily through a partnership with Cedarville University's Fostering Friendships program.

* Coordinated by Sandie Geib, Communications and Support Services Coordinator, Agape's family events were marked with the largest Christmas Party (400 in attendance) in the history of Agape held at the Boonshoft Museum in Dayton, Ohio. Further, over 175 youth were matched to giving trees primarily supported through Dayton Human Society, Brady Ware, and St. Johns United Church of Christ. Our annual picnic, annual Dayton Dragon's Day also occurred, along with the building of a new relationship with Camp Joy Outdoor Educational Program that served as an enhancement to youth entrusted to our care.

* Agape staff members, along with staff from Time Warner, members of the Beavercreek Christian Church, the West Minister Presbyterian Church Youth Group, The Children's Place and Back to Health Center's Dr. Van Merkle and his staff, organized giving and outreach opportunities benefiting families served by our agency.

* Fundraising under the direction of Sandie Geib was successful in raising monies and awareness that has led to additional donations to Agape. The proceeds from fundraising opportunities go to the Agape Youth and Family Fund. Agape for Youth was also named as the designated charity for Chick-fil-A (Benchwood Road) for their National Adoption Day event, and was named as the recipient charity of the proceeds from the Dayton Mortgage Brokers Association Fundraiser.

* Agape's SOS-"Supporting Our Soldiers" program is the brainchild of Tiffany Stuart, Secretary/Receptionist and reflects our support of troops serving our country adopted by our Agency. At least every other month donations from staff and foster families, along with letters and cards of

The author's goal is to not only to educate his sons, but also to help our youth understand why their happiness ultimately will be dependent on their ability to live a life that embraces the behavior of a financially responsible person. In today's volatile, chaotic, and uncertain world such a lifestyle is even more critical to the collective well being of our entire Nation.

All net proceeds from the sale of this book will fund college scholarships for foster youth served by Agape for Youth, Inc.

Website Updates

The first quarter updates have been made to the Agape for Youth, Inc. website. Our Foster Parents will find the 2nd quarter On-going training calendar as well as placement and respite forms in the "Certified Foster Parents" section of the website. There are copies of the December 2009 newsletter, 1st Quarter 2010 newsletter and this newsletter posted in the "News and Announcements" section. Continue to watch the website for quarterly updates and changes to the website.

Community Blessings Room

The donations from our partners through Gifts in Kinds, International continue to come into the Community Blessings room on a bi-weekly basis. In March we added a new donor through a partnership with Borders Books in Miamisburg.

We want to thank Rhea Ramey, one of our foster parents and her brother Alvin Dillard for their work in organizing and sorting the donations for this room.

The Community Blessings room is

support are forwarded.

* Agape for Youth is active as members of the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies and Ohio Foster Care Association, both foster care and adoption advocacy organizations. Further, we remain a long term and active member of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce.

While I could go on, and on, and still on as to how thankful we are for the success we have experienced in 2009, its time to close for this edition. As a final thought I leave you with: "To those we have served, thank you for this opportunity. To those we are about to serve, we welcome the opportunity you are giving us, and to those we have yet to serve, we are looking forward to the opportunity before us!"

Until next time, peace and prayers,

Steve

A New Featured Section

We want to introduce a new feature to our quarterly newsletter, an article written by one of our Foster Parent Advisory Board members, John Sain. We want to thank John for his contribution to the newsletter and look forward to his articles in the months to come.

"From the Front Lines of Foster Care"

Well,

I thought I was going to have a good day. I got up before my wife and started getting the kids ready for school.

The MISSION: Get all the meds up stairs and then prepare for war, you don't know **WHATS GOING TO HAPPEN WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR FIRST DOOR!!!!**.

I picked Jeff's and James door first. Shut off the alarm, sent them to the bathroom, and gave them their morning meds. James is moving ok, but Jeff is himself, lost not sure what he needs to do. Within 10 minutes Jeff is somewhat on track but has slowed down my morning mission, I have 3 more kids to get up.

Door number 2: Stephan. Alarm is off and I'm ready to go. "Get to the bathroom buddy" I yell out.

He is off, but I have to get his clothes out. It is Monday and he works at school so he needs Black pants and a White shirt. Great! Time is going by fast and I don't have a clue what Jeff and James are doing.

Back to Stephan, gave him his meds and now he sits on the pot and sitting and sitting, "Hurry up get up" I say. Which he did, quickly I gave him his clothes, and down the stairs he goes.

Door 3: The girls, this is not going to be a walk in the park, but I'm a war hero I can do this. Alarm

The Community Blessings Room is open on Wednesday and Friday mornings from 10am until 12noon.

off I'm ready to go, I go through the door like an attack on a old bunker. "Get up girls it time for school", well I don't think they heard me. No movement from the small toy soldiers. They always tell me that they want to be Army Girls. I said "Up Army Girls lets go, its time for your meds and to the bathroom you go." Not getting what I want. Someone please help me. Remember your history, The British are coming!! The British are coming!! O the buses are coming and no one is ready. I told the girls to finish getting dressed and get down stairs. I departed down.

"Jeff and James how are you doing?" They seemed ok. I was looking good by this time. I was now enjoying getting cereal out for the kids and then the girls came down, "What are you doing? Why are you still in your pj's.?" "Mom didn't get our clothes out last night, we don't have any" one replied. Not good at all, I looked on the island and was able to come with two outfits and off they went and got themselves ready. And then it hit me. Stephan needs a lunch, boy this is hard work. I need to rethink how my wife can do this.

I was putting some items together for his lunch and then **MY HERO** came in, **MY WIFE** and pulled me out of this mess.

All kids did make it to their assigned buses, and I thought that I did some good.

So MEN don't just watch your wife between commercials. Pay close attention to her, you may have to get the kids up and off to school all by yourself.

Well that's it from the **FRONT LINES OF FOSTER CARE FOR NOW.**

Good luck on your next mission Men

Sergeant First Class Johnny Sain

Thank you for your ongoing support of Agape for Youth, Inc. and our mission of serving.

"You make a a difference so that we can make a difference."