

# Agape Strong

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## Blessings – Summer 2015

*While I had thought the previous months were amazing, the past few months have been even more filled with continued blessings!! The continued outpour of support provided Agape over this past year has been amazing, and increased even more during the first half of 2015.*

*On the horizon is our 'Agape Strong-Giving Hope for Tomorrow' fundraiser. 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. Since this past March, I have sent out Sponsorship letters announcing the 'Agape Strong'-Giving Hope for Tomorrow Gala' and the opportunity to become a Sponsor of this fundraising event. To date, we have already doubled the financial Sponsorships from last year's Gala...**a definite blessing!!**, and we are still weeks away from this event!! You will join Anthem, PNC, Petra Wealth Partners/Ameriprise, WesBanco, Matt Scarr, CPA, Joseph Airport Toyota, CareSource, Vectren, and The Ohio State University (to name just a few) who are supporting the building of Agape's Youth and Family Fund. If you are interested in becoming a Sponsor or know of individuals or businesses that would be interested in joining us in support*

*of this event, have them contact me at Agape!!!*

*We have a tradition here at Agape that has become...'**a great blessing**' here! It is referred to as "three thank-you Friday"! Before we leave on Friday we have made the commitment to have called or written three people 'thanking' them for something they had done during the past week. This is followed by an Agape 'group' email where we share with each other who we thanked!! It never fails that regardless of one's week, reading 'three thank you Friday's' and experiencing these shared blessings being a great way to begin the weekend!*

*With this tradition in mind, it's time to pass on "**three thank-you's**"! Thanks go out to:*

***Agape's Board of Directors**-for your support and encouragement which seems to grow stronger by the day. Your collective knowledge and talents continue to make us even stronger!*

***Agape's co-workers, foster families, adoptive families, and reunification families:** For your steadfast commitment to serve the youth and families entrusted to our care, beyond their behaviors, beyond their challenges, and doing this always*

*centered on the goal of 'serving with excellence'.*

**Agape's Sponsors and Donors:**  
*For not only your financial support, also for your belief in Agape's mission of serving. You have added still another 'voice' of support, encouragement, and admiration for our work with youth and families.*

*Three thank you Friday... it that simple?...just thank people and everything will be great? While I wish it was, actually....No it is not! It is just one of the "intentionally different" 'ways of this amazing culture we have built together. Agape's Board, Leadership, and Co-workers have come together, being genuine and transparent in their unified support of the mission and vision of Agape, and the support of one another; promoting this commitment within community, and to the youth and families we are entrusted to serve.*

*Passion 'embraced', commitment 'driven', successful 'results'...together we make...."AGAPE STRONG"!*

*Be safe*





## Dear Agape Families

Welcome to summer everyone, I know it does not feel like it just yet and yes, we have had a ton of rain but summer is here and the excitement is very high at Agape for Youth. We have already had our families out for the Dragons game and the youth have played laser tag and painted pottery with several more events to come. We are so excited about our upcoming move to a much larger building and believe that we will be better able to serve all of you and the community as well when we settle into our new home.

We have also experienced some staff changes as we had to say good-bye to Carmella after 9 years of service but we are thrilled that Nicole has agreed to slide into that Licensing and Training position.

We completed 20 adoptions this year which is fantastic and as a result of your commitment to children and all of these adoptions we have created another part time position in adoption/licensing which Andrea has filled. This left room to hire two new workers so I hope all of you will give a huge welcome to Ashtyn and Abbie. We are thrilled to have them as a part of our team. Not only have they instantly fit in to the culture of the agency but they have stepped up to learn their roles quickly and to take on additional tasks. It is evident that they are going to provide great care to the families that they are assigned too. Our final new employee is Barb (my beautiful wife) who has agreed to take over the operation of the Community Blessings room as Sharon has moved on after many years. We are excited to have Barb and she can't wait to move into our new space which will provide more room for all of the products that go to support our families.

These are indeed exciting times at Agape for youth. Please know our entire staff is working diligently to continuously improve our services and to find new ways to support all of you who are on the front line taking care of the children. 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

Summer is here and school is out! I hope everyone is enjoying the reprieve from school. We had a successful 2014-2015 school year. We were able to hand out 30+ McDonald's gift cards for the first three quarters of the school year for youth who achieved academic grades of C's and above, which includes our Honor Roll youth.

We celebrated the end of the academic year with a Good Grades Party. This is for youth who have shown academic excellence (C's and above) throughout the school year, and for youth who have shown great improvements with their academics as the school year progressed. We were able to spend time celebrating by going to see the new Pixar movie: Inside Out.

We were able to host four Tutoring Night events here at Agape. With the help of Stiver's School of the Arts National Honors Society seniors and Nick Kauffman, an Agape foster parent, as they volunteered their time to provide tutoring for our youth. That provided six and a half hours of tutoring to youth who just need a little bit of extra help here and there. We plan to start having many more of these Tutoring Nights when school resumes this fall. We had at least three youth attend each Tutoring Night, and hope to see that number grow next school year. Tutoring Nights are available for all school-aged youth.

We here at Agape continue to appreciate all of you Foster Parents who work with their youth every day with their schoolwork and homework, advocating for their academic needs. We appreciate the efforts that you put forth to better their education and schooling experience and help our youth strive for academic excellence. Encourage your youth to read and engage in academic related activities over the summer. Check your local library to see if there is a summer reading program that your youth can participate in. We can make a difference in our youths' lives and their academic futures.

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 at [nclark@agapeforyouth.com](mailto:nclark@agapeforyouth.com) or by phone at 937-439-4406 x 34.

Submitted by Nicole Clark, Licensing & Training Coordinator/Education Coordinator



***"We continue our search for tutors for all grade levels and all subjects"***

## Adoption Corner

Jillian is a very energetic and smart six year old little girl. Jillian loves being the center of attention. She likes to get dirty outside and jump on the trampoline, but also enjoys being a “girly” girl. Jillian is a very good eater and especially loves desserts and candy. She likes most foods and loves to bake, especially cookies. In school, she does very well in academics and especially likes science, but has some issues with paying attention. Jillian needs to be in a family where she is the only child and preferably with both a mother and a father. Some things that Jillian would like in a nice family would be a dog, trips to the park where she can look for things and animals in nature, and a family that will color with her and take her to swim. She would like to participate in either gymnastics or cheerleading. Jillian also desires to stay friends with her foster family. If you are interested in hearing or learning more about Jillian please contact Kelly Conroy at Geauga County Job and Family Services at 440-295-9141.

Contributed by

Bridget Sheets  
Adoption Coordinator



## Recruitment Roundtable

Agape for Youth continues to try new things in the realm of Recruitment. Earlier this year we were excited to participate in a three month radio campaign with Nancy Wilson and K99.1. In May we have embarked on a one year campaign with the movie theater at the Green in Beavercreek. We will have an advertisement before every showing of every movie at the green between May 1st 2015 and April 30th of 2016. We are truly trying to think out of the box to find more families willing to open their home to children.

As an adoption agency Agape for Youth loses more families than agencies who simply provide foster care services. It is vital for us

to always have new parents joining our team. As we seek to find new ways to market to families we will continue to build on some of our current practices.

We really do need ALL of you to promote the success that we are experiencing here at Agape and encourage people you know to consider fostering children.

While the numbers are not final just yet, I trust we will have said no to over 800 children over the past year because we did not have the families to serve them. Every one of those kids has to live somewhere so I say why not with an Agape family where they will receive quality case management services and wonderful parenting. You

can help us meet our need for new parents by making referrals.

Last quarter Ms. Amber Love won our quarterly recruiting contest and this quarter Chris and Nikki Dabney have won for the second time this year. They referred two new families so we want to thank them for their continued promotion of the work that we are accomplishing here at Agape. As a result of winning our quarterly contest they receive a \$100.00 gift card. You can earn your chance to win a gift card simply by referring friends and family to explore being a foster parent.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the children and families we serve.

Contributed by Rodger

*“We really do need ALL of you to promote the success that we are experiencing here at Agape and encourage people you know to consider fostering children.”*



## Upcoming Training Opportunities

Happy Summer!

As many of you may now know, I am the new Licensing Specialist/Training Coordinator here at Agape for Youth, Inc. I am happy to step into this position at Agape. The summer training calendar has come out, and we have some great trainers who will be coming into Agape throughout these next three months. As always, if you are planning to attend training, contact Val Baker at ext.13 to register.

As we move forward with getting ready to plan out our training calendar next year, I want to ask for a favor. If there are training topics that you feel that would best help your understanding of foster care or youth placed in your care, I would love to know. Feel free to share with your workers as they come out to your homes regarding topics that would appeal to you. Of course, anyone is welcome to contact me directly, as well, with suggestions of topics or even with trainers that you have greatly enjoyed in the past. We appreciate your time and effort into exploring and attending these trainings.

### Highlight:

On August 1st, there has been a change from the calendar regarding the training on that date.

We will now be having training with Jayne Schooler. Unlike the initially scheduled Mental Health First Aid for Youth training, this will be the normal 9:00am-4:00pm training.

This training will discuss ways to stay calm during a crisis with a foster youth, as well as techniques to use to de-escalate a foster youth. If you plan to attend this new training, please register with Val Baker, ext. 13.

Secondly, if anyone continues to show an interest in Mental Health First Aid for Youth and want to receive this training and certificate that comes along with it, please contact me.

The ADAMH's Board is able to provide this training to the community. They have a scheduled training on this topic set for August 7, 2015. This training will be from 8:00am-5:00pm. If interested, contact me at ext. 34 to be able to register you for that training and receive more information regarding the location of the training. Although this makes for a long day, it will highlight and benefit many foster parents and staff to feel better equipped to assist our youth in times of crisis.

Contributed by:

Nicole Clark, LSW  
Licensing Specialist/Training Coordinator

937-439-4406 ext.34  
nclark@agapeforyouth.com

August 1st, Training  
Calendar Change:

Jayne Schooler

9:00AM – 4:00PM  
Agape for Youth, Inc.  
office

“If there are training topics that you feel that would best help your understanding of foster care or youth placed in your care, I would love to know.”

## Agape for Youth, Inc. is Moving!

By now all of you are aware that Agape is relocating our office at the end of August. We have leased space at 2300 Edwin C. Moses Blvd.

“We are beyond excited with this new journey for Agape! We believe this will bring added opportunities to serve youth and families, and build upon the great relationships we have established in the Greater Dayton area. This move will allow us to take advantage of nearly doubling the size of our offices and adding new programs and services that will be available to the community” said Steve Geib, Executive Director/Founder of Agape.

We invite you to watch our website at <http://www.agapeforyouth.com> for updates related to the move.

## AYC – Agape Youth Council

*This summer, the AYC has been so active! Last meeting, we decided to go to Magic Castle for Putt-Putt and games! Afterwards, we enjoyed a nice pizza dinner and socializing. In July members of AYC painted pottery in support our Agape Strong Fundraiser. The pieces will be coffee mug/saucer sets or dinner plates, available for purchase during the auction portion of the August 21 Fundraising Event Agape Strong – Giving Hope for Tomorrow. In a couple of months, we'll be participating in a community service event for the Air Force Marathon, where we will be earning monies for our council. In between all of summer fun activities, we have been learning independent living skills and making new friends.*

*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*

### Remaining AYC Schedule

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**



## ***Focus on the Rules***

ODJFS spells out what is considered a safe environment for children. The following is abbreviated Site and Safety rules.

Site and Safety Requirements for a Foster Home

A foster home shall be maintained in a clean, safe, and sanitary condition and outdoor recreation equipment on the grounds shall be in a reasonable state of repair. Hazardous areas reasonably safeguarded.

Weapons shall be stored in an inoperative condition in a locked area inaccessible to children.

A foster home shall have a working telephone or reasonable access. Emergency telephone numbers including fire, police, ambulance, poison control, the recommending agency shall be posted.

All locks to any room or storage area inside a foster home in which a person could become confined, shall be able to be unlocked from either side

A foster home shall have a continuous supply of safe drinking water and a working bathroom located within the home. Garbage shall be disposed of on a regular basis.

A foster home shall have a working smoke alarm approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory" on each level and have a written evacuation plan.

All escape routes shall be kept free of obstructions.

Household heating equipment shall have safeguards

Unvented kerosene heaters may be used, if approved by "Underwriter's Laboratory," and are not prohibited by ordinances.

A foster home shall have a fire extinguisher in working order in or near the cooking area.

Pets shall be kept in a safe and sanitary manner in accordance with laws. A foster child shall be protected from animals potentially dangerous.

Stairways accessible to children shall be protected by child safety gates or doors according to the child's age.

A foster home shall provide a smoke free environment.

Help us keep kid safe.

Contributed by Bruce Bridges, Licensing & Compliance/Intake Supervisor

Agape



2621 Dryden Road, Suite 202  
Dayton, OH 45439

PHONE:  
(937) 439-4406

FAX:  
(937) 439-2908

E-MAIL:  
sgeib2@agapeforyouth.com

Find us online at:  
[www.agapeforyouth.com](http://www.agapeforyouth.com)

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### Meet Our Board of Directors

We are excited to introduce you to Allyn Conway, of ACG, Inc.

Allyn joined the Agape for Youth, Inc. Board of Directors in August of 2014.

Allyn is a graduate of the University Of Miami, FL and majoring in Political Science. He is the owner of ACG, a local company that specializes in in-house and cloud-based accounting and payroll/HR/timekeeping systems.

Allyn has lived in the Dayton for the majority of his life, and is dedicated to our local community; an active member of Dayton Rotary, a member of the Golf committee for the Humane Society of Greater Dayton and is the Chair Elect and Treasurer for Prevent Blindness. His previous board experience includes Choices and the Sage Leadership Academy.

In his spare time Allyn enjoys playing golf, jazz music, Sudoku and cooking.

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

Did you know Agape foster families, former youth who were in care at Agape, as well as the families we serve in Reunification Services can come and visit the Community Blessings Room and receive donations free of charge? Call 937-439-4406 and make an appointment with your Agape Specialist to visit this room and get the items needed in caring or the children that are in your home.