



The JP Journal

Rewriting the stories of children in foster care

FIFTH HOUSE PURCHASED

It has been a year of prayer, patience, and planning for The James Project (JP) as we searched for just the right house to become our fifth JP home. This journey had a happy ending as we closed in late October on a spacious house in the Franklin Park



Subdivision in Springfield. It has four bedrooms, including a room which could be made into a fifth bedroom, and three bathrooms. The lovely backyard has a comfortable deck and we know all who live here will enjoy the outdoor sanctuary.

JP foster parents Don and Lisa Crites are anxious to move in and continue their mission of caring for teenage girls. We are very excited to watch young ladies in foster care come to this house to live and be guided into adulthood by the Crites. We feel confident that God was leading us to this house, and we have taken possession with a substantial down payment. However, as with all of our homes, we will continue to raise funds until the mortgage is retired.

To make the home ideal for a large family, we need assistance in purchasing the following items for the Crites's moving day in December:

- Extra capacity washer and dryer
- Whole-house alarm system



THANK YOU DONORS!

We extend a HUGE THANKS to all of you, more than 100 donors, who contributed to the largest down payment we have ever had before – nearly \$75,000! Contributions were from individuals, service clubs, children raising money, corporations and businesses, churches, and church groups. We could not have made this significant purchase without your incredible support. Your generosity will be blessing to so many who will call this house HOME!

Our Mission

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



LOVING VULNERABLE CHILDREN NO MATTER THEIR AGE

“You never outgrow the need for a family. You may no longer need someone to tie your shoes in the morning, but you do always need a place to go to for holidays, someone you can call for advice, someone with you who can figure out how to apply for college. These are things that most of us really take for granted.”

*~Jedd Medefind,
President, Christian
Alliance for Orphans*



FRIENDS AT HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Just how much can one church congregation give? If you are a part of Hope Presbyterian, A LOT! The JP not only received proceeds from their church-wide garage sale, but a matching gift from the congregation. But wait, there's more! Talented cooks provided meals on Wednesday nights throughout the summer for the JP families and hosted a diaper drive. Words cannot express our gratitude for this type of generosity, so please accept a most humble...

THANK YOU!



Doing your holiday shopping at [smile.Amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) earns dollars for the JP! Simply choose James Project, Inc. in Pawnee, Illinois and 0.5% for every dollar spent is donated to the JP. While it may not seem like a lot, every dollar goes toward helping more fostering families.

SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER—JIM NEWBANKS



Dinnertime can be especially overwhelming for a big family simply because of the large quantity of food which needs to be prepared. To have a break from this task one night a week is a tremendous blessing for our JP families—enter Jim Newbanks.

Jim prepares the congregational meal for Central Baptist Church each Wednesday. His culinary delights are then packaged up for our JP families and delivered directly to their homes by members of the JP Meal Delivery Team. Our foster parents tell us time and time again how much their families love to receive this act of kindness and we love Jim!

ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR LENDS A HAND

The JP was a recent recipient of funds raised during the 2018 Order of the Eastern Star *Karez 4 Kidz* project for the Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star in Illinois. OES members from all over Illinois made monetary donations to the project throughout the year to make this incredible gift possible. Such a gift made a huge impact on our ability to purchase the Fifth House. Members from the Flower City Chapter 152 OES also held an impressive clothing drive for Closet 1:27 for which we are also grateful. The men and women of the OES are dedicated to working together for good to support the charities within their local communities to the best of their abilities.



SPOTLIGHT VOLUNTEER—MARY CUMMING

The JP truly has a superhero on our side when it comes to Closet 1:27 deliveries, and her name is Mary Cumming! We lovingly call Mary "Delivery Central" with her cell phone in hand as she coordinates all Closet deliverers with a swift swipe through her contact list of 15+ volunteers. Her organizational skills are unmatched! We know lives are changed through her work. Thank you for serving the fostering families of Sangamon County so well, Mary!

KIDS HELPING KIDS

At the JP, we never underestimate the power of our youngest supporters! Over the summer, the Blakely cousins (**Juliette, Micaiah, Kiayla, Evalise, and Liesle**) baked cookies and sold them on Facebook. These sweet girls who ranged in age from 3-8 years of age, raised \$500 for the JP. Way to go girls!

Hollis Snyder, resident JP artist, hosted another art show with all proceeds benefiting the JP. We treasure your talent as an artist and love for foster children, Miss Hollis!

The National Junior Honor Society at Iles School hosted a clothing drive for Closet 1:27. Thank you for your heartfelt efforts!

Miss Valerie of Jacksonville raised \$500 as she asked for donations to the JP for her birthday in lieu of gifts. She authored the book *Why Did We Have to Say Good-Bye?* at the age of 11. You are an inspiration to us all!



WHAT HAPPENS TO CHILDREN CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE OF A DRUG RAID?



When you see a news story about arrests being made for drug possession, chances are there are children involved. And while we think the drugs are the biggest issue within the home, eight out of ten times the home is dirty, infested, and child neglect and abuse is common.* Children in a drug home range from toddlers to teens and all carry with them a significant level of trauma and mistrust. What happens to

a child when a parent is arrested on drug charges? Many times the raid occurs in the middle of the night where a relative may be difficult to find, so foster homes are needed to take the child right out of the crisis situation and place him/her in a secure and loving environment. It is a big responsibility for a foster parent and requires much strength, patience, and understanding to make a marked change in the suffering child.

How can you help support foster parents with the role of caring for children who have been through a variety of abuses and neglect?

Support them! Pray for them! Love them!

We know not everyone is called to be a foster parent, but we can all do something, and we encourage you to look at your own talents and gifts to see how you can make a difference in the life of a foster child.

(*Source: *The Journal Times, Racine, WI*)

EMPOWERED TO CONNECT

The JP will again be hosting the Empowered to Connect Conference simulcast April 5-6, 2019 at FUMC. The conference is designed to equip families, churches and professionals to better serve children who have experienced trauma or loss, which includes children impacted by foster care and adoption. We highly recommend this conference to parents with foster children in their care. Please call our office for more details.

JOIN 500+ LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

**EMPOWERED
TO CONNECT
CONFERENCE**

LIVE SIMULCAST | APRIL 5-6, 2019

Our Neighbors are the backbone of our ministry as their regular giving provides stability to our ministry as a whole. Won't you be our Neighbor?

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thejamesproject127.com

Click on the Support tab

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:

American Business Club of Springfield

Blake Anderson

Larry & Sherri Barry

Marianne Bartholomew

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Westminster Presbyterian Church

Neville & Cheryl White

Eugene & Patricia Wilken

Jordan Williams and Kate Dunne

Russ & Jan Williams*

Eric & Terri Woolbright*

**Denotes gifts over \$5,000*

THANK YOU, IECU



Our friends at the Illinois Educator's Credit Union have been an amazing blessing to the JP. Not only have they delivered clothing to Closet 1:27, they made a substantial donation to our Fifth House Fund. This type of continued support is what allows us to serve the foster families in Sangamon County to the best of our ability!

Thank you Andrew Peachey and Kaitlyn Finley for being the spokespeople for IECU. We love your warm smiles!

PEACE BY PIECE QUILTERS GIVE QUILTS

Carol Diedrichsen and the Peace by Piece Quilters are creating weighted quilts for foster children. A weighted quilt differs from a traditional quilt as it is filled with pockets of plastic pellets sewn in throughout the quilt and makes the blanket weigh more than fifteen pounds. The underlying science on weighted quilts/blankets is called deep touch pressure (DTP). DTP is about gently applying pressure to the body to increase the release of serotonin, a chemical in the body that promotes relaxation. A weighted blanket can be used as a calming tool or for sleep. Children who have experienced trauma often find these quilts to be very soothing. We are grateful to be able to distribute these to our foster children!



UNITED WAY'S DAYS OF ACTION: FALL 2018

Once again, the JP has received wonderful assistance from two teams volunteering through the United Way's Days of Action program. A big group of volunteers from Bunn cleaned the Roanoke house from top to bottom, and a crew from Wells Fargo did an equally wonderful job cleaning at the Lowell House. For a foster parent to have a day off from scrubbing bathrooms and vacuuming carpets, it is truly a gift!

How does Days of Action work? Individuals or teams sign-up to commit to three hours of volunteer service on a designated Friday or Saturday morning. A committee from the United Way recruits projects from local non-profits. The volunteers and projects are matched up and then it's all about having fun and working hard to make a difference.





THANK YOU FAT ASS 5K!

Don't let the name fool you into thinking the Fat Ass 5K is just a run where eating is as much a part of the fitness. Since 2008, organizers of the event have given over \$1,000,000 to charities in and around Springfield. Jan Williams, JP Director, accepted a check for \$2500 to be put toward our Fifth House Fund. We thank all of the participants in the 5K and the incredibly creative and caring team of volunteers who put on such a "kick ass" event!



CARDINALS CARE HITS ONE OUT OF THE PARK

Whether you root for the Cubs or the Cardinals, you must admit—there are many reasons to be a fan of the Cardinals Care program in St. Louis. Cardinals Care is the team's community foundation dedicated to improving the lives of children. Established in 1997, Cardinals Care gives fans a way of teaming up with Cardinals players and the organization to help children in our community—both on and off the baseball field.

Over the summer, the JP received a check for \$2775 for our mattress fund. This will certainly help us provide many brand new mattresses for children entering foster care.

JP Office Manager Amy Edwards and her family took in a Cardinals game and represented the JP during the check presentation. We appreciate all that you do for children, St. Louis Cardinals!



FOSTER PARENT SUPPORT DINNERS

Receiving support from family and friends along the road of parenthood is essential to the health of every family. It is especially crucial for foster parents who often navigate some rough terrain when welcoming children into their home who have experienced trauma.

Sadly, with foster agencies experiencing lack of funding, significant decreases in staffing, and overburdened offices, foster parents are not receiving the amount of support they need. To fill this need, the JP hosted its first monthly dinner at the First United Methodist Church in Springfield for foster parents who reside in Sangamon County. It is our hope that these dinners will be a way for foster parents throughout Sangamon county to come, share a meal, and support one another along the journey of fostering.

Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen—Attorneys at Law sponsored the first dinner for The JP families. Such a sponsorship made the evening extra special for all in attendance. We also send a huge THANK YOU out to our servers from Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen: Alisha Sheehan, Jessica Klaus, Jenni Young, Taylor Dodson, and Gary Schwab



FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY

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

A-One Locks	Amy Gelber	Esperanza Morales
Katie Ambrose	Rekha Goswami	Tina Newingham
Tracy Armstrong	GMS Student Council	Mario Perrino
Hannah Bachman	Lu Ann Groesch	Mark Peters
Susan Bachman	Rose Haas	Ginny Peterson
Joran Bachtold	Julie Hart	Cassie Pratt
Michael & Sandy Barker	Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen	Debbie Rigg
Crystal Bland	Heartland Credit Union	Erica Rovey
Blessings on State	Hope Presbyterian Church	Heather Sarra
Cheryl Bloink	Hope School	Michaela Schroeder
Gary Borah	Melissa Hostetter	Randy & Marianne Setterland
Paula Borah	Hy-Vee	Tori Seward
Bunn Capitol	Illinois Bankers Association	Donna Smith
Burgess Plumbing & Heating	Illinois Educators Credit Union	Shyla Sommers
Café Moxo	Emily Jewel	Rotary South
Joanne Carter	Angela Johnson	Southside Christian Church—Local Mission Team
Luke & Laura Crater	Lakeside Christian Church-Elementary & Preschool	Springfield Christian School
First Christian Church	Living Faith Baptist Church	Springfield Church of Christ
Cherry Hills Church Life Groups	Lowes	Lois Stone
Church by Waters Edge	Emily Lunch	Cara Tabatabai
Dana Clinard	Susan Kepner	Tailored Printing
Susan Cowles	Kingsley Keys	Tara Long Photography
Mary Cumming	Michelle Keys	Sarah Teeter
Gail DeBackere	Killebrew Team	Karun Tillet
Dillon's Pizza	Mark Kinkade	United Way Days of Action
Karla Dirks	Katie Klint	Staci Ushaman
Karla Dirks	Peace Lutheran Women	Mattie Watson
Tom & Linda Dunne	Peace by Piece Quilters	Daniel Way
Ginger Engle	Magna Dental	Wells Fargo
William Farr	Janet McKeown	Katie White
Farrell's Extreme Body Shaping	Maddie McKeown	Missy Whiteley
First United Methodist Church	Melanie McKeown	Ruth Yu
Lori Frederking		
Maggie Franklin		
Shannon Furbeck		

The James Project

907 Clocktower Drive, Suite C
Springfield, IL 62704

Ph: 217.546.3532
Email: info@thejamesproject.com
www.thejamesproject127.com

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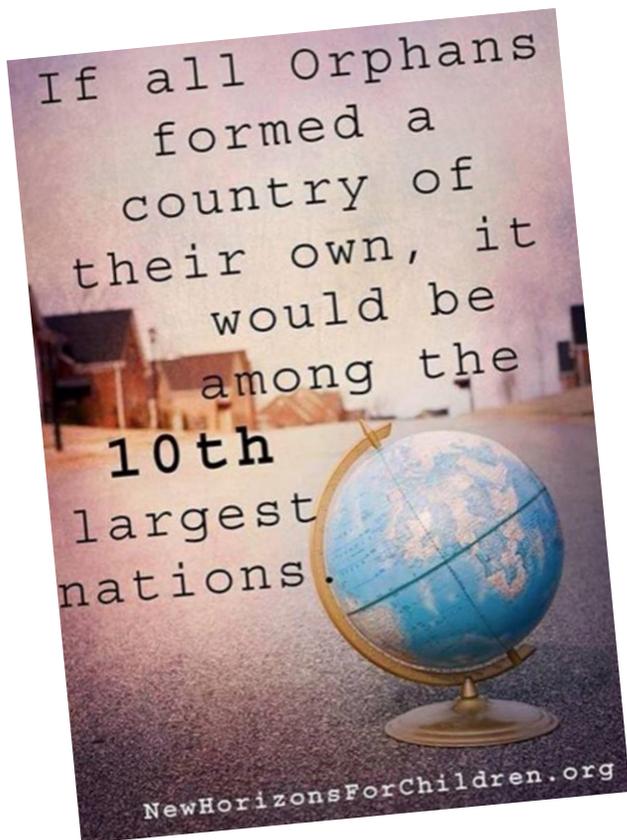
Newsletter Editor

Sarah Chandler



“Accept one another, then, as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.”

~Romans 15:17



On November 16, The James Project hosted a "Date Night" for 100 local foster parents. They were treated to free tickets, popcorn, and soda at AMC's Showplace 12 for a showing of Instant Family starring Mark Wahlberg and Rose Byrne. We know that everyone in attendance identified with this film about a childless couple who become foster parents for the first time.

The Date Night was sponsored by: Magna Dental; William Farr, Attorney at Law; Way Law Office; and Burgess & Son Plumbing and Heating. Thank you sponsors, for making this a fabulous night out for foster parents!

