



# the james project journal

Volume 3, Issue 2

November 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



Showing Love to TJP Through Garden Delights & Pumpkins Norm and Cheryl Diehl, owners of Kristin's Pumpkin Patch in North Lake Shore subdivision, provided fresh-from-their-garden produce to our TJP families this summer. In October, they welcomed the families to the pumpkin patch for some Fall fun. We thank the Diehls for sharing their green thumbs with us!

## Our Newest Foster Family

By: Angela Trowbridge, foster mom

Hello! My name is Angela Trowbridge and my husband is Darius Howse. We have one biological child, Evan (9) and have been blessed with a daughter through guardianship, Natashaia (21). We were able to have guardianship with her mother's consent before she went into foster care. God provided for her to graduate from Calvary Academy in 2011. Evan attends Springfield Christian School and we are members of Westside Christian Church. Darius is employed by Illinois Secretary of State. He is nearing completion of his master's degree which we are very excited about. I have been fostering for 15 years, primarily with teens. As a therapist, God has pre-



pared me to support these children through the many struggles they face. For this I am humbled. It is important to foster teens as they are often forgotten. I recall the sad stories of my great-grandmother who was raised in an orphanage. She said she was overlooked because she was older. Teens long for a loving family as much as younger children do. God has blessed me with an amazingly supportive husband who has joined my mission to foster. He has stated that it is a lot of hard work, but he wouldn't have it any other way. We have grown together in Christ through this mission.

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Our dear friend and The James Project Prayer Team Leader Jennifer Hardwick connected us with TJP. We are grateful beyond words to be a part of this community of foster families.

## Teen Home

The James Project extends a huge thank you to **M.G. and Donna Nelson**, who graciously made the final payment on the Hawthorne Place home. TJP is now without a mortgage! We are now searching in earnest for our third home, one with specifications to support the

needs of teens. We are already praying for the teens who will live in this home. We pray for miracles to happen in their lives and the direction of their future. Before these teens lose their child-

hood, 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

TEEN HOME

Help us help them.

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

The blessings this year have presented many memories that make my heart swell with pride! In February, when our teenage foster daughter arrived with her baby, I said with a smile "Call me Dee or Mom, but surely he can't call me Grandma as I'm only 33 years old!" On the second day, I found myself whispering, "Grandma loves you." Needless to say the no-grandma rule didn't last long! To my teen daughter I began as Dee, but now I am Mom which makes my heart skip a beat. Whether I am Dee, Mom, or yes, even Grandma to my foster children, I strive for our bond of love to be strong like the one our Heavenly Father has for us. On June 25th, our family celebrated adoption day for three of our foster children: Anthony, Alex, and Lexi. Keeping the siblings together was very important to us and with the



The adoption of Anthony, Alex & Lexi is finalized for the Peterson Family by Judge Leslie Graves on June 25th!

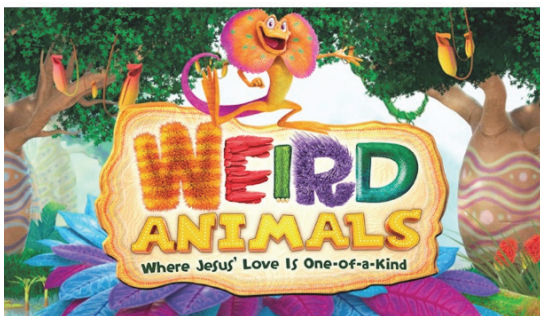
help of The James Project this wish was granted. We are now a forever family and our family is complete! Or so we thought...

We agreed to temporarily care for a newborn. We quickly fell in love. Our children understand that some foster kids come into our lives for only a short time, but they *really* wanted to keep her. My son

Desmond (6) was sad when the baby returned to a biological family member after a few months. But with a gleam in his eye and grin from ear to ear he said, "I got an idea!" He came to me, placed his hands and cheek to my belly, closed his eyes, and prayed "Please, God, give Mommy a baby in her belly." This heart-felt prayer moved me to my core—goose bumps, butterflies, and tears in my eyes for he himself was an answered prayer. He was a miracle baby praying for a miracle baby sibling that could not be taken away. My husband and I wondered if our son's prayer would be answered through adoption or a miracle. As always, our faith is with God who led us to our calling as foster parents, to build our family and bless us with indescribable love and joy through our children.

## Churches Lend A Hand

The James Project received a boost from Springfield area churches this summer. **First United Methodist Church** and **Our Savior's Lutheran Church** selected TJP as a benefactor at both of their Vacation Bible Schools. The theme was "Weird Animals," which opened up discussion about the variety of



animals and people that live in God's great world. The campers learned about foster children and were asked to give new pajamas, socks and underwear to our Closet 1:27, and the churches made monetary donations. Thank you for these gifts!

**Hope Presbyterian Church** hosted a church-wide garage sale to benefit TJP. Over the 2 day sale on July 31 and August 1, they raised over \$2000! Thank you Hope Presbyterian!

The Hawthorne Place Home experienced some trouble with their roof this summer. Thanks to the roofing skills of

**Tom Evering and Mitch Johnson**, the roof is as good as new!

The Lundbergs received the gift of cleaning from the staff at **First United Methodist Church**. Volunteers brought their cleaning products and elbow grease to our Hawthorne Place Home in August, making the home shine from top to bottom. A big thank you to **Rev. Roger Roth, Rev. Mike Whitaker, Rev. Nicole Cox, Jeremy Hutcherson, Sharon Sweeney, Pam Long, Lindsay Walker, Brad Curtis, Chase Carlisle, Garrett West and Carli Burton** for showing love through a bucket and mop!

## Everyone Said, “Amen!”

By: Sarah Chandler, editor

Each Saturday morning, an email arrives in my inbox from The James Project Prayer Team. It is filled with praises for what has taken place within the ministry, prayer requests from the board of directors and a devotional written by prayer team leader Jennifer Hardwick. Here is a snapshot of what moves me to pray each weekend:

\* We pray for all six of our foster parents. We pray for patience, wisdom, energy, and enthusiasm for their task. We ask that God

gives them an extra burst of love in their hearts for each of their children.

\* We thank God for the volunteers of TJP, for their gifts, passions and abilities.

\* We pray for the foster children as

they go to school. We also pray for much needed tutors for the children.



\* We pray for our third home, the teen home.

\* We thank God for allowing us to pray boldly for the things we need most, as our Lord is so faithful to His people.

If you would like to be a part of The James Project Prayer Team, please contact us at:

[prayer4james@gmail.com](mailto:prayer4james@gmail.com)

## Hello from Hawthorne Place

By: Julie Lundberg, foster mom

Since we moved, almost ten months ago, we have added two babies to our home. Things have certainly changed! Less sleep and more laundry is the definition of the Lundberg household.

Although we are still learning what it means to be a family of seven, everyone is adjusting nicely. Our home is cozy and we have already filled it with children, furnishings, and most importantly, love. We thank God daily for the many blessings He continues to

pour out onto our family. We have said it before: “The support that filters into this household is overwhelming.” The James Project helps in ways that only the parents in these homes can fully understand, from dinner once a week to just providing basic needs for the whole family. The James Project cannot do what they are doing without many selfless volunteers. We cannot thank everyone enough. God is smiling down on you.



## Chatham Quarter Auction Benefits TJP

The James Project will be the featured charity for the Chatham Quarter Auction on December 12th at the Sangamon Prairie Reception Center in Chatham. Doors open at 4pm with the auction beginning at 6:30 pm. How does the auction work? Each of the twenty-five vendors will have three items



up for auction that will be auctioned off one at a time. Participants will be able to purchase as many numbered “paddles” as they like for \$1 a piece. While the bidding is not like traditional auction bidding, it is still exciting and enjoyable. Patrons may also shop at the various vendor booths at their leisure.

Those attending the event are encouraged to bring a paper product for the TJP families. Items include tissues, paper towels, paper plates, Ziploc bags and toilet paper. Santa Claus will also be on hand for photos, so don't forget your cameras!

We sincerely thank Chatham Quarter Auction Organizer and Charitable Events Coordinator **Dara Bose** for her efforts to help The James Project.

# 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:

## 2014 Neighbors

*Blake & Julia Anderson*

*Rob & Lisa Burris*

*Cherry Hills Baptist Church*

*Community Foundation for the*

*Land of Lincoln: Germeraad*

*Family Fund, Lisa & Steven Stone*

*Family Fund, Michael & Sandy*

*Barker Family, Schultz Family*

*Fund*

*Bruce & Bethanie Drake*

*First United Methodist Church*

*Len & Karen Giannone*

*Mark W. Groesch Family*

*Foundation*

*Jason & Jacquelyn Ground*

*Larry & Rose Haas*

*Tom & June Harmon*

*Forrest & Mary Lou Holsapple*

*Hope Presbyterian Church*

*Macy's Foundation*

*Jim & Annette McDermott*

*M.G. & Donna Nelson*

*Paul & Colleen Paoni*

*Ron & Therese Romanelli*

*Russ & Jan Williams*

*Eric & Terri Woolbright*

# 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*

*Bank of Springfield*

*Jim Blakeman*

*Café Moxo*

*Jenny Carrell*

*Central Baptist Church*

*Curt Trampe, DreamMakers Kitchen & Bath*

*Robert Davis*

*Edinburg Christian Church*

*Jason Fletcher*

*Kari Gardiner*

*Lu Ann Groesch*

*Julie Hart*

*Kyle Killebrew Group, Inc.*

*Harvest Moon Landscapers*

*Dr. Jack Luker*

*Morgan McCasland*

*Our Savior's Lutheran Church*

*Parkway Christian Church*

*Tom & Karen Paisley, Underfanger*

*Movers*

*Paul Paoni*

*The Ratcliffe Family*

*Dave and Audrey Rawlins*

*SCS: Mrs. Petty's 2nd Grade Class*

*Randy & Maryann Sutterland*

*Tailored Printing*

*Curtis Tillet & Rita Victor, Realtors*

*United Trust Group*

*West Side C.C. TNT Class*

*West Side C.C. High School Youth*

*Group*

# Christmas Wish List for Closet 1:27

If you, your small group or company would like to help bless the many foster children that come into care during the holiday season, the following is a list of **new items** that we desperately need to keep in stock:

\* New pajamas, infants through teen

\* Gift cards from Shoe Carnival, Walmart, Target, Kohl's & Old Navy

\* New crib sheets, twin sheet sets & blankets, zipping waterproof mattress covers

\* New crib mattresses

\* A \$130 donation would allow us to purchase a new twin bed set from our supplier, and a \$250 donation would buy a

wooden bunk bed set.

**If you would like to donate** or need more information, please contact TJP Closet 1:27 Manager **Brandi Tolley** at: **(217) 416-3550**.

Help make this Christmas a better one for a foster child in need.



# Heartstrings: Foster Children with Special Needs

By: DeAnn Horton, foster mom

In my experience with fostering children with special needs, it is a challenging job but rewarding. Children with special needs require foster parents that are willing to rearrange and adjust their lives in some way to accommodate them. The children not only have unique challenges they live with each day due to their disability but they also have the challenge of being in a foster situation where they are separated from biological parents, siblings and loved ones. These hardships can create a lot of emotional turmoil in the lives of these children.

To address these challenges, I have found that engaging with the

child and showing interest in the things they really love helps the most. When you take the time to learn what a child enjoys to do, then you can develop a plan for engaging them in their favorite activity. This leads the child to feel special and valued by foster parents. They are already different from other children due to special needs and being separated from their biological families, but a caring foster parent can fill this gap and help children find their way in the world.

I also look for opportunities to praise my foster children and give them credit for the good deeds and efforts they demonstrate. Giving them this "high five" is

paramount to encouraging them when they have said or done something praiseworthy. This also gives the foster child a desire to continue striving to make positive choices and helps them find out how they can excel. I have seen positive results by loving my foster children with special needs in these ways. Any foster parent who is considering bringing a foster child with special needs into their home can help their child best by investing time and interest in him or her. When you do, it makes foster parenting worth the effort.



## Meal Ministry Keeps on Rolling

Our summer meal ministry was a huge success thanks to the hard work of TJP volunteer **Jenny Carrell**. Jenny cooked and delivered a weekly meal to two families throughout the summer months. Thank you for your dedication, Jenny!

The meal program for TJP foster homes continues this fall. Most Wednesday evenings are covered by head cook **Jan Sherrow** and the meal team at **Central Baptist Church**. A team of faithful volunteers deliver the meals. Although many of the delivery time slots have been covered for

the remainder of 2014, there will be Wednesdays throughout 2015 where Central Baptist does not cook a congregational meal. On these nights, we need small groups or individuals who would like to provide meals for our three families. Likewise, we will also need volunteers to make deliveries in the new year.

If you are interested in being a part of this service opportunity, please call **Karun Tillet**, **Meal Team Coordinator**, at: **217-553-7048**.

Nothing says lovin' than sharin' somethin' straight from the oven!





# the james project

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

3201 Old Jacksonville Road  
Springfield, IL 62711  
217.546.3532


## Board of Directors

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| Jan Williams   | Russ Williams  |

## Editorial Staff

Sarah Chandler, Newsletter

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*According to the State of Illinois, there are currently 160 children awaiting placement into foster homes. The majority are teens, living in shelters. How can you help a foster child?*

## Box Lunches on Orphan Sunday

**"Solve your after church lunch dilemma and help foster families at the same time!"** This was the slogan for the first box lunch fundraiser for The James Project at **Cherry Hills Baptist Church** on November 2nd. This date was significant as it was Worldwide Orphan Sunday. Christians across America and around the globe shared a single goal: that God's great love for the orphan would echo through our lives. TJP partnered with local business **Café Moxo** who created the box lunch, which included a gourmet sandwich, pasta salad, chips and a delicious cookie.

**If your church, business or company would like to host a box lunch fundraiser for The James Project, please contact us at: (217) 546-3532.**

Smiles from board members Rose Haas, Bethanie Drake and Jan Williams were given out with every box lunch!



## New Digs for TJP

Blessings come in all shapes and sizes, and this summer we received one in the form of a fully furnished office with amenities! We extend a heart-felt thank you to the generosity of Realtors **Curtis Tillett** and **Rita Victor** for providing this wonderful space. We are thrilled to have a permanent place for TJP headquarters. Our new address:

3201 Old Jacksonville Road  
Springfield, IL 62711



A Note from my office  
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