



the james project

The James Project Journal

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2013

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



"True religion must not be used to control others. True religion must be used to serve others."

~Kasey Van Norman, Bible teacher and author of *Named by God*

High Pointe Highlights *Words from Dee Peterson*

This November marked our one year anniversary of living at the High Pointe House. We are now settled into our new home, new school and new routine. These changes were made easier knowing we have God's love, strength and guidance to sustain us.

It was a year filled with lows and highs. The tougher moments were during those times of difficult life lessons and experiencing grief. The highs were celebrating life and rejoicing in God's provision!

Finding strength in the Lord was particularly important as my husband Andrew's father passed away on September 12. As Andrew approached the casket at the wake with our foster daughter in his arms, he began to cry. "Daddy's Girl" had not seen him cry before, and she held onto him until his tears dried. I know that she learned this way to love from him!

This past year, our friends at The James Project (TJP)



The Peterson family, minus toddler foster son "G" who was taking a nap ♥

offered prayer and support, delivered meals, helped at Christmas, gave each child a quilt, gave them a day of fun at Abe's Corn Maze and so much more. Of course the biggest blessing was moving into the High Pointe House and having more space for a large fostering family. With this home, we hope to adopt the sibling group of 3 children that we have been fostering.

As Christmas approaches, we are excited to decorate our

home and prepare shoeboxes to donate to Samaritan's Purse. Another fun addition to our December calendar is that Andrew and I will attend a marriage conference in St. Louis courtesy of TJP! They are also introducing us to classes to strengthen our parenting techniques to better help our children heal from their past experiences and trauma. We are eagerly looking forward to this class and having additional support from foster parents and professionals.

My most frequently prayed prayer is for God to grant me the strength, patience and knowledge to be the best parent I can be for my children. To know that the prayer team of TJP is praying right along with me is so uplifting.

I sincerely send out a THANK YOU to all of you that have supported Closet 1:27, Call 1:27 and TJP.

God Bless you all!

~The Petersons

Calling All Cooks!

Since the inception of The James Project, one of our goals has been to provide one meal a week to help TJP foster parents put a home cooked meal on the table. Anyone who has raised a family knows how meaningful this would be to a large family.

We are now searching for individuals, church small groups or any group of friends or co-workers who

would like to provide meals for foster families. Wednesday night is the best night for the Petersons to receive a meal, so folks could sign up for one Wednesday or a whole month of Wednesdays to serve this family of 7. Soon we will also be providing a once-a-week meal for the Hawthorne Place House as well.

So if you or your group would like to be a part of the TJP

Meal Team, please call us at 498-6817 or by email: jamesprojectinfo@gmail.com

As we all know, the way to the heart is truly through the stomach!





Board Member Karen Giannone collects raffle tickets at the 5K.



Friends Teresa Auble, Jen Fitzgibbon and Laura Crater ready to run for TJP.



The James Project directors Sarah Homeier and Jan Williams accept a check from Dave & Audrey Rawlins at iWorship Center.

Hello from Hawthorne Place

Exciting news...God has given us a family for the Hawthorne Place House! We are pleased to introduce you to Brian and Julie Lundberg and their 3 foster sons, ages 10, 6 and 4.

Julie writes, *"Have you ever hit rock bottom? That's where Brian and I met over 7 years ago. After 3 failed marriages between the two of us, we decided to give dating another try. I had lost twin girls who suddenly passed in utero, and I brought that sadness into our relationship. After years of digging ourselves out of debt and overcoming our past, by the grace and mercy of our Lord, we found our bearings and have come to know how great God is.*

As I write this, I realize God gave us these children in our life to better us. Whether here on earth or already in heaven, God gave us these kids to bring us closer to Him.

We are thankful to The James Project for being so spirit-led and allowing God to provide houses to foster families who want to take care of the least of these. We are excited about our future and excited about partnering with TJP's ministry."

Renovations Underway

A generous donation has allowed TJP to move forward with the necessary updates to the Hawthorne Place House. A small 2nd floor bedroom will be converted into a bathroom by



plumber Dave Fisher and carpenter Robert Davis. In the kitchen, Curt Trampe and DreamMakers Kitchen & Baths will be putting down a new floor and adding an island with stool space for 6. They will also remodel a drop ceiling in the kitchen. We will add fencing to the backyard to make it more child-friendly and painting the 1st floor. It is all too exciting and we are looking forward to the Lundbergs moving in!

TJP 5K Race Results

The sun streaked through the clouds on September 28 as the 5K race began at iWorship Center. A total of 150 participants ranging from babies in strollers to seasoned runners came out in support of The James Project. The overall winner of the race was

Bryan Wilmarth, a pastor at Cherry Hills. The James Project extends a huge thank you to iWorship Center for coordinating and hosting this wonderful event on our behalf. We are excited to use the funds to continue blessing foster families in our community!



We The James Project

Thank you so much for helping and providing us with the items we needed to make our foster children feel at home. We are forever grateful for your generosity.

~Evin, foster parent

Philippians 2:4 "...do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others."

"Closet 1:27, and specifically Brandi Tolley, really helped the sibling group of three that was placed with me in September. Within a few days Brandi delivered what the kids needed: clothes, shoes and toiletries. There were a couple of sizing issues which she happily found replacements. The kids were so excited as they were delivered to me with nothing. This program is so important to foster children, and the people running it are so nice!"

With gratitude, ~Leslie, foster parent

Meet Sarah Chandler *Newsletter Editor*



As The James Project dream launched into a full scale ministry in 2012, we quickly realized we needed a way to communi-

cate all of our news to our donors and the public at large—enter Sarah Chandler. Sarah is a Springfield native with a background in writing and editing. She is wife to Jeff and mother to baby in heaven Luke, Levi (7) and Anne (5). She is primarily a stay-at-home mom, but can be found keeping busy working part time at Groesch & Longos Orthodontics, volunteering with the West Side Christian Church Quilters and spending plenty of time outdoors.

When asked why she loves being a part of TJP, Sarah writes: "The core of this ministry is love. If we can show God's love through taking care of the children who are not being adequately loved, then we have made a marked difference in this world. The words of gratitude and the expressions of triumph and of need that are written in the pages of this newsletter bring stories of foster families to life. I am honored to work with TJP and use my spiritual gift in this way."

Foster & Adoptive Parenting Class

Are you a foster or adoptive parent looking to sharpen your skills in relating to children who have experienced physical and emotional trauma? Then this class is for you!

The James Project is partnering with child welfare agency Baby Fold in Bloomington to host a class entitled *Trust Based Relational Intervention* (TBRI). Instructors who have been trained by Dr. Karyn

Purvis, Director of The Institute of Child Development at TCU, will teach very practical classes to shape your parenting techniques in order to help children overcome the effects of trauma, neglect, or abuse and to aid in a child's journey of healing.

The first one-day class will be held December 9, 2013 from 9am to 4pm at Noll Medical Pavilion in Springfield. To provide additional

training, three more one-day classes will be offered during January, February and March with times to be announced. Registration and materials are free to all attendees. To register, contact Sarah Homeier at:

becoming_1@comcast.net

To date, 25 people have enrolled and we are thrilled!



Board of Directors

- Paula Borah
- Luke Crater
- Bethanie Drake
- Bruce Drake
- Karen Giannone
- Monica Goswami
- Rose Haas
- Sarah Homeier
- Gary Nelsen
- Mary Stone
- Jan Williams
- Russ Williams

Editorial Staff

Sarah Chandler, *Newsletter*

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Like us on 

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: (* denotes a new Neighbor this quarter)



As a thank you, Neighbors receive a brick with your name inscribed on it acknowledging the strong foundation your donation is laying for TJP's ministry.

Blake & Julia Anderson

Christi & Joe Begue, in honor of Raymond Abernathy*

Gary & Paula Borah*

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Eleanor Novotnak*

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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 partnership this past quarter:



The Board of Directors gathered for a strategic planning meeting in November.

Patricia Austin

Baby Fold

Bank of Springfield

Bemco Mattress

Cherry Hills Baptist Church

Curt Trampe, DreamMakers

Kitchens & Bath

Hannah Durchholz

Gale Fixmer

Duane & Bonnie Fullington

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Dale Smith

Kristin Sowa

James & Sharon Turner

Unishippers

Mary Eloise VanFossan

Martha Zimmerman

CALL 1:27 : A Year in Review

Because we are also committed to recruiting foster and adoptive parents, we established Call 1:27. This ministry holds classes in local churches to educate and answer questions about fostering and adopting. Experienced caseworkers and foster and adoptive parents explain the fostering and adoption process. Local foster care and adop-

tion agencies are partnering with us to help the many people who have approached us with questions about whether they should or could open their hearts and homes to displaced children. We are happy to be able to direct these families to pertinent resources. Within the last 2 months, there have been 3 new foster parent recruits. This brings the total for Call 1:27 to 11 recruits.



That translates to countless children being affected, and we are grateful to the families who have said "Yes" to fostering!

A special thank you to our 5 K Sponsors!

Appearances Salon

Country Financial

HJS Photography

The Great Display Company

Bradley Hudson, DDS

iWorship Center

Road I.D.

Sports Authority

Springfield Assoc. in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery, Ltd.

Answering The Call *Words from Erin Fenelon, foster mom*

As my husband Jeremy and I sat in a little classroom and heard the statistics of kids coming into foster care, our hearts were broken. Jeremy had tears streaming down his face, and I thought to myself, "We need to do this." Six months later we had easily completed the licensing process and were ready for the next step.

As we were eating dinner on Tuesday, October 30th, the phone rang. Jeremy answered and began to say "Okay" a lot and I frantically told him to put the phone on speaker so I could hear too, as I knew it was "The Call" from our foster agency. I remember asking a lot of questions, the biggest one being if we could call him back in 10 minutes.

Immediately, Jeremy and I went to our Father in prayer. We prayed for direction, guidance, and wisdom to know if this was going to be our first placement. Next, I called a friend who is a foster parent, as I promised myself I would call someone not emotionally involved before we said yes to a call. After completing these necessary steps, we said yes to our first foster child.

Our foster daughter is a vibrant, intelligent, and caring six-year-old who makes me smile, laugh and pray harder on a daily basis. While we have had challenges and will continue to face struggles, we are not guaranteed perfect children, nor are we ourselves perfect. We handle each issue with prayer

and love.

In our hearts, we would love to keep her as our own, but we know she needs to be back with her biological family once they complete the steps to mend their brokenness. While we would miss her terribly if/when she leaves our home, we know we have fulfilled the calling of the gospel of James 1:27: "...to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

Foster parenting is not glamorous and you will be stretched further than you thought possible. But it is rewarding! Jeremy and I are excited to see what children God will bring into our lives to care for and love. Join us, will you?





the james project

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

11 Sunset Lane
Springfield, IL 62704



Matching Donation Available

A faithful friend of The James Project has graciously offered a \$20,000 matching donation this month through December 31, 2013. Such generosity cannot go unmatched, so please consider giving to TJP this month in one of two ways:

Make donations via **Paypal**, at:
www.TheJamesProject127.com

Mail checks to: The James Project
11 Sunset Lane, Springfield, IL 62704

Grant Awarded to TJP!

The James Project recently received wonderful news! We were selected to receive a \$1400 grant from the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln. This grant from the Germeraad Family Fund will be used to purchase 14 new mattresses for Closet 1:27.

The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln has provided funding to charitable organizations for approximately 80 years. While the foundation serves Sangamon County, they also reach out to Cass, Christian, Logan, Macoupin, Menard, Montgomery and Morgan counties. Community foundations are tax-exempt public charities serving thousands of people who share a common interest—improving the quality of life in their area.

We are grateful to the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln for supporting The James Project and the fostering community.



Family Movie Night

Chase away the winter blues with a family movie night, sponsored by TJP. Mark your calendars for Friday, February 28 to see the film The Lost Medallion at Hope Free Church in Springfield. It is a great for movie for children ages 7 and up. Monetary donations will be accepted at the door.

The premise of the movie...

When Daniel visits a foster home to drop off donations



he is asked to tell the kids a story. The story he tells is about Billy and Allie, who uncover a long lost medallion and then accidentally wish themselves back in time. Daniel finishes telling this adventurous story, he reminds the foster children about their tremendous value to