Summer 2012
A publication of Hoyleton Ministries

the HOYLETONIAN

A mission partner of the United Church of Christ Illinois South Conference
and Indiana-Kentucky Conference

MAKING A JOYFUL NOISE

CALLED to CARE for those in need

Hoyleton Ministries
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A WORD from CHRIS

I am always excited when our next issue of The Hoyletonian magazine is ready to go to press. It means the news of the life giving ministry in which we are engaged will soon reach you. The Summer 2012 issue is no exception. I am privileged to work alongside a dedicated staff. Daily, I find stories of hope and healing. Stories of tenacious men and woman who are not satisfied with the way things are, but who see possibilities.

What possibilities exist when the beat of a drum takes hold of kids who don't have the words to express their feelings about the abuse and neglect they endured? Can you imagine the equalizing power to be learning something new alongside those who care for you? This is the possibility of Sheltered Reality.

The world is full of possibilities for a resilient young man who graduated from our Independent Living Program. Arif is the most recent recipient of the Hildebrand Scholarship, linking him to one of the Saints of the Church, as well as a legacy that ensures possibilities for those young people Hoyleton has cared for, and will continue to care for, long into the future.

Finally Hoyleton Ministries is partnering with the International Institute in St. Louis to create possibilities for a group of individuals we may not even know exist in our communities—those in the shadows. Victims of human trafficking need our voice, as they do not have one. They need our eyes to recognize them and they need our hands and our resources so that a new life without fear is possible.

We give thanks for our still—speaking God—a God of endless possibility—who continues to call us to this ministry of caring. We give thanks for you, our partners, for joining us as we strive to be a place of possibilities.

In Hope,

Chris L. Cox, MSW, LCSW
President and CEO
Hoyleton Ministries

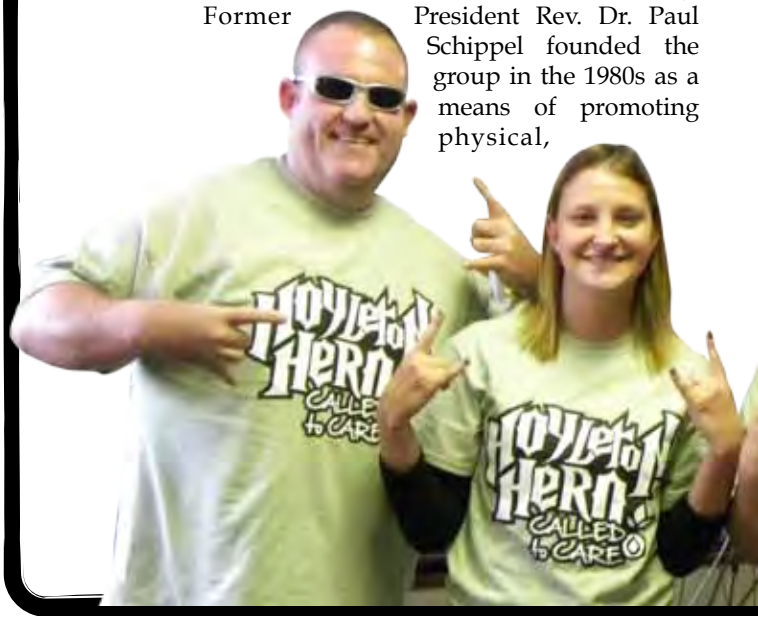
OUR MISSION

Hoyleton Ministries seeks to enable all people, young & old alike, to realize the wholeness of life that God intends. This will be accomplished with the compassion of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit reaching out to meet the physical, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, and social needs of those with whom we journey.

Knitting the Family Together

Hoyleton Ministries stretches across several counties and multiple locations, and it's sometimes hard to know just who works where with a staff of more than 150 people. Fortunately, we have the CHEERS group to keep us knitted together.

CHEERS stand for Committee for Health, Ethics, Events, Retreats and Spirituality. Former President Rev. Dr. Paul Schippel founded the group in the 1980s as a means of promoting physical,



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emotional, and spiritual well-being for the staff. Al Bazile, recreational supervisor, and Bambi Moore, residential services supervisor, are the current co-chairs of CHEERS.

Each year, CHEERS organizes spring and fall retreats, a staff picnic, and a staff Christmas party. The events are for all staff, across all the Hoyleton campuses. This year the group is also participating in Cardinal Cares, a fundraising program through the St. Louis Cardinals where groups can work a concession stand during a ballgame and earn a percentage of the sales that day. CHEERS took on staffing 7 games this year, and they have already had great success with them. Al states, "the purpose of CHEERS is to help keep staff in tune with their calling" to be at Hoyleton Ministries. "We're one family, and we have one cause- to serve these children. We're all Hoyleton Ministries." Bambi added, "Talking about team building and healthy team communication is easy, but building team spirit and keeping the team spirited all the time is not as easy as it seems. You need to be a true leader to build a healthy team, face challenges, find solutions and eventually deliver the desired results."

Using the Hoyleton motto, the staff retreat last fall was titled, "What Called You to Care?" Staff from different branches of Hoyleton, got into small discussion groups with people of different ages and races to share the reasons they put their heart and mind into helping Hoyleton youth. This spring, staff were motivated by speaker Jorge Gomez who reminded them, "you're the whole package", which centered on each person being an individual, a team member and a leader all rolled into one. This was followed by team building exercises, which not only improve work settings, but also build relationships between people.

Bambi shared her thoughts about the importance of such retreats. "A team bonding experience can make a big difference in the thought process of individuals. Almost everyone has some preconceived notions or perceptions about the people around them. Team members coming together to solve problems, have fun and understand each other is a good way to build team spirit." Al said, "The spring retreat was about bringing out the leader in each person."

Bambi summed up CHEERS saying, "The focus is on knowing yourself well—having a balanced and honest view of your own personality and an ability to react with others frankly and confidently. These programs will assist people in taking a more positive, proactive, solutions-oriented approach toward workplace concerns. It also offers practical ways for people to become more centered and resilient in the midst of workplace conflict, change and stress."

This year, there are four more Cardinal Cares days when Hoyleton staff will be building community while serving hotdogs, stacking nachos and earning money for our kids. If you're headed out to the ballpark on Aug. 9, Aug. 23, Sept. 5, or Sept. 20, look for their Hoyleton hats and let your love of baseball support Hoyleton Ministries at the same time.

Hoyleton Ministries
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Doni Driemeier-Showers • *Vice President of Development*
Jill Lombardo • *Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer*
Gerald Gardner • *Vice President and Chief Program Officer*

STRONG MOTIVATION

Arif Yohannes is a man with strong motivation. He is presently working on an associates degree and he focused on not stopping until he has a teaching degree in hand.

Last spring, Arif became the first person to win the Bright Future Award from Hoyleton Ministries, reflecting both his work ethic and his desire to reach his goals. He came into our Independent Living Program (ILP) in March, 2011. ILP is for youth ages 19-21. It is a transitional program that moves kids from foster care to independent young adults living on their own. In ILP youth secure an apartment in an area of their choosing and have furniture provided to make it functional. The State of Illinois also provides funds for rent, utilities and a phone allowance.

Some youth choose to get a job, while others choose bot a job and school. If they choose school, both their tuition and book fees are paid through the Department of Children and Family Services. Savings accounts are started immediately. However, after three to six months, Hoyleton starts limiting funds directly to the youth and they begin paying bills themselves. The money that would have been spent to help the youth pay bills goes directly into savings. The more they are able to pay their own bills, the more they end up saving. When they turn 21 and leave the program they receive the money they've saved as a lump sum to give them a good start in life.

Arif was a model for how the Independent Living Program works. He learned household skills like budgeting and setting up his own apartment. He began attending Southwestern Illinois College during the day and working a full-time job stocking at Walmart at night. He turned 21 in January and completed the ILP in fantastic fashion. Because he earns good grades, he was accepted into the Youth in College program, which pays for his tuition and books for another two years while he continues his education.

Sharon McDevitt, director of child welfare and prevention services for Hoyleton, said, "He always set goals for himself and he always wanted to gain independent skills for himself. Education is important to him."

Arif has asked about volunteering with Hoyleton in the future and we're very happy to have him help out. Sharon said, "we're going to videotape him for our other ILP youth, to give them some words of encouragement." Sharon added, " he just has good ethics, good beliefs. He is a refreshing aspect to all of us at Hoyleton because it reminds us of why we do what we do. Teenagers can be challenging and resistant, but Arif is goal driven. He asked for assistance when he needed it and he stayed on the path."

Hoyleton Ministries is the only provider of an Independent Living Program south of Springfield. Typically Hoyleton has 20 youth in the program at any one time. At present, we have ILP youth from seven counties.

Arif will graduate at the end of 2013 with an Associates degree, then transfer to Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville to complete his education. With full-time work and full-time school, Arif is a busy man. He described his typical day as getting off at 7a.m., then doing homework and attending classes. Sleep comes at the end of the day, if there's any time left. On his days off, he does

more homework. It takes a great deal of commitment to stay focused on your goal when you're literally working day and night to reach it.

Arif was already aiming toward a teaching degree when he was sent to observe a teacher at work as part of his coursework. "It was a class of first graders, and I really liked it." That was all it took. He's now focused on teaching in the elementary grades. He hopes to stay in the Collinsville area after graduation.

When asked where his strong motivation comes from, Arif said, "I'm not doing this for myself. I'm doing it for my little brother." His brother is 19 and has made some bad choices in life that currently have him in jail. "I'm trying to get secure enough to help him. That's my main goal."

To help Arif reach his goal a little easier, Hoyleton Ministries awarded him funds from the Hildebrand Scholarship for the purchase of a laptop computer and printer. For more on George Hildebrand and the long history of Hildebrand scholarship at Hoyleton Ministries, see the story below. Arif can now do his homework as it fits his schedule, instead of depending on using computers at school. With a schedule like his, that's a real benefit. Hoyleton Ministries is delighted to help Arif take another step into his bright future and we wish him continued success.

George Hildebrand's Long Legacy

Arif Yohannes recently received funds from Hoyleton Ministries' Hildebrand Scholarship for the purchase of a new computer and printer to facilitate his college studies. Remarkably, the funds that purchased the computer hardware were from seeds planted decades ago by the Rev. George Hildebrand.

In 1987, when George was 90 years old, he started the Hildebrand Scholarship to "provide an incentive for the recipients to become a better established individual to meet the future world." His initial gift was $300, followed by a gift of $1,000. He continued to fund the scholarship with monthly gifts of $100 until his death.

George graduated from Eden Theological Seminary in 1920. While still a student, George was the first pastor of Christ Evangelical Church, a congregation that today is known as Christ United Church of Christ of Dupo. The congregation initially met in the Dupo Theater, then later moved to the Dupo Grade School building during George's tenure there. He served a little more than two years in Dupo before accepting a call at a church in Chicago, IL.

According to Hoyleton's archives, George's parents were both teachers. He is quoted as saying he established the scholarship as a way of honoring his parents, with the intent of providing funds for Hoyleton youth to continue their education beyond high school. His memories of Hoyleton's great orphanage fire of 1915 were strong and he recalled how his parents took in two boys while the new orphanage was being built. George was also a retired Army chaplain, serving in World War II between 1944 and 1945.

George's last gift to the scholarship was on the occasion of his 98th birthday and in celebration of his 75th anniversary of his ordination. His years of ministry clearly did not end when he died at the age of 99. The Hildebrand Scholarship has provided funds in the past for youth in our Foster Care and Independent Living programs who were college bound. This year, it provided some much-needed assistance to a young man who's going to be a teacher. No doubt, George would be surprised and pleased to see how his thoughtful contribution is still helping young people "meet the future world" many years later.

Making a Joyful Noise

If you happen by Hoyleton on a day Sheltered Reality is practicing, you better bring your earplugs. Our kids formed a chapter of the Sheltered Reality drumming group about a year and a half ago, but it's a lot more than drumming. Sheltered Reality is based on a simple idea, according to founder Steve Schlosser. It's about taking something you love to do and using it to help and empower others.

Several years ago, Steve tried this idea with something he loved to do, which was drumming. He started drumming at the age of 11, and by 14 he was teaching others how to play. As part his Ph.D. dissertation, Steve used drumming to study the idea of how to empower other people. As he says with a laugh, "it worked too well," and 16 years later there are Sheltered Reality drumming groups in 15 states. Our Hoyleton kids are one of 30 such groups. Steve expects to grow to about 40 groups by year's end.

Hoyleton youth attended the annual Sizzling Summer Drummer Bash in Troy, Ill, and heard a Sheltered Reality band perform. They liked it, and in short order formed a group on the Hoyleton campus.

The foundation of Sheltered Reality is the Steps of Success, which Steve outlined. One, take a chance, and get out of your comfort zone. Two, never give up, which are words of encouragement our kids need to hear. Three, whatever it takes to get the job done, regardless of obstacles or embarrassment. Four, learn to believe in yourself, because that's how you grow. Five, be a friend to others, because we all need friends. Six, do good with the gift of your life. And seven, believe in God and let God guide you on the path.

When Hoyleton started drumming, they had two drum kits, consisting of two drums, three cowbells and one cymbal each. With 10 kids regularly participating in only four could practice at one time. A Hoyleton donor found out about our extreme drum shortage and funded the purchase of three sets of drums from another chapter. Drums are heavy and they need care in handling, so they weren't easily shippable. Our new drums reached Illinois through several transfers as other Sheltered Reality groups played concerts across the Midwest carrying them to the next stop down the road. It took a late night connection in a McDonald's parking lot between a group headed home from a concert and Recreational Supervisor Al Bazile, to get the drums all the way to their new home. Now everyone has a drum to play during practice.

The kids have been rehearsing songs like "*Youth of A Nation*," "*Firework*," the "*Cotton-Eyed Joe*" and, "*Mickey*" for quite a while now. Hoyleton staff drum too, and it's been kind of an equalizer. "Everyone learns at the same time," says Al. He describes Sheltered Reality as, " a little bit of everything. It's therapy, it's recreation, it's interaction," and everyone involved simply loves it. One of our kids had difficulty interacting with people and he struggled to interact in the world. After rehearsing with Sheltered Reality, he found himself and began getting into the drumming so much, he broke a drum head, which for him represented a break-through in how he navigates through the world.

Drumming helped him express things and now he interacts with people much better.

The group is to the point the songs are getting a little more complex and dance moves are being added to the numbers. When Steve's passing through the area, he rehearses with them, and boy do they rock! The group rehearses in Hoyleton's gym with the doors wide open. Gyms are not the ideal acoustic venue but no one seems to mind. Steve leads with a drum set at the front and all the other drums are in a line behind him. As the music plays, he demonstrates the beats and dance moves, and the drummers repeat them. The kids all focus intently on keeping the beat and getting the steps down. They revel in the loud rumble they're making and the chances they're taking. Their raucous joyful noise can be heard for several blocks in all directions. When asked if he changed practice in some way for our kids, Steve said, "No, people are people. A lot of people have struggles, but we're all just people." He added, "I just teach drum lessons," with a big grin on his face.

Our drummers have played concerts at churches and area events, but this past spring they really moved up to the big time, playing a concert at the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries (CHHSM) meeting in St. Louis. As part of every Sheltered Reality concert, the drummers come out into the audience and find someone to drum with them. One of our residents went out into this audience of professionals and picked Rev. Jerry Paul, recently retired president of the Deaconess Foundation in St. Louis, to join him on stage.

It's not often that two people from such different walks of life end up on a stage drumming together, but that's the unique gift of Sheltered Reality. It brings people together and empowers them through the steady rhythm of a drum. Even though Rev. Paul didn't expect to be drumming that night, our resident encouraged him to not only play but play loudly. As Steve says, "anybody can succeed when others can help you." That's really the philosophy of Hoyleton, as we help our youth succeed with support, love and patience.

Sheltered Reality groups play at school assemblies, city festivals and church gatherings. They are a faith-based organization. If you want to learn more about Sheltered Reality, or would like to book a concert with our Hoyleton kids, visit their website at www.sheltered-reality.org.

The MODE

There is a serious problem in this country that's rarely talked about in polite company, human trafficking. Human trafficking is the trading of human beings and a modern form of slavery. Human trafficking is identified as the fastest growing industry in the world, and it's nearly the largest illegal trade in the world, second only to drugs. In April, the United Nations estimated there were 2.8 million people around the world at any given moment enslaved by human trafficking, with approximately 80 percent of them in sexual slavery. Sadly, only about one in 100 is ever rescued. People held in this bondage are an invisible part of our communities and they desperately need help.

The Eastern Missouri Southwestern Illinois collaboration is working to raise awareness of human trafficking. Funded by, a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant, it is administered by the International Institute of St. Louis. Hoyleton Ministries is the lead organization of the Southwestern Coalition, one of four coalitions of the main body. The Southwestern Coalition covers St. Clair, Madison, Macoupin, Monroe, Clinton, Bond, Jersey, and Calhoun counties. Cleo Terry, special assistant to the president and CEO of Hoyleton Ministries, oversees our participation in this important work.

Because human trafficking is illegal, "no one knows how much of it is going on in the U.S.," said Cleo. "It's extremely difficult to estimate." She continued, "our goals in the Southwestern Coalition are to educate the community on human trafficking; educate law enforcement, first responders and social service people to see the signs of trafficking; and promote cooperation between agencies to prosecute perpetrators and rescue victims." There are 18 members of the Southwestern Coalition, ranging from the FBI and local law enforcement, to representatives from SIU Edwardsville, local crisis hotlines, domestic violence programs and other social-service providers..

Human trafficking is both a state and federal crime. The most basic definition of trafficking is commercial exploitation of another through the use of force, fraud or coercion. Human trafficking broadly falls into two categories: labor trafficking and sex trafficking. Labor trafficking can be forced labor, frequently in the agricultural, clothing, domestic service and restaurant industries where individuals are forced against their will to work under threat of violence or other punishment. Labor trafficking can also mean debt labor, where a good or service is exchanged at an inflated value, while the victim is told they can pay back the sum with work that will never equal the supposed debt they owe. Debt-based labor trafficking is a kind of indentured servitude, except there is no way to ever leave. Sometimes individuals are lured with promises of jobs as housekeepers and nannies, only to find they are essentially prisoners with little hope of anyone ever finding them.

Women are the majority of victims swept into sex trafficking, where they are forced into pornography and prostitution. Repeated rape and physical punishment are routine parts of life for sex trafficking victims. Runaway youth are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, as they are easy to spot when they are lost,

e Tragedy of ERN SLAVERY

hungry and out of money. In the past, runaways forced into prostitution who were caught would be charged with a crime. Thanks to new laws, children under 18 are recognized as victims and can be helped, rather than prosecuted.

While labor trafficking often centers on. "Human trafficking is not just about immigrants. U.S. citizens are victims of trafficking, too" Cleo states. Often there is confusion with the term human trafficking, because it sounds like moving people. Human smuggling is actually the term for transporting people illegally into the country. After they get here, they could be moved into human trafficking under the guise of owing the smuggler more money or having family members threatened in their home country. Human trafficking, on the other hand, has commerce as its root. It's about economically benefiting from slave labor.

There are some warning signs to recognize people trapped in human trafficking, including being underweight, showing signs of physical abuse, being tattooed or branded as someone else's property, or acting as if they are under someone else's mental control. Traffickers can be recognized as people who keep ID documents for others, who tightly controls access to certain individuals, and who make frequent threats of deportation to someone. In the sex trade, traffickers will also threaten to expose the activities of a victim to families in their home country, as if they were voluntarily participating in pornography or prostitution.

> Human trafficking is identified as the fastest growing industry in the world

Trafficking victims are very much like domestic abuse victims, and they can begin to identify their situation as normal, not realizing they are trapped. Victims will sometimes identify someone else, but not themselves, as being a slave. States Attorneys have a difficult time proving cases against traffickers because of this kind of Stockholm Syndrome, often going for drug or other charges against the trafficker instead. "They will go for whatever gets the most jail time," Cleo said.

Part of Cleo's mission is to continue educating people on human trafficking. Through Puentes de Esperanza, we educate the Latino community about human trafficking and work with street outreach programs that might come in contact with trafficking victims.

If your group or church would like to learn more about this serious problem, call Cleo Terry at Hoyleton Ministries, 618-213-3170 to schedule a presentation.

Cleo Terry
Special Assistant to President and CEO

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"To err is human, to forgive divine."
~Shakespeare~
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We are also collecting photos for our slide show:
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HOYLETON Ministries

Homecoming

We are having a family reunion, a Homecoming, to share stories, laugh over dinner, dig through old photos.

We wanna show you around the place and it will be your chance to visit your old room, or maybe see where you once worked. However Hoyleton has touched you, we open our doors to you. So come bring your family, your memories and an open heart!

Love,

Hoyleton Ministries

SEPTEMBER 15, 2012