# Telegram VOLUME 69 | Number 1 | June 2023



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## Shults-Lewis Child and Family Services

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(800) 462-0513

## Love, Value & Respect

#### **Johnnie Coley, Executive Director**

johnniecoley@shultslewis.org



Leading Shults Lewis Child and Family Services is like riding down the remote country road right outside my office window. I can see some beauty, the sun is shining, the cool breeze is moving the colorful trees and then I see farmers at work. Since winter has passed, they are making changes to the soil and making sure that everything is healthy and well. With that I see a dream of creating a home, an atmosphere where children are safe, their behaviors are addressed in a patient manner and they are respected, loved and valued. Like the farmer, we seek to bring out the incredible beauty that lies within the life of all children we serve. These children are precious gems created in the image of God and they are very special.

When the phone rings at Shults Lewis Child and Family Services, most times the urgency is great and the cry sounds like, "Help! Help! Help!" I am familiar with that desperation call in the voice of agencies who are seeking a residential placement and parents who have done everything they know, but their child still needs help. Because the need is so severe, we are in the approval process with the Department of Childs Services to become not just a residential program, but a Qualified Residential Treatment Program. The children of today have greater needs than before. Specialized training is needed for this type of program and we have begun working on it. We are excited to open our doors to another population of children who need our help. We are accepting referrals! Please free to give us a call at 219-462-0513. Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them..." Matthew 19:14.

I am diligently at work with my staff and department heads to make changes necessary to accommodate these childcare opportunities with the love and example of Jesus for the hurting hearts of children. In the child caring industry, we have realized life becomes difficult quickly for children who have been traumatized. Another change we have made to help the children we serve is to bring dogs and horses to our campus. Research has validated the beautiful connection and comfort these animals bring in the lives of children. Our kids love being around these animals! They laugh and smile as if they don't have a care in the world.

We appreciate our donors for making these moments happen. Without you, we would not see the smiles, tears or the healing. Your support is critical to what we do each day. Your partnership with Shults Lewis has made a huge difference. Thank you so much from the core of my heart.



## School Happenings

Vickie Terhune, School Principal vickieterhune@shultslewis.org



I would have to say that some of my most precious memories in all the years that I have been at Shults-Lewis are the times that I've worked with our students on an individual basis, one-on-one! Of course each student comes to us with issues because that is the nature of our program but each one also comes with strengths that emerge as they progress in the program. Carlina

(pictured) and I have worked together on several different special luncheons and activities and she is the most helpful and cooperative young lady that you can imagine. She also loves to draw and helps with decorations. Students enjoy the one-on-one time with staff as much as we do because it makes them feel needed and right at the moment they feel special. We love our teens!!

The school year will soon be drawing to a close. We have a field trip and a couple of special activities planned. We also have state testing to complete which is never a favorite of the students but a requirement.

Thanks for all of your donations and prayers for us. I am always looking for guest speakers to come to talk about careers, hobbies, independent living skills, or entertain us with talents that you might have. Please contact me if you are interested.





## From Our Home to Yours

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

tammywarren@shultslewis.org



The children are receiving individual, family and group sessions throughout the week, supervised by a Licensed Clinical Therapist. Did you know we offer on-campus education and GED prep, case management services, monthly psychiatric treatment with medication management as well as a variety of evidence-based therapy techniques? We meet the needs of

the residents through trauma-informed care, independent living skills, therapy groups, all with a Bible-based approach.

Staff is trained on a regular basis on topics relating to trauma, behavioral health, psychoeducation, and self-care from a Biblical perspective. Group care of children at Shults-Lewis is a team effort involving skilled professionals working together, including houseparents, therapy staff, case management staff, educational staff, and administrative support staff. Suffice to say that we couldn't do what we do without your support!

Who says kids can't horse around? Shults Lewis Child & Family Services is pleased to be able to add EQUINE THERAPY for our residents! We've recently partnered with True North Training Stables in Chesterton, IN to allow our residents to work with

and ride their horses.

True North provides a safe environment where at risk youth and their families come for training in life skills and spiritual awareness in an equine setting. This includes, but is not limited to, children who struggle with depression, autism, foster/adopted, ADD, ADHD, self-harm, bullied, addiction, sexual abuse, incarcerated parents, eating disorders, truancy, and other similar society issues. We instruct our students through an eight-week program covering the following character qualities: relationship building; teamwork and leadership; respect; patience, perseverance and strength; focus; communication; critical thinking, decision making, discernment, and conflict resolution; and trust. (https://www.truenorthtrainingstables.com/about/)

Five of our residents began the program in April and got to pick their horse, "My horse is sky!", "I have sun! One of the residents was so excited about the program that when I asked her to tell me about it, all she could say was "fun!" Residents learn to groom and take care of the horses thereby building a bond of healing.



## Day of Prayer and Giving

**JUNE 25, 2023** 

This year, **Day of Prayer and Giving** will be held on June 25, 2023. In 2023, we want to continue to tackle some BIG items off our list. The first item we need to purchase is new computers for our campus. Our current computers will not support the new operating system in 2024. We have been obtaining quotes from vendors and are looking at about \$18,000 to transition to new computers for our administrative offices and our school.

The second item we need to complete is seal coating the asphalt in our parking lots by the school, administration building and homes. Seal coating protects the asphalt from damage and prolongs the life of the asphalt pavement. Estimated cost for seal coating is \$12,000.

The third item we need to purchase is a new zero turn lawn mower. Currently, our maintenance staff has 7 acres of property to mow each week. Our mower is over 30 years old. A zero turn mower will cost about \$15,000.

The fourth item we need to purchase is new floors for the bedrooms in our residential homes. The carpet is very old and needs to be replaced. Estimated cost of materials and labor is \$7,000.

The fifth item we need is a sidewalk from Home 7 to the school. Currently, the kids need to walk through the field to get to the school. Snow and rain make for a wet track to the school. This is a safety issue. Estimated cost for this capital improvement is \$12,100.

The last item we need is new gym equipment for the kids. The dumbbells are falling apart due to wear and tear. Exercise is important to promoting a healthy resident. Estimated cost to replace new gym equipment is \$5,200.

Our financial goal is \$69,300. Thank you in advance for your prayers and gifts as we continue to help kids who face trauma. Your prayers and gifts can make a difference in a child's life!



## Meet our Facilities Crew

#### **Don Jones, Maintenance Supervisor**

We have been busy keeping the campus mowed and trimmed. It's great to be able to work outside again and enjoy the sunshine and warmer weather! We are looking forward to working with the volunteer groups from the Churches of Christ this Spring/Summer! Our residents will also be volunteering alongside our church groups this year to help

spruce up the campus! One of the greatest rewards of being head of the Maintenance Department is getting to know and work with our friends/family from difference congregations that volunteer their time to help us keep the campus looking nice. We are looking forward to a great summer and are excited to see what God has in store!



### **SHERRY KING'S RETIREMENT**

In April, we celebrated Sherry King's retirement from Shults-Lewis. She served here for over 32 years. Sherry started working as a secretary for Gerald Frump in the development department and transitioned into the role of development assistant. In later years, she worked part-time in the pantry. Sherry and her former colleagues reminisced about the past. Sherry joked about using a red pen to correct Gerald's articles. Phyllis, Gerald's wife, laughed and said they both held a red pen in hand. We are thankful for Sherry's legacy here at Shults-Lewis and wish her all the best in retirement!

## **FUN FACTS:**

Did you know Sherry worked in the kitchen with her mom at Shults-Lewis as a little girl? Did you know she spent Sunday afternoons with her cousins who were residents here? There are deep roots at Shults-Lewis and rich blessings!



## Development News - Embracing Change

#### **Stephanie Balcerak, Director of Finance & Development**

stephaniebalcerak@shultslewis.org



Embracing change is my goal for the development department. I started my new position as Director of Finance and Development in January. Accounting has always been my passion; it is black and white. Numbers are clearly defined and reflect the facts. However, something was missing in my life. I wanted to help others and make a difference in a child's life. My gift was compassion for others. God was calling me to put my gifts into action and development provided me the opportunity and means to work with donors, kids, and staff to build this department with refreshing ideas and engagement with donors.

In January, as we embraced change, we welcomed Tim Deem former Vice President from Mount Dora Children's Home to consult with us in development. His ideas were refreshing and his knowledge and training were invaluable. I walked away with a greater understanding of the tasks in front of me and the importance of strengthening my relationships with our donors. Our kids are "our cause" and God calls us

to help serve these kids who have experienced trauma.

February kicked off our Annual Phone Campaign with pre-pledges. Vendors that we do business with were contacted during the month and asked to partner with us during the Phone Campaign. This was a new initiative in development. With the help of God, we nailed it! Over 50% of our vendors pledged money for the phone campaign. This was truly amazing!

In March, eight churches volunteered to host a phone campaign night. Four of these churches were new to the phone campaign trail. Thank you to the following churches and volunteers from: West Chicago Church of Christ, Waterford Church of Christ, Park Forest Church of Christ, LaGrange Church of Christ, Whiteland Church of Christ, Naperville Church of Christ, Northwest Church of Christ and Worth Church of Christ. Without their participation, we would not have been able to meet and exceed our goal of \$125,000. I am excited to announce that our 2023 Phone Campaign generated \$187,020.56 in pledges this year. Thank you donors for your generous support and continued blessing to the kids we serve. No child is turned away for the inability to pay.

Our development department embraced new change in staff this year. Kiana Baldwin resigned after 10 years in development and has moved onto a new adventure. We wish her all the best in her new career! In February, Jasmine Lindley joined our development team as development assistant. In April, we welcomed Sarah Turnmire to our team as she shares work in both the executive and development departments. God has truly blessed me by surrounding me with with such wonderful staff.

At the end of April, we welcomed the youth group from Whiteland Church of Christ. The youth group worked with residents and staff mulching our garden beds, boxing ink cartridges and cleaning scuff marks off the gymnasium floor! We enjoyed laughing and working together in the soil. In the evening, we were invited to pizza at Gelsosomo's and the Super Mario Brothers movie. On Sunday, we were blessed to worship with the youth group at Wheatfield Church of Christ. It was a fun day for all!

I would like to invite all churches to come and visit with their youth groups this summer. This is a great opportunity for youth to interact with residents and staff as they work on campus. Seeds planted in youth may grow and blossom into future staff here at Shults-Lewis that's what happened to our History teacher, Dax Turnmire. He came with his youth group and now he teaches History to kids who have challenging lives.





"I am excited to announce that our 2023 Phone Campaign generated **\$187,020.56** in pledges this year."









## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

With Former Resident Bob Sowles







**DeWayne Smith** 

Bob Sowles was a resident at Shults-Lewis from 1964 through 1966. He was raised in Gary, Indiana and was one of eleven children. Bob was an ornery child when he arrived at Shults-Lewis. He recalled his nickname for Morgan Township School was "moron school." He graduated from Shults-Lewis with former resident and board member, Dewayne Smith. Bob shared with me what a blessing Shults-Lewis Child had been to him and his family. In the following years, Bob married and moved to Highland, Michigan and later LaGrange, Indiana

where he has been a member of the LaGrange Church of Christ for over 50 years. He and his wife have three children. He is retired from Car Quest where he worked for over 41 years. Bob attends Annual Day each year at Shults-Lewis and meets with his life-long friend, Dewayne Smith. Stories like these warm our hearts because if Shults-Lewis didn't exist, Bob's story may have turned up differently. We met up with Bob and Dewayne at the phone campaign in March. Both of these men have a great passion for the kids here at Shults-Lewis.



## **Embracing Change to Help Children**

### **Comfort for Hurting Kids**

Wynter, Ellie May, Charlie and Whiskey are the names of the new horses that have joined our goats as they graze in our fenced in pasture. Development assistant and owner of the horses, Jasmine Lindley, has a passion for rescue horses. These horses help our residents who have experienced trauma in their life. This addition will be a great resource for therapy for our kids on campus for many years to come.

Caleb is a trained LLC K-9 Comfort Dog who interacts with our kids as they work through their trauma. He brings an influence that is soothing and comforting to the residents. Caleb comes once a month to visit the kids at school and spend time with them. Dogs really are a man's (adolescent's) best friend!





## Honors & Remembers...

January 1, 2023 - May 4, 2023

#### **HONORS**

**All the Children** Kenneth Slatton

**Don & Pam Barcus**Baxter & Rita Graves

### Bluffton Church of Christ

Adrian and Doris Burns

#### **Jasen Brown**

For being a great neighbor! South Holland Church of Christ in IL

### Peter & Bonnie Bumpass

Charles & Ruth Clark

### **Betty Chastain**Larry Chastain

Larry Chastain

#### Eric Church

Kathy Church

### Dave and Elaine Coleman

David Coleman

#### **Johnnie Coley**

Happy Birthday!
Bryan & Brooke
Adams
David Briggs
Bob Fields
Dr. Brian & Lorri Mast
For your first 100 days
as the new Executive
Director!
Anonymous

#### Beverly Day and Family

**Eric Margolis** 

#### **Drea Deford**

"Magna Cum Laude" I.U. Bloomington in June 2022 Nancy Byrd

#### **Our Donors**

Lissa Baldwin

#### **Pam Garrett**

Martha Evans

#### Tim & Char Hearring

Mary Sircloumb

#### Joyce Howard

Susan Howard

#### **Regina Howard**

Spencer & Diyonne Palmer

#### **Margaret Hutchens**

For your birthday The Nolan Family

#### Ashley Lankford

Larry Chastain

### McLeansboro Church of Christ in IL

Glenn & Karin Miller

#### **Barbara Montgomery**

Happy 91st Birthday! Dennis & Beverly Wineinger

#### Juanita Beu Moore

Robert & Kim Martin

#### **Bill Morrow**

For being a great
American, a friend, and a
brother!
Tim & Cathy Firm
Reed & Betty Munsell
Vickie & James Terhune
Otto Fritz

#### **Kenneth & Geneda**

O'Rourke Mr. & Mrs. James O'Rourke

#### **Dan & Betty Potter**

Happy 50th Anniversary! Kevin & Peggy Dodge

#### Laura Sawyer

For doing so much for our kids at the Metro Church of Christ!
Gary & Debbie Johnson

#### The Shults-Lewis Staff

Lissa Baldwin

#### **Helen Stewart**

Nancy Everetts

#### **Mark Stewart**

Mark Stewart

#### **Vickie Terhune**

Rob & Sheri Salley

#### John "Uncle Jack" Vermillion

Merry Christmas!
Phil & Cassie Vermillion

### Mr & Mrs James Vermillion, Sr.

Merry Christmas!
Phil & Cassie Vermillion

#### **Phil Vermillion**

For preaching for us on 10/30/22! Crystal Lake Church of Christ in IL

#### **MEMORIALS**

#### Maurice & Hilda Adams

Larry & DeAnna Thompson

#### **Staci Curtis Adams**

Maureen Curtis

#### Jack Allen

**Ruth Maxwell** 

#### **Gary Allison**

Brenda DuBois

#### **Jewell Allswede**

Bill and Margo Golembiewski

#### **Linda Bailey**

Byron King

#### **Ken Barnett**

Gary & Dawn Osborn

#### **Clay Barnts**

Deborah Brewer

#### **Curt Barrett**

Cleone McGinness

#### **Berlin Batey**

Don & Nancy Christenberry Mike & Kim Lawrence Gary & Dawn Osborn Laura Perrett Eugenie Priestley

#### Anderson & Johnie Berry

Gregory & Patsy Pugh

#### James & Thelma Berry

Alan & Gail Diana LeRoy Ledsworth Tamara McGue-Willliams Robert & Jackie Odum

#### **John Blont**

Greg & Aasta Watson

#### John Blount

Cardinal Drive Church of Christ in IL Richard & Kay Klima Janet Kuszynski Paul & Kristen La Scola Martin & Angel Musker Robert Odum Tamara McGue-Williams Briana Wilson

#### Bob and Mark Bollinger

Emma Jones

#### **Larry Bouman**

Martha Bouman

#### Jerry Brackney

Rita Brackney

#### Bill Bradley

Nancy Bradley

#### **Louise Bridges**

Kevin & Peggy Dodge

#### **Larry Brown**

Edward and Vickie Terhune

#### **Ron Brown**

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Opal Domeika-Burgess

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**Edna Franklin** Nene Okebuguru

**Jim Frost** Richard Klima

Beth Frump
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Gerald & Phyllis Frump
Byron King
Terry & Jamesa
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Brian & Sarah Mickey
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Mark & Laura Stewart

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**Barry Gray** Bob & Edie Bell

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**Arthur Rex Witham** 

Jerry Worth

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

Plans are underway for this year's Annual Day. We need your help again with Annual Day themed baskets. We are asking all of our commodity churches to 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.



If you are willing to help us, simply put together your "basket" and we'll collect it with the Commodity Items you are gathering for the kids. We'll store it until Annual Day. Or, if you'd like to bring it yourself, bring it to the auction tent the morning of Annual Day, Saturday, September 16th!