



Telegram

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for **G**iveness
Inclusion
Value
kindness
understanding
Grace
Healing
love
Patience
respect

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(219) 462-0513



Shults-Lewis
Child and Family Services

Value is Seen When Children Return and Say Thank You!

Johnnie Coley, Executive Director
johnniecoley@shultslewis.org



For many years I have worked in the field of caring for children who have experienced trauma, rejection, challenging behaviors or simply being unwanted by their parents. Hearing from them never gets old. Their words affirm that the work we are doing is helping in a big way. Terry Hurd, who was a former resident of Shults Lewis Child and Family Services in 1969-1975, made a plaque with an incredible message to us. The plaque reads:

"Thank you Shults -Lewis and the many people who helped me personally on my path in life. May you always be proud of what you do and be remembered just as proudly. Thank you to House Parents Bill and Ellen Brooks, Roger and Brenda Wood, Director Allen Dixon, and all the others whose names I have long forgotten. Be thankful for the super special people in the world. They help shape us so we may become super special people too."

We have displayed the plaque in our Administration office because it is proof that we are making a difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Terry was so pleased and impressed with the opportunity. Forty-eight years later, Terry came back with his son to visit and see the place that changed his life. With our Team members, they toured the campus pointing out the house where he lived and the school he attended. It was such a beautiful interaction.

It is stories like these that keep the work at Shults Lewis alive and driven to continue to serve kids who face trauma. We are filled with joy when those who were children come back as adults and verify how successful our services were. This is sheer inspiration to continue moving ahead and helping other kids. These kinds of wonderful stories really motivate us to continue the good work God has given us to do.

It is our hope that you will partner with us to help more children like Terry. He reminds all of us of how effective these services are in the lives of children who need them. Giving Tuesday would be a great opportunity for you to sow a seed of financial support for other children we are now serving. Nearly every private placement who comes through our doors cannot afford the cost of care. The therapeutic services alone exceed \$700 per month for one child. When you help us, transformation can take place in the heart of a child. Thank you for standing with us and loving children who others might say are too hard to deal with. We can do this! We can do it together!! Thank you for all you have given and for your generosity today. We are beyond grateful.



GIVING TUESDAY



POP ON OVER TO THE POPCORN FESTIVAL!

What an incredible opportunity it was for us to have a food booth at the 2023 Orville Redenbacher Popcorn Festival in Valparaiso, Indiana! Thousands of people came out for the Kernel Run, 5K Run/Walk, Parade, Food, Crafts and Music. It was wonderful to be out in the community for this event. We passed out brochures, talked with people and shared our mission of helping kids.

To our amazement, we sold out of bratwursts and hotdogs. After a second trip to the grocery store, we sold out again of hot dogs. That was a great problem to have. Who eats brats and hot dogs at 8:00 am? Enough said!

A special thanks goes to Sandy Haferkamp, a board member's

wife, who came out to help us too. Her dedication and love for the work we do is very much appreciated, and it is matchless.

The highlight of the day was when we met a former resident, Mia, who shared her story with us. Without Shults-Lewis, she said "I would never have completed high school and finished college." We cried and hugged her and our hearts were full! This is why we do what we do! We help kids overcome trauma and change their life forever!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 7, 2024 for next year's Popcorn Festival! Hope to see you there!





ANNUAL DAY CELEBRATION

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

Thank you to our churches, donors, board members, staff and residents alike for making Annual Day such a wonderful event. We started our morning with a scrumptious breakfast consisting of sausage and biscuits from our former cook, Jeanne Chowning, donuts from Wheatfield Church of Christ and fruit plates from Muscatine Church of Christ.



Our rummage sale was a big success. At \$5 a bag, how could you go wrong? It was great seeing families walking out with bags and bags of items.

This year, we set up a registration table. This was a great opportunity for Sarah Turnmire, my development assistant, and I to meet our donors and put names to faces. Thank you to everyone who purchased t-shirts and recipe books.



Our silent auction contained a variety of new and used items for sale. Two of our residents, Josiah and Eric were bidding on a chess set that they wanted for Home 7. They had the highest bid, but when they went to pay, they were told that an anonymous person paid on their behalf. They were thrilled, appreciative and excited to take the game home with them. Thank you to our anonymous donor, Rick and Lynette Root, for blessing these boys with your kindness.

Thank you to all the churches who setup and sold items at their individual booths. From food, to crafts to old fashioned photos, there was so many things available to purchase. How many of you had the pull pork sandwiches, grilled chicken, taco salad, lemon shake ups and the wide assortment of desserts for lunch? All I can say is "Yum!"



Our residents were blessed with donations of new clothes from Bristol Road Church of Christ. This was a great opportunity to teach our kids how to write thank you cards. The kids were excited to open and wear their new clothes.



And last, but what I enjoy the most, is the Live Auction run by our own board member, Rick Root. Thank you to all the donations of Annual Day baskets. It was amazing to see all of the baskets on display and the talents of many individuals seen in the handmade quilts and wooden toys. A big shout out to three of our residents Diana, Josiah and Eric for helping Rick and I with the auction. This is truly what it is all about – helping these precious kids overcome trauma and sharing the love of Christ with them.



DRUM ROLL.... THE RESULTS ARE IN!

I am excited to announce that with your help we raised

\$20,333.23 IN REVENUE

AND AFTER EXPENSES EARNED A NET PROFIT OF \$13,585.43.

We also raised an additional \$1,000 for our Emergency Medical Responder Services Dinner slated for Spring 2024 in order to honor our police in our community. Thank you for your donations! We couldn't have done this without the support of all of you!

What is Buzzing in Social Services?

Tammy Warren, Director of Program Services & Operations

tammywarren@shultslewis.org



Our Program department is ever growing and changing as we seek to incorporate Jesus into our treatment for traumatized kids. As a facility looking to be an organization of distinction, we are continually looking for ways to better our program and truly meet the needs of the children and families we serve. One way we are looking to grow is by seeking council

from our fellow Network 1:27 children's home leaders. We owe a big thank you to Tennessee Children's Home, Spring Hill, for their willingness to mentor us as we grow our program.

Our Executive Director and I are planning a trip there in a few weeks to shadow their leadership staff and learn from their expertise. We are so thankful God puts fellow Christians in our path to help us become better as we strive to help the children and families we work with also become better.

Our work is multi-faceted in that we are teaching life skills, which include the spiritual, physical, educational, emotional, social, and mental aspects of living. As we move from the traditional children's home to a treatment facility we are working to implement a day by day schedule which provides our youth with consistency and stability. We've always had a conventional school on campus that operated as a separate part of the home environment, we are now incorporating schooling into our treatment schedule.

Kids start the day with their morning routine of Activities of Daily Living (ADLs) and breakfast after which they will transition to the Shults Lewis Youth Development Center. Following our morning chapel, the kids attend their goals group where they are guided in setting their own goals for the day based on their individualized treatment plan. Our Campus Assistant, lead teacher, and tutor will "encourage one

another daily, as long as it is called "today" so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." (Hebrews 3:13)

After setting their daily goal, the kids engage in the education focused part of their day using both online curriculum and instructional work with our teacher/tutors before heading to lunch. Then the fun begins! Our EQUIP Program groups are designed to teach kids anger management, social decision making, and social skills using a cognitive approach. "We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5) Phrases like thinking errors and problem names are becoming a daily part of our language at Shults Lewis as we work with the kids to capture our thoughts and replace them with Christ-like attitudes.

After our EQUIP group, kids participate in a time of hands-on learning designed to get them out of their seats. Some days that involves equine therapy, some days it involves physical education (PE), and some days it involves lab time where they may dissect a frog or grow cultures.

Once the kids return to their respective (boys and girls) homes for the day they are involved in homework/personal therapy assignment time, structured games, dinner, chores, ADLs, packing their lunch for the next day, and finally a goals group to review how they did that day in meeting the goal they set for themselves that morning. Was I successful in reaching my goal today? What did I do well today? What do I need to continue working on? How do I feel about my work today? Those are the questions they ask themselves as they self-evaluate their progress. And the process of self-evaluation is one we strive to model for our kids. After all, our own daily goals are to stay faithful to God and show others the way to heaven.





SCHOOL

HAPPENINGS

Vickie Terhune, School Principal
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Our theme for this school year is: "Education is the Key to the Future." We constantly remind our students how important it is for them to take school seriously as it will certainly affect their future.

This is my favorite time of the year and it is fun to plan activities for this season. Next week will be our fall field trip, late October will be Halloween activities, in November we will celebrate Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving, and of course, Christmas will arrive sooner than we think along with various times of fun and fellowship.

This will be my last article as I am retiring for the second time on December 31st. My mind and my body are telling me that it is time to move on. Shults-Lewis has been my life for the last 32 years so I am sad in many ways to leave. I will miss the staff and working with the students. I pray that I have made some difference in the lives of the students that I have worked with.

It was great to see so many of you at Annual Day. Thank you so much to all of you who donated school supplies, food, and money, and please keep praying for our staff and students.



WELCOME TO SHULTS-LEWIS DAVID, FRED & KIM

In August, we welcomed Kim & Fred Lucas to our boy's home. The Lucas's returned back to Shults-Lewis after a 2 year stint away. Fred is teaching Science and Math at the school. Kim brings her creativity to campus, which the kids enjoy. David Warren, our program director's husband, joined our team and serves as a Campus Assistant. He brings experience working with kids from Tennessee Children's Home. We are excited to have three new staff aboard.



SAYING GOODBYE TO THE ZANDSTRAS

In August, we said goodbye to Mike & Jenn Zandstra who served as houseparents for the boys in Home 7. Mike also taught math and science at the school. Their departure was bittersweet. We will miss them dearly. We wish the Zandstra family all the best in their future endeavors.



WE ARE VISITING CHURCHES

In November, we will be visiting two church congregations: Grandville Church of Christ and Sunnyside Road Church of Christ. In January, we will be visiting Maplewood Church of Christ. We look forward to meeting members of the church, bringing material, and sharing the work here at Shults-Lewis. If you are interested in having us come out to your church to give a presentation, it would be our pleasure. Please contact our office at 219-462-0513 to schedule a visit. We look forward to hearing from you.





Honors & Remembers...

July 21- October 11, 2023

HONORS

Alan and Michelle Bain
The Nolan Family

Seth Barboza
1st Birthday
Chris and Beth Underwood

Clay Barnts
Daniel and Deborah Brewer

Johnnie Coley
Your Birthday
The Vermillion Family

Trevor Davis
Your 22nd Birthday
James and Vera Lankford

Ron Losher
Rob and Karen Losher

Northwest Church of Christ
The Nolan Family

Joe Pybas
Missing you at Cherry Hill Church of Christ
Robert and Joyce Blackford

Chery and Dr. Thayer Salisbury
African Textbook Ministry
LTC Joan Scott Williams, USAR

Patricia Sears
Your 95th Birthday
Wendell and Rochelle Wardell

Jack Terry
New Christian
Chris and Beth Underwood

MEMORIALS

Robert (Bob) Allison
Jama Sattong
Jim and MaryAnne Watters

James and Thelma Berry
Alan and Gail Diana
Don Bowman
Judy Brown-Anderson

Ron Brown
Norman and Rhonda Bittle

Patricia Burnside
William Burnside

Bob Conn
Robert Conn

Ron Content
Ann Eifler

Jim and Betty Cox
Bruce and Deborah Clark

Cindy Cruce
Ann Eifler

Donald and Dorothy Cruce
Kenneth Slatton

John Day
Joseph and Terrie Kirts

Don DeFranceschi
Frank and Sharon DeFranceschi

Maria DeFranceschi
Frank and Sharon DeFranceschi

Carol Dwyer
John and Alice Burton

Mel Engelbrecht
Mark and Gwendolyn Royalty

Mary Hackbarth
Phil and Lavonne Holloway

Mark and Joyce Harmon
The Nolan Family
Laurie Wonsil

Mary Heaney
Jim and Benita Ward

Darrell Hutchens
Margaret Hutchens
The Mudloff Family
The Nolan Family
Laurie Wonsil

Bill Hudge
Robert Conn

Vernon Jackman
Barry and Myra Coddens
Chris and Beth Underwood

Walter and Cordelia Jankowski
Diana Woloszyk

Josephine Johnson
Nancy Wallace

Louise Jones
North Central CoC
Warsaw CoC
Jeffrey and Koleen Weimann
John and Janice Wilkins

Grace Lollar
John Lollar

Phyllis Lollar
John Lollar

Robert and Theo Losher
Rob and Karen Losher

Larry Lowe
Linda Lowe

Annabel Marshall
Jeffery and Koleen Weimann

Glen and Dee Martin
Dean and Norma Wells

Wallace and Virginia Mays
Tim Mays

Cindy McClain
Joe and Pat McClain

Elizabeth Nelson
Jim Elkins

Bob and Vivian Nolan
Laurie Wonsil

Gabriel Nolan
The Nolan Family

Dale Norris
Barbara Norris

Anthony Perkins
Margaret Hutchens
The Nolan Family
Laurie Wonsil

Lee Portinger
Alex and Joan Jeal

Abby Royalty
Mark and Gwendolyn Royalty

Lilly Royalty
Mark and Gwendolyn Royalty

Ruby Royalty
Mark and Gwendolyn Royalty

TSGT Edward Scott
U.S. Army Corps-WWII
LTC Joan Scott Williams,
USAR

Jimmie and Lorene Smith
Mark and Gwendolyn Royalty

Mary Smith
Margaret Hutchens

Warren and Bea Steele
The Nolan Family

Fay Turner
Larry and Margaret Turner

Sylvia Turner
Larry and Margaret Turner

Mary Utley
Baxter Feltner

Wilma Winters
Donna Parker

Ben White
Larry and Nancy Terry

Ricky Wood
Cooksville CoC

Jerry Worth
Michael and Tamra Scott

A SHOUTOUT TO OUR SOJOURNERS!

Sojourners are retired Christians who travel in RVs across the United States and parts of Canada to work with congregations of the churches of Christ, children's homes, church camps, Christian colleges and schools. Our Sojourners typically come two weeks before Annual Day to setup our Rummage Sale and do work around campus. This year, a few of the men, performed some much needed electrical and concrete work on campus. We are so grateful for all their help! The residents and staff enjoyed a night of pizza, games and fellowship with them. We had a lot of laughs together!

Thank you to Jim Gordon, Board Member, and his wife Irene, for leading the work here by the Sojourners. We were also blessed by his Wednesday night Bible Study on Jonah and his Sunday sermons.

Memorial/Honor Gift Certificate

This gift of \$ _____ is given

In Memory In Honor of _____

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

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





PO Box 471
Valparaiso, IN 46384

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR GIVING TUESDAY ON NOVEMBER 28TH

Giving Tuesday is a day dedicated to bringing communities together to raise awareness of a specific cause. On November 28th, we are asking individuals, churches, and businesses alike to join in donating money to Shults-Lewis to help support the mental health services needed to resolve the trauma they have been exposed to.

We are looking for an individual or business who would be willing to match donations received for this fundraiser up to a certain dollar amount. Please prayerfully consider being a matching donor. If you are interested, please contact Stephanie Balcerak, our Development Director, at 219-462-0513 ext. 103. Donations may be made in the form of cash, check or by credit card by going to www.shultslewis.org and selecting Donate. If you are donating by check, please notate Giving Tuesday on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

**GIVING
TUESDAY**