



# Telegram

VOLUME 70 | Number 2 | June 2023



**CELEBRATING  
A SMILE FROM  
THE HEART OF  
A CHILD!**

**JOIN US FOR  
ANNUAL DAY  
SATURDAY  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023  
8:00 AM  
325 SOUTH 150 EAST  
VALPARAISO, IN 46383**

**FUNDRAISER | FOOD | CRAFTS  
RUMMAGE SALE | SILENT AUCTION  
LIVE AUCTION WITH OUR BOARD MEMBER, RICK ROOT, AND MORE**



# Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services

# Love, Value & Respect

**Johnnie Coley, Executive Director**

johnniecoley@shultslewis.org

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Have you ever felt the wonderful security of home? That place where all of your needs were met. Home was that location where you always had food, water, shelter, clothing, love, and a community of resources. Your address was that place you never went without acceptance, approval and your necessities were literally at your fingertips. At home you got all the attention you needed. In some cases, if you wanted something special, wasn't it just a mere ask away without question? I would imagine, many times, by a parent, your needs were even anticipated without you even saying one word. The children we serve don't naturally experience home in this way.

Every day, without fail, Shults Lewis Child and Family Services provides "Home" for neglected and rejected children. This home is in the form of a placement, an environment for children who are consistently missing critical needs from their lives. It has been our pleasure to specialize in meeting these essential needs for hurting children. The meeting of these needs vary from child to child, because no two children are alike.

We are all painfully aware that children are in need of much more than they needed years ago. Due to worldwide child abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and abandonment, children are in need of more psychiatric and mental health treatment (for example, individual therapy, medication management, group therapy, family therapy, behavioral management etc.). For this reason, we have shifted our focus to provide answers and services for this deep brokenness that children experience. The children we are seeing have complex emotions, few coping skills, and anger, rage and deep wounds from experiences that are no fault of their own. Donations help us meet the complex needs of kids. We have a 24 hour on call nurse, a 24 hour on call clinical therapist, as well as other staff to ensure every child gets exactly what they need.

One would think if you give a child everything they need, that child would be so grateful. You might believe that a child in a children's home would wake up every morning with a gigantic smile on their face and overflowing gratitude in their hearts so much so, they would be saying, Thank you! Thank you! In God's Word, the Apostle Paul altered us to the coming state of people and children in the days to come.

"But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God..." II Timothy 3:1-4

At Shults Lewis we have been trained not to mistake the behavior of a child for something it is not. We have learned a child's undesirable behavior really tells the story of their pain. When children are in pain, Shults Lewis can help. On our campus every child is loved, valued and respected as God continues to empower us to meet the challenges each child is faced with.

I hope that you will decide to journey with us in this great work of making the difference in a child's life. In doing so, together we will give a chance at success to a child who would not have a chance otherwise. If you already support us, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your partnership has done wonders and has positively impacted a child.



**(800) 462-0513**



# Results are in: Day of Prayer & Giving

**Stephanie Balcerak, Director of Finance & Development**  
stephaniebalcerak@shultslewis.org



Day of Prayer...is our opportunity to unite as 20,000 individuals and over 500 churches who love and support Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services. God has answered our prayers and we now have five residents on campus and are looking to accept more kids! Three of the residents are private placements and two of the residents are public placements from Department of Child Services. We are excited about the opportunity to help these children who struggle with unique challenges and to equip them with the tools to overcome their struggles. God is good, all the time!

Our goal for the Day of Prayer and Giving was originally \$69,300. We budgeted \$5,200 for gym equipment and \$15,000 for a zero turn lawn mower. We received two blessings; one in the form of a grant from Kankakee Valley REMC Operation Round Up for new gym equipment and the other in a "like new" zero turn mower for \$7,000. As a result, the new goal for Day of Prayer & Giving was reduced to \$56,100.

Drum roll... and the results are in! I am excited to announce that we raised \$42,819 in money to help fund specific projects that are not in our regular operating budget. These funds will be used to make the following capital improvements here on campus:

- 1) **A zero turn mower to cut the grass.**
- 2) **New computers for our administrative offices and school. In 2024, our operating system will not support the needed software updates**
- 3) **New vinyl plank floors for our bedrooms in Home 5 and 7.**
- 4) **Seal coating for the asphalt in our parking lots by the school, administration building and homes.**

*Our new sidewalk will be postponed to next year.*

*Thank you donors for your amazing generosity as we continue to serve kids and spread God's word in their lives!*







**Vickie Terhune, School Principal**  
vickieterhune@shultslewis.org

## School Happenings

"Take me out to the ballgame" was the theme song for our spring school field trip. House dad, Mike Zandstra won tickets to the Gary Railcats game at his daughter's Father/Daughter dance. He treated all of the staff and students to a Rail Cats baseball game in Gary, Indiana, in May. It included box seats in a suite

and food and drinks for everyone to enjoy. The students talked about the fun event for several days.

Summer school is going well. We will be saying good-bye to our Science Teacher, Mr. Zandstra, who is moving on to another opportunity. We will have a

going-away lunch for the Zandstras at the end of summer school. We want to wish them well in their new ventures.

We look forward to seeing all of you on Annual Day, September 16th. Thank you for all your donations and especially your prayers.

# SAVING THE LOST SHEEP!

It had been a beautiful sunny day. All the children were playing in the house except one of the kids. He was sitting very quiet while looking a little sad. At times he appeared to be angry. In the blink of an eye, as his house parent was passing out medication to another child, this kid just decided to run out of the front door. Dax, our History teacher happen to be on campus and he saw the kid pass by him. Within seconds Dax dropped everything and ran after the child. Mike, the house dad came up moments later, running to make sure this kid was okay. After both Dax and Mike finished talking with this kid, letting him know how much they cared, the child came back to the house without incident, tears in his eyes. As they walked across campus, it looked like a picture of the message that Jesus sends to all of us. That the one person who needs help the most is valuable enough for us to drop everything and assist them. This what Shults Lewis provides to children in need.

*"Which of you men, if you had one hundred sheep, and lost one of them, wouldn't leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one that was lost, until he found it? When he has found it, he carries it on his shoulders, rejoicing." Matthew 18:12*





# What's Buzzing in Social Services?

**Tammy Warren, Director of Program Services & Operations**

[tammywarren@shultslewis.org](mailto:tammywarren@shultslewis.org)



Our Social Services Department has been busy as we seek to rebuild our program here at Shults Lewis. COVID-19 did a number on our census as so many around the world were impacted by the global pandemic. We've taken this time to get staffed, train and re-train staff, and take our program to the next level as a Qualified Residential Treatment Program (Q RTP) following the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018, which Indiana implemented in recent years. The FFPSA is a law that is aimed at keeping families together and ensuring that residential service programs use evidence-based practices to promote the well-being of youth and families. Our goal, as an organization of distinction, is to incorporate God's Word, His love, value and respect, into the work we do here at Shults Lewis Child & Family Services.

The costs of our program encompass everything from basic food, housing, and clothing needs to training employees at all levels, to the cost of the services we provide to help families heal. As time has changed residential service programs we see more and more families in crisis and struggling to deal with the impacts of trauma in the lives of children.

Many loving couples and families adopted children from abusive situations and are finding that the adolescent years are intensified by the lack of attachment their children suffered during those essential formative months. Many develop Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), which affects their ability to function in loving families and relationships as they grow and develop. We aim to provide Individual, Family, and Group therapy to give the support needed to help families heal. These costs are great and we need donations to help us meet all of these needs.

In June, we began taking DCS (Department of Child Services) residents. These children come to us with special challenges as they have been uprooted and moved around from home to home. Unlike our private placements, DCS kids also cannot be photographed, so you will not see pictures of them in the Telegram.





# A Helping Hand From Our Community

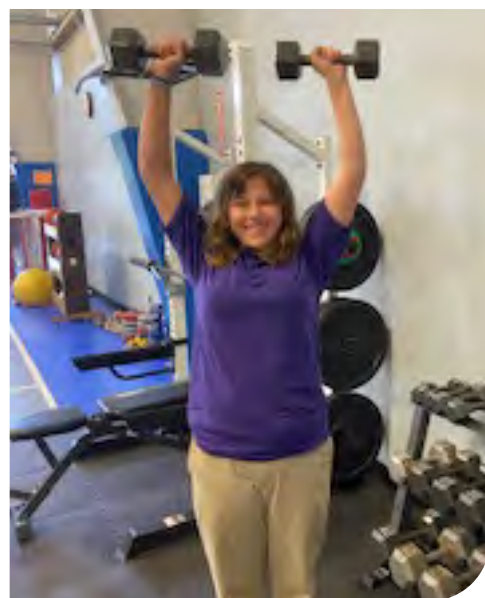
## Kankakee Valley REMC Operation Round Up



Sults Lewis Child and Family Services has been blessed to have been included in the Kankakee Valley REMC Operation Round Up Grant. Kankakee Valley REMC is a local electric company that serves customers in Indiana from areas including Valparaiso, Lake of Four Seasons, Winfield, Westville and Walkerton. Members can round up each month their monthly bill, which enables Kankakee Valley REMC to donate to local non-profits.



I am excited to announce that we are the recipient of a \$4,000 grant from Kankakee Valley REMC Operation Round Up. With this money, we purchased new gym equipment for the kids here at school. Health and fitness is critical for the needs of children, especially those who experience trauma. This grant will help us meet the need for our children to exercise and develop strong muscles and bones. The kids enjoyed shopping for the equipment at Dick's Sporting Goods, assembling the equipment and most importantly, using the new equipment. A big thank you to Kankakee Valley REMC for helping our kids to stay healthy through physical exercise.







# Rock On Naperville Youth Group

There are no words to describe how amazing this youth group from Naperville Church of Christ is. Our children's home was blessed by 12 hardworking teens the last week of June as they were led by their fearless leader Rusty Skipworth and his wife, Heather. The kids worked on several projects around our campus including: packing ink cartridges, cleaning out the basement of old work out equipment and other miscellaneous items, painting the shed behind Home 5, weeding and mulching around the homes, school and admin building and cleaning out rooms in the administration building and home 1, and so much more! Thank you Naperville Church of Christ for all your hard work!

Each day, we enjoyed lunch and fellowship with staff, residents and the Naperville youth group. This was a great time for our residents to interact with the other youth. The kids enjoyed a

friendly volleyball game, basketball game and foosball game. Henry, a resident, showed no fear playing against the Goliaths during a competitive basketball game. It was incredible to watch! A minor setback from an injury caused Henry to be benched for the rest of the game. Needless to say, this was a great bonding time for everyone!

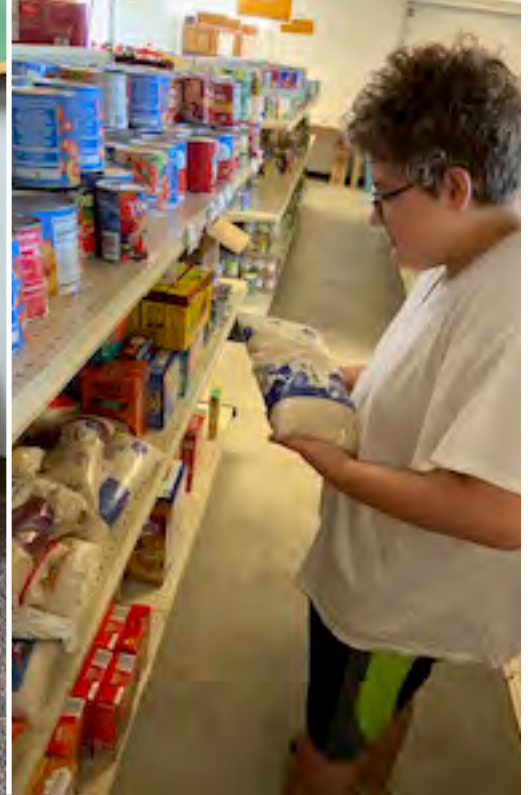
Naperville Youth Group also enjoyed attending our daily morning devotionals with our residents at the school. In the evening, Johnnie and the Development Team were invited to the Industrial Revolution for dinner with the youth group. Rusty and Heather shared their passion for biking and running and listened to our expressions of gratitude for what they had done to help us. Rusty and Heather are training for races in Nebraska later this summer, a feat that is beyond my imagination. Go team Skipworth!





Shults-Lewis

# SCHOLARSHIP FUND



## IMPACTING CHILDREN ONE AT A TIME!

**H**ow does my charitable donation impact the life of a child at Shults-Lewis? That is a great question! Before I answer this question, I would like to share a true story from a close friend of mine. My friend, Kim and her husband, Joel, spearhead a local food pantry in Valparaiso, Indiana. The pantry is stocked with donations from the community and is distributed monthly to residents from a local church. Joel's mother, Jean also volunteers at the food pantry. Jean needed a tree cut down in her yard, so she called a tree service. The man quoted her \$600 to cut the tree down, but Jean said she could only pay \$300. During their conversation, Jean shared about the work she did at the local food pantry and what a blessing this ministry has been to residents in the community. The man listened and shortly left. A couple weeks later, he called and said he would be available to

come and cut the tree down. He also indicated that he wanted to donate to the food pantry. When Jean came home one day, the tree was cut down and cleared away. No invoice was left behind. She later received a call from the man. Her service was free of charge and he left something under her mat at the front door. She lifted the door mat and to her amazement, there was nine \$100 bills. As a result, the donation has provided food to many needy families. What an impact this one person had on the life of those less fortunate.

So why do I share this story? We have many children that come to Shults-Lewis. These children have experienced trauma in their lives. We want to help them address the trauma in their lives. We need help to do this. Not all parents are equipped financially to pay the private tuition for our program. We

would like to offer full scholarships to children who become residents here at Shults-Lewis. Monthly tuition for private pay residents is \$1500. Our program runs 6 to 12 months and costs \$18,000 a year. Residents attend school on campus they receive individual, family and group counseling while living with other kids in a houseparent's home. This is an extraordinary gift to a hurting child. Just like the local food pantry that feeds the needy, Shults-Lewis equips children in need to overcome trauma. The tree service man answered the calling to help others in need. Please share our story with friends and family and together we can give these children a fighting chance. Your donation will forever change the life of a child! Our goal is to raise \$18,000 so that one child can attend our program for a year for free.

by Stephanie Balcerak



# Valparaiso Popcorn Festival

I am pleased to announce that Shults-Lewis will be having a food booth at this event selling hot dogs, bratwursts, chips, pop, water and desserts. Attending this event provides Shults-Lewis with the opportunity to share who we are and our mission for serving kids who face trauma. Most of the community is unaware that there exists a children's home in Valparaiso, Indiana.

The Valparaiso Popcorn Festival began in 1979 and was named after Valparaiso native Orville Redenbacher and popcorn. The popcorn festival hosts a Popcorn Panic 5 Mile Run & 5 K Run/Walk, a parade, arts and crafts and food booths. This year's event is Saturday, September 9th from 8:00 am – 6:30 pm.

Our executive and program director will be available throughout the day to pass out brochures and answer any questions regarding our program. We would like to invite you to come out and experience the Valparaiso Popcorn Festival. Hope to see you there!



## A Charitable Giving Strategy

*"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" Hebrews 13:16*

Many individuals postpone the process of estate planning because they believe:

- a) Estate planning is confusing and expensive.
- b) They have busy schedules and stress.
- c) They believe they do not have enough assets to write a will.

- d) They are too young to create a will.

I would like to encourage you to consider the work we are doing in the lives of children. Contact an estate planning attorney today. We are not promised tomorrow!

Would you prayerfully consider including Shults Lewis Child and Family Services in your estate planning?



## MATCHING DONATIONS

Donation matching is an initiative that many employers offer at their workplace. With this initiative, employees are able to make a donation to a specific cause and receive a matching donation from their employer. Some businesses match as much as three times the employee contribution. Many nonprofits, like ourselves, miss out on revenue opportunities because donors are not aware of matching gift programs offered by their employer. Would you consider asking your employer to match your nonprofit donation?



This year, we were blessed during the Phone Campaign, with several matching gifts. One company matched \$5,000; another company matched three times the employee donation of \$1500. This is truly amazing! Some companies will even make a donation to a cause without the employee making a donation themselves. As you can see, this is a great area for us to generate revenue for our children's home. Just think how many more children we could help with double the donation! Thank you for your help! You can make a difference!







# Honors & Remembers...

May 5, 2023 - July 20, 2023

## HONORS

### Alan Bain

The Nolan Family

### Clay Barnts

Daniel and Deborah Brewer

### James Elkins

Jim and Lynn Elkins

### Ron and Catherine Englehart

Richard and Karen Simpson

### Dennis Floyd

*Our 50th Anniversary*  
Cindy Floyd

### Margaret Hutchens

The Nolan Family

### Reed and Betty Munsell

*75th Wedding Anniversary*  
James and Vickie Terhune

### Pat and Marion Lake

Sally Hearn

### Mark and Jessica Lankford

*17th Wedding Anniversary*  
James and Vera Lankford

### Sarah Oleson (Turnmire)

*Your Beautiful Wedding*  
Robert and Shirley Oleson

### Roger and Becky Weaver

Ryan Weaver

### Brighton Vermillion

*Your 9th Birthday*  
James and Vera Lankford  
Jim and Eddie Vermillion  
Phillip and Cassie Vermillion

### Brynne Vermillion

*Your 12th Birthday*  
Presley Davidson  
Amber Gunderson  
Ryan Ingles  
James and Vera Lankford  
Jim and Eddie Vermillion  
Phillip and Cassie Vermillion

### Phillip Vermillion

*Preaching on 4/30/23*  
Crystal Lake CoC

## MEMORIALS

### Karen Bencken

Ted and Joyce Terhune

### Ronald Brown

Nancy Brown

### Rhonda Cann

Christopher and Beth Underwood

### Betty Carl

James and Eddie Vermillion

### Tedd Case

Henry and Tami Scott

### Ruth Conrad

Bryan Conrad

### Caleb Cordes

Eric Goodwin

### Dennis Curnutte

Jim and Bonnie Gatewood

### Mildred Curtis

Joseph and Lori Mason

### Helen Dollens

Linda Dollens

### Brenda Dubois

Julie Cravens

### Bill Ezell

Ed and Debbie Taylor

### Earline Fishburne

Jim and Regenia Gurganus  
Park Forest CoC  
Lloyd Rose

### Victoria Fiorini

Ron Englehart

### Everett Foster

Sharon Neill

### Beth Frump

Mark Stewart

### Betty Gudgel

Darlene Dalton Taylor

### Vernon and Opal Hampton

Danny Hampton

### Mark and Joyce Harmon

Margaret Hutchens  
The Nolan Family

### JoAnn Hazzard

Alex and Joan Jeal

### Mary Heaney

Bill Heaney

### Ronald and Elizabeth Howard

Dana Howard

### Artie and Lola Hutchens

The Nolan Family

### Darrell Hutchens

Margaret Hutchens

### Walter and Cordelia Jankowski

Diana Woloszyk

### Vernon Jackman

Tom and Meryl Domenz  
Cindy Holm  
Jim Jackman  
Linda Jackman  
Vernon Klostermann  
Ann Malburg  
Greg and Agatha Palak  
Michael and JoAnn Somora  
Villa Avenue CoC

### Ufanell Jones

Lorene Reed

### Katharina Klostermann

Villa Avenue CoC

### Mary Jane Knox

Lewis and Jeanie Battles

### Bob Kotts

Houghton Lake CoC

### Carl and Evelyn Laidler

Frank and Sharon DeFranceschi



**Jim Lemons**  
Royce and Laura Harbin

**Gabriel Nolan**  
Nolan Family

**Richard Schafer**  
Jerry Shonk

**Dorothy Wilcher**  
Ryan Weaver

**Grace Lollar**  
John Lollar

**Thomas and Vivian Nolan**  
Nolan Family

**Pat Seccombe**  
Ann Marie Garritano  
Bill and Linda Gergel  
David, Beth, and Margaret  
King  
Larry and Marlene Reeves

**Ron Witcher**  
Ryan Weaver

**Thelma Lollar**  
Charles Lollar

**Robert Nolan**  
Margaret Hutchens  
The Nolan Family

**Rex Witham**  
Sally Hearn

**Jennifer Maguire**  
Sandra Root

**Jerry Lee Norman Jr.**  
Madonna Shore

**Ronald Shannon**  
Laura Shannon

**Rod Wright**  
Gary and Dawn Osborn

**Glen and Dee Martin**  
Dean and Norma Wells

**Dean Oliver**  
John Clark

**Chris Shields**  
IIBEC-Chicago

**Jerry Maynard**  
Jim and Bonnie Gatewood

**Ray and Velma Penn**  
Kenneth Slatton

**Jim Sinks**  
Michigan City CoC

**Jim and Virginia McNeese**  
Kenneth Slatton

**Gerry Perrett Sr.**  
Mario Gonzales  
Tom Kaluzny  
Brendan Perrett  
Glenn Sherman

**Don and Jacki Slatton**  
Kenneth Slatton

**Gale Miles**  
Marlene Haferkamp

**Bob and Margie Smith**  
Pauletta Smith

**Johnnie Mitchell**  
Christopher and Beth  
Underwood

**Anthony Perkins**  
The Nolan Family

**Dick Stockton**  
Jim and Irene Gordon

**Jerry Mullinax**  
Villa Avenue CoC

**Frank Pincombe**  
Charlette Nance

**Woody and Katherine Stogsdill**  
Norman and Mary Lee  
Deckard

**Barney Neill**  
Sharon Neill

**Billy Piper**  
Robert and Joyce Blackford

**Michael Tittle**  
Sharon Neill

**Elizabeth Nelson**  
Jim and Lynn Elkins

**Lynda Portinger**  
Alex and Joan Jeal

**Barbara Watts**  
Cleone McGinness

**Marsha Russell**  
James Razor

## Memorial/Honor Gift Certificate

This gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is given

In Memory       In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

By: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgment to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Shults-Lewis Child & Family Services • PO Box 471 • Valparaiso, IN 46384







PO Box 471  
Valparaiso, IN 46384

# ASKING FOR BASKETS FOR OUR ANNUAL DAY, OPEN HOUSE!

Plans are underway for this year's Annual Day. We still need your help with themed baskets for Annual Day. We are asking for to simply put together 1 or 2 themed baskets for our Auction at Annual Day (any extra baskets will go into the Silent Auction).

We say "basket" but you can fill any type of container, huge or small, with brand new items to make up a themed basket. Below are two of the baskets we have already received as examples.

**If you are willing to help us, simply put together your "basket" and bring it with you when you come for Annual Day. Just bring it to the auction tent the morning of**

**Annual Day, Saturday, September 16th!**

