



the james project journal

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

NOVEMBER 2016

Rewriting the stories of children in foster care

Our Mission

The James Project recruits and supports dedicated foster parents through the provision of homes and services.

Our Vision

The James Project is dedicated to living out Christ's vision to care for displaced children in our community by assisting foster parents to create secure and loving homes for all children in need.

The New Web Site is Up!

During the summer, Rochester based web design company e-websmart created a brand new web site for The James Project. We are thrilled with the results as it communicates our mission beautifully! If you haven't seen our new look, be sure to check it out!



Meet the Millers

We are so pleased to welcome the Miller family to be a part of The James Project family in the High Pointe House! Ryan is a youth pastor at Clearlake Church of Christ and Kasey is a 3rd grade teacher at Calvary Academy. They have a biological son named Reed and 2 foster children, Gray and Tess. Reed is a smart, witty, energetic, and loving boy, Gray is sweet tempered and easy-going, and Tess is sassy, friendly, and "LOVES to be the center of attention." The Millers began looking into becoming foster

parents several years ago but didn't act on those interests until the Fall of 2015. Looking at



their career choices, they both love to work with children and they feel God has called them to be a light in the lives of children who might otherwise not come to know Him as their creator and savior. They want to show foster

children what a Godly home and family look like.

Clear Lake Church of Christ has been their church family for 12 years, and they love the congregation dearly. They have supported the Miller's fostering journey by babysitting, providing clothing, meals, and constant prayer support—not to mention loving their kids each time they see them!

The Millers are excited to be the newest TJP family and are thankful for this opportunity to serve God by serving his children. Welcome home, Miller Family!

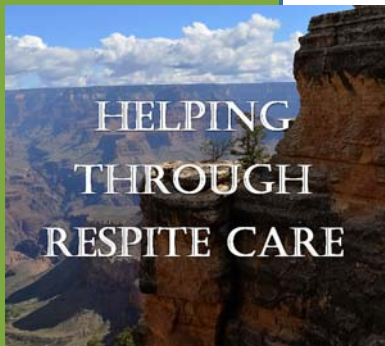
TJP Awarded Cardinals Cares Grant

As we worked to freshen up the High Pointe House for our next foster family, we realized a new play structure would be a great addition to the back yard. Prayerfully we applied for a grant from Cardinals Care, a community foundation affiliated with the St. Louis Cardinals, to fund the project. We received notification in late

summer that we were chosen as one of the recipients! Board Member Paula Borah traveled to St. Louis to accept the \$2000 grant from Cardinals VP of Community Relations, Michael Hall. We are grateful to the Cardinals to be chosen as a Summer 2016 Grant Recipient. Photos of the new play structure will



be posted on Facebook once completed!



Teen Home *by Angela Trowbridge, foster mom*

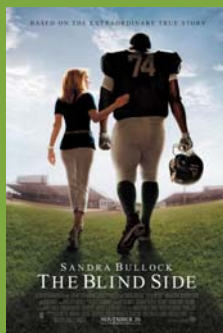
In foster care we often hear the term "respite care". Respite care provides a child's foster parents with some time to care for their own well-being during difficult times. As parents, we understand there are times that we need someone to care for our children overnight or for a few days. One parent may be very ill, a family member could be having surgery, a marriage may be in need of nurturing through vacation, or any number of emergency events.

Families blessed with support systems can usually call upon relatives or trusted friends to look after their children. When children are under the guardianship of DCFS, it is not as simple as calling upon family or friends. More precautions and training are required to meet their supervisory needs. The state has a legal responsibility to ensure the children under DCFS guardianship are cared for by foster parents who have gone through extensive background

checks and training to ensure the safety of the children. During times when foster parents need this support, their foster care agency reaches out to other foster parents who can provide respite care for their foster children. This is a much needed service and often it can be a service that is hard to find. For those who want to be foster parents but don't have the ability to be full time foster parents, serving as respite foster parents can be a great way to contribute.

"Families don't have to match. You don't have to look like someone else to love them."

-Leigh Anne Tuohy, mother of Michael Oher



Kids Helping Kids *We love the hearts of our TJP Jr. Angels!*



Hollis Snider, age 4, hosted a Drive Thru Art Show to benefit The James Project this past spring. She was inspired by a "Fancy Nancy" book in which Nancy has an art show to benefit a charity. Hollis sold her own art and raised over \$300 for TJP. We love your creativity and giving spirit! In May, Brownie Girl Scout troop 6166 from

Chatham donated 10%, \$192, of their girl scout cookie sales to purchase school supplies for Closet 1:27. Thank



you, girls! Sisters Bella & Kenna Homeier had a very successful lemonade stand this summer and donated all proceeds to The James Project. Thank you sisters!! We received a sweet note and a donation from Kelsey Dirks who

also had a lemonade stand... "Dear James Project, I realized that I have a lot and some people have none, so I thank you for giving the people that have none, some. I give you \$20 so I can help too."

SCS hosted "Casual Day" at school where children could make a donation to wear clothing other than their school uniform. The First Christian Church of Springfield Youth Group helped with yard clean-up at the Teen Home in October.

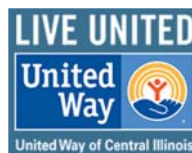


High Pointe House Indoor & Outdoor Refresh

The James Project received support from local businesses and volunteers to make improvements to the High Pointe House this summer. Rotary South of Springfield awarded a \$1500 grant to TJP along with hours of manual labor. Our friends at Harvest Moon Landscapers provided an amazing design plan and shrubbery for the landscaping. The United Way hosted a Fall Days of Action work day in September to encourage area businesses to help out in the community. TJP was fortunate enough to have a work crew of six volunteers from Wells Fargo to help on the outdoor makeover in 90+ degree heat. Inside the home, Gary Borah and Scott Kinkaid worked to freshen things up for the Miller family. We appreciate the outpouring of generosity and dedication to this project!



An early November outdoor workday included folks from Harvest Moon and Rotary South.



Holmes Happenings

Joe and BJ Martin moved into the Holmes House this summer excited to continue their role as foster parents. In July, they were contacted by a foster agency to take a teen mom and her baby. There has become a bigger need for this type of care in the foster system, and this is the 2nd time a TJP family has been asked to step in to such a role. The Martins were equipped to care for the young mom and baby as they have raised two wonderful sons. The placement lasted a

few months with the teen's heart softening to the assistance of the Martins and the teen beginning to learn how to properly care for her child. However, the teen's 18th birthday arrived and she and her baby suddenly left the Martins to live on their own. The Martin's continue to pray for the teen as she is a very young and inexperienced mother and they would welcome the opportunity to continue helping her. God called them to help this particular teen mom and baby

and the Martins would accept another teen mom placement as they are ready to help foster children in any way they can.



Bless That Stitch

A group of gifted sewers in Chatham heard about our Closet 1:27 providing hygiene kits for teen foster girls and wanted to help out. By using their sewing talents, they made a variety of beautifully designed bags to fill with feminine hygiene products and supplies. Board member Jan Williams graciously accepted the donation. We extend a huge THANK YOU to the members of Bless That Stitch, Chatham Quilters, and First Christian Church for their generosity and incredible work!



Support from BOS

The 31st Non-Annual Caddyshack Golf Outing was held June 15th at The Rail Golf Course. Proceeds from the event go to charities who make a positive impact on the greater Springfield Community. TJP received a \$2500 donation this year! Bank of Springfield is the title sponsor and receives support from Giganti & Giganti Fine Jewelry, Midwest Office Supply, and Staff Carpet. We are proud to be based in a city where local businesses extend such fantastic support to local charities. THANK YOU!



Big News...

The Tracy Family Fund in conjunction with Dot Foods in Mt. Sterling, IL awarded a \$15,000 grant to The James Project to assist us in paying down the mortgage on the Lowell home. Our wish is to retire this mortgage in 2017 and make way for house #5 in a few years. We are excited and grateful for this opportunity!



Emily shares her love of foster children through the Birthday Ministry.

We ♥ The James Project *From John, foster dad*

When I got the call that a newborn baby girl was waiting at the hospital for a family who could take her, I started to cry. I'm not sure where my tears came from: I wasn't sad, but perhaps I was just afraid. We were not expecting a newborn for our first foster placement, and I was out of town on a business trip. We don't have any children of our own, we didn't have any supplies for a newborn baby, and I was worried that, given the birth mother's previous exposure to drugs, there would be complications with the baby girl. I cut my business trip short and drove home, all the while praying for God to prepare us for what was in store, to watch over this innocent little girl, and to help the birth mother. My prayers were interrupted by a phone call from someone who introduced herself as Brandi from The James Project. She said that our licensing worker had referred us to her, and

she asked what we needed.

"I'm not really sure," I said. "We have a few articles of clothing. We don't have a crib or diapers or formula. We don't really have anything—I don't know what we're going to do..." She stopped me. "Don't worry," she said. "We'll take care of everything. Just go see your new baby girl." Arriving at the hospital, I was overcome with an emotion I have never felt before, but I can only describe it as a combination of wonder, awe, joy, love -- and maybe a little bit of fear and bewilderment.

Our foster daughter stayed in the NICU a bit longer to make sure she was healthy. We went home for the evening, but to our surprise, a volunteer from TJP showed and started unloading her van with literally everything we needed to get by for at

least a few weeks. I was speechless, and so incredibly grateful. When our foster daughter was able to come home, The James Project checked in on us to make sure we could focus on the most important thing: making sure our foster daughter was loved and comfortable.

The James Project fills a huge need in our community. The volunteers understand that Christ is not only present in a church building for an hour on Sunday, but instead, Christ can be found most intimately in the innocent children who need warm, stable, and loving homes, and in the foster parents who are willing to give them that. For me, I see the face of Christ when I think about The James Project as they have shown us a warmth and a compassion that is rare in today's world and can only come from people who truly understand what it means to live the Gospel.

Spotlight Volunteer

Emily Aldag Lynch, our Birthday Coordinator, is a volunteer who delivers a "Birthday in a Box" to our TJP foster children who have a birthday. The box has gifts and party supplies—truly the works! Emily understands first hand the importance of making an extra effort for foster children as she was adopted as an infant by a wonderful family and feels, "God gave her a wonderful life." She wants foster children to feel a sense of normalcy as their birthday approaches and a party is planned. Emily does a fantastic job and we feel blessed to have her on our team!

SCMSA Awards Grant

It has been one of our missions to provide every new foster child placement with new shoes as we believe each child should have a pair of shoes that both fit well and suit their needs. To fund such a program is a big undertaking which is why we were so grateful to hear we had been awarded a \$2000 grant from the Sangamon County Medical Society Alliance (SCMSA). **THANK YOU** SCMSA for choosing TJP as a recipient.



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:

Blake Anderson
Bank of Springfield Caddyshack
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Curtis & Karun Tillet
Tracy Family Foundation*
Donald & Eloise Van Fossen
Russ & Jan Williams
Eric & Terri Woolbright

(* denotes gift of over \$5000)



Our Neighbors are the backbone of our ministry as their regular giving gives us stability in our planning and the ministry as a whole. Won't you be our Neighbor?

*Make checks payable to:
The James Project
907 Clocktower Dr., Ste. C
Springfield, IL 62704*

*Donate online via Paypal at:
TheJamesProject127.com*

Volunteers & Friends of the Ministry

We are grateful for the following churches, individuals, businesses, and groups who supported The James Project in a variety of ways in recent months:

A-1 Lock
Audrey Window Washers
Sherri Barry
Bemco Mattress
Bless This Stitch
Blessings on State
Chatham Quilters
Cheryl Bloink
Gary Borah
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Randy & Maryann Setterland
Tailored Printing
Curtis Tillet & Rita Victor,
Realtor
Karun Tillet
Tyrian Masonic Lodge #333
United Trust Group
United Way Days of Action
Wells Fargo
*A special **Thank You** to the Students at Hope School for assisting us with the folding of the newsletter to be ready for mailing!*



the james project

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

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A New Washer & Dryer for Holmes

The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln in conjunction with the Schultz Family Fund and Marcy Family Fund, awarded The James Project a grant to purchase an extra large capacity washer and dryer set for the house on Holmes. We strive to provide these appliances for each house as laundry can be a challenge with a large family, so THANK YOU, CFLI for helping us achieve one of our goals!

Kari Whitling: Photography for Charity

Kari Whitling is a full-time graphic designer and natural light photographer in Springfield, Illinois who is making a difference with her camera lens. Her unique perspective—Kari's photography business donates 100% of the photo session fee to one of 6 local charities. The James Project is blessed to be one of the select charities. To see a sample of Kari's work, visit her portfolio at:

KARIWHITLINGPHOTOG.WIX.COM/PHOTOS

or on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/KariWhitlingPhotography/



Kari Whitling
PHOTOGRAPHY
just a girl with a camera on a mission to make a difference

Hoagland Memorial 5K a Huge Success

On July 30th, the 5K Hoagland Memorial Run benefiting The James Project took place in Auburn, Illinois. The fun run was beautifully organized by Sabrina Hoagland, a sweet and giving girl who created the event in memory of her grandparents. Sabrina raised over \$3000 and everyone participating had a great time. Thank you, Sabrina, for choosing to support The James Project with your incredible event!

