



AGAPE STRONG

August 2013 NEWSLETTER

“AGAPE STRONG - Hide Not Your Talents!”

Agape’s year just ended!!!!.....and what an amazing year it has been!!! It has been a huge blessing to serve alongside a great board, a great staff, and foster/adoptive families that are so very dedicated to serving those entrusted to our collective care.

The following are excerpts from Agape’s 2012-2013 annual report:

Agape’s vision of “serving families, youth and one another with excellence” has been resurrected during this past year to a level beyond anytime I can recall as a founder of this Agency. Like other non-profits over the past years we experienced our share of both financial and culture shifts that have at times been so consuming they had distracted from our mission. However through the guidance and support of dedicated Staff, a dedicated Board of Directors, and our Community of believers we up righted our ‘ship, set our sails, and have navigated our way into an amazing sea of opportunity’.

Our commitment to ensuring that every family and child receives “positive, professional and progressive” services has enabled us to turn the corner from risk to resiliency and develop a solid action plan leading those we are entrusted to serve from adversity to opportunity.

Excellence is never an accident; it’s always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction and skillful execution and represents making wise choices between the many alternatives presented. Further, excellence is never cheap, never easy, yet nothing of value ever is.

A wise coach, a consultant, and yes, even a President, and a Vice President, along with very special ‘others’ came together this past year and almost simultaneously both challenged and inspired me in once again believing that more times than not the ‘answers’ within us, ‘even sometimes right in front of us’; that we just need to be still long enough for the ‘answers’ to become evident.

We now take great pride in sharing ‘it’s a good day at Agape!’ While the future appears bright, even sunny, I may still get asked, “is the sun always shining like this for Agape?” My response has returned to “no, at Agape we still realize that at times it does rain, even storms, however ‘together’ we will choose to look for the rainbows.”

Work to make today great, and tomorrow even greater!

Steve

Dear Agape Family,

SWOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH!!!! And just like that a whole year has gone by. I know it is hard to believe but on July 30th I hit my anniversary date marking the completion of my first year with Agape as the Foster Care Supervisor, and what a year it has been. We have seen amazing things accomplished this year with new homes being licensed, children being adopted, reunifications continuing at a high rate, families hanging in there with really difficult youth, others stepping in during a crises to pick up the pieces and on and on. Yes, great things are taking place in your homes. I am so proud of the work that our foster families and our foster care staff are achieving together. There is still more work to be done and I still have goals to achieve but we are pushing on to a new year. I had hoped to meet each and every one of you over the course of my first year and while I was not able to reach that goal, I have been in over half of your homes, met many of you in training, have participated with several more of our families in meetings at county agencies, and have spoken with most of you by phone for one reason or another.

As I continue to get to know each of our families I can't help but be impressed with your commitment to the youth that we serve, your overall understanding of the system we work in, and the support you have given to Agape and to families in general. Please remember that our annual Foster Parent meeting is coming up on Tuesday August 27th at either 10:00 a.m. or 6:30p.m. You only need to attend one of the sessions but it is vital that you do plan to attend this meeting. Please notify your worker or call Val Baker at ext. 13 to confirm which class you will attend. We will serve lunch after the morning session and dinner before the evening session so be prepared to stay a little longer after the morning session or come a little early before the evening session.

Also, we are having a fantastic recruiting contest from which you can earn a cool \$400.00 dollars (maybe more) and have the opportunity to win a 50" flat screen TV. All you have to do is promote the agency and help us recruit new families by sending us referrals. I hope you will join in this amazing contest and help us to add resource families who may be able to take new children.

I want to take a minute to thank each of you for your service, your commitment, your loyalty, and your patience adjusting to new staff and new leadership over the course of the last year. You are making a difference and the lives of so many children are brighter today because of you. If you have any questions or concerns or if you simply want to talk about the support you are receiving from our staff I would love to hear from you. The more I hear about the work being done in the field the better I am able to help our staff grow stronger. You may reach me at 439-4406 ext. 37 or email me at rstauffer@agapeforyouth.com

Sincerely,

Rodger

Focus on the Rules

Training, training and yes more training is the requirement of foster care licensure. ODJFS requires sixty hours of training every two years that foster parents have a license. For some families this training is essential to learn new skills to manage behaviors and to cope with the emotional volatility of children in care. For other foster parents training is simply 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 your CPR/First Aid cards or call 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 has a busy schedule, 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. Effective: 03/01/2010

Bruce, Bridget, Val and Carmella

EDUCATION UPDATE

Wow it is hard to believe that it is time for our youth to begin school again!

Once again Agape is proud to be able to alleviate some of the back to school stress by providing backpacks and supplies to our foster and reunification homes!!

During the summer we were able to celebrate with our youth that completed the 2012-2013 school year with all C's and above. We spent a great day together eating pizza, making sundaes and watching Wreck it Ralph. We are so proud of all of the hard work these youth are putting in during the school year.

As the 2013-2014 school year begins, we would like to remind our foster parents that we provide tutoring services for our youth that may be struggling in their classes. If you have a youth that is struggling please contact your Youth Specialist or contact me directly at 937-439-4406 ext. 18 or at tpurvis@agapeforyouth.com

Tara

ADOPTION CORNER

In this edition of the "Agape Strong" newsletter we are celebrating the adoption of a sibling group of four. On July 26th of this year, foster parent Delores W. finalized the adoption of her foster children- a sibling group of four. For the past three years Ms. Delores has been fostering for Agape. This sibling group was the first placement for Delores. As Delores says so well – “these children have my heart!” Being Committed as well as being attached to the children helped Delores decide that the children needed to become part of her family permanently. Nevaeh, Christian, Leanna and Breanna couldn’t be happier. Congratulations to this wonderful family!

Bridget, Adoption Coordinator



Foster Parent Spotlight

Amtul Nur, an experienced foster parent, began fostering with Agape for Youth, Inc. in February 2004. Mrs. Nur has always provided foster care to boys with more difficult behavioral issues and has done it well. Once a youth comes through her front door they become her family or as she puts it, “They are my boys”.

She works very hard to help her boys find success and self-esteem, even when they are acting out and being destructive. Mrs. Nur advocates for her youth and provided them with a variety of life experiences so they will be more prepared for the world.

When asked how she can cope with such difficult placements, she says, “It’s not about me, it’s about these hurt and damaged little souls that need to be loved back to wellness. I get far more from them than I give”. There are a number of boys who stay in touch with her even after they have moved on to other phases of their lives. Mrs. Nur has shown much dedication and commitment throughout the years and “Her boys” are all the better for it.

We want to thank you Mrs. Nur for making a difference in the lives of the children in our community.

Danelia, Youth Specialist



UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

August 27, 2013 10am-12pm or 6:30pm -8:30pm “MANDATORY” Foster Parent Meeting

This meeting will include one hour of training credit. We require that at least one foster parent from each household attend, and we have provided two times slots in our effort to accommodate schedules. The purpose of the meeting is to keep foster parents current with policies and rules of both the Agape for Youth, Inc. as well as ODJFS.

September 7, 2013 9am-3:30pm – Infant, Child, Adult CPR and 1st Aid

(This training is held at OPES Training Facility 125 Heid Avenue-1st floor, Dayton, OH 45404)

This course trains individuals to recognize and care for breathing and cardiac emergencies, as well as other common injuries. This training will help individuals overcome reluctance to act in emergency situations.

September 14, 2013 9am-12pm – Teen Scene

Presenter: Cathy Tiggs

This course not only focuses on normal teen development as youth seek to gain independence and move towards emancipation, but it will also cover the effects of trauma, abuse and neglect as well as the generational differences that all tie-in to impact how youth are seen and understood with regards to their various behaviors.

September 14, 2013 1pm-4pm - Effective Relationships

Presenter: Cathy Tiggs

This course will assist foster parents in building and establishing positive relationships within the treatment team. Participants will discuss the driving force behind the work of other providers and the need for each team participant to bring their perspectives together to increase positive outcomes for the children and families being served.

September 19, 2013 9:30am-12:30pm – Transitioning into Adult Life

Presenter: Margaret Frey

This course will address the importance of making sure caregivers provide hands on instruction for practical life skills from managing money, cleaning house, to basic critical thinking skills of utilizing appropriate community resources as needed. The training will insure that foster parents understand their responsibility involved in preparing youth for independence.

September 24, 2013 6:30pm-9:30pm – Psychopharmacology & Chemical Effects on Behavior

Presenter: Danelia Moyer-Griffith

This training will teach participants about various medications, side effects and the importance of properly administering medication as well as documenting at the time of administration. Participants will gain an increased understanding of how various medications affect the body and behaviors.

AGAPE YOUTH COUNCIL

The Agape Youth Council (AYC) has experienced a productive summer!

The AYC has been learning about appropriate communication and how to talk about our "life" stories. We identified the differences between the different types of people we will encounter in our lives and the level of appropriateness each kind deserves, when learning about who we are. We're excited about learning more Independent Living Skills as the year goes on.

We also have been very busy painting pottery for the upcoming "Agape Strong- Hide Not Your Talents" Fundraising Gala. We are excited to be able to contribute to the fundraiser in this way and hope that the sale of the pottery brings support for the agency.

We have another community service project rapidly approaching. We are volunteering for the third year at the Air Force's Annual Marathon at WPAFB on September 21, 2013. This is an opportunity to earn money for AYC and we glad to be able to provide this service to the community and participants of the marathon.

The next AYC meetings are scheduled for August 20th & September 17 at 6:30pm. We will resume evening meetings, since school has begun. If you have a youth that is interested in Youth Council & would like to participate, please contact Tiffani Stuart or Danelia Moyer-Griffith at (937) 439-4406.

Danelia & Tiffani, AYC Coordinators



The invitation card is divided into two main sections. The left section features a large, colorful lollipop graphic with the text "YOU'RE INVITED" curved around it. Below the lollipop, the text reads "AGAPE FOR YOUTH Annual Fundraising Gala" and "AGAPE STRONG 'HIDE NOT YOUR TALENTS'". At the bottom of this section, it states "Agape for Youth, Inc. is a Foster Care, Adoption and Reunification agency serving youth and families throughout southwest Ohio since 1989" and provides the website "www.agapeforyouth.com". The right section contains the event details: "AGAPE FOR YOUTH Annual Fundraising Gala", "AGAPE STRONG 'HIDE NOT YOUR TALENTS'", the date "SEPTEMBER 12, 2013" with a note that the silent auction begins at 6:30pm, and the venue "THE DAYTON RACQUET CLUB" on the 29th floor of the Kettering Tower in Dayton, Ohio. It lists a price of "\$50/person" and suggests cocktail attire. For sponsorship and tickets, it directs to "www.agapeforyouth.com" and lists "RSVP TO SANDIE GEIB", Promotions and Support Services Coordinator, by Tuesday, September 3, 2013. Contact information for Agape for Youth, Inc. is provided: 937-439-4406 ext. 22, 2621 Dryden Road, Suite 202 Dayton, OH 45439. The bottom of the card includes "Special Thanks to our Sponsors" and logos for Anthem, Vectren, WesBanco, Horan, Matthew Scarr, PNC, Key Ad's, SouthBrook Church, Better Business Bureau, and BBB.

YOU'RE INVITED

AGAPE FOR YOUTH
Annual Fundraising Gala

AGAPE STRONG
"HIDE NOT YOUR TALENTS"

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AGAPE STRONG
"HIDE NOT YOUR TALENTS"

SEPTEMBER 12, 2013
Silent Auction begins at 6:30pm

THE DAYTON RACQUET CLUB
29th floor of the Kettering Tower - Dayton, Ohio

\$50/person Cocktail Attire Suggested

For sponsorship opportunities and to purchase tickets please visit:
www.agapeforyouth.com

RSVP TO SANDIE GEIB
Promotions and Support Services Coordinator
BY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
Agape for Youth, Inc. 937-439-4406 ext. 22
2621 Dryden Road, Suite 202 Dayton, OH 45439

Special Thanks to our Sponsors

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