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

HOYLETONIAN

FALL / WINTER
2014

INSIDE:
CAMP STORIES FOR DUBOIS

THE INNOVATION ISSUE

HOYLETON'S DEPARTMENTS LEAD THE WAY WITH CUTTING-EDGE SERVICES

Hoyleton Ministries
350 N. Main St.
Hoyleton, IL 62803
616-493-7575
www.Hoyleton.org

LOOKING AHEAD

Dear Friends,

There's a quote by Confucius that says, "Study the past if you would define the future." I think there is an element of that in everything we do at Hoyleton. We are proud of our history and thankful for the knowledge that we have to build upon – it guides us as we look toward new ways of serving the children who find their way to our doors and to the community at large.

This issue of the Hoyletonian is largely dedicated to the innovative things that are happening within each of our departments. You'll read about the summer camp experience for our residents at the beautiful DuBois Center, special training we've created for prospective foster families that help them be more successful, the services that Spanish-speaking populations can only receive with us, and the exciting role that our Behavioral Health Department is playing at Hoyleton. We're positioned to be at the leading-edge of care and are thrilled to share our progress with you.

But as I mentioned, we always keep an eye on what our history has taught us. It has shown us that there has never been a shortage of need amongst the children in our communities. It has shown us that our relationships with local churches are some of our most cherished. And it has shown us that the holiday season is when these two elements combine to create some of the most magical moments of the year at Hoyleton. You'll never feel closer to the living scripture than when you break bread at our Thanksgiving table or share gifts in celebration of Jesus' birth with our residents.

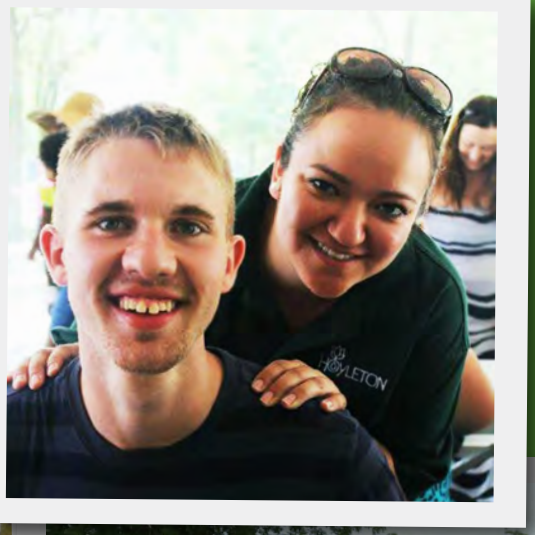
We invite you to share this joy with Hoyleton during the 2015 holiday season!

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

OUR MISSION

HOYLETON MINISTRIES seeks to enable all people, young and 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.

EVENT PHOTOS



Summer 2014 was filled with fun Hoyleton activities. Thank you to everyone who attended our Golf Tournament and our Back-to-School picnic!

FACTS AND STATS

5
Number of holiday parties for the children and families in Hoyleton's care

Number of donated turkeys for our Thanksgiving celebration
8

24
Churches and organizations involved in Christmas with Hoyleton Ministries

100
Cups of stuffing made by Hoyleton's cooks for Thanksgiving feast

Number of Christmas gifts received by donors for Christmas morning
2,096

40
Number of stockings hung

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2014
October 27, 2014
Sign-up opens for our Christmas Angel Program

FEBRUARY 2015
February 6, 2015
32nd Annual Awards Banquet

MAY 2015
May 9, 2015
Hoyleton's Hike and Bike
Maeystown, IL

JULY 2015
July 24, 2015
Hoyleton Golf Classic at Tamarack
800 Tamarack Lane • Shiloh, IL 62269

Please visit hoyleton.org for more information on these and other events.

THE PEN PAL PROJECT

Remember the excitement of getting mail when you were a child? Through written letters, Hoyleton's Pen Pal Project connects residential clients with positive role models during their stays at one of our three campuses This and other therapy programs allow young people to focus on positively changing their behavior, achieving educational goals,and learning about being productive members of the community.

Contact Amanda Garrison at 618-493-7575 or agarrison@hoyleton.org to learn more about becoming a Pen Pal or to explore other volunteering opportunities.

LEARNERS AT LEHRE

When a young man's life has been anything but normal, how does he learn to fit in, to be part of "normal" society? Through participating in community events and organizations, the young men in the Transitional Living Program (TLP) at Lehre Haus are learning to do just that.

The Lehre TLP program is designed to help young men who have been removed out of their own homes due to abuse or neglect. A majority of them were brought to the attention of DCFS when they were younger children and placed in either foster homes or residential facilities. When they transition to the TLP at the age of 17 ½ , they are making the transition into adulthood and the next stage of their lives.

"At first we do a lot for them," said Program Manager Ayanna Jackson. "We help with their daily living skills, such as assisting with laundry, cleaning rooms and making meals. Eventually they learn to do things for themselves and even to advocate for themselves in other ways, like voicing concerns about how their medication makes them feel or what type of employment they think is most suitable for them," she said.

One of the most successful aspects of the Lehre TLP program is community involvement.

"Our young men volunteered at 5K Glow Run National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville. Two of them even ran and finished the race!" said Ayanna. "The race supported victims of domestic violence, which many of our boys have personally experienced. It was great to see them helping others in this situation," she said.

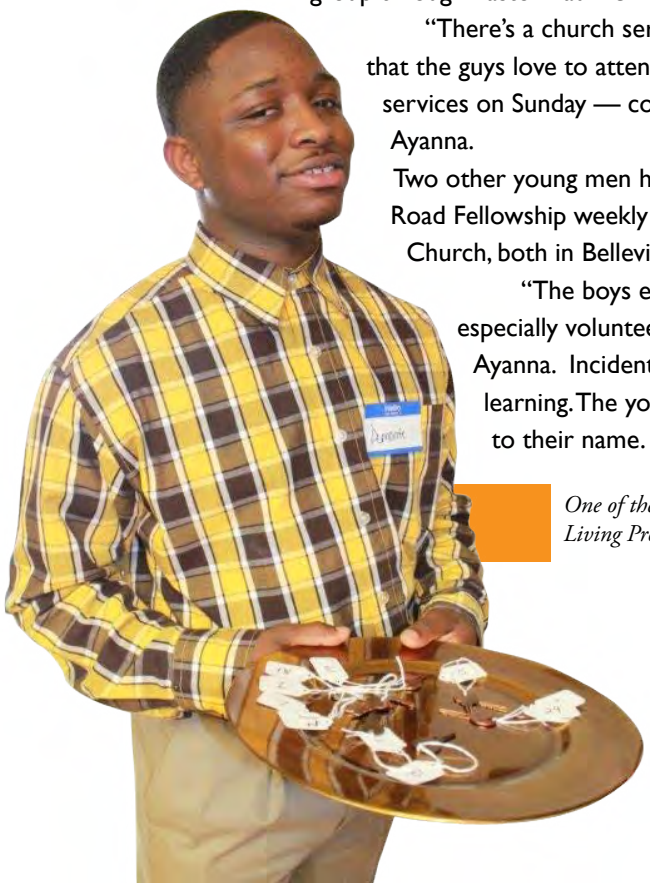
The young men have also volunteered to do grounds maintenance at Bethel UCC in Cahokia, helped at the Hike and Bike event in Mayestown, drove carts and put up signs at the Hoyleton Golf Tournament, and assisted St. Paul's UCC in Belleville with their yard sale.

The young men have chosen to increase their participation in church activities because of the joy it has brought them. They leapt at the chance when a Hoyleton board member, who attends Faith Family Church in Shiloh, invited the boys to be involved with the STORM youth group through Pastor Paul Fernandez.

"There's a church service and mingling session afterwards that the guys love to attend weekly. Some are going to church services on Sunday — completely on a voluntary basis," said Ayanna.

Two other young men have chosen to attend Damascus Road Fellowship weekly and a third attends Faith Baptist Church, both in Belleville.

"The boys enjoy being part of the community and especially volunteering. They like to feel needed," said Ayanna. Incidentally, "Lehre" is the German word for learning. The young men at Lehre House are living up to their name.



One of the young men from Hoyleton's Tansitional Living Program participates in a church event.

ROUGHING IT HOYLETON-STYLE

A young lady gets comfortable astride her horse at the DuBois Center.

The youth at Hoyleton have experienced more than many people do in their lifetimes. But canoeing, lake swimming, hiking though the woods, sitting by a campfire? That was something completely new for the 24 young people from Hoyleton Children's Home who spent three days at the DuBois Center this summer.

"The traditional camp environment is a comfortable place for our kids. It's a special time because they only get to experience it once a year," said Monte Mister, Hoyleton Children's Home Residential Manager.

"The kids don't know what to expect at first," said Monte. "It's great to see their eyes opened wide to enjoying new things. They get to be kids for three days and just explore."

The DuBois Center sits on the shores of two lakes amidst more than 280 acres of woods, pastures, and wildlife — so there's plenty to explore. Together, campers and DuBois leaders, laugh, sing, ride horses, swim in the lake, roast marshmallows, and create art. They share lunch in the dining hall, tour the lake on a pontoon boat, and enjoy a song-filled wagon ride.

"The DuBois staff is engaging, patient, and loving," said Monte. "Every year they call to make sure the kids are coming and encourage us to send as many as possible."

In turn, the Hoyleton Behavioral Health team provides training so the DuBois staff knows what to expect. That partnership, in combination with a lot of people having fun, makes for a fantastic experience.

Established as a retreat and summer camp in 1965 for the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ, the Dubois Center has served for 40 years as a place where people of all ages and faiths can learn more about themselves and their world.

This was the second year for Hoyleton Day Camp, which is funded by grants and donations secured by Hoyleton Ministries. A hearty thanks goes to all of those who made this magical experience possible though their generosity.

FOSTERING GREAT EXPECTATIONS

Foster families open their homes to children because they want to give the love and support that they knew as children, but there can be some unanticipated outcomes when caring for a child that has never know a nurturing environment. Sometimes, helping foster families come to expect these challenges is the best way to ensure success.

"Our goal is to keep kids in family settings as much as possible, but families can be surprised by the additional challenges they might face," said Sharon McDevitt, Director of Child Welfare and Prevention Services. "This can result in the child going back into a residential facility," she said.

Hoyleton's team responded by created exciting programs that are reversing that trend.

Sharon says children need more than the physical amenities and the welcoming environment many foster families see as the "job requirements."

"We might find a great placement for a child, and then one memory or flashback can create a disruption," said Sharon. The child can act out in ways that may seem like "back sliding" to the foster parent as they work through those feelings.

She explained that her staff is teaching parents that foster children need consistency and a highly structured environment.

"Consistency and structure are reassuring to a child. Trust is created when they know what to expect. The goal is to create normalcy," she said.

Hoyleton offers a lot of clinical training on the front end to help foster parents understand the healing process. With the help of the Behavioral Health Department, the team educates parents on the child's mental health diagnosis and the symptoms to expect.

"We've been getting a lot of good feedback from foster parents," said Sharon. "They say, 'you told us to expect this.' Understanding and being prepared for the behavior makes it much easier to deal with."

Hoyleton also provides continuing care for the children through weekly therapy visits and frequent visits from a specialized-care caseworker. The result has been more kids in family homes.

"We have gone from three to 15 kids in homes since last October," said Sharon. "That's really exciting for us!"

That success is crucial as the need for foster homes is great. The Illinois Division of Children and Family Services maintains a list of children who need homes; Hoyleton currently serves 165 youth in foster care, 15 in specialized care, and 38 in independent living.

"The average youth leaving our program has been in a minimum of 10-12 homes in their life. We believe with doing things well and steady growth, we are bringing those numbers down," concluded Sharon.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DEFINES A NEW PATH FOR SUCCESS

It's an important day. A young man named Tim* makes his way to the entrance of the Residential Treatment Center with bag over his shoulder and a grin on his face. There's something in Tim's eyes that was rarely ever seen before: hope. After a long struggle with mental health issues, Tim is finally going home to his family. Through a combination of therapeutic help from Hoyleton's staff, hard work and a lot of determination, he's finally on the path to an independent life.

"Tim had a lack of focus and was very impulsive. With a number of different treatments, a lot of emotional support, and sheer willpower, he was able to transition back to his parents.

The stability provided by counseling and Hoyleton's staff has helped him immensely," says Kim Peek, director of Behavioral Health.

Tim's story is just one of many examples of how this relatively new department has been helping to change lives for the better.

During this past year, Hoyleton consolidated their therapeutic services into one dedicated Behavioral Health Department. Behavioral Health works with those who need emotional support, healing and interventions while managing difficult times. The department also works with departments throughout Hoyleton ministries.

One of the purposes of creating the department is to help others in the organization be more impactful for the clients. For example, children within the residential services program now receive services from Behavioral Health team, which helps them make the most of their time at Hoyleton and make a potentially traumatic or difficult life transition as easy as is possible.

"Another goal of the department is to improve efficiency. There are currently seven therapists working in behavioral health and they can't screen everyone who comes into the other programs. If staff is trained on spotting the basic red flags of psychological trauma or personality disorders, we could offer much more efficient help to those in need," says Peek.

The Behavioral Health department has been so successful that they were recently named a mental healthcare provider for the community under Medicaid's 2014 expansion. Hoyleton was lucky enough be one of the first to be given a new Medicaid Provider Number after a 20 year moratorium and will now be able to offer mental health services throughout Region 5, which includes 27 counties in Southwestern Illinois.

Despite accolades like this, Peek is still focused on the future and how to continue to improve.

"The department is constantly evolving as we learn what works and continue to build on this knowledge. Our department plans to continue to fine-tune our services, to integrate ourselves into further Hoyleton, and to provide care to an ever-expanding client base in the community," said Peek.

The ultimate goal is to create a continuum of services in which the process neither begins nor ends in one department, but rather pools knowledge in such a way that ultimately benefits clients and helps them more efficiently.

"I truly believe in the work we're doing. There's a huge need for behavioral health services, but we can already see the impact we're making and that's what keeps me going every day."

** All identifying characteristics have been changed to protect the subjects privacy*

PUENTES PROGRAM BRIDGES THE GAP FOR SPANISH-SPEAKERS

It sounds like a nightmare. You need medical help or maybe directions across town and no one understands your questions. You came to this place in search of a better life and you can't even read the bus schedule or tell a doctor where it hurts. It seems there are hurdles everywhere. Taking a drivers test, getting a Social Security card, applying for a job, going to the bank are impossible without help.

That is where Hoyleton Ministries' Puentes de Esperanza (Bridges of Hope Program) comes to the rescue. The Puentes program supports Spanish speakers as they work to become self-sufficient members of the community. Services include community-building groups, help in navigating systems, educational events, mental health services and advocacy.

"I'm especially excited about the mental health piece," explained Hoyleton Community Support Services Manager, Jenny Childerson. "Puentes clients place a lot of stigma on mental health problems, but because we have a well-established reputation and are trusted, the programs are utilized. We now have a full-time therapist offering bilingual and culturally competent mental health services. After only three months, she is working with nearly 20 clients," said Jenny.

Hoyleton may be the only hope for Spanish speakers needing mental health services in the bi-state area.

"We only know of one other Spanish-speaking therapist providing affordable services. She's in St. Louis and has a year-long waiting list," said Jenny.

Hoyleton's community-building groups have also been popular.

"We offer support groups for women and married couples. We have developed two afterschool youth groups where kids build healthy social supports and learn to make positive decisions and pursue their dreams and goals. We also provide events like citizenship seminars and educational clinics on preventative health care and public benefit options." she said.

The Puentes program is changing lives every day, but help is needed. Bilingual volunteers are needed to assist clients in important tasks like going to the DMV to take driving tests, applying for a new social security card, paying insurance, setting up doctor appointments or finding a specialist when necessary.

"These services can be crucial," Jenny said.

To volunteer for the Puentes de Esperanza, contact Jenny Childerson at 618-213-3170 ext: 1107

LEAVING A LEGACY

There are a variety of ways to further the mission of Hoyleton:

- Cash
- Real Estate and Property
- Wills and Bequests
- Qualified Retirement Plans / IRAs
- Life Insurance
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Remainder Trusts

To learn more about these options, please contact Chris Cox at ccox@hoyleton.org or 618-493-7575 ext. 1322.

HONORS & MEMORIALS

Gifts to Hoyleton are the perfect way to pay tribute to a friend or honor a loved one. They also help us create positive change in the lives of our clients and the communities in which we live. Please contact Amanda Garrison at 618-493-7575 or agarrison@hoyleton.org to discuss making a gift dedicated to someone special.

BE OUR FRIEND!!

Find us on Facebook and check out our website, hoyleton.org, to stay plugged in to fundraising efforts and upcoming programs.

facebook.com/HoyletonMinistries

A CONVERSATION WITH REV. DR. SHELDON CULVER

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver is the Conference Minister of UCC's Illinois South Conference. She was ordained at St. Paul UCC in Belleville and has served congregations in Missouri and Southern Illinois throughout her career. Rev. Culver is a life-long member of the United Church of Christ and enjoys reading, hiking, and gardening.

CAN YOU SHARE A STORY OF HOW HOYLETON HAS GIVEN BACK TO THE COMMUNITY?

When the Zion UCC in Hoyleton, IL, was struck by lightning this past August and the sanctuary was badly damaged, Chris and his team immediately stepped in to say, "We're in this together. When you hurt, we hurt. When you rejoice, we rejoice." He talked of how Zion's congregation stepped up when Hoyleton experienced a fire many years ago – how the families of their church took children from the organization into their homes until they could rebuild. It was so important to have this kind of reminder to give the congregation a sense of themselves. Working with Hoyleton allows us to have hearts that are bigger than we might have otherwise. Seeing this strength and support in action has awakened their congregation.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE A WAY YOU'VE SEEN HOYLETON BE INNOVATIVE IN THEIR WORK?

They've been able to shift to meet changing needs. They're able to do the work no one else is doing. Our ISC churches started the Puentes de Esperanza program. Hoyleton took it over when it needed to grow because they saw how critical the needs were. When legislation passed that allowed gay and lesbian persons to adopt, the Catholic Church stepped out of the adoption process. Hoyleton was able to step in and serve those populations. There is a nimbleness and flexibility to their ministry that takes my breath away. They're not stuck in old ways. They stay on top of legislation, they advocate, they maintain relationships with other secular agencies. They do not work in isolation even though they are faith-based.

HOW DOES HOYLETON HELP THE CHURCH FULFILL ITS MISSION?

Hoyleton is not just social services or an adoption agency. Their work is truly driven by the Holy Spirit and grounded in Jesus' summons to take care of the lost and the least.

Because Hoyleton's board has always been populated by members of our local churches and pastor, they have affected leadership in our local churches. They have good boards and train the members on how to be effective. I learned an enormous amount about board functions and budgets and the challenges they face when I served. They have a great influence on our churches by raising up leaders. I like that it goes both ways – we contribute by populating their boards and they train us.

An example of a direct change they've made in a church is at Evangelical UCC in Highland. Young people of the Community Intergrated Living Arrangment Facility there have chosen to join that church bringing their unique gifts. It's done magic in their faith community to welcome these young adults who feel like they're part of the church family.

WHAT ARE SOME GOOD PARTNERSHIPS YOU'VE SEEN BETWEEN HOYLETON AND THE CHURCH?

The DuBois Center and Hoyleton have been exchanging resources for the past number of years. Their team has trained our summer staff on the latest ways to work with children and how to be better attuned to any special needs. Things are much more complex than they were A Conversation with Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver is the

A CONVERSATION WITH REV. DR. SHELDON CULVER CONT.

Conference Minister of UCC's Illinois South Conference. She was ordained at St. Paul UCC in Belleville and has served congregations in Missouri and Southern Illinois throughout her career. Rev. Culver is a life-long member of the United Church of Christ and enjoys reading, hiking, and gardening. just a few years ago! We, in turn, have been very intentional about integrating Hoyleton's residents into our senior high camp. It makes for a richer experience for all campers. I see it as an enormously effective way to help our churches open hearts and minds and resources. It's definitely a two-way blessing.

I'd love to see us develop our horse program to include therapy. You see the apprehension from children when they first approach a horse, then a tentative touch to feel what this creature is about. Then they slowly become comfortable. They learn that if you're not scared of it, it won't be scared of you. Finally, they find the incredible joy of riding a horse. It's an amazing thing to watch as they gain a sense of confidence. They see that they can have a relationship with another being that's not going to be mean to them.

DO YOU HAVE ANY CHRISTMAS STORIES ABOUT HOYLETON YOU CAN SHARE?

I'm a member of the St. Paul UCC in Columbia, IL, and we have some congregants who were children in the 1930s and 40s. They recall bringing what were called "white gifts" to church for Hoyleton. These little gifts were socks or soap wrapped in white tissue because that's all they had to give, but it made a profound mark on them as children. It created a deep connection when they recognized that others didn't have what they had. It taught them that in the church you're responsible for and want to care for others. It's at the heart of our ministries to care for the lost and the least.

Fast forward: For any one of us, the thought of being without family at Christmas time has to be the hardest, most poignant thoughts you can have. The thought that there are children who have never known the excitement of going home for the holidays, who have not sat down at a dinner table, who haven't a clue that there is a Prince of Peace and a God of Love and Grace. There is a great abyss between the children of great need and children of luxury.

I'm very pleased with how our congregations find ways to directly connect with Hoyleton, especially at Christmastime. It's not just sending money, although that is a huge part of our mission. I love that sense of generosity, that spirit of examining the abyss between people and how to cross it, of teaching our own kids how to care.

"I'm very pleased with how our congregations find ways to help themselves directly connect with Hoyleton, especially at Christmastime."

~ Rev. Dr. Sheldon Culver

HONOR AND MEMORIALS 5.15.14 TO 9.1.14

IN MEMORY OF

Ken Adams
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

LaVern Anderson
St. John UCC, Mascoutah

Erwin Betz
Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Kimberly Rest

Mathilda Betz
Mr. Gerard and Mrs. Kimberly Rest

Flora Brummer - Bolens
Mr. Donald and Mrs. Ruth Idecker

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Vernon Hoffman
Mr. David and Mrs. Anita Muertz

Lorraine G. Jakel
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Steven Kaeser
Mr. David and Mrs. Marcia Braswel

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Mr. Louis and Mrs. Marlene Knobloch

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Mrs. Leila Riggs

John C. Riggs
Mrs. Laurie Riggs

Laverne Rohlfing
St. John UCC, Maeystown

Elda Schmidt
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Mrs. Shirley Anderson

Alberta Wild
Mrs. Dorothy C. Brandt

IN HONOR OF:

Burnell Augustin's 80th birthday
Mr. Vernon Steiner

Chris Cox
William & Don and Buss & Hunter

Jana Gathard's birthday
Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Karla Zurliene

Jerry and Lois Gibson's 50th wedding anniversary
Mr. Alvin and Mrs. JoAnn Steiner

Don and Helen Hundsdorfer's 60th wedding anniversary
Mr. Dean and Mrs. Delores Rinderer

Kenneth and Jean Knobloch's 50th wedding anniversary
Rev. Arnold and Mrs. Luetta Bizer

Viola Maxwell's 95th birthday
Mr. Alvis and Mrs. Patsy Hoffmann

Sylvester and Darlou Mehrmann's 60th wedding anniversary
Mr. James and Mrs. Dianne Mertz

James and Ruth Mennerick's 50th wedding anniversary
Mrs. Betty L. Gerth

Dorothy Miller's 90th birthday
Mr. Vernon and Mrs. Erna Kremmel

Morris and Verla Moser's 55th wedding anniversary
Mrs. Mildred Warnecke

Gary and Di Rufer's 40th wedding anniversary
Mrs. Shirley Anderson

Kelli Zurliene's birthday
Mr. Jerry and Mrs. Karla Zurliene

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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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

O Tannenbaum! Happy Hoyleton faces gather around the Christmas tree in this photo from the 1950s. Was there a Barbie doll or a Chatty Kathy? A Zeta ray gun or a Davey Crockett coonskin cap? The wait until December 25th is a long one for everyone!

If you are one of these young people... we wanna hear from you! Contact us 618-493-7575 and tell us your story.

EMAIL IT TO ME!

If you prefer an electronic version of this newsletter, please notify Amanda at agarrison@hoyleton.org or 618-493-7575

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