



the james project

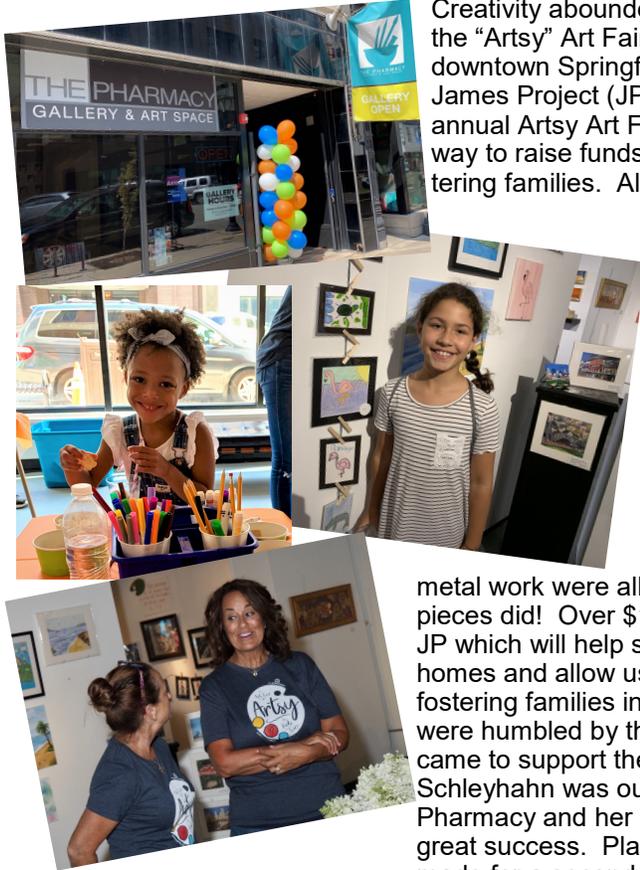
...homes and support for fostering families...

November 2019
Volume 8, Issue 2

The JP Journal

Rewriting the stories of children in foster care

ARTSY ART FAIR BENEFITING KIDS IN CARE



Creativity abounded across the gallery of the “Artsy” Art Fair at The Pharmacy in downtown Springfield on July 24th. The James Project (JP) team hosted its first annual Artsy Art Fair For Kids in Care as a way to raise funds and awareness for fostering families. All art pieces were created and donated either by children or local adult artisans. Artsy volunteers set up kids’ craft areas around the gallery and provided opportunities for the youngest gallery goers to color, have faces painted, or enjoy a light snack while parents shopped. Paintings, pottery, fabric art, wood-craft, greeting cards, and

metal work were all for sale and sell these pieces did! Over \$12,000 was given to the JP which will help support our JP foster homes and allow us to continue serving fostering families in Sangamon County. We were humbled by the number of people who came to support the JP. Co-chair Diane Schleyhahn was our go-to person at The Pharmacy and her expertise made Artsy a great success. Plans are already being made for a second showing next year so

keep an eye out on Facebook for the announcement in 2020!

THANK YOU ARTSY VOLUNTEERS

The Artsy Art Fair for Kids in Care would not have been so wonderfully well run without our dedicated village of volunteers! From setting up beautiful displays, to working at the refreshment tables, thank you for giving of your time and talent to make a difference in the lives of foster children.

Sarah Harkness • Rose Unal • Lucy Unal • Brandy Fletcher • Ella Unal
Elizabeth Bazan • Amy Gelber • Ginger Engle • Ruth Yu • Jessica Klaus
Debbie Rigg • Susan Kepner • Lexi Enno • Elizabeth Mitchell • Karla Dirks
Lindsay Lanter • Mary Cumming • Mary Snider • Kathy Gray • Henry Enno
Rose Haas • Paula Borah • Cindi Jones • Dennis Mumaw • Kara Kincaid
Keri Mounce • Heather Snider • Kasey Miller • Cara Tabatabai
Karen Giannone • Gia Licklitter

Our Mission

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



THE SMILE SAYS IT ALL...

Gray Miller has become our JP poster child of joy. His sweet face and contagious smile give everyone hope as to what a positive impact love of family and friends can have on a child’s life. It changes everything! Gray is the adoptive son of JP parents Ryan & Kasey Miller and is pictured here with his giraffe he named “Mark” after our JP property manager, Mark Brewer. Gray has a very special place in his heart for Mr. Mark and thinks the world of him. We love Mr. Mark, too!



GIFTS TO CLOSET

1:27

Federated Funeral Directors of America participated in a Give Back effort during the summer and the JP was chosen as the beneficiary. They collected items such as sheets, cleaning supplies, hygiene items, and more. A friendly competition between departments boosted donations. We love their enthusiasm and competitive spirit!



Pictured left to right is the winning department, Administration: Amy Edwards of the JP, Karen Richie, Jackie Betz, Shelley Flener, Donna Pickering, & Kim Alexander. Not pictured Marcia Ross, Peggy Purcell



Shopping at [smile.Amazon.com](https://www.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.

MEND OUR HOUSES CAMPAIGN KICKS OFF

As the JP begins its 8th year of serving foster families, we look back at the many milestones achieved. One which stands out is all five of the JP homes do not have a mortgage! While we no longer worry about monthly house payments, we still have maintenance on each home and property. With this idea in mind, we are launching the Mend Our Houses Campaign to raise the necessary funds needed to repair two of our homes which have seen a lot of wear and tear over the last five years.

Keeping our foster homes in good shape is a special challenge as they house larger than average families with children who have seen trauma. For foster kids who come from abusive and neglectful homes, anger and destructive behaviors can ensue. Carpeted surfaces, in particular, see the most damage which is why we would like to replace the carpet in two of the homes very soon with easy-care hard surface flooring. This change will make cleaning and repair much easier for our families and our property manager. Please join us in prayer for the Mend Our Houses campaign—that the funds become available and for guidance as we chose the correct products for our homes.

Mend our Houses Campaign



...Sometimes broken property comes from broken hearts.

KELLER WILLIAMS REALTY & RED DAY

Thursday, May 16th was Keller Williams Realty's Red Day—a day for bettering the local community. Keller Williams chose to have two teams complete projects out at our Roanoke home and also at the NW Territory home. On Roanoke, they spruced up front landscaping by adding weed barriers, mulch, new plants, and a new tree. In the backyard they cleaned up the flower beds and planted plants and spread mulch. They also stained the wooden swing set. At the NW Territory home, rotted wood beams were torn out in the front yard and ground was prepped and new grass seed planted. Landscaping chores included cleaning up flower beds, the ivy around trees, and spreading mulch. To have great teams do this maintenance for our JP families means so much. Thank you, Keller Williams, for your labor and heart for fostering families!



KIDS HELPING KIDS

Just because they're young, doesn't mean they can't make a difference in the life of a fellow child! We love Kids Helping Kids!

- ♥ Kids from Rochester Christian Church worked at Closet 1:27 sorting and organizing items.
- ♥ South Side Christian Church also helped at The Closet with a few parents to assist.
- ♥ Cub Scouts Pack 38 collected items for our foster families to include paper products and breakfast items.
- ♥ Hollis Snider held her annual Art Show and raised money for the JP.
- ♥ Corie Decker & Art Students met at Washington Park and completed watercolor paintings in which they donated to the Artsy Air Fair.
- ♥ Hayley Isringhausen hosted an Art Party where every piece created was donated to the Artsy Art Fair.



FOSTERING MAKES A DIFFERENCE



My name is Angela Sidener and I was adopted from foster care when I was eight years old. I had several fostering experiences that were not good but then I met Jean and Rick Cisco—Mom and Dad. I finally felt complete! I had parents that actually took care of me and loved me. Being adopted and having a good upbringing made me who I am today. I'm now married with two children of my own, working a great job, and totally feeling like a part of a wonderful family.

My mom and dad adopted eight children besides me and had four biological children of their own, so we're quite a big, happy bunch. When I think of what my life might've been without such great parents, I feel so grateful that God put us together and that my parents opened their hearts to an "older" child.

Foster children are in the system through no fault of their own. They are victims of atrocities like abuse and neglect. Each disruption of foster homes, or separation from siblings not only causes them to be retraumatized, but also to be revictimized.

GULPING & GOLFING FOR THE JP

Mike Frisch was a man who was always seen with a Big Gulp in his hand. After he passed away, a memorial golf event was created in his honor in Mt. Prospect, Illinois with a nod to his favorite beverage in the logo. For 20 years, proceeds from the Mike Frisch Big Gulp Golf Invitational have been generously donated to a variety of charities across Illinois. After the event on September 28, \$9,000 was donated to the JP. We feel so blessed to be a recipient of this generous gift. Thank you to all who participated in the event and to the organizers—thank you for choosing the JP!



HELP US
HELP THEM



WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO

“The James Project has been such a wonderful resource for us. The support, advice, and opportunities to build relationships with families that face the same obstacles we do is amazing. It is helpful to talk with parents that understand and have walked the same path.”

~Katie Hoback, Foster Mom

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?

Donate online via
thejamesproject127.com



Click on the Support tab

You can also make checks payable to:
The James Project
907 Clocktower Drive, Ste. C
Springfield, IL 62704

OUR NEIGHBORS

While you may not live near one of The James Project homes, you can become a Neighbor just the same, with a \$1,000 donation or more. We humbly thank the following supporters for being a part of our Neighborhood:

American Business Club of Springfield	Lakeside Christian Church
Blake Anderson	Elizabeth Maher
Be One, Inc.	Jim & Annette McDermott
Big Gulp Golf Outing*	Emily Mosher
Cardinals Care	Pickett Insurance Group
Cherry Hills*	James Potter
Clear Lake Church of Christ	RAM Entertainment, LLC
Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisory*
Bruce & Bethanie Drake	Ron & Therese Romanelli
Dan & Carolyn Dungan	Ticket To Dream Foundation
Fat Ass 5K*	Curtis & Karun Tillett*
Len & Karen Giannone	Tracy Family Foundation*
Mark W. Groesch Family Foundation	Curt & Deb Trampe*
Larry & Rose Haas	UTG*
Tom & June Harmon*	Mary Eloise VanFossan
Shaun & Shari Hill	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Forest and Mary Lou Holsapple	Russ & Jan Williams*
Illinois Women's Golf Association	Eric & Terri Woolbright*
Bill & Lisa Kienzle	Memorials made in memory of Rob Salefski*
Jason & Kara Kincaid	
Knights of Columbus 364	

**Denotes gifts over \$5,000*

A FOND FAREWELL TO RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS—MARY & GARY

In 2012, we had a vision to create a ministry which served and supported fostering families in Sangamon County and we needed a group of dedicated board members with specific talents to help put our dreams into action—enter Mary Stone and Gary Nelsen. Mary is a retired licensed clinical worker with forty years of direct and administrative experience in the field of social work. Gary is a retired pastor, having served many churches including Cherry Hills Church, from which he retired in 1998. He still serves as a leader for a variety of groups at Cherry Hills. The expanse of knowledge, care, and action brought to the JP by both Mary and Gary will be missed, but we know that God will continue using them both for His good works.

UNITED WAY DAYS OF ACTION

Local businesses participated in the United Way Days of Action in both the Spring and Fall of 2019. Teams or individuals sign up to volunteer hours on a designated day and complete projects as assigned by the United Way. The James Project has had many wonderful groups come and help at our homes, and this year was no different!



Blue Cross & Blue Shield sent teams in both the Spring and Fall to work outside on Holmes and Roanoke. What a gift!



A super team from Horace Mann spruces up the backyard at the Waterford house in the Spring.



The Junior League of Springfield completes yard work in the Fall. Thanks ladies!

DINNER FOR DOLLARS AT LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE

Longhorn Steakhouse and their Dinner for Dollars program was available to the JP September 20th. The enthusiastic management welcomed diners with 10% of every dollar spent benefiting the JP. We appreciate Longhorn and the staff who made this event possible.



PRESERVATION AWARD RECEIVED

JP FOSTER PARENTS GATHER TOGETHER

On a beautiful August night, the JP and all of our JP parents with the exception of one foster mom, were able to attend a get-together with the staff at the office. We discussed some of the core things that unite us in the journey to provide good homes for foster children. It was a great evening and we are blessed by these dedicated JP families!

The JP home on Lowell is a part of a historic neighborhood. One of our neighbors encouraged us to keep the integrity of the original front door and surrounding woodwork. To our delight, we were able to secure a Historic Preservation Grant through the Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln for \$2,000 to restore this feature of the home. Terri Enno of the JP attended the award ceremony.

The work was completed by Specialty Wood Designs in October. They did a beautiful job on the restoration. The front door is much more welcoming to all who come and visit. Thank you to the Community Foundation for helping us give our Lowell home a fresh new look!



NEW PLAY STRUCTURE FOR THE LOWELL HOUSE



Children love to run and play. Parents love it when their children run and play—especially outside! The JP was thrilled to learn we again received a donation from Cardinals Care this past summer. The funds will be used to purchase a new play structure for the backyard on Lowell. It will bring hours of enjoyment for every child who comes to the home.



Adam Lanter and Larry & Judi DuPont from South Side Christian Church are diligently working to assemble the play structure. Not an easy task and we are so thankful for their help!

St. Louis Cardinals...Thank you for your continual support of the JP and your mission to help children in our community both on and off the baseball field!

FRIENDS OF THE MINISTRY

The volunteers who encompass our Friends of the Ministry help us in so many ways throughout the year. We are grateful for their support in recent months:

Businesses/Groups

A-One Lock	Peace Lutheran Women	Shannon Furbeck
American Business Club of Springfield	Pickett Insurance Group	Amy Gelber
American Harvest Eatery	Renee Studio Salon	Nikki Goodall
American Water & Air	Rochester Christian Church Kidzone	Lu Ann Groesch
Blessings on State	Rotary South	Hayley Isringhausen
Blue Cross Blue Shield	South Side Christian Church	Emily Jewell
Buckley's Prairie Landscaping	Springfield Postal Auxiliary	Angela Johnson
Cari Netherton/Plexus	Staff Carpet	Susan Kepner
Central Baptist Church	Sunrise Rotary	Kara Kincaid
Clear Lake Church of Christ	Tailored Printing	Mark Kinkade
Cub Scout Pack 38	Tara Long Photography	Jessica Klaus
Cummings Carpet	Texas Roadhouse	Ashlee Leahy
Dillon's Pizza	The Bakers Dozen Group	Emily Lynch
Dr. Bryan Albracht	The Corkscrew	Janet McKeown
Eye Candy Boutique	Three Twigs Bakery	Maddie McKeown
Federated Funeral Directors of America	Tracy Shaw/Keller Williams	Melanie McKeown
First Baptist Church-Waverly	Underfanger Moving	Megan Michael
First Christian Church-Springfield	United Way of Central Illinois	Elizabeth Mitchell
First United Methodist Church-Springfield	Wells Fargo	Esperanza Morales
Fox Run Restaurant	Williams Sexton Memorial	Dennis Mumaw
Grace Lutheran Women's Group	<u>Individuals</u>	Tina Newingham
Henry Enno/Stifel Nicolaus	Larry Aldag	Mario Perrino
Hope Presbyterian Church	Katie Ambrose	Mark Peters
Horace Mann	Hannah Bachman	Carol Prosperini
Hy-Vee	Susan Bachman	Debbie Rigg
Iles Middle School Nat'l Jr. Honor Society	Marianne Bartholomew	Heather Sarra
J Claytor Photography	Crystal Bland	Randy Setterland
Junior League of Springfield	Cheryl Bloink	Donna Smith
Keller Williams Realty	Gary & Paula Borah	Lois Stone
Kyle Killebrew Realty	JoAnne Carter	Shyla Summers
Ladies Brigade	Dave & Dana Clinard	Mike & Susan Sunley
Long Horn Steakhouse	Steve & Sandy Collins	Cara Tabatabai
Mark Pierce Thrivent Financial	Susan Cowles	Sarah Teeter
Melody Kneezel Studios	Mary Cumming	Karun Tillet
Midwest Family Broadcasting	Corie Decker	Staci Ushman
Nelson Resource Center	Karla Dirks	Mattie Watson
Noonan True Value	Tom & Linda Dunne	Zack Wright
Oral & Facial Surgeons of Illinois	Ginger Engle	Ruth Yu
Peace by Piece Quilters	Lori Frederking	
	Ann Full	

The James Project

907 Clocktower Drive, Suite C
Springfield, IL 62704

Ph: 217.546.3532

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

Board of Directors

Paula Borah	Bethanie Drake
Karen Giannone	Monica Goswami
Rose Haas	Sarah Harkness
Ryan Johnson	Paul Paoni
Robin Pickett	Jan Williams

Staff

Mark Brewer	Amy Edwards
Terri Enno	Sarah Homeier

Newsletter Editor

Sarah Chandler



"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters." ~1 John 3:16 NIV

JP STAFF ATTENDS CAFO CONFERENCE

The JP appreciates the value of making connections with people around the country devoted to the preservation of family through the care of foster children. The

Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO) conference held this past May in Louisville, KY gave the JP staff a chance to expand their knowledge base of foster care and refocus their efforts with the ministry of the JP. It was truly a blessing for Terri, Jan, Amy, and Sarah to be able to attend.



THANK YOU CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH AND HYVEE!

Central Baptist Church has been an integral part of The James Project ministry for many years. In July, they sponsored a fundraiser at HyVee in Springfield benefiting the JP. Funds were raised, groceries given, and an enormous amount of HyVee gift cards donated for foster families. Such an outpouring of generosity will mean big things for JP foster families as the holiday season arrives. Full pantries mean less stress and burden on foster parents during a time of year which brings added challenges. We extend our warmest thank you to both Central Baptist and HyVee!

Larry Aldag from Central Baptist pauses for a photo during the event with Sarah Homeier and Jan Williams of the JP.

