



the james project journal

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

APRIL 2016

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.



the james project
homes and support for fostering families.

Have faith in Him in all circumstances, dear people. Open up your heart to Him; the True God shelters us in His arms.

-Psalms 62:8



Adopt-A-Room Success

We praise God for the many people who have given of their time and resources to "spruce up" our newest James Project house. They worked tirelessly stripping wallpaper, painting, laying flooring and carpet, hanging curtains, cleaning, remodeling the kitchen, landscaping, setting up rooms, and many other time-consuming chores. Our friends at DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen also added a much needed bathroom. We are so grateful for the kind hearts and generosity which inspired these volunteers to bless The James Project and the family that will come to call this house a home.

Thank you incredible volunteers!!

Brandi & Bella Tolley
Kathy Lutkehus
Sue Cozzens
Wanda Tracy
Nadine Neumeister
Terri Woolbright
Eric Woolbright
Jean McCollum
Lori Federking
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Central Baptist Church Life Group:
Jen Dowell, Paige Martin, Manda Wappel, Stefanie Munos, Jamie Brandenburg, Emily Sabo, Josh Sabo, Mason Wickham, Kinkade Enterprises
Cherry Hills Baptist Church Life Group
Lakeside Christian Church Small Group

Cory Alger helps lay tile

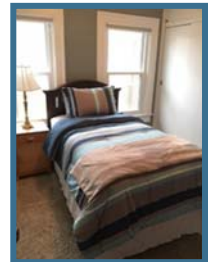


Gary Borah lends a hand with painting



Brandi & Bella Tolley design with style!

Brad Milliman & Eric Woolbright make a great team



Terri Woolbright, Lucy Jensen, Mary Brewer, Jean Collum, and Lori Federking worked together to make this child's room shine



Teen Home *By Foster Dad: Darius Howse*



Teenagers in foster care go through some difficult experiences due to the disruption of their family. That disruption causes a significant change in their lives. One thing I have observed

with the teenagers I have cared for through fostering is the importance of a father.

A father provides a model to a son of what a responsible male adult should be. A father is also able to provide an example to a daughter of how she should be treated. Most of the time, a teenager in foster care has not been able to have that connection to a father. I feel blessed for the opportunity to be a father to so many different children through fostering.

A foster father provides validation to a teenager at a time when it is most

critical. I tell the teenagers I care for that I cannot fathom what they have experienced. I just offer support, provide insight, and allow them space when they need it. A father figure acts as a role model and provides affirmation to a teenager on his/her path to adulthood. Teenagers need to know that they are accepted as they are. With enough support, a foster father is able to assist teenagers with overcoming that disruption on their path to adulthood.

Friend of the TJP Family

While there are so many opportunities available to help members of the community around the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, First United Methodist Church wanted to embrace the act of selfless giving throughout the entire year.

Friend of the Family ministry was created to fill this long-standing need. Currently, Friend of the Family provides support for two organizations - The James Project, and

Beerlahai Roi Women's Ministries. Coordinator Stephanie Sapetti is working closely with the foster mom in our Teen Home. Together, they identify specific events/items in which gifts could be purchased to help the foster parents financially throughout the year.

Stephanie said, "In addition to birthdays and Christmas, we intend to provide support by helping purchase Bibles at Easter, providing an Easter meal, Knight's

Action Park passes, school supplies, Thanksgiving dinner, and winter wear for the kids—just to name a few."

The James Project is thrilled to have this love shown to our Teen Home and is grateful for the partnership of First United Methodist Church. To learn more about the Friend of the Family ministry, please contact Stephanie at: ssapetti@yahoo.com



The Lundberg boys on Adoption Day!



A Happy Ending *By Julie Lundberg, Adoptive Mom*

The best way I can describe adoption is the exact way it feels when we have been adopted into Christ's family. He accepts us just as we are. We come to Him almost unexpectedly. Sometimes in the middle of the night, sometimes as babies, sometimes as older children or adults. Foster care is just that—accepting and loving these children right where they are. Loving them unconditionally. Saying "yes" no matter the day or time they are placed in our lives. Being faithful even when times get hard, even when sin is the mask we wear to hide the glorious plans God has for us. Adoption reminds us that we are wanted, we are loved, and we are redeemed. Adoption gives us a fresh start.

5K Hoagland Memorial Run Benefiting TJP

Sabrina Hoagland is a young lady who experienced significant heartache at the tender age of 12. Her Grandma Diann was killed in 2010 by a burglar, and her Grandpa Butch died of cancer just before Christmas in 2014. She was very close to both of them.

In the aftermath of these losses, Sabrina wanted to do something not only to keep their memory alive but also to change the narrative from sadness to hope. Hope came in the fall of 2015 when Sabrina organized the first annual Diann and Butch Hoagland Memorial Run. It

is a 5K run/walk which benefits a local charity of Sabrina's choosing, and also has a \$250 scholarship drawing for kids between the ages of 14-19. The James Project is humbled and touched to be named as the beneficiary of this year's event, which honors two loving and generous people.

The run/walk is scheduled for July 30th at 8am in Union Park (a.k.a East Park) in Auburn, Illinois. The course is mostly flat and starts and finishes at Union Park.

There is also a kid's fun run which will take place immediately following the completion



of the 5K. Registration for adults is \$25 before July 23, and \$30 after. Kids ages 2-10 are \$10. T-shirts will be guaranteed to early registering race participants and refreshments are provided the day of the race. To register or volunteer, please contact Sabrina Hoagland at: Sabrina.Hoagland57@gmail.com We look forward to seeing you at the run!

Blessings on State



Gwenn and Glenn own Blessings on State—a beautiful bed & breakfast in Jacksonville, Illinois. As each of their 5 children were adopted

through the child welfare system, their family wants to support The James Project through purchasing beds and other supplies for children and youth in foster care. These incredible innkeepers have invited each of their guests to join them

In our November newsletter, we featured the story of a young author named Valerie who had written a book about child abuse entitled "Why Did We Have to Say Goodbye?" Her adoptive parents

in the effort. With a \$100 check to TJP, they will receive \$50 off their next stay. When a \$140 donation is made, a complimentary Deneen Pottery mug will be added. Such a partnership warms our hearts and we extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to Blessings on State. To learn more about the B&B, please visit their website at: www.blessingsonstate.com



A Pile of Pillows!

Sunday, April 3, the congregation at Lakeside Christian Church held a "Pillow Drive" for Closet 1:27. Their incredible creativity led to 152 pillows being collected! We were overwhelmed with joy as they delivered this huge and generous gift to us. This picture shows only a portion of the "loot!" For a newly placed foster child to receive a brand new pillow makes everyone happy! If your business, organization or church has an idea for a "drive" or would like to host one for The James Project, please feel free to contact our office at (217) 546-3532.



Closet 1:27: A Cornerstone of TJP



Shampoo, lotion, and body wash are just a few of the essential items foster children need when placed with a new foster family.

Closet 1:27 has changed tremendously in its 4 year history. As a ministry which began from dozens of tubs of clothing in Sarah Homeier's attic, it has grown and evolved into a warehouse of items that are provided to foster children in need. To date, over 300 children and their families have been helped through Closet 1:27, with 130 of those children just in 2015. We have big plans for the future and

hope you will support us in this endeavor! Foster children have already experienced so much heartache when they arrive at a new foster home. It is for this reason we want to give them items that are in **perfect condition** to show just how much The James Project treasures them. We have learned the value of giving new underwear, new socks, and gift cards for shoes to a foster child and we want to do the same with clothing as well. Central Baptist Church will accept **new or like-new clothing** donations

during their regular business hours. This is a large task for Central Baptist and we appreciate their willingness to support TJP in this way. We will continue posting updates on our Facebook page as well. Thank you for providing the best for the foster children of Sangamon County!



We could not agree more with this statement! While we are not all called to become a foster parent, we are called to do what we can— And we can all do something!

We ♥ Closet 1:27 *Testimonial from Dee Lazarus*

I recently learned about The James Project through Rutledge Youth Foundation. I am a fairly new foster parent and was in need of help for a child placed in my home. My foster daughter is 10 years-old and she needed clothing as well as a bed. Our case worker contacted The James Project for help. I received a phone call soon after and delivery was scheduled for the next morning. The bed was

set up for us and made with new linens and a new pillow too! My foster child went from sleeping on an air mattress on the floor to having her own bed, clothing, and toiletries all provided by this wonderful charity. Thanks to The James Project, we were able to get settled in nicely and spend time together fixing up her room which caused great excitement for her. Thank you, James Project, for all you do

to support foster families and their children. We will pay it forward!

Sincerely,
Dee Lazarus



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:

2016 Neighbors:

Tom and June Harmon

2015 Neighbors:

Blake Anderson
 Bank of Springfield Charity Event
 Larry and Sherri Barry
 Marianne Bartholomew*
 Gary and Paula Borah
 Rob and Lisa Burris
 Ray and Anne Capestrain
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 Cherry Hills Baptist Church*
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 DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen*
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 Al and Sandy Stevens
 Mike and Susan Sunley

Curt and Debra Trampe
 Neville and Cheryl White
 Russ and Jan Williams*
 Eric and Terry Woolbright*

(*denotes giving of \$5,000 or more)

Make donations via **Paypal**, at: www.TheJamesProject127.com

Mail checks to:
 The James Project
 907 Clocktower Drive
 Springfield, IL 62704



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 | Kyle Killebrew Group, Inc. |
| Bank of Springfield | Patrick and Diane McCormick |
| Sherri Barry | Tracy Paulsen |
| Café Moxo | Justin, Andrea & Marissa Perry |
| Central Baptist Church | Mark Peters |
| Cherry Hills Baptist Young Adults | Randy & Maryann Sutterland |
| Amanda Davis | Tailored Printing |
| Friend of the Family | Curtis Tillet & Rita Victor, Realtors |
| Lu Ann Groesch | Underfanger Moving |
| Hope Presbyterian Church | United Trust Group |
| Kathy Lutkehus | |



the james project

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

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New Web Site...Coming Soon!

Our current web site will be redesigned, revamped, and reworked by a local web design company and we are super excited! We'll announce when the transformation is complete on Facebook so please stay tuned!

Kids Helping Kids



We are always delighted and inspired by the Junior TJP Angels who use their birthday celebrations to raise funds for foster children. Emma Best recently raised \$180 when she asked her party guests to bring a donation to her

birthday instead of a gift for her. She sent the donation to us with a handmade thank you note to TJP. We only have one word—Precious! Thank you, Emma, for showing love to the least of these.

Evan House celebrated his 8th birthday and party guests brought a variety of items to give to TJP, including gift cards, kid items and cash donations. Evan delivered the items to our office with a

big smile on his face and warmth in his heart. Thank you Evan, for sharing your special day with TJP!

