



the james project journal

Volume 4 Issue 1

April 2015

Rewriting the stories of children in foster care.

Foster care is the best option for displaced children in our community **only IF** there are dedicated, caring foster parents within the system.

~TJP



A Pink Birthday

For one beautiful child, her placement into foster care came the night before her 4th birthday. She arrived at her new foster home with just the clothes on her back. After a call from the foster mom, Closet 1:27 sprung into action to provide 10 days worth of clothing for the little girl and her sibling. Additional volunteers provided birthday cupcakes, a new doll and a *Frozen* blanket in her favorite color: pink! Thank you to all of our supporters who continually give and love foster families in this tangible way.

Fostering Teens *By: Angela Trowbridge, foster mom*

Remember those difficult teenage years? Those were the crucial years that shaped us into adults. For teens in foster care these years are even more difficult and frightening. Often they have lacked the love, support, and attachment they needed in their early years. Many of them have been “derailed” and are on the path to becoming dysfunctional adults. Twenty-five percent of teens who age out of the foster care system become homeless within the first year. Many also become unprepared parents and then their children end up in foster care. Making positive impacts in the lives of teens can help get their lives back on track before it’s too late. Establishing a supportive relationship which allows for mentorship is crucial. Allowing them to see your

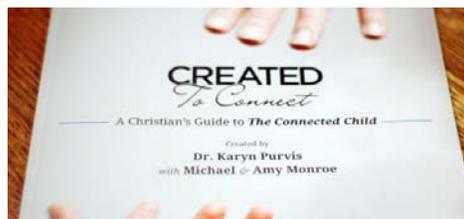
relationship with our loving God is the most crucial. This may be the only time walking with God is introduced in their lives. While establishing these relationships, teens will push adults away and test them to determine at what point the foster parents will give up on them, like other adults have done in their lives. These behaviors are often subconsciously driven by their anger and fear of being let down. Educational needs are frequently neglected for teens due to multiple school moves, lack of support/advocacy and never being shown the importance of education. Teens need an involved



foster parent and regular tutoring. They need to see that they are not alone and their future can be positive. Teens also need foster parents to teach them life skills, such as balancing a check book, paying bills, housework, and driving. A sense of belonging to a family and a church family can provide healthy roots for teens to grow into their adulthood. These relationships let them know they can always come home because someone will be there for them.

Adoption/Foster Care Simulcast

The James Project, in partnership with Cherry Hills Baptist Church, is hosting a FREE live simulcast from



Empowered To Connect, the leader in teaching families to connect with, discipline, and love their children from hard places. You are invited to join us

April 10-11 at Cherry Hills from 9am-5pm (both days) in Springfield, IL. CEU credits will be available. Snacks will be provided. Unfortunately we can-

not provide childcare for this event.

To register, go to: <http://www.cherryhillfamily.org/event-registration/?ee=24>

This conference will be an invaluable experience to provide hope and healing to children who have been adopted or are fostered.



“...that none be lost!”

High Pointe Highlights *By: Dee Peterson, foster mom*

The James Project has provided so much for our family that I can't begin to count all of the blessings, but I wanted to give you a snapshot of how much you support us.

Our oldest foster child is a teen mom. Her baby is not a foster child, therefore there is no board payment. However the State of Illinois is kind enough to contribute \$107/month to help her support her son. Closet 1:27 helps our teen by donating/trading out clothes as her son changes sizes. One volunteer photographed her with her son to create treasured pictures and soon will be doing it again!

Central Baptist Church prepares and delivers a meal every Wednesday. In December, volunteers from

West Side Christian Church hosted a spectacular Christmas party for the kids. Volunteers brought gifts to our home for the children this Christmas. A life group from our church, Cherry Hills Baptist (CHB), brought dinner and gifts in December! CHB also do-



nated funds to help our family. Then, Christmas came and the flu struck us ALL, the transmission on our truck went out, my husband had 2 weeks without pay, and work since then has been slow. We faced obstacles, yet

we were not defeated because God was at our side through you all! In 2015 we have already celebrated 3 birthdays and TJP sent cards and gifts. TJP also gifted us with Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University which has given us peace of mind towards a more secure future. The generosity, time, and love offered is ASTOUNDING!

Now we have 3 families in TJP homes. I love the other TJP parents and hope to look to them more for support and friendship, because who better to understand the experiences we face as foster/adoptive parents of multiple children? Please continue to pray for TJP families because that is the greatest gift. Colossians 2:6-7 says, "So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught and overflowing with thankfulness."

A Christmas Gift from Springfield Clinic

Springfield Clinic, in recognition of its 75th anniversary of operations in Springfield and central Illinois, celebrated with a mission: GIVE75. Each month throughout 2014, Springfield Clinic donated items to a community organization from its specific "wish list." To the delight

of The James Project Board of Directors and TJP families, they were the chosen non-profit organization for the month of December!

A special presentation was made by Springfield Clinic at TJP's office on December 19th, complete with a confetti gun salute. Mark Kuhn, Springfield Clinic's Chief Administrative Officer, presented TJP with a wooden backyard play set, toddler swing, and Step2 toddler slide. When foster mom Julie Lundberg learned this swing set would be located at her home, she was thrilled. "Having 6 kids is very expensive and having a big gift provided for all of them at Christmas time is really awesome."

Lowe's Home Improvement on

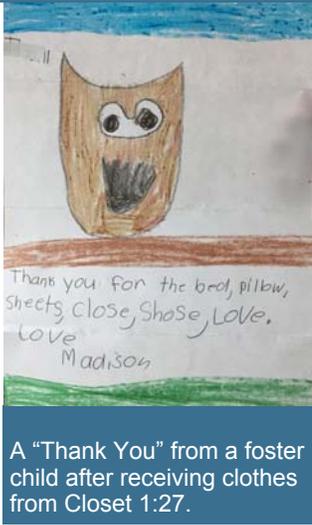


Wabash provided a discount to Springfield Clinic to help make these purchases. We are grateful to Lowe's manager Joe Neubauer and his staff who will complete the play structure assembly this spring when the ground thaws.

Thank you **Springfield Clinic** and **Lowe's** for supporting The James Project!



Ministry Needs *By: Sarah Chandler, editor*



A "Thank You" from a foster child after receiving clothes from Closet 1:27.

The James Project has achieved much success since its inception in 2012 as we are blessed to have dedicated volunteers to

keep the ministry running at full capacity. As we continue to reach out to more fostering families, our needs are also increasing. If you would like to be a bigger part of TJP, please consider helping with one of the following:

- ♥ Closet 1:27 Delivery Person: Someone to deliver items to newly placed foster children.
- ♥ Cook/Meal Provider: Central Baptist Church provides meals once a week for our 3 families, but in the summer they take a break. Volunteers are needed for the summer.

- ♥ Box Lunch Team Member: Volunteers needed to help coordinate box lunch events at various churches and businesses.
- ♥ Website Maintenance: Know how to update a website and want to help with TJP's? Give us a call!
- ♥ Prayer Team Members: If you would like to make an impact on the ministry with prayer, sign up to receive our weekly email updates by contacting us at: prayer4james@gmail.com

Hello from Hawthorne Place *By: Julie Lundberg, foster mom*

School is inevitable. With the wrong outlook everything about school can be hard. Growing up as someone who struggled with grades throughout middle school and high school, it is easy to relate to those of my children who just do not like school. Whether they think they are not good at it, have never been helped with it, or have a diagnosis that prevents them from learning at their grade level, children in foster care usually come with a "school stinks" attitude. Building their confidence is the key to their success. When a three-year-old boy came into our home

and stated, "I hate school," we knew we had a problem. Not only was he so far behind in school, he continually heard his older brothers say "I hate school," therefore his mind was made up. We started by rephrasing his negative mantras. Anytime we heard him say "I hate school," we immediately made him say "I love school." In the last year we have seen him change to a boy who truly loves school. My husband and I



have slowly learned what it looks like to advocate for our foster children within the school system. There are many things to learn as an advocate and many relationships to build. We, as foster parents, can provide great educational success by building our children's confidence and helping them have a more positive outlook on school. When it comes to school, foster parents are one hundred percent their children's advocate.

Hearts for Service

A group of 4 families faced a rain/snow mix while raking leaves at the High Pointe House on a Sunday in November.

West Side Christian Church Life Group comprised of the **Alexander, Wozniak, Chandler, and Fitzgibbon families** said that the blustery weather was not about to



deter their mission: "We made a promise to help the Peterson family with yard clean-up. We were going to keep our promise." Thank you, Life Group, for your servant hearts!

If your group would like to help one of our TJP families, please contact us at: (217) 546-



3532. There are many tangible ways you can impact the lives of fostering families!

Our Neighbors

While you may not live near one of The James Project homes, you can become a Neighbor just the same, with a \$1000 donation or more. We humbly thank the following supporters for being a part of our Neighborhood:

2014 Neighbors

Blake & Julia Anderson

Larry & Sherri Barry

Robert & Donna Biggs

Rob & Lisa Burris

Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln: Germeraad Family Fund, Lisa & Steven Stone Family Fund, Michael & Sandy Barker Family, Schultz Family Fund

Bruce & Bethanie Drake

James & Marilyn Eastman

First United Methodist Church

Len & Karen Giannone

Nilesh & Monica Goswami

Green Family Charitable Foundation

Mark W. Groesch Family Foundation

Jason & Jacquelyn Ground

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Hope Presbyterian Church

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Curt & Debra Trampe

Russ & Jan Williams

Eric & Terri Woolbright

2015 Neighbors

Rob & Lisa Burris

Capestrain –Tracy Family Fund of the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln

Jacquelyn Ground / Macy's

Mark W. Groesch Family Foundation

John Gauer Merrihew

Russ & Jan Williams

Friends of the Ministry

We are grateful for the following churches, individuals, businesses, and groups who supported TJP in a variety of ways in recent months:

Bemco Mattress

Bank of Springfield

Café Moxo

Central Baptist Church

DreamMakers Kitchen & Bath

P.J. Diss

Terri Enno

Jason Fletcher

Kari Gardiner

Lu Ann Groesch

Jennifer Hardwick

Henry's Appliance Service

Kyle Killebrew Group, Inc.

Laurel Methodist

Dr. Jack Luker

Kathy Lutkehus

Magnolia Lane

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Parkway Christian Church

Paul Paoni

Justin, Andrea & Marissa Perry

Mark Peters

Dave and Audrey Rawlins

Ruby's Jr. High Girls from WSCC

SCS Students

Springfield Clinic

Randy & Maryann Sutterland

Tailored Printing

Brandee Toliver

Curtis Tillet & Rita Victor, Realtors



Brandi Tolley & Sarah Homeier with Bemco Mattress donors Michele and Greg Buyan

United Trust Group

Matthew Vespa

West Side C.C. TNT Class

West Side C.C. High School Youth Group

Memorial Donations

The following donors have made contributions to TJP to honor an individual, creating a lasting legacy:

In Memory of Mark W. Groesch:

Gary & Paula Borah

Rob & Lisa Burris

Ron & Jan Michaelson

Jordan Williams & Kate Dunne

Russ & Jan Williams

In Memory of Helen Englehard:

Marian Allan

M.D. and P.A. Archer

Kathleen Byrne

Mike & Gail Dingerson

Linda Dunne

Meg Dunne

Cindy Frisch

Trish & Greg Gerber

Don & Marybeth Granholm

Conni Pocus

Jordan William & Kate Dunne

Russ & Jan Williams

Church Partnerships

The James Project is grateful for many area churches that help us sustain the ministry. **Cherry Hills Baptist Church** and **Lakeside**

Christian Church have entered into partnership with us, giving regular financial support throughout the year. This type of partnership is such a

blessing as we plan for the future. If your church would like to partner with TJP, please contact us at: (217) 546-3532.

Year in Review: 2014 *by Jan Williams, The James Project Co-Director*

2014 will be remembered as "The Year The James Project Bloomed." We experienced financial growth and more visibility in the community this year, which was an explosion of blessings!

In January, the Lundberg family moved into the Hawthorne Place home with three young foster sons. In the spring, they were able to take the two younger brothers of the original three. These five continue to thrive with Julie and Brian. In the fall they added a sweet teenage girl to their family, making six children in their home going into 2015.

In early March, our first TJP family, the Peterson's, made the decision to foster a 16-year-old girl with her two-month-old baby. We are thrilled that the story has such a happy ending, as the situation is working out very well, and both mom and son are thriving. The Petersons now have six children in their home.

On July 23, TJP Treasurer Rose Haas wrote the check to pay off the mortgage on the Hawthorne Place house, thanks to a gift from TJP Angels M.G. and Donna Nelson.



The Teen Home became a reality in November when we located and purchased a great house for this specific purpose. Our real estate advisor, Kyle Killebrew, arranged for the home inspection and then paid for all of the needed repairs himself...yet another TJP Angel! We closed on the Teen Home on December 29, with a gift of the down payment provided by M.G. and Donna Nelson. The Teen Home already has two teens living there and the mortgage has been reduced by 75%.

Our first two homes served a total of

19 children this year, some for just a short time until family members were able to care for them. It is always a difficult transition when a child leaves one of our homes as the foster parents treasure them as one of their own.

Closet 1:27 continues to bless many foster families in the area. Last year we served 85 children and their families. Our Closet 1:27 Manager Brandi Tolley continues to run a well organized and well functioning service.

The Call 1:27 branch of The James Project has recruited and mentored 12 new couples this year. It is not unusual for TJP to get a call from the State or from individuals aware of urgent needs, who ask for help with placing children. Sarah Homeier fields these calls and has had success in helping place children in good, safe homes.

We thank God for all of these blessings, for as we read in James 1:7 "Every good gift bestowed, every perfect gift received comes to us from above, courtesy of the Father of lights."



the james project

...homes and support for fostering families...

3201 Old Jacksonville Road
Springfield, IL 62711
217.546.3532

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Jan Williams	Russ Williams

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Sarah Chandler, Newsletter

www.TheJamesProject127.com
info@thejamesproject.com

Like us on 

The Power of a Donut



We love our TJP volunteers because they go the extra mile for foster families. One of our Super Volunteers, Mark Peters, continually does fabulous things for us and is very generous with his time and energy. He recently brought a family donuts on a Saturday morning when he delivered a new mattress to their home. The family was so surprised by the sweet treat and so grateful for the mattress!

Save the Date for Box Lunches

Box Lunches to benefit TJP will be featured at two Springfield churches in April and May. Central Baptist Church will host their Box Lunch Sunday on April 26th and Cherry Hills Baptist will follow on May 17th. Pre-sales for the lunches will happen two Sundays prior to the event. TJP partners with local business **Café Moxo** who creates the delicious box lunch,

featuring a gourmet sandwich, pasta salad, chips, and a scrumptious cookie.

We are still in need of volunteers to help coordinate the box lunch program. If you are interested, please contact us at (217) 546-3532.

Shop AmazonSmile to Benefit TJP

For those of you who are regular Amazon.com customers, take note: Your purchases can now earn money for The James Project! We recently joined a rewards program offered by Amazon called **Amazon Smile**. Instead of visiting Amazon.com, log onto smile.amazon.com and you will be asked to choose your charitable recipient. Among the list of James Project organizations listed, you will want to select James Project, Inc in Pawnee, Illinois, as that was our address when we became an organization. The James Project will then appear at the top of the page as your chosen charity. Almost everything you are able to order from Amazon is available

on AmazonSmile, so we hope this will be a part of your regular on-line ordering. For every dollar you spend, 0.5% will be donated to TJP. While this may not seem like a lot, every dollar directly goes toward helping more fostering families.

