

# Agape Strong

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## “AGAPE STRONG” ...The Blessings Just Keep Coming!

During the past few months I have been completely overwhelmed!!!...with blessings!!

The continued outpour of support provided Agape over this past year has been amazing, yet since the beginning of the year it seems to have increased ten-fold. Beginning the first week of March we sent out initial letters announcing the ‘Agape Strong’-Giving Hope for Tomorrow Gala and the opportunity to become a Sponsor of this fundraising event. In less than two weeks we exceeded the total Sponsorships for last year’s Gala, and support continues to come in!! Know if you would like to become a Sponsor or know of individuals or businesses that would be interested in joining us in support of this Gala, have them contact Agape. All of the proceeds from this event go to Agape’s Youth and Family Fund providing opportunities to our families and youth throughout the year.

You can join Anthem, WesBanco, Horan, Petra Wealth Partners/Ameriprise, CareSource, MBC, ‘The’ Ohio State University, Matt Scarr Associates, the Levin Family Foundation, the Allyn Conway Group, Reagh and Associates,

and Dayton’s BBB as a partial list of the confirmed Sponsors for the 2015 Gala.

This past year’s ‘Agape Strong-From Adversity to Opportunity Gala’ was our most successful in our history. With the additional funds that came in after the event we exceeded \$25,000!

Since July of 2014 (the beginning of our fiscal year) we received the Community Partner Award through MCJFS for Agape’s services to our community, and were again selected as a finalist in the Ohio Association of Non-Profit Organizations Award of Excellence. If these honors were not enough, in October we received a \$15,000 grant from the CareSource Foundation that supported our ‘first’ annual Foster family Training Conference.

Many things have changed; most significantly the coming together of Agape co-workers creating an extremely positive shift in ‘culture’ like no other time in our history. With this unified commitment we continue to build upon the ‘strength-based’ initiative we began over three years ago. Together we are focused and driven...supporting and uplifting one another and those we are dedicated to serve.

As many of you have heard me say, my Agape co-workers are the best in my history as Agape’s Executive Director and Founder. Our Leadership team is centered on the mission and vision we dedicate ourselves too, and model this philosophy throughout the agency. Our foster and adoptive families continue their unbending commitment to serve the youth entrusted to their care, loving them beyond their behaviors, and their challenges.

As many hear me continually say...“we have no ‘problems’, only ‘challenges’, that with our collective strengths, we will address and overcome”!

Was it that simple?...actually...‘no’ it was not! It required Agape’s Leadership to come together, and being genuine, and transparent in their unified support the mission and vision of Agape, and support of one another, promote this commitment to our staff and community.

Passion ‘embraced’, commitment ‘driven’, successful ‘results’.....we will settle for nothing less!

It’s an amazing time here at Agape! Be safe



## Dear Agape Families



Can you feel it? It is so close you can almost taste it. Yes warm weather is upon us and the excitement around here is beginning to build as we anticipate our first Dragons game and all of the summer activities that we will enjoy. It is an exciting time of year.

I want to take a moment to say thank you to all of the staff at Agape for Youth who made our first annual Foster Care Conference a huge success. I hope all of you who attended enjoyed the day as much as I did. It was amazing to see so many people all working towards the same goals all in one place. The venue was good, the food was great and the company was fantastic. Agape families are truly amazing people and it is a joy to serve you all. I look forward to letting you know soon when the next event will take place so, keep your eyes and ears open. If you have not done so already, please take a moment to give your worker feedback about the conference or give me a call and let me know what you thought. It is our desire to make these events something that you look forward to every year.

I do need to take a moment to talk shop with all of you. The county agencies are getting very rigid when it comes to medication as well as physical and dental documentation. We need you to keep medication logs for all of the youth on psychotropic meds and/or prescription meds and we need you to make sure that you use the appropriate county forms when you take the kids to the doctor or the dentist. This is a huge point of emphasis so expect our staff to really push this issue in your homes. We need your help and support in this area as we work to meet the county's needs. In the end, we are all working towards the same goal of providing the best possible care to the children in your home.

I appreciate you all so much and as always; please remember that I am available at any time if you have comments or concerns or if you just want to encourage me by giving me a great report about your worker. You may reach me at 439-4406 ext. 37 or email me at [rstauffer@agapeforyouth.com](mailto:rstauffer@agapeforyouth.com)

Sincerely,



## Education Updates



Our Tutoring Nights have been becoming more and more successful. At our last Tutoring Night on March 9, 2015, we had five youth participate in the program. We have two more scheduled that will take us to the end of our school year: April 13th and May 11th. Make sure to contact your Youth Specialist to let them know if you plan to have any of your youth attend the event. It is open to all school-aged youth. Please provide your Youth Specialist which what area in school they are struggling with. Youth must bring homework or worksheets to work on during the Tutoring Night, to give our tutors a better understanding of what they are working on in the classroom. Pizza is provided for all youth who attend.

Additionally, we had a great turn out for grades for the second quarter this school year. We had 31 youth receive grades of C's and above on their report card. Six of these youth were also placed on the honor roll for their amazing grades! Keep up the good work!

As always, we continue our search for more tutors. We could benefit from tutors in all subject areas and grade levels. If you or anyone you know is interested in providing tutoring for our amazing youth here at Agape, please have them contact me by email or phone number:

Nicole Clark, LSW, Youth Specialist/Education Coordinator

937-439-4406 ext.18 or at [nclark@agapeforyouth.com](mailto:nclark@agapeforyouth.com)

Contributed by Nicole Clark, Youth Specialist/Education Coordinator

**We have two more scheduled that will take us to the end of our school year: April 13th & May 11th.**

## Adoption Corner

Spring is in the air! Happy Spring to all!

Agape foster parents have a lot to be proud of-not only are you providing temporary loving and caring homes to our children in need, you are also providing permanency to many of them as well.

Since July 1, 2014 Agape for Youth, Inc. foster parents have finalized ten adoptions. In addition, we are looking towards approximately sixteen more children being adopted by the end of this year!

This means a ‘forever home’ as well as no more move which is so important to our children. To all of you, thank you for opening your heart and your home to children who need stability and a family to ‘come home to’!

Thank you for keeping me soooo busy this year!

Contributed by  
Bridget Sheets  
Adoption Coordinator



## Recruitment Roundtable

We continue to work very hard to reach out to potential new families.

We have a significant need for families, current or new, willing to take teens. We have no choice but to turn young people away in many cases because we do not have enough families to serve this population. Please keep this opportunity in mind as you continue your foster care journey.

Agape is thrilled to have just completed a three month advertising campaign with K99.1 FM. We want to thank Nancy Wilson, Director of Branding and Programming at WHKO/WZLR and

Agape for Youth, Inc. Board member for her assistance and work on the ads. These ads were heard by many people and we are excited to be working with several families currently in the licensing/training process.

We thank those of you who have praised our agency to your family and friends and who have made referrals on our behalf.

This quarter’s recruitment contest winner is Amber Love and we are excited to announce that she has won a \$100.00 gift card to Wal-Mart.

Amber shared that she referred someone to our agency because “we are a

great team to work with and everyone is supported”. She also said that “Everyone works together” at Agape. We want to thank you Amber for your kind words and congratulations on winning our quarterly contest.

Please remember that we also provide a \$400.00 bonus if the family you refer finishes the licensing process. That money is paid \$200.00 at Licensure and \$200.00 when the new family receives their first placement. This referral bonus does not apply to transfers but only those families who go through the licensing process with Agape for Youth.

Contributed by Rodger Stauffer, Foster Care Manager

*“Everyone works together” at Agape*



## Upcoming Training Opportunities

Happy Spring!

Many of you have provided feedback recently with regards to various trainers, thank you! I've also noticed more details on evaluations. Please know that your opinions are truly sought after and valued with regard to topics and style of trainers. You should have received your spring training calendars by now. Please take time to review them and schedule trainings you will attend, based both on meeting your "Individual Training Needs Assessment", as well as your areas of general interest. After receiving such great responses, we are able to bring Anthony President back in June. He will present Monday June 8, 2015 6:30-9:30pm, "Total Time Management for Caregivers". It's often a challenge to fit in all the responsibilities with our

children. This would be especially true of foster parents who are also trying to fit in family visits and sometimes multiple therapy appointments. Come learn various ideas and suggestions to increase the overall productivity of your home. If you are already a "pro" come share some of your expertise and see if you come across new ideas as well.

### PLEASE NOTE:

Our next CPR & 1st class is May 9 and there won't be another class until July 25. It is critical that you maintain your CPR & 1st certification. Please make sure to check your expiration dates and schedule accordingly with Valerie Baker ext. 13 if needed.

A special note: I have been blessed to be with Agape for Youth, Inc. since December 13, 2005. I have had the

pleasure of working closely with many of you and serving alongside you. It has truly been a pleasure. Effective May 22, 2015 my time with Agape will come to an end. Due to job changes with my husband, we are relocating. I simply want to take this time to say goodbye to those I may not see prior to then, and to let you know how much your service is valued and appreciated. I've witnessed many of you grow as foster parents and your commitment to our youth does not go unnoticed.

Thanks for being a part of my blessed journey here at Agape!

Have a Wonderful Easter!

Contributed by Carmella Johnson, Licensing Specialist/Training Coordinator



### **PLEASE NOTE:**

*Our next CPR & 1st class is May 9 and there will not be another class until July 25<sup>th</sup>.*

*It is critical that you maintain your CPR & 1st certification*

## The Community Blessings Room

For more than 10 years Agape has had a partnership with Good 360, a national non-profit organization that partners non-profits with local and national donor companies. Locally, we are fortunate to be partnered with four Bed, Bath and Beyond stores, resulting in more than \$211,000 in donated merchandise during the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

These donations are made available to the youth and families served through the programs at Agape, as well as individuals being served through the Office of Ex-Offender Re-entry, NOVA House, and numerous youth who have emancipated from care at Agape.

To visit the Community Blessings Room please contact your Agape Youth Specialist or Reunification Services Specialist and schedule a time to do through the donations that are available.

For Agape families who do not currently have an Agape Specialist assigned to their home, please contact the office to set an appointment.

Remaining AYC Schedule

April	Community Service Project
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Career Awareness
May – 19 <sup>th</sup>	Hygiene & Health
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	(3:30pm) Mini Golf
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Pottery Painting
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	(3:30pm) Movie Day
August 18 <sup>th</sup>	Social Media & the Internet
September 15 <sup>th</sup>	Budgeting
September	Community Service
October 20 <sup>th</sup>	Education & Scholarships
November 17 <sup>th</sup>	Legal & Social Skills
December	Community Service Santa’s Secret Workshop
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Post Test & Holiday Party

**All meetings are from 6:30pm – 8:30pm unless noted otherwise**

**AYC – Agape Youth Council**

*AYC is in full swing, and we’re having a great time! We have incorporated “fun days” into our curriculum, so that we are able to get to know each other better as a group. We are pleased to have added new members to AYC and welcome any more who might like to join us.*

*During the month of March we discussed Nutrition & Health with dietician and friend, Ms. Destiny Temple, RD LD. She shared with us healthy choices in snacking and how to incorporate healthy living into our daily lives. This provided an introduction into a Nutrition & Health 3-part incentive that will be presented by the OSU EFNEP (Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program). This program through OSU provides teens to learn more about a healthy lifestyle through the “MyPlate” curriculum. “MyPlate” has replaced the “Food Pyramid” diagram, in demonstrating the five building blocks for a healthy diet. Each youth who attends will take a pre-test to test their knowledge of*

*healthy eating and then will take a post-test at the end of the series to test what they have learned. Each session will consist of food demos, examples and also some take-home learning tools. The members of AYC can attend to earn cash prizes and certificates of completion. This course will run for three consecutive meetings for three months. We are excited to be able to offer new trainings and options to the members of AYC!*

*As many of you know, AYC participates in quarterly community service projects with other non-profit organizations in the area and we are thrilled to have the opportunity this month to help The Food Bank with their back pack lunch program. We will be writing cards of encouragement that will be included in the lunch bags.*

*If you have a youth who is interested in AYC, please give Tiffani a call at 937-439-4406 Ext. 10.*

*Contributed by Tiffani Stuart, Administrative Assistant/AYC Facilitator*

***Focus on the Rules***

ODJFS and Agape for Youth, Inc. requires sixty hours of training every two years foster parents have a license. Training is essential to the process of learning new skills to manage behaviors and to cope with the emotional volatility of children in foster care. For experienced foster parents training is part of the requirement to keep the foster care license and they learn some new facts and techniques that enhance their already well developed skills. Training is important both for gaining skills and keeping children safe as CPR and First Aid continuous certification is part of this requirement.

Please check the number of training hours you have completed and how many more hours you need before your recertification date. Check your CPR/First Aid cards or call/email us to find out when your certification expires. An expired certification puts children, foster families and Agape for Youth at risk, should an emergency situation occur that required the administration of life saving CPR or First Aid. We know that everyone is busy, but the safety of our children is worth taking the time to make sure your certification is current.

The Ohio Department of Job and Family Services Rule addressing CPR/First Aid follows:

5101:2-5-33 Foster Caregiver Continuing Training

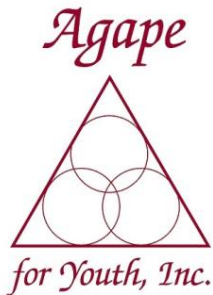
9) A foster caregiver certified to operate a specialized foster home shall complete a minimum of sixty hours of continuing training during each certification period. The continuing training program shall be in accordance with the caregiver's written needs assessment and continuing training plan and shall include, if applicable, the training listed in paragraph (C)(7) of this rule, and additional issues specific to the types of children placed in the type of specialized foster home for which the caregiver is certified. Such training shall also include continuous maintenance of certification in a first aid training program and a child and adult CPR certification training program such as those training programs offered by the American Red Cross, the American heart association, or the equivalent.

The current version of this rule became effective: 03/01/2010

We encourage your adherence to Agape for Youth Policy and the ODJFS rules as they are in place for the protection of our youth in care as well as our foster families. If you need guidance on any of the above rules just call 937-439-4406 ext. 12 or email [bbridges@agapeforyouth.com](mailto:bbridges@agapeforyouth.com)

Thanks for all you do to help keep everyone safe.

Contributed by Bruce Bridges, Licensing & Compliance/Intake Supervisor



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[www.agapeforyouth.com](http://www.agapeforyouth.com)

Agency Facebook



[Agape for Youth](#)

AYC Facebook

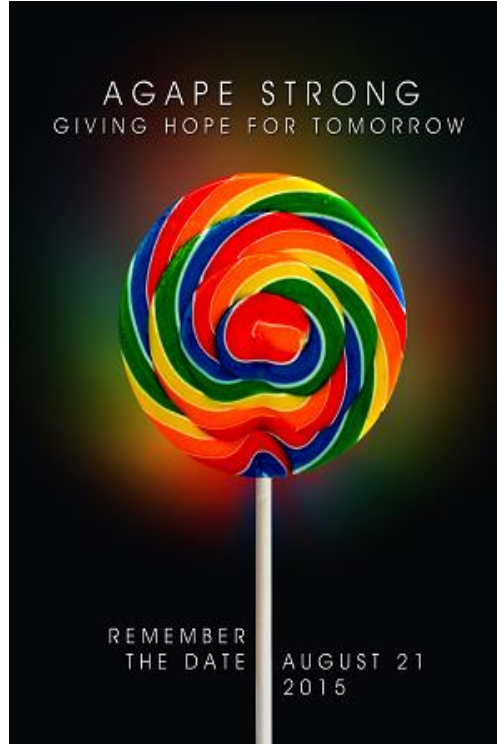


[AYC](#)

Twitter



[@Agape for Youth](#)



Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Friday, August 21, 2015 for the annual Agape for Youth, Inc. fundraising gala “Agape Strong – Giving Hope for Tomorrow”

Presented by



Sponsored in part by  
WesBanco

The Ohio State University  
College of Social Work  
Joseph Airport Toyota  
Matt Scarr, Assoc.

CareSource  
Petra Wealth Partners/Ameriprise  
MBC \* Dayton BBB \* Horan  
Levin Family Foundation

This year we are introducing a new feature to our quarterly newsletter, “Meet our Board of Directors”. Each newsletter will spotlight a member of the Board. We hope you enjoy getting to know our Board of Directors.

## ***Meet Our Board of Directors***

We are excited to introduce you to Nancy Wilson, the newest member of our Board of Directors.

Nancy is the Music Program Director, WHKO/WZLR and WHKO Morning Show Host. She was inducted into the Dayton Broadcaster's Hall of Fame in October 2011.

Nancy is actively involved in the outreach programs and activities at Agape including serving on the fundraising committee for several years as well as being the Mistress of Ceremonies at our fundraising gala

Nancy is also involved with other non-profit organizations in the community including the Women’s Board for Dayton Children’s Hospital - Board of Directors Member, Project Read – Tutor, Dayton Children’s Hospital – Volunteer, Choices in Community Living – Volunteer, American Heart Association – Volunteer and a Juvenile Diabetes – Volunteer.

We greatly appreciate her support of the agency and her dedication to our “Serving Families, Youth and Each Other with Excellence.”