Summer / Fall 2013
A publication of Hoyleton Ministries

the HOYLETONIAN

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

IDENTITY OF A SUPERHERO

CALLED to CARE for those in need

Hoyleton Ministries
www.hoyleton.org • 618-493-7575
350 North Main Street
Hoyleton, IL 62803-0218

A WORD from CHRIS

At the core of Hoyleton Ministries are three groups of people. First, there's the children and families we serve. They come to us out of need, join our family for a time, and hopefully find love and healing while they are with us. Second, there's our staff, a dedicated bunch of folks who have the knowledge to handle many kinds of situations, and the heart to follow them through to completion. And third, we have a legion of volunteers who help in every facet of Hoyleton. They help us keep things running smoothly, building a well-rounded life for our kids that goes beyond therapy and education.

As the summer winds down and kids start heading back to school, I often reflect on the number of work groups, event volunteers, church congregations… all the volunteers that have walked through the doors of Hoyleton. I hope our young people and staff made an impact on their lives because they have certainly made a huge impact on ours.

This issue of the Hoyletonian is volunteer focused as a way to say thank you for all you do, but also, we hope to open new doors of opportunities for you at Hoyleton Ministries. Often people think of volunteer opportunities as just pulling weeds or painting a fence. But in these pages we hope to inspire you, create your own volunteer possibilities! You have a passion for something… use it! Bring these new ideas to our young people and let them live a dream through your eyes.

On page 6 you'll meet a young man we call Clark in this issue. You'll read through his struggles and learn about his possible future, but right now, Clark wants to be a superhero and he's looking to talk with some who is just as curious about the man of steel and how he got so strong, or why Captain America wears that outfit. He would love a mentor… and there it is, another volunteer opportunity that you may not have known was even possible.

Summer is one of my favorite seasons; not because of the pool parties and ice cream, but because it is Volunteer Season at Hoyleton Ministries. I love to see the new guests around our campuses and welcome the possibilities they may bring. As this season comes to a close, remember that we are open all year long, which means it doesn't have to be summer for you to pay us a visit.

Sincerely,

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.

Articles may be copied and distributed along with the notation they came from The Hoyletonian and the Hoyleton Ministries.

Hoyleton Ministries

Chris L. Cox *President & CEO*
Jill Lombardo, *Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer*
Tammy Sweet, *Residential Programs Director*
Sharon McDevitt, *Community Programs Director*
Laura Huge, *Director of Administrative Services*

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"I AM ONLY ONE, BUT **I AM ONE**. I CANNOT DO EVERYTHING, BUT **I CAN DO SOMETHING.** AND I WILL NOT LET WHAT I CANNOT DO INTERFER WITH WHAT **I CAN** DO."

-EDWARD EVERETT HALE

VOLUNTEER

Ministries HOYLETON

LIFE COMES FULL CIRCLE

Earl and Gladys Grotefendt, proud members of the Legacy Circle

Earl and Gladys Grotefendt have been married 68 years, which is certainly no small feat. When Earl looks back on their life, he says, "I've had a lot of fun." He and Gladys worked hard at farming, and traveled the world together. He worked in civic life, too, serving as a Township Supervisor for 21 years. Earl has served on so many church committees he can't count them all. He looks back now with a visible measure of gratitude when he says, "The Almighty has been very gracious to us."

Earl and Gladys have chosen to express their thanks for a full life by helping others through charitable gift annuities to several local organizations, including Hoyleton Ministries. Earl says he's, "always had a soft spot for Hoyleton." He remembers being a little kid in Sunday School when "we would save up and take a collection of food every fall to Hoyleton. It was home canned stuff to feed the kids." That early commitment to Hoyleton is something he's carried with him his whole life.

Earl grew up and was baptized at Marine United Church of Christ in Marine, IL. He was born in 1921 and fully remembers the Great Depression. In 1935, confirmation was done over the summer months, and he remembers driving to church in a Model A Ford, "back when no one had a driver's license," he said with a grin. When he was a young man at Marine, he organized the removal of the old church and the building of a new one. He proudly says, "I was honored to carry a candlestick from the altar of the old building into the new one," the first time they used the new sanctuary. The new building brought new people, and that generated the need for a new parking lot, which Earl helped organize, too.

On Flag Day in 1945, heavy rains made it impossible to get into the fields to work the corn. He went and found Gladys and said, "We can't work. Let's get married." And they did. Obviously it was a pretty good fit for both of them. They had one daughter, followed by three grandchildren and four great grandchildren. In 1954, a piece of farmland became available that prompted Earl and Gladys to move from Marine to Grantfork where they joined the United Church of Christ. Gladys was the chair of the youth Sunday School for many years, and Earl once again took on some building projects. He forgets the exact years, but he's sharp on the other details of what it took to build, first a new parsonage and then a new educational building. Eventually, the Grotefendt's grew to manage 1000 acres, and farmed a variety of crops and raised cows, chicken and pigs over the years.

Earl served in several positions for the Illinois South Conference UCC too. He described chairing the committee in charge of distributing relief funds after the Flood of 1993, and said, "it was the hardest thing I ever did. We only had peanuts to give to people who lost everything. It was hard to give money to one family and have nothing to give another. We could only give to the poorest people."

Gladys' light has dimmed in recent years with Alzheimer's, which has been hard on Earl. He shares the stories of their wonderful life together, and she often comments how he's so good at remembering things.

Earl and Gladys specifically picked Hoyleton to receive an annuity from their estate because they wanted to, "give to kids that are unfortunate. They have to have a place to go." He said he always wanted to help Hoyleton, and an annuity was a simple way to do that. "I would hope that the bit we can give will help some child and give them a decent life."

Because of their planning and generosity, the fruits of their labor will live on at Hoyleton through their annuity, helping children for many years to come, and we are grateful for their gift.

What is Planned Giving?

Planned giving is a thoughtful way of ensuring that the influence and blessing of your life, and the legacy of generosity you are establishing today, will continue when you are gone. Planned giving encompasses a variety of ways that gifts can be made to Hoyleton Ministries from accumulated resources.

It usually involves financial or estate planning; however, it is not reserved for the wealthy. Planned giving is a means by which anyone concerned with the wise use of his or her personal resources makes a considered choice about their ultimate disposition.

In general planned gifts are made through:

- *A Bequest in a Will*
- *Retirement Funds*
- *Special Assets Gift* (real estate, closely held stock, retirement accounts)
- *Life Insurance*

Be apart of something Legendary...

Legacy Circle

A lasting Legacy rich in Heritage

The Legacy Circle is an association of friends who believe in the purpose and values of Hoyleton Ministries. Like you, these people seek to ensure a better tomorrow for our society's youth and families, especially those in need. This planning might include a will, charitable gift annuity, a trust arrangement, a real estate gift or a life insurance policy.

Once in the Legacy Circle you join a wonderful community of thoughtful and generous people who want to leave a legacy of compassion and care. For over 118 years Hoyleton Ministries has provided care to individuals and families with emotional, behavioral and other disabling conditions while strengthening and enabling families.

As a Circle member, you receive annual acknowledgment in Hoyleton Ministries publications, invitations to donor events and briefings, and our enduring gratitude.

How Can I Become a Member?
Joining The Legacy Circle is easy! Simply communicate your intentions by signing and returning our enrollment form. For assistance, you may request that a planned giving representative contact you to discuss your specific estate planning needs and opportunities by contacting us at 618-493-7575.

All that we are, all that we have, comes from God
and will one day return to God.

VOLUNTEE

We are always looking for volunteers with every conceivable talent. Please take a moment to scan the list below and see of there's a place where you, your family, your co-workers, or your church could support Hoyleton. Some of these are well-established needs, and others are new ways to volunteer. Have you got a new idea on how you can volunteer your talents? Let us know!

BE A MENTOR

Young adults in our Independent Living Opportunities (ILO) program are age 19 or 20, and they are on their way to "aging out" of the Foster Care system. The ILO program is a transitional program that helps them establish their own household, find a job or go to school, and get used to being on their own before they leave the system on their 21st birthday. These youth have had little independence, and there's a lot they need to learn, like grocery shopping and cooking, budgeting, cleaning, and basic household skills.

- Mentors can meet with a youth once or twice, to help them learn a specific skill.
- Mentors can also meet on a more regular basis and build a friendship with a youth by checking in on them, or sharing a meal.

BE A PEN PAL

Many of our kids who live on our residential campuses lack a family that connects with them. A pen pal provides a way for them to build relationships. It's a personalized long-term commitment.

SHARE YOUR HOBBY

Our kids love trying new things, both on campus and off. Here are some programs we're already doing.

- In summer we have a fishing derby sponsored by the American Legion, Swansea Post #2007. They provide the equipment and we provide the kids.
- At Christmas, we visit a Christmas light and train display.
- We sometimes visit a petting zoo, and the kids get to meet an array of animals.
- An Army veteran on staff is teaching the kids how to run.
- Another staff member is leading a yoga class.
- What hobby can you share?

PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

We welcome any help with our buildings and grounds, keeping them in top shape. You can do a single project one time, or take on a cottage for a longer term commitment; like Elm Street cottage. It's under the loving care of St. John United Church of Christ in New Athens, IL. They've power-washed it, updated the landscaping, installed new basketball hoop, and much more.

Skills that can always be used include:

- landscaping and gardening
- painting, both inside and outside structural improvements, like carpentry,

plumbing and electrical work

BE A FOSTER PARENT

We need foster parents, plain and simple. We need them for kids who come from bad situations and we need them for special needs kids who have physical or behavioral issues.

- Long-term placement- welcoming a child into your home, usually for one to two years, with possible adoption in some cases.
- Respite Foster Parent- take a child for a short time, while foster parents

are out of town, or when a child is between placements. The commitment is as short as a weekend or as long as a couple of weeks.

LEAD BIBLE STUDY

We have a wonderful group named Kids in Christ who leads the kids in a vacation Bible school-style curriculum several times a year. We'd like to also offer an ongoing Bible study at our residential campus, at Hope House and for our children in foster care.

BE A HOYLETON AMBASSADOR

At your church, you can represent Hoyleton to your congregation. Contact us for more details.

BE ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our board members volunteer their time and care to help plan for the future of Hoyleton. It's a three-year commitment of quarterly meetings, and often some committee meetings in between.

BE ON A BOARD COMMITTEE

The Development Committee and Finance Committee sometimes require special expertise. If you have skills in these areas, let us know. You do not have to be a member of the Board to be on either of these committees.

TEACH A SEWING CLASS

We have received several donations of sewing machines, but need a seamstress to show the kids how to use them.

MAINTAIN AND REPAIR BICYCLES

We get a lot of bikes donated, and our kids love them. We need help maintaining them. If you're a cyclist, you could share the joy of cycling with them, too.

HELP WITH A CHRISTMAS ACTIVITY

- Support a wish list for a single child or many children
- Make a donation to the Christmas fund to buy gifts
- Speak to churches as a Hoyleton Ambassador about sponsoring children's wish lists
- Pick up and deliver presents, about a month commitment from Thanksgiving to Mid-December
- Wrap presents- first half of December, all necessary supplies provided
- Work at any of four Christmas parties, spread out across first two weeks in December
  - As Santa, Mrs. Claus or an Elf
  - As a photographer to help us capture the event

For information on any of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Tina Steibel, Special Events and Volunteer Coordinator at tsteibel@hoyleton.org, or call 618-493-757

ER

A VOLUNTEER'S VOICE

The name Conrad Steinhoff is well-known in social work circles in our area. Conrad is a former employee of Hoyleton Ministries, but in recent years you may know him from his work founding Lebanon Kids, Inc, a social service agency in Lebanon, IL. The organization provides eight weeks of summer day camp for junior high kids, teaching them life skills like cooking and gardening. During the school year, the organization provides tutoring to same age of students. In September, they will start their 8th year.

Conrad is the most recent recipient of the Mary Renfo Child Advocate Lifetime Achievement award. This award is given by the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church. Conrad said about the award, " it says lifetime achievement. I don't know if that means I'm done, or that the work is never done." The award is named after a 96-year-old member of First United Methodist Church in Lebanon, IL, where coincidently Conrad is a member.

He has indeed had a lifetime of helping children. Conrad started his college career believing he was headed into ministry. "When I was a student at Wheaton College, I was a sociology major, and I was already enrolled in Fuller Theological Seminary out in Pasadena. I felt called to the ministry." But, the Chair of the Sociology department absolutely insisted that all his students attend a social work conference being held on campus. "I was in sociology, I didn't even know what social work was." That was the turning point for him. "By the time that conference was over, I knew what my call was. Not to pastoral ministry, but to social work. My response to my life calling is to minister to people with special needs."

Earlier in his career, Conrad worked in Chicago. There he met his wife Margaret, who he says, " keeps me on track. She helps me think things through." Soon after that, Hoyleton's past President Paul Schippel came to visit Conrad, and talked to him about a job. "An hour later, we had a deal," which brought Conrad to Southern Illinois as our Director of Campus programs in 1983, a position he held for five years. "At that point, I had been in residential care for 20 plus years. It's a 365 day, 24 hours a day job, and it was time to move on." When the position as head of our East St. Louis office came open Conrad applied for and was granted a transfer. From that he opened a Hoyleton office in Edwardsville, and became the Vice President for Program Development. He retired from Hoyleton in 1997, but he didn't retire from helping kids.

He was asked by his friend and former colleague at Hoyleton Rev. Sylvester Weatherall at Grace United Methodist Church to come do program development in Washington Park, IL. While at Grace, he became an ordained deacon in 2002, which in a way, brought him full circle from his earlier college aspirations. He later founded Lebanon Kids, Inc. In his spare time, Conrad has been part of the Big Brother, Big Sister program, and he currently writes a weekly column for the Lebanon Advertiser, frequently on social justice issues.

Hoyleton Ministries sends hearty congratulations to Conrad on receiving this well-deserved honor for his commitment to helping kids. Of the lifetime achievement title, Conrad reflected that even in retirement, "That's why I don't quit. I haven't retired from the call. I don't think God works that way."

Conrad Steinhoff receives Mary Renfo Child Advocate Lifetime Achievement Award

IDENTITY OF A SUPERHERO

We have a young man in our care who talks constantly about two subjects- superheroes and sports. He chose the name "Clark" to be his secret identity for this article, because as he says, "Superman is the greatest superhero. He's stronger than Captain America" Clark is only 10, and he came to Hoyleton through a pretty difficult path.

He's the eldest of 5 children, all of whom are in some form of state care. Clark's family fell apart when his mother brought drugs into their home. She's around 28 now and removed from their lives. Clark's father was extremely abusive to his mother. Clark suffered a spinal fracture because of his father, which is why he was taken into state care at five months and removed from the home around the time of his first birthday.

The state position on custody is always to first try to get children back in the home. In Clark's case, his parents didn't correct the problems in their home. Dad left he picture completely, and Mom found an abusive boyfriend and remarried. When Clark was back in the home again, the new man of the house abused him again. Clark and his siblings returned to state custody, and they were placed in foster homes, adoptive homes, and other residential facilities that met their needs and ages.

Clark's therapist Ashley Wombacher described the life Clark had prior to coming to Hoyleton. " The kids were taken away because of drugs. They showed signs of neglect, inadequate clothing, and physicall abuse. They saw Mom do things she shouldn't have. Mom's boyfriend was very aggressive, and he broke some of Clark's bones too." Along the way to Hoyleton, Clark had some difficult placements. Ashley described how one used military stress positions to teach discipline to Clark and his siblings. That house also had motion alarms on the floor of his bedroom and locks on his windows. Fortunately he left that placement, but as one might imagine, he had a very hard time being just a normal kid.

He spent some time in a foster home with a woman he calls Grandma Sharon. But after two hospitalizations for behavior issues, Clark needed a more intensive setting for his therapy. His mounting mental issues were more than Grandma Sharon could handle. Lynn Ryder, Clinical Supervisor for Hoyleton, said we offer the highest level of care to our kids, but that means it's the most restrictive placement a kid can be in. "It's basically in-patient care, where foster care is out-patient. We have a ratio of one staff to every three clients."

Ashley shared some of Clark's behavoirs from before he arrived. "He runs, he hides, he fights back with adults. After meeting him and learning more about what he's experienced, you can see why. It was his way of survival." When Clark first came to Hoyleton, he wanted doors left open and the lights on all the time. In therapy, it's hard for him to relive it, Ashley said. Despite his experiences, he didn't come with a lot of the problems we sometimes see in other kids.

Coming to us through the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Clark has both a state guardian that works for DCFS, and a Hoyleton Case Manger who coordinates his progress, placements and transfers. Case Manger Brandon Rudolph describes Clark as "resilient. He's had a lot of bad things happen, and he's being resilient to face his past traumas." While Clark may have a lower IQ, he is very high in adaptive functioning. "IQ is about what you know. Adaptive functioning is about what you are able to do to survive." He used the example that a homeless person knows they must find food and shelter to live, regardless of their IQ. "Adaptive functioning is about being a survivor," Brandon said, which Clark clearly understands.

Lynn said Clark has done well with his anger issues since coming to Hoyleton. He mostly stays "on level" in campus speak. We use a level system to rank behavior, and all the kids know the rules of the levels forwards and backwards. Everyone starts at level 1, which is like being grounded. It means no TV and no going outside. If a child goes 24 hours without an incident, such as swearing, being disrespectful or doing property damage, they can move to level 2, which allows a little more freedom. Level 5 is the top level with all privileges, both on and off campus. Cross a line and ignore multiple warnings, and you will lose a level or two and have to work your way back up.

Brandon said, "When Clark first came, he would not respond to correction. He might shut down or not speak. Now he's much better." Clark only occasionally acts out now. Ashley says he's not like other kids who in the middle of a fit are still mad. She said, "Clark will come to you after a few minutes and say he's sorry." Lynn doesn't think Clark will stay with us very long. "He found structure here, something he hadn't had before. Many of our kids have never had anyone to care about them. Here they experience love and caring. Kids are taught to love and to have empathy. Sometimes they have no concept of these things, and that's true for Clark." Brandon pointed out that Clark had so many foster homes that he never had time to build trust or love. Leaving them meant he wasn't wanted, again and again.

Clark sounds like a typical young boy when you meet him, rattling off the names of every character in a Transformer movie one minute, talking about jumping off the high dive twice the next. He says, "I only like all the good superheroes," hence the affection for Superman and Captain America. Basketball is his favorite sport simply because, "it's cool." He listens to all kinds of music- rap, pop, all kinds- though not much country. He also says, "I always stay around Ashley."

"It's not that he's fixated on sports, it's that he's good at them," Brandon said. Clark is a little guy, about the size of an eight-year-old, though he'll be 11 in October, but he's got some natural talent despite his small stature. Brandon said, " I saw him stand at center court and sink a basket. When I asked him to do it again, it hit the rim the next time." He joked, "I can't do that!" Brandon added, "He's just really good at sports."

Al Bazile, our Activity Therapy Supervisor, describes Clark as "a little daredevil. When he plays, you can tell he's the young, energetic kind of kid. He's always moving a 150 miles per hour, whether it be soccer, or any other sport we offer." He's participated in soccer, volleyball, basketball, dodgeball, and track." We don't field teams in baseball or softball, but the staff go out with Clark and play catch now and then, because he likes those sports too. "He always wants to be first. He's going to go right after it. He may be small, but he will go up against adults or bigger kids, and get knocked around. He's got to get out and burn that energy." Al described Clark as the most athletic kid at Hoyleton.

When asked if Hoyleton is his home, Clark flatly said, "no", which is a good thing according to Ashley. "This is just where he lives, it's not home. It's not with a family." Clark's mother has been repeatedly incarcerated over the course of his life. She lost control of her life, trapped in a web of drugs and addiction. Eventually a judge gave her an ultimatum- no more positive drug tests, or you lose your kids. She did use drugs again, and she gave up her parental rights. The staff had to find a way to tell Clark that he wouldn't be going back to his mother. "We told him we would find him a new Mom and Dad, one that would respect him." As you might guess, his behavior changed a lot after that happened, and he often acted out. "At first, he acted like it was no big deal, but two days later he had a total breakdown," Brandon said. Clark's had a lot of broken trust in his short life.

When multiple kids from one family are in state care, all the foster parents, adoptive parents, and respective facilities work hard at helping them to keep contact with one another. Clark actively wants phone calls and visits with his siblings, being their biggest brother and all. Lynn said sometimes it's a campus visit, sometimes it's a matter of meeting halfway, but the staff work at keeping those positive family connections strong. Brandon coordinates visits between siblings with Clark, and with

his DCFS Case Manager who sees him once or twice a month.

Grandma Sharon, who was Clark's foster parent before he came to Hoyleton, adopted two of Clark's younger siblings. Now, she has said she wants to adopt Clark when he leaves Hoyleton, and bring him home, too. With adoption a possibility, Clark's behavior changed for the better almost immediately. Brandon pointed out, "so many people said we don't want you. For Clark, it really means something for someone to say they want him back." Ashley said she hopes he does go to Grandma Sharon's so, "someone will love him and treat him as a kid should be treated." And when Clark does go to a foster home, he'll be part of our aftercare program, where we stay in touch for another three or four months after transfer, just to make sure the placement is stable. Brandon said he thinks Clark has a bright future. "He has a good chance of be being independent, getting a job, and being a productive member of society."

Clark often thinks he has superpowers, which are part of his coping skills, Ashley said. Maybe in someway Clark does have them. He's already changed a lot in his time with us, and no doubt he'll grow more as he feels safe and loved. Ashley said she always tries to instill hope in her kids, because it's important they look to the future.

Clark has taken this into his world and given it meaning. He says the "S" on Superman's chest stands for hope, because he gives people hope. Maybe Clark is his own kind of superman, bring thrown into a world not of his making, being removed from his biological parents but finding love with foster parents, and dealing with tough situations. He shows a kind of resilience that only the young can muster, and it's clear he has hope for the future. Maybe Clark is a little bit of Superman after all, he just doesn't know it yet.

Children come to us through one of three channels: The Department of Human Services (DHS), the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). "A child is referred for residential care most often when there is physical aggression," meaning when their behavior impacts people in their previous environment, according to Lynn Ryder, Clinical Supervisor. This is especially true when aggression has involved law enforcement or property damage. A placement is never based on the parent's financial ability to care for the child.

About 90% of Hoyleton children have experienced abuse, but not all of them. Some come from loving homes where their parents or guardians simply can't help them deal with their behavior issues, such as when elderly grandparents are guardians, or when the parents themselves are developmentally disabled. Those parents often visit their children and maintain relationships while their kids are with us receiving therapy.

Lynn said, "The goal is not just to supervise them, it's also about working on their treatment plans constantly, with every level of staff. We work on improving their skills through all activities, even when doing the laundry." When a child reaches a better level of coping with the world they are stepped back down to a less restrictive level of care, such as foster care. According to Lynn, the average length of stay at Hoyleton is about two and a half years.

There are two criteria for a child to be placed at Hoyleton. One, they must have an IQ score between 40 and 70. Having an IQ below 70 is considered as having borderline intellectual ability. Our average IQ across the residential campus is 52.

The second criteria is for them to have an Axis 1 diagnosis, which is a way professionals use to categorize mental illness. This category includes depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, among others.

Once a child meets the two criteria, Lynn and the staff then focus on where a child best fits into the Hoyleton campus. We have five cottages, three for boys and two for girls. Depending on the mix of kids at any point in time, some have their own rooms, and others share a bedroom. "The key is to place and keep a child with their peer group. The peer group must match for a good fit." The age, IQ and socialization skills of the child are all taken into account. Clark, in the accompanying story, arrived at the age of 9, the youngest age we accept. He fit right into our Skyview Cottage, where the little guys live.

While with us, kids receive therapy to deal with their problems, following their individual plans for treatment. State case workers coordinate with Hoyleton staff to monitor progress for each child. When a child improves and can better deal with life, they frequently move to a less restrictive environment, like a foster home. If they are too old for foster care, they transfer to a Community Integrated Living Arrangement (CILA) facility, such as ours in Highland, IL.

TAKE A HIKE... WITH US

Hike and Bike Event Funds Summer Programs

For many years on the Saturday before Mother's Day local churches have been getting together to raise money to support Hoyleton's summer programs. Participants come to hike or ride their bikes on a scenic route through the countryside around Maeystown, IL. It's a family event, with parents pushing strollers and hot dogs for the kids at lunch, and it always draws a crowd.

Hike and Bike started many years ago, and it was originally based at the Hoyleton campus. It took a hiatus in the early 1980's, before starting up again in 1985. Mildred Hoffman remembers the year she participated and the Hike and Bike when it was in Belleville, along city streets. Because of traffic and exhaust, the event was moved out in the country, and it rotated between churches near Waterloo, IL for a while, before settling at St. John's United Church of Christ at Maeystown just a few years ago. Now, the event is hosted by St. John's, with most of the food for the day provided by nearby Zion United Church of Christ, St. Joe.

The Zion ladies provide the highly-anticipated sloppy joes every year, along with hotdogs, sides and desserts. Ladies from St. John also share some of the dessert burden, giving the hikers and bikers a table full of sweet rewards when they return from their treks. Delrose Juelfs of Zion said, "it seems to get bigger every year. I increased the sloppy joes to 17 pounds of hamburger and brought 120 hotdogs this year, and we never have much food left over." Melba Asselmeier from St. John described her involvement as simply, "something easy to do." The ladies at both churches support this event in a big way. "When you ask for money, you don't always get a lot. When you ask for food, you get a bunch," Melba said.

The event does indeed get bigger. Last year, Hike and Bike raised more than $6000, which comes solely from registration fees and donations. According to Dorothy Brandt, a long-time organizer of the event, this year's Hike and Bike tallied more than $6700, with a few more checks expected to come in. Dorothy makes no bones about why this event that supports our kids is important to her, saying, "I feel like I'm helping these children lead a normal life, not the lives they were born into or introduced into." Her daughter used to walk for Hoyleton at the Hike and Bike Event until an untimely death from cancer. Now, Dorothy carries on her daughter's support for Hoyleton by staffing the registration table every year.

Dorothy helped bring Hike and Bike to her home church in Maeystown,

Dorothy Brandt

and has been an active part of keeping it going. In fact, Dorothy is just plain active. The past four years she's been the number one member of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Monroe County, giving her time to many groups and organizations. She works in the kitchen at the Waterloo VFW, crochets afghans for Project Linus, and works at the information desk at the Monroe County courthouse as part of her volunteer service. She's worked decades on Illinois South Conference UCC committees, and attended many, many events as a delegate, too.

This event's success comes from many places, she said. Participants from more than 17 churches attended this year, and they were from several

denominations. Many people in the local town and surrounding community gave donations, too. "A lot of people participate by writing a check," she added. She believes people give, "because of what Hoyleton can do to help kids."

Dave Henerfauth is another key part of the Hike and Bike, because he's the man with the t-shirts. Dave is a retired art teacher who used to print shirts for a school organization. Eventually he got the professional equipment to make it a small business. Now in retirement, he primarily works with non-profit organizations, providing them with t-shirts for their events at greatly reduced prices. "I enjoy helping organizations do good. Whenever I can, I help out," Dave said.

Rev. Patrick Poole, pastor at St. John, says the Hike and Bike event is great for his congregation. "It helps us with our sense of connecting with God's purpose. It's relevant and concrete, because we know it goes to fund Hoyleton summer programs." He added, "We are thrilled with the success of the event, and a lot of the credit for that goes to Dorothy and Dave. Dave came up with the idea to get sponsors for the t-shirts and then sponsors for the mile markers and that made the event a sure success. We've really seen an increase in just the past four or five years, going from breaking even to making nearly $7000 this year."

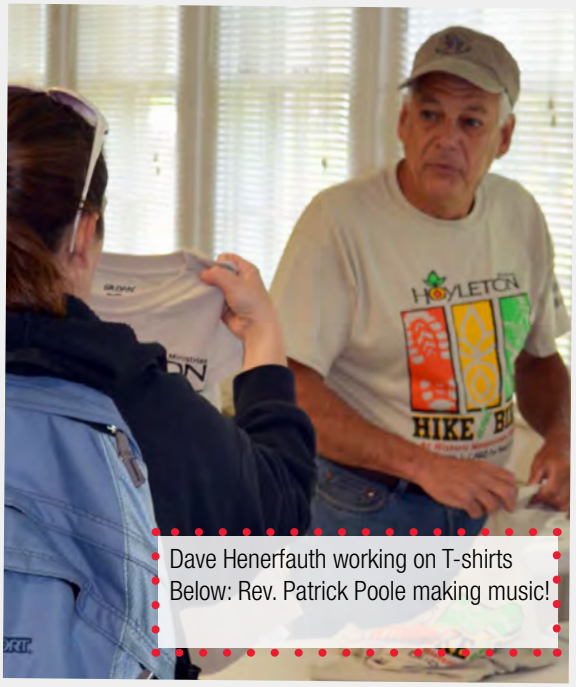
This fundraising is critical for Hoyleton youth and our summer programs. Kids on the Hoyleton campus need a fun variety of activities that expand their world and get them moving, just like all kids in the summer. Al Bazile, Activity Therapy Supervisor organizes a busy schedule for them. We offer six classes in the mornings, three days a week, where kids learn things like cooking, readers theater, life skills and arts and crafts. In the afternoon, groups of six kids and two staff spread out to off campus sites. Activities frequently include swimming, bowling, and skating. Each group also has community service on their weekly schedule, where they go out into the community and help others. "they do things like pull weeds at the labyrinth at DuBois Center. It teaches them respect for other's property," Al said. Around the Fourth of July, the kids go to DuBois Center as campers, too.

Thursdays the kids go off campus for the entire day, taking longer trips to places like Six Flags, the St. Louis Zoo, and Metropolis, IL, the home of Superman. Fridays are a day for serious dodgeball games on campus. During the evenings and weekends, cottage staff take the kids to events like St. Louis Cardinals baseball games. Twice a summer, there are reward trips to places like Raging River, a water park with a famous swirling slide called the Toilet Bowl that the kids love.

The funds raised from Hike and Bike go a long way in supporting all these summer activities that give our kids well-rounded experiences. This year,16 Hoyleton youth and staff came to Maeystown to participate in the walk, too.

Rev. David Krueger, pastor at Concordia United Church of Christ near Belleville, IL brought his wife Treila and several members of the congregation to participate this year. Daivd and Treila are experienced cyclists, and they came to walk first, then cycle the route, too. David Shanks from Bethel UCC in Cahokia, IL and his son Jonathan came to deliver a check, and to enjoy the walk in the spring sunshine. Rev. Bob Goddard, pastor at St. Paul United Church of Christ in Columbia, IL said members from his church often participate just because, "it's a great event".

Watch for Hike and Bike next year on the Saturday before Mother's Day, and plan to be part of a morning of fellowship and fun in support of Hoyleton. Dorothy will be happy to take your registration fee, Dave will have a t-shirt in your size, and the ladies in the kitchen will have a sloppy joe and a smile waiting for you.



Dave Henerfauth working on T-shirts
Below: Rev. Patrick Poole making music!

HONOR AND MEMORIALS

From April 1st through June 30th

Tributes to Gifts from

"To err is human, to forgive divine."
~Shakespeare~

Please call us with any corrections or changes.

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Rev. Jerry Bennett

Aaron Bertram
Mr. and Mrs. Paul H. Miller

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Mrs. Gladys Bode

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Tributes

Honor and Memorial tribute gifts allow supporters of Hoyleton Ministries to pay a lasting tribute to friends and loved ones. Hoyleton is grateful for these gifts in recognition of others.

When you recognize someone or mark a special occasion through the Hoyletonian, we will notify the honoree or honoree's family with a letter describing the memorial or honor gift.

For additional information about making an Honor or Memorial gift, please contact us at 618-493-7575

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Ms. Brenda Limestall

Jack Bittle In Honor of for Father's Day
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

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Mr. and Mrs. Ronald M. Bleisch

Carol Bottum's 80th birthday
Mr. and Mrs. David Steiner

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Brockmeier 50th wedding anniversary
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Ms. Rachel Sterrett
Mr. Jim Sterrett
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