



# the james project journal

Volume 3, Issue 1

April 2014

Rewriting the stories of children in foster care.

Foster care is the best option for displaced children in our community only **IF** there are dedicated, caring foster parents within the system.

~TJP



## Exciting Update on Hawthorne Place Mortgage

From an original loan of \$143,349 on the Hawthorne Place house, we have reduced the mortgage down to \$25,287.76. Hooray! We send out a heartfelt thank you to our donors for their generous support!

After retiring this mortgage, the way is cleared for house number three, our teen home. Won't you be our Neighbor?

## Hello from Hawthorne Place

By: Julie Lundberg, foster mom

We moved into our James Project home in Hawthorne Place on January 25<sup>th</sup>, and God orchestrated it beautifully. The day of the move came and went so quickly! Months prior we started packing and anticipating the move. Just like a wedding, we spent months preparing, and then it came and went with only the vivid memories of the day remaining.

I find myself driving to 1401 Holmes like we have lived here for years. I can't begin to

thank God enough for the joy, the excitement and the adoration He has for us as a family to represent Him. To be placed in this calling is the most humbling journey we've been on. We are so excited to meet the newest children who will join our family. The mere thought of having more kids is exciting. Please keep us in your prayers as we begin our new



The Lundbergs praying before a meal

routine, and discover the new 'Us.'

## Morning of Prayer

By: Jennifer Hardwick, Prayer Team Leader

In January, supporters of The James Project (TJP) met and prayed at our two homes. Prayers of thanks were offered for provision for our 2 families including the end of sewer and poison ivy issues at High Pointe and for a successful closing and work inspection at Hawthorne Place. Prayers were spoken for the children's walks with God and for wisdom and pa-

tience to be bestowed upon the foster parents. The physical structures of the homes were also lifted up, that they would be protected from physical and spiritual attack. As supporters of TJP, we hope you will join us in praying for TJP to continue impacting foster care in the community. If you would like to be a part of TJP's Prayer Team and receive the

prayer and praise update, please contact us at: [prayer4james@gmail.com](mailto:prayer4james@gmail.com). There is great power when many pray!



# High Pointe Highlights *By: Dee Peterson, foster mom*

As foster parents, sometimes we provide a stable long term home for children, possibly even an adoptive home. Other times we may be needed short term until DCFS is able to find the right home for a child. In either situation we do the same: open our hearts and home by providing love and support. We make the child feel a sense of belonging during a time and transition that is scary. On January 24 we welcomed "K", a 9-year-old little girl. At first she was shy and be-



A note from "K" to Dee... "I will miss you a lot. I love you DD."

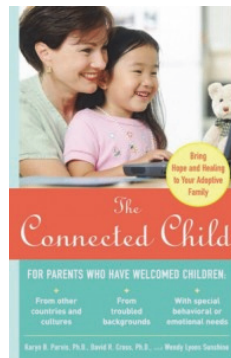
came teary-eyed when she talked about her siblings, as they had been placed in other homes. As the weekend progressed she was laughing, giggling, and having a good time. The James Project (TJP) helped provide basic necessities like socks, pajamas, etc. A friend of TJP donated

a quilt. We went shopping and "K" picked out new clothes. The bond strengthened between us each day. In early February, DCFS informed us "K" would be moving February 13 to a home where all 3 siblings could be reunited. Her eyes lit up and she was so excited! We were sad to see her go but elated to know she would be with her siblings. DCFS is not always able to find homes where siblings can remain together so we praise the Lord for this gift. Friends and family said that we impacted "K's" life in the short time she was with us, but the truth is she impacted our lives!

## Foster & Adoptive Parenting Classes

The James Project along with child welfare agency Baby Fold, has hosted a series of classes throughout the winter entitled *Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI)*. The classes have taught parenting techniques to foster and adoptive parents on how to help children overcome the effects of trauma, neglect or abuse. Class attendee Laura Crater reflects on what she learned: "What a gift the recent

TBRI classes have been for our family! I have grown so much in my understanding of attachment needs and parenting style as a result. Adoption and fostering come with so many challenges, but because of what I learned in these classes, I am seeing a marked dif-



ference in my children when using these techniques...they honor God and they honor my children! Thank you so much to the James Project for hosting these classes!" If you are interested in attending future classes, please contact Sarah Homeier at: [becoming\\_1@comcast.net](mailto:becoming_1@comcast.net).

## A Good Read

As supporters of The James Project ministry, our hearts are already tuned in to loving the displaced children in our community. However, it is helpful to hear accounts of what life is like within the foster care system. Author Cris Beam, a former foster child and now a foster mom herself, documented first-hand accounts of foster



children for five years. The result was the book *To the End of June*, an unforgettable portrait that takes us deep inside the lives of foster children at the critical points in their search for a stable, loving family. The

New York Times Book Review hails the book as "A triumph of narrative reporting and storytelling. . . . Beam gives [foster children] a much-needed voice and does what too many adults in the foster-care system can't, or won't: She advocates for them." This book gives the reader the full picture of the foster care system and how we might improve it.

# Meet Brandi Tolley *Closet 1:27 Manager*

An integral part of The James Project ministry is Closet 1:27. It provides clothing, shoes, and necessities for newly placed foster children. To keep our warehouse of inventory operating at full capacity we are so blessed to have Brandi Tolley at the helm! Brandi is married to Ron and has two children, Solomon (age 15) and Bella (age 6). She has been a member of West Side Christian Church since 1984. Brandi served in the US



Army as a chaplain assistant from 1996-2004 in South Carolina, Georgia, Germany and in several Illinois Reserve units. She owns and operates Buy BIG from Brandi, an eBay based business since 2000. She also serves on advisory committees for eBay, Paypal, and the eBay Government Relations committee.

From a very young age, Brandi has had a heart for serving others and enjoys helping and giving to those in need. She has been delivering to

foster families from the onset of closet 1:27 and more recently has taken on the role of Closet Manager. She helps organize closet workdays and deliveries, fundraising, closet inventory and management, as well as many other tasks.

Brandi writes, "Although I have not personally been a foster parent, I am incredibly grateful for the personal relationships I have developed with The James Project founders, volunteers, foster parents and children I have met on my journey thus far."

## Closet 1:27 Wish List

Closet 1:27 is continually serving those in the foster care community and it is important to keep plenty of supplies on hand. Currently we have the following needs:

- ♥ Diapers, especially newborn size
- ♥ Pajamas
- ♥ Twin sized sheet sets
- ♥ Twin sized blankets
- ♥ Gift cards to Old Navy, Kohl's, Shoe Carnival, and department stores.

"Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!!  
Clean pajamas and clothes that fit mean so much to a child who has lost so much. What a blessing The James Project has been to our family today.  
God bless you,

~Sarah and Billy, foster parents

If you are able to donate any of these items, please contact us at 498-6817 or through our website.

## Meals for Families

Our goal of providing once-a-week meals for our TJP Moms has received a terrific boost from Central Baptist Church and their head cook, Jan Sherrow. Central Baptist, which has a weekly Wednesday night dinner for their congregation, has agreed to provide meals for both TJP families every Wednesday night. The only component we need to provide is folks to pick up and deliver. It takes less than one hour to pick up at the church (downtown on fourth Street, between 4:30 and

5:30 pm) and deliver to both families..... And it's fun!

We can still use anyone who wants to cook and deliver meals from their own kitchen almost any Wednesday that is convenient for them, giving the cooks at Central a little break. During the summer the cooks at Central take a vacation. Most of the summer

meals will be provided by Jenny Carrell, but she too could use an occasional break so we still have a need for meals in June, July, and August.

If you can help deliver or would like to provide a meal, please contact:  
**Meal Team Leader,**  
**Karun Tillett**  
**217-553-7048**



# Our Neighbors

While you may not live near one of The James Project homes, you can become a Neighbor just the same, with a \$1000 donation or more. We humbly thank the following supporters for being a part of our Neighborhood:

## 2013 Neighbors

*Blake & Julia Anderson*

*Larry & Sherri Barry*

*Christi & Joe Begue, in honor of  
Raymond Abernathy*

*Gary & Paula Borah*

*Rob & Lisa Burris*

*Ray & Anne Capestrain/Tracy  
Foundation*

*Cherry Hills Baptist Church*

*Community Foundation for Land of  
Lincoln*

*Country Financial Services*

*Luke & Laura Crater*

*Bruce & Bethanie Drake*

*Len & Karen Giannone*

*Nilesh & Monica Goswami*

*Bill & Lu Ann Groesch*

*Jason & Jacquelyn Ground*

*Larry & Rose Haas*

*Tom & June Harmon*

*Brad Hudson*

*Dennis & Shelley Kennedy*

*Kyle & Emily Killebrew*

*Warren & Deb Knoles*

*Macy's Foundation*

*Jim & Annette McDermott*

*Will & Abby Musgrove*

*Eleanor Novotnak*

*Jerry & Lisa Quick*

*Ron & Therese Romanelli*

*Sally Seiple*

*Springfield Association of Oral &  
Maxillofacial Surgeons*

*Al & Sandy Stevens*

*Curt & Debra Trampe*

*Sheref & Ramsey Unal*

*Beth & Kurt Wilke*

*Russ & Jan Williams*

*Eric & Terri Woolbright*

## 2014 Neighbors

*Mark W. Groesch Family  
Foundation*

*Forrest & Mary Lou Holsapple*

*Paul & Colleen Paoni*

*Jim & Dianne Schleyhahn*

*Russ & Jan Williams*

# Ministry Partners

To keep The James Project operating successfully, we need dedicated people to give time, talent and monetary support. We are grateful to the following individuals and businesses for their help:

*Bemco Mattress*

*Baby Fold*

*Bank of Springfield*

*Meghan Birch*

*Jenny Carrell*

*Central Baptist Church*

*Curt Trampe, DreamMakers  
Kitchen & Bath*

*Robert Davis*

*Lu Ann Groesch*

*Jennifer Hardwick*

*Julie Hart*

*Kyle Killebrew Group, Inc.*

*Harvest Moon Landscapers*

*Steve Leonard*

*Dr. Jack Luker*

*Mallard Mechanicals*

*Morgan McCasland*

*Paul Paoni*

*Sara Ratcliffe*

*The Ratcliffe Family*

*Dave and Audrey Rawlins*

*Jessica Robinson*

*Susan Sundley*

*Karun Tillett*

*Brandi Tolley*

*United Trust  
Group*



**Paul Stivers from Central Baptist helps with painting at Hawthorne Place**

# Heartstrings: Teens in Foster Care

One of the greatest myths in foster care is that foster children, especially teenagers, have done something wrong, which causes them to be placed in foster care. Nothing could be further from the truth. These children are the victims and this misconception makes it difficult to place teenagers in foster homes. It also prevents foster teens from finding a forever family through adoption. In most cases, teens are often victims of abuse and neglect, and must be removed from their homes due to parental abuse of drugs and alcohol. These children then suddenly find themselves in a strange place with people they do not know, scared and stressed and bewildered.



With the scarcity of foster homes,

and the hesitancy of many foster parents to take in an older child, teens often move from home to home or end up in a group home. In the group homes, they often are influenced by kids already hardened by their circumstances which can then lead an unworlly teen into trouble and a life pattern that can take them down the same road their parents traveled. The cycle of poor parenting and neglected children continues. Statistics show what difficulties we are fighting against:

- 50% of foster children drop out of high school.
- 50% of young women previously in foster care will be pregnant by age 19.
- Almost 30% of the nation's adult homeless are former foster children.

- 30% of teens who age out of foster care without a place to call home become incarcerated.
- Only 1% of former foster children earn a college degree.

Every child's introduction to foster care begins with a crisis or a tragedy. Frequently, the situation continues to deteriorate. If God's people don't show His love to the scared and sad, where will they find it? What will they pass on?

Teens may not be small and cuddly, but they are still children and the hurt and confusion they experience is real. A loving family can shield them from a cruel world, give them the best possible outcome, and rescue them from the worst.

\*Statistics courtesy of National Foster Care Month

## Help Us Help Them

The James Project Board of Directors believe that God is leading us to designate our third foster home specifically for teens. There are many teens in our local foster care system that are falling through the cracks and rapidly losing any sense of security and self worth.

Fundraising is now underway to purchase our third TJP house. This home will be designed to care for 6-8 foster teens. If you can help with this endeavor, please donate online at our website or by mail.

Mike Hamblin, Director of Foster Family Recruitment for the Utah Foster Care Foundation put it best when he said, "What foster teens need most is structure, a safe environment and a lifelong connection to a caring adult that they can carry throughout their lives." Having a lifelong connection to a loving, secure, stable adult is the key

Make donations via **Paypal**, at:

[www.TheJamesProject127.com](http://www.TheJamesProject127.com)

**Mail checks to:** The James Project

11 Sunset Lane, Springfield, IL 62704



to raising happy and healthy children, and preventing them from becoming another statistic.

Before these teens lose all chance of a childhood, before they give up striving for a meaningful life, and before they miss the chance to learn about the love of Jesus, please.....HELP US HELP THEM!



## the james project

...homes and support for fostering families...

11 Sunset Lane  
Springfield, IL 62704  
217.498.6817


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info@thejamesproject.com

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## Superheroes for TJP

Sara Ratcliffe, a next-door neighbor of the Lundberg's and the Hawthorne Place home, shared a wonderful story with us this past month. In a letter to TJP, Sara writes:

"My 5-year old daughter Matilda loves superheroes. This year for her birthday, she decided that she and her friends should be real superheroes and help a local charity. Instead of presents, she asked for donations for The James Project. We hope this helps you fulfill your mission." God Bless, Matilda & the Ratcliffe Family



Matilda flexes her muscles for The James Project. You go girl!

## Why We Do What We Do

It is hard to comprehend what a frightening experience it can be for a child when they enter foster care. They have left homes and parents that were not safe for them, and have been taken to a unfamiliar place, often without their siblings. This short film of 12 minutes entitled *ReMoved*, will visually and verbally describe the internal struggles of a foster child. After viewing this, you will more fully understand why we do what we do.

<http://shelleycadamymunoz.com/2014/03/09/removed/>