

Tri-State Family Services

Tri-State Family Services
217-357-3343 or 800-357-1991
www.tristatefamilyservices.org

October/November/December 2006

Newsletter

WANTED: ORDINARY PEOPLE

“Throughout history, God has called ordinary people like you and me to make an eternal difference in our world.” This is a great quote and one we believe in completely. Why? We see it all the time! Our volunteers are no different than anyone else with the possible exception that they have stepped away from their safety net and are surrendered to doing whatever God calls them to do. One of the most common fears expressed by a new volunteer is that they won’t know what to say, or worse, will say the wrong thing. We’ve ALL been there. Fortunately, God gives us His Word so that we can be thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) He also reminds us that perfect love casts out fear. Since God IS love, He is able to fill our hearts with love for those in need and fear takes a backseat.

We are in need of people who want to make an eternal difference. There are no unimportant jobs with this (or any other) ministry. Whether your gift is cleaning, counseling, answering the phone, stapling presentation packets, painting trim boards, or serving as a board member...however God has gifted you is of value in kingdom work.

If you have 4 hours to donate each week and believe God is calling you to serve with us at Tri-State Family Services or Chrysalis Shepherding Home, please answer the call...and give us a call!

Pictured are the people who are serving as our Board of Directors.



Left to right: Jerry Taylor, Jayne Mason, Phyllis Whitaker and Tom Jefferson

*G*reetings,

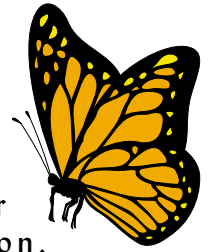
Fall is upon us and the temperatures reflect that along with school starting up. We have also been doing some fall cleaning at the Center. Becky is moving out of the Center to set up her office at the Chrysalis Home and things do look different in the office that Becky and I shared. We are planning on putting furniture in the office as well to expand our parenting class space. We need more space and room to conduct our classes. If you know of good furniture, please let us know. School presentations are off and running as well. Continue to pray for open doors to the schools and for the students to have open ears, minds, and hearts.

Keep the faith,

Sherry



CHRYSALIS SHEPHERDING HOME



When you are in the midst of a big project, you sometimes feel you aren't going anywhere. I recently gave a Shepherding Home update to a supporting church and in the process of putting together the Power Point presentation, my perspective was broadened. I could see the "before and after" to date and realized, once again, God has allowed us to move forward.

A few significant steps forward since our last newsletter are:

- * Our request for help to purchase the bed sets was completely met and we are now able to purchase all the beds we will need! Praise God!

- * We were able to pay off the furnace/air conditioner that had to be installed!

- * The antique stair railings are nearly completed and ready for carpet! (see picture)

Progress continues in many other ways as well, such as decorating, yard work, baseboards and trim, and more plumbing.

My most frequently asked question is "When will you open?" My pastor has been doing a sermon series from Nehemiah. He made a point that encouraged me and will, hopefully, encourage you as you are in the midst of



some big project...or trial or just waiting for clear direction.

"God's timing is not your timing." He reminded us that from the time Nehemiah received his vision to rebuild the city wall, 4 months passed until the opportunity came to act upon it. With David, it was 10 years before stepping into the kingship role he had been promised. With Joseph, it was 25 years until his dream came to fruition, and with Moses, 40 years. He didn't even mention Noah!!

I say this as a reminder that God gave the vision of the Shepherding Home, He has kept the vision alive in the hearts of those who pray for it, work on it and support it and in His own perfect timing, it will open. May we all stay surrendered to His timing.

Remaining in Him,

Becky

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.
2 Thess. 2:16-17 (NIV)

PREGNANCY 101

Proverbs 17:6 tells us that children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children. Therefore, Tri-State Family Services has just added another class to offer our clients. The class is entitled Pregnancy 101 and deals strictly with the changing mother during her nine months of pregnancy. It can be taken by any client who wishes to be more aware of what occurs during pregnancy.

The topics discussed are discomforts, nutrition and exercise for a healthy pregnancy. Also, the client is taught what to

pack for the hospital and what the real labor signs are. All the information better informs the client to care for themselves and their unborn child. The class lasts around 45 minutes and eight handouts are given for the client to keep.

Within the next month, a labor, delivery, and postpartum class will be added to allow the client the opportunity to be educated throughout the complete pregnancy and after the birth of the child.



WONDERFULLY MADE

“For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place.
When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,
Your eyes saw my unformed body.
All the days ordained for me
were written in your book
before one of them came to be.” (Psalm 139:13-16 NIV)

These words have become very familiar to our ministry, but when a new little life is born that you have been praying and waiting for, there is the reminder that this is REAL. God REALLY does knit each one of us together in our mother’s womb and the whole time we are not visible to others, we are visible to God, our Creator. If that is true, then the rest of this passage is also true. All of our days are ordained and written in His book. How thrilling to know that the God of the Universe cares for each one of us individually and sees us from the second we are conceived until the day we step into His arms by way of the cross of Christ. Below is a little one that God has been watching and who is now visible to us as well. His name is Jonathan.



PLEASE PRAY:

In thanksgiving for God’s wonderful provision for the ministry
For the board, staff, & volunteers to be guided by God’s hand as they serve
For more people to step up and serve as volunteers
For students, clients, & potential residents to be ready for truth
For our upcoming election that Godly men would be elected
For wisdom as we counsel families
Christ-like attitudes

THANK YOU, JENNIFER!

We say see ya later to another volunteer. Jennifer Eckman has to say so long for a while at least. Jennifer has been an asset to the ministry and will be missed very much. We wish their family the very best as they grow.



AN ANCHOR IN THE STORM

by Rachael Martens

Our family has the wonderful privilege of being a foster family and the lessons God has taught us about Him and His love have been incredible. We see things we may never have seen otherwise. One aspect of parenting that applies whether you are foster parents or not is the responsibility of instilling high moral character and conduct consistent with that character in the face of hardship. Now that may seem obvious and something we all strive to do but what about when our children are facing hardships or burdens that seem overwhelming to them and maybe even to us? Do we lessen our resolve as a form of compassion? I don't think so. We can certainly be compassionate and use the experience as an understanding of behavior but we slight our children if we do not call them to His higher standard in the midst of the trial.

As we know that nothing happens to us without first being filtered through God's sovereign hands, this is also true in the lives of our children. The trials they are experiencing, whether Satan means them for evil, God can use for good. We are to be to Christ's anchor for them in the occasionally turbulent ocean of life until they choose His anchor for themselves.

I have also noticed as I walk through these hard times with my children, God continues to purify and refine my life as well. Maybe it is a deeper understanding of a lesson I have already learned, or patience as I persevere when I feel like giving up. Perhaps it is praying for and loving those who have caused my children pain with the love of Christ. Undoubtedly it causes me to cling to my Savior more than ever, calling on his wisdom and power. It humbles me and makes me aware of how God parents me.

What are we to do then to allow our kids to not only survive the hardships that they face but to actually thrive despite them?

1) PRAY! Pray for your children, in their hearing and out of it. Pray for the situation that your child faces. Pray for those individuals involved (it may be the only prayer on their behalf that reaches heaven). Fast also, this is a forgotten discipline that avails much!

2) Be available to your kids. Hold them, rock them (it's OK if they really don't fit on your lap anymore, give it a shot).

3) Be quiet when your child needs you to, but open them up when they need to talk. Lead in your conversations with an observation of how they are feeling, "You look upset/happy/frustrated etc." Listen, listen, listen.

4) Identify with your child as best you can. If you ever faced a similar experience, tell your child about it and how you handled it. This validates them and lets your kids know that you survived it, so can they.

5) Let your children know that their misbehavior is unacceptable and although you understand why your child is acting a certain way that you love him/her too much to allow it. (God works the same way doesn't He?) Provide logical, CONSISTENT consequences to behavior. God is SO creative and will provide you with creative discipline solutions if you ask him.

6) Let your child know you believe in them. Tell them you know God has a great plan for them and this is part of the training. Don't waste one ounce of your child's pain. This can all be for the glory of God and your child's good if God is the One you cling to.

Father,

Again, we thank you for the treasure you give us in the form of our children. Lord, when they face obstacles help us to not try to rescue them. May we as parents have the strength we need to allow them to experience pain that would be beneficial to them. Help us to bring up a strong, godly generation that will know how to handle themselves according to Your Word when they face trials in the days that will come where we are not with them. We love you and desire to cherish each moment with them. Amen.

*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
Galatians 6:9 (NIV)*



WELCOME ABOARD!

(We've asked our newest board member to introduce herself.)

As a matter of introduction, my name is Phyllis Whitaker. I attended my first Board meeting for TSFS in September. I was asked to serve on the TSFS Board and, after prayerfully considering the option and completing the required paper work and training, have agreed to serve.

At the end of May, 2006, I retired from Ameren/CIPS after 34 years of service. My husband, Bill, and I have been married 35 years and we have two children, Wendi (Mrs. Rich) Hopkins of Sturgeon, Missouri, and Corey (Rebekah) Whitaker of Shoreline, Washington. We have 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 6 years to one born this past August. They are (in order of age) Grace Hosannah Whitaker (6), Justus Zion Whitaker (3), Harley Joe Whitaker (1), Jude Richard Hopkins (1) and little Glory Rose Whitaker (born August 14, 2006). We have two step grandchildren, Desiree

(DeeDee) Hopkins, 16, and Tyler Hopkins, 15.

My husband, Bill, has been employed by Iowa State Industries of Fort Madison, Iowa, for over 25 years. Bill and I live on a small acreage southeast of Carthage, IL.

Since retirement I have enjoyed the freedom of being available for my children if, and when, they could use my services. Of course, as some of you know, spending time as a grandma is probably one of the most rewarding times of my life. I enjoy working outside, writing, painting (not always buildings), spending time with my husband, family and friends.

Please pray that my participation would be a blessing to those who have already committed to share their time and talents. May God truly lead this Board in all decisions concerning ministry opportunities and grant us wisdom in the stewardship of funds given.

OUR WISH LIST:

Home

HP printer ink #21 & #22

Air registers 4 x 12 inch 7tan, 2 brown
DVD/VHS player

9 volt batteries (for smoke alarms)

Sewing supplies

Know What You Believe by Paul E. Little

Daughters of Heaven by Suzanne Rentz

On the Threshold of Hope

by Diane Mandt Langberg

A Wounded Heart by Dan B. Allender

Counseling Survivors of Sexual Abuse

by Diane Mandt Langberg

Kitchen whisk

Large plunger

White office waste basket

27 inch or larger TV (not console)

Micro-hood (to fit 30" opening)

Paper products

Center

HP fax printer ink #26

Diapers Size 2-5

Stamps

Copy paper

THANK YOU SUPPORTING CHURCHES!

We want to say thank you to all those churches who made us your VBS missionary and to the Hi-Teen II Campers from LaMoine Christian Camp. The generous donations helped us during the historically "slow" months of summer. The Campers did a day of service for us and the wonderful help and cheerful attitudes (whether hauling dirt or cleaning out the gutters of the shed) were an amazing blessing to both the Center and the Home. We can learn a lot from our young people!



SPRING YARD SALE

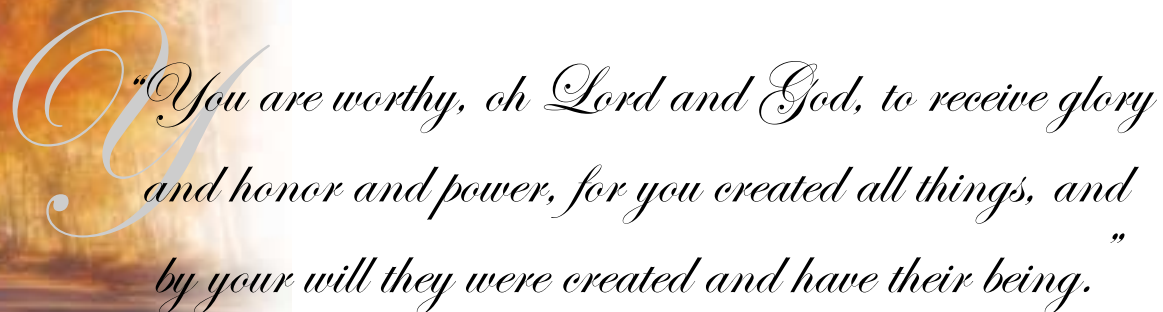
Yes, we know it's not even winter yet, but we like to get our date on the calendar for our next yard sale and since we've made some changes, we want to give everyone plenty of notice. The yard sale will be on Thursday, May 17th from noon to 6:00 p.m. and Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. instead of our usual Friday and Saturday. This moves the set-up date to Wednesday, the 16th and we will be accepting donations from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now!

Tri-State Family Services
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tsfs@adams.net
www.tristatefamilyservices.org

Hours:
Mon. thru Fri.: 8 a.m.-12 noon
Wed:8 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Oct/Nov/Dec.
2006
Newsletter**

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Carthage, IL
Permit No. 6



*"You are worthy, oh Lord and God, to receive glory
and honor and power, for you created all things, and
by your will they were created and have their being."*

Rev. 4:11