



The JP Journal

Rewriting the stories of children in foster care

beyond **ENOUGH**

ENOUGH Foster Families

ENOUGH Volunteers

ENOUGH Resources

Over the past 9 years, God has richly blessed our ministry and for this we are incredibly grateful. The growth The James Project (JP) has experienced has allowed us to serve many foster children and foster families in Sangamon County. The stories of struggle, hope, and determination behind these families continually remind us why we do what we do.

The number of children in foster care has dramatically increased and the need for the services we provide is greater than ever. DCFS reports one in five children is abused or neglected before turning 18. During this time when youth are at home for virtual school (potentially with an abusive parent) and they don't have a teacher, coach, or other trusted adult to turn to for help, it disrupts their lives even more. As the pandemic goes on, families are stretched to the limits emotionally and financially.

Covid-19 set the JP back this year—in resources, volunteers, and fostering families. Working from “not enough” has led us to our 2021 campaign titled Beyond Enough.

We know that enough today will not be enough tomorrow. The needs keep growing. At the very heart of these needs are the 625 foster children in Sangamon County. Adding to the existing foster care crisis is the increasing number of children whose lives have been disrupted during and after the quarantine, creating a foster care emergency.

There is much more we can do and so many more families we can help! Instead of operating from behind, we need the resources allowing us to innovate better solutions, recruit more families, and proactively prevent large numbers of foster parents walking away from fostering due to lack of support. In this coming year, please remember us, pray for us, and join our mission. Help us reach not just enough, but...

Beyond Enough.

*We're not just nurturing children;
we're nurturing families.*

Just Think...

If we had 100 new foster families in Sangamon County, we would have...

Beyond Enough.

If we had 10 new volunteers at the JP in 2021, we would have...

Beyond Enough.

If we had an \$85,000 increase in revenue for 2021, we would have...

Beyond Enough.

If we had 10 new church partnerships in 2021, we would have...

Beyond Enough.



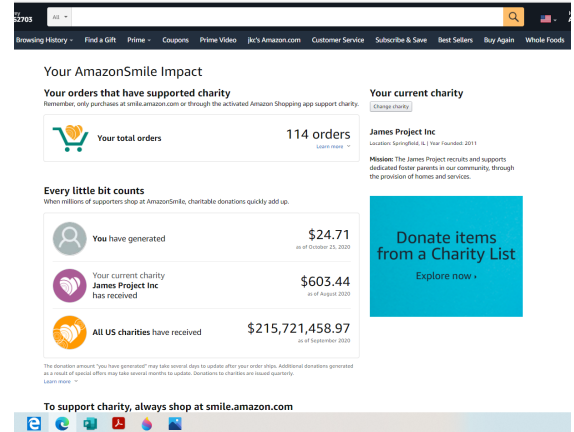
CARDS BY KIDS

Looking for a cute gift for a special someone? Cards designed by JP child artists will certainly make anyone smile. Our collection includes superhero ones as well as our own hometown hero—Mr. Lincoln. Each package contains 10 cards with 6 different designs. You can purchase a mixture of cards, or 10 of the same card for \$10. Order through our Facebook page, call the office, or stop by—we're happy to take your order!



YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES

Tis' the season to be shopping! On-line ordering will certainly be an important part of checking items off your Christmas list this year and it's doubly nice to shop through AmazonSmile. As part of the Amazon company, AmazonSmile has the same product availability with an added bonus of 0.5% for every dollar spent donated to the JP. Simply choose "James Project, Inc. in Springfield, Illinois" as your charity and over time, the pennies turn into dollars. It's just another easy way to support the JP and help us go Beyond Enough.



WE ALMOST SAID NO BY: KASEY MILLER, FOSTER MOM

"We almost said no." I kept thinking those 4 words all night, all morning, and even while the judge was talking to us during the adoption proceedings. I now look at our sweet toddler and cannot imagine our lives without him in it, but in the back of my mind that phrase is still there. So why did we say yes? I honestly have no answer other than God. We had many reasons for turning him away. We had four kids already—three under age 3. Things had finally become "manageable" with our little ones. The timing wasn't great. The caseworker needed to know NOW and would bring the baby boy within the hour. We really, REALLY weren't prepared for another newborn so soon. We almost said no. But we didn't. We said yes. That small voice, that gut feeling, that string pulling on our hearts led us against common sense and rational thinking to make a decision we wouldn't have otherwise. God nudged us toward this little life and we fell in love. On Beau's 2nd birthday in August, our foster son became our forever son. We will forever be grateful we said yes!



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 Corporate Hardware*
 American Mowing*
 American Water & Air*
 Chatham Soccer Assoc.—Jay Lipe & Paul Marconi*
 Clear Lake Church of Christ*
 Della Croft/Malouf Bedding
 Cummings Carpet One*
 Custom Cup
 Diversified Services Network
 Drake-Scruggs Equipment*
 First Christian Church—Springfield
 Henry Enno/Stifel Nicolaus*
 Hope Presbyterian Church
 Keller Williams Realty*
 Kyle Killebrew Realty
 Lakeside Christian Church*
 Oral & Facial Surgeons of Illinois*
 Moon Child Photography—Kasey Miller
 Pickett Insurance Group*
 Plexus Worldwide—Cari Netherton*
 Peace by Piece Quilters

Riverside Stables*
 Share the Spirit
 Springfield Clinic—Family Medicine, Dr. Bryan Albracht*
 Stitch and Go
 Tara Long Photography
 Three Twigs Bakery

Individuals

Marscia Anderson
 Brian & Sarah Albracht
 Cheryl Bloink
 Clayton Borah
 Lillian & MaeBelle Borah
 Lianna Clendenny
 Anne Cornelius
 Susan Cowles
 Bruce Cumming
 Bethanie Drake
 Michael Enno
 Sophia Floyd
 Ann & Kathy Full
 Amy Gelber
 Todd & Chris Green
 Lu Ann Groesch
 Rose Haas

Dirk Homeier
 Olivia Huber
 Shannon Johnson
 Aaron & Caleb Kendall
 Ashlee Leahy
 Jay & Lisa Lipe
 Kasey & Ryan Miller
 Elizabeth Mitchell
 Jon Morrisette
 Connie Mulcahy
 Jenna Muscarella
 Andrea Parker
 Mark Peters
 Stacia Reed
 Debbie Rigg
 Heather Snider
 Hollis Snider
 Lacie Romanatto
 Lauren Weichold
 Zack & Elizabeth Wright
 Rose, Lucy, & Ella Unal
 Ruth Yu

** Denotes Artsy Art Fair for Kids in Care Sponsor*

CLOSET WISH LIST

Closet 1:27 needs a few items to keep it stocked and ready for children who have just come into care:



● **Hoodies:**
 Boy, Girl, Teen



● **Baby Wipes**



● **Gift Cards to: Kohl's, Marshalls, Old Navy & Burlington**

UTILITIES GRANT RECEIVED

The JP received a grant through The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln! The grant allows us to subsidize the utilities our foster families pay in their JP Homes. This grant was made possible by gifts from:

The Dungan Family

The Kellner Fund

The Luke 12:48 Fund

Michael and Sandy Barker Family Fund

The Lilac Fund

The timeliness of such a grant is remarkable as the JP foster families work through this difficult time of employment uncertainty and socially distanced community. Our thanks go out to The Community Foundation and these five donors who made this donation possible. We are so grateful!



AWARD NOMINATION

The JP was recently nominated for a Good as Gold Award for our efforts supporting foster families in Sangamon County. While we were not selected as a winner, we did stand shoulder to shoulder among an impressive group of finalists. We were honored to be in such company.



The Good as Gold Volunteer Award started in 2008 to honor people, businesses, and organizations who freely give their time and talents to make Sangamon County a better place to live.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: ANNE CORNELIUS

“My interest in the JP came from my friendship with Terri Enno. She asked Sara Schlichting, Susie Cross, and me to help put hardware on one of the JP homes that had been renovated. I was so impressed with the passion everyone had for providing the very best support to the families who have such big hearts for foster children. I have always liked drawing and painting and I use my own photos to create my paintings. I am happy my artwork is helpful to the JP and was blessed to be a part of the Artsy Art Fair!”

~Anne Cornelius



PORTRAIT OF A FOSTER FAMILY

This is the Lee family. Tommie and David and their foster children have lived in a JP home for three years. One of these children is their biological child, three are in the process of being adopted by them, and one has been with the Lees for a few weeks. All foster families look a little different and this one is definitely beautiful to us!

Thoughts from Tommie: “The James Project has truly changed our lives forever! They have catapulted us forward in the journey of life and because of the JP, we are getting ready to adopt three wonderful children that we would not have had space for in our old home. We have been so blessed by the constant prayer, advice, support, and fellowship. We are overjoyed and thankful to be part a James Project Home!”

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 Mowing	Larry & Rose Haas	Ron & Therese Romanelli
Blake Anderson	Tom & June Harmon*	Jimmy Rousey
Be One, Inc.	Andrew & Lisa Hartman*	Carol Shipp
Bob & Donna Biggs	Shaun & Shari Hill	Norm & Carol Smith
William & Cheryl Bloink	Forrest & Mary Lou Holsapple	Al & Sandy Stevens
Kimberly Blomberg	Mary Christine Hudgins	Andres & Maoxim Tellez
Gary & Paula Borah	INB Bank	Karun & Curtis Tillett*
Capestrain Family Fund	Kellner Fund	Tracy Family Foundation*
Cardinals Care	Warren & Deborah Knoles	Curt & Deb Trampe*
Cherry Hills Church*	Michael & Jennifer Lair	Trowbridge/Howse Family
Clearlake Church of Christ	Lakeside Christian Church	Neville & Cheryl White
Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln	Jason & Ashlee Leahy	Jordan Williams & Kate Dunne
Cornerstone Community Church	Luke 12:48 Fund	Russ & Jan Williams*
Mike & Carol Diedrichsen	Jim & Annette McDermott	Jami Winchester Team
Bruce & Bethanie Drake	Emily Mosher	Eric & Terri Woolbright*
Dungan Family	Cari Netherton/Plexus	
Helen Engelhard Family	Paul & Colleen Paoni	(* denotes gift over \$5000)
First United Methodist Church	Pickett Insurance Group	
Len & Karen Giannone*	James Potter	
Mark W. Groesch Family Foundation	Jerry & Lisa Quick	
	Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisory*	

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?

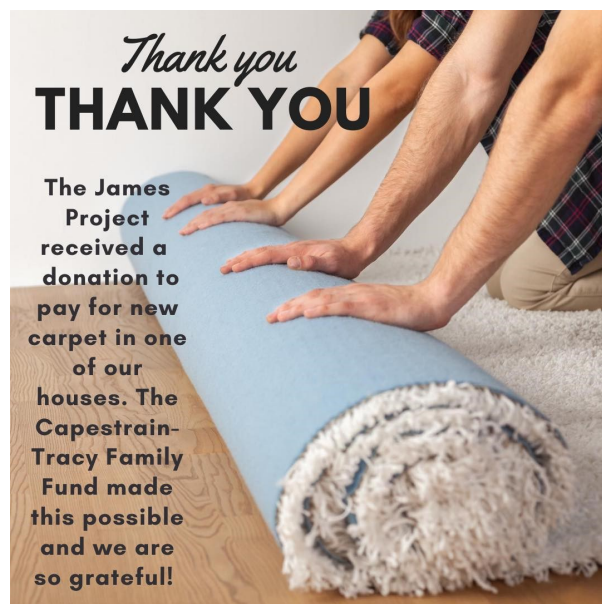
Donate online via

PayPal

thejamesproject127.com/support

You can also make checks payable to:

The James Project
907 Clocktower Drive, Ste. C
Springfield, IL 62704



2ND ANNUAL “ARTSY” A SUCCESS

GUESS WHAT?? THE JP IS FAMOUS!

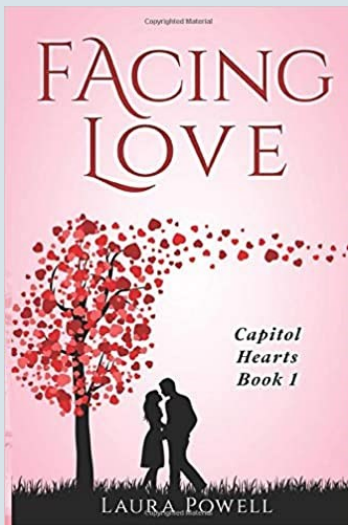
Local Christian author, Laura Powell, mentions the JP in her new book, ***Facing Love***. This Christian work of fiction touches on the foster care system and has a social worker as one of the main characters. The book was newly released in August and is available for purchase on Amazon. In addition, she is donating 10% of sales to the JP! We encourage you to check it out and THANK YOU Laura for your generosity and desire to support local foster children.

To say we feel extremely fortunate to have the second annual Artsy Art Fair go ahead as planned this summer is an understatement! On July 29th, our tremendous volunteers and supporters rallied around us as the venue switched from an indoor event to an under-the-big-top fair outdoors at Lakeside Christian Church. Decorators made the large tent feel like a big party! Despite the high heat index, fair goers both young and old purchased many items from talented local artists, and the cotton candy, glitter tattoos, face painting, chainsaw sculpture, and balloon artist only sweetened the experience. Our dedicated JP child artist Hollis Snider hosted art lessons at her booth called “Hollis’ House.” The children loved it! To all who came out to the fair, we THANK YOU for your support and look forward to seeing you next year.



MATTRESS MINISTRY NEEDS A BOOST

In 2019, The James Project fulfilled requests for 64 beds for newly placed foster children in Sangamon County. In 2020, we have exceeded this number of requests, with a combination of toddler, twin, and bunk beds totaling 80 so far, and still have 5 weeks remaining in the year! When Illinois shut down because of Covid-19 and forced all children home, they inadvertently kept children close to their abusers and away from those in the world who normally protect them by mandated reporting or removing them from the abuse. The result has not only been a huge increase in abuse cases, but a massive increase in the severity of the abuse being seen. Since partially reopening in June, children have been coming into foster care by the droves. Sixty-six percent of our bed requests this year have been from June to September. While we were prepared and on budget in January for this regular need, we sadly are now far behind. Would you consider donating to our mattress fund? No amount is too small! Each complete bed we purchase costs us \$165. We are behind \$5,000 this year in this fund due to Covid-19. Children deserve a safe place to rest their heads in what may be the first safe home they have ever known.



THANK YOU FOR SERVING!

When the JP first realized its vision of helping foster families in 2011, our board of directors was ready to take on the challenge. They all shared their areas of expertise to make the JP what it is today. We honor three of our founding board members as they step down from the JP board: Monica Goswami, Paula Borah, and Rose Haas. We know they will continue their missions to bless others with kindness, compassion, and service.



Monica, Paula & Rose

Blessings on each of these dynamite ladies!

JP CLOSET 1:27 WISH LIST ON AMAZON

We have created a detailed, floating Wish List on Amazon.com. It highlights the items currently needed by Closet 1:27. The list will be updated often to reflect the specific things foster kids and their families might need. Everything from toiletry items to clothing is listed. It's easy! For a shortcut to the Wish List, visit our JP homepage at:



www.thejamesproject127.com and click on the Amazon link!

NEW BOARD MEMBER: TOM BAZAN



Tom Bazan has been around the James Project for many years, having worked on a couple of the homes and volunteered at fundraisers. He has worked as a legislative researcher for the Illinois General Assembly for the last 15 years. Tom and his wife, Elizabeth, attend Cherry Hills Church where they lead a small group. He is also involved with the tech ministry and serves as Treasurer. He is a part of the Kiwanis Club of Springfield-Downtown, the Young

Philanthropists, and the Citizens Club of Springfield. In his free time, he enjoys playing many different sports—ultimate frisbee, disc golf, golf, and pickup basketball. We're excited to have Tom join the JP Board!

CALL  1:27

A GRATEFUL HEART AND A NEW BEGINNING

“Even though our family is quite new to this process, we are so grateful to have the knowledge, experience, patience, and compassion provided through working with Sarah and The James Project. Every interaction is handled with care and concern for everyone involved and this is absolutely invaluable to us while navigating the world of foster care.”

~Jessica S., Foster Mom

Closet  1:27

THE JP TO THE RESCUE

“I don't know how I would've coped with my last minute foster child placement if I had had to run out, with my little guy in tow, and get the things he needed to start life with us. I owe The James Project so much!”

~A.E.P

The James Project

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the james project

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



A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

A Very Merry Christmas Party

december 5 | 9am - 11am



For a foster child, having a beautiful and peaceful Christmas is a dream come true. At the JP, we want this to become a reality for our Sangamon County foster families this year. As social distancing restrictions become more stringent, Cherry Hills Church is changing its usual Christmas Party format to a drive-through celebration. Foster families are invited to the church on December 5 from 9 to 11 AM. While it may not feature traditional party activities, it will definitely be a **Very Merry Christmas Giveaway** with plenty of treats and surprises for everyone. Please join us in praying for this event and for all our foster families to feel special and loved.