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A growing program of care for youth in ESL District 189

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A publication of Hoyleton Youth and Family Services • A mission partner of the United Church of Christ Illinois South Conference and Indiana-Kentucky Conference
CARE: a new approach for a new generation

As a recognized leader in child and youth care training, Cornell University’s Residential Child Care Project is a new approach that brings together best practices of field work, the insights & knowledge of the field’s top practitioners which are based on research.

“The CARE model is not just a better path for working with our youth, it’s a better path for our team members that are working with youth day-in, day-out,” said Brice Bloom-Ellis, Hoyleton’s Chief Program Officer “CARE is a unifying philosophy about how to treat each other and to work with our clients differently. It provides a common language and framework that didn’t exist in the past.”

For clients, CARE creates conditions for change, creating an environment conducive to growth and to respond therapeutically to various situations faced by youth and their families. For Hoyleton’s team, CARE requires them to have the ability to be self-aware, reflective, and truly responsive.

CARE is based on six core principles: developmentally focused, ecologically oriented, competence centered, family involved, relationship based, and trauma informed.

According to Frank Kuhn, Ph.D. and one of the CARE project consultants at the Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research at Cornell University, Hoyleton is one of approximately 50 agencies in the world active with the CARE model and is the only agency in Illinois and one of a few in the Midwest implementing the model.

CARE from my point-of-view:
Tasha Morrow, Prevention Specialist – Substance Abuse Prevention, Hoyleton

CARE is: “Getting back to the basics of caring. We do this everyday in our work where the kids and clients come first. CARE brings it back to the basics to meet child or client needs as well as the care givers needs so everyone can be their best.”

How have you embraced the CARE model in your work? “My work involves meeting in communities and in junior high schools. For each, I implement the six principles of CARE every time I’m engaged in either setting, giving the clients and kids what they need while not overstepping boundaries.”

What do you want others to know about CARE? “CARE really works in any setting – regardless of group or client, because it’s a human philosophy.”
These positive outcomes mean program expansion opportunities. In fact, District 189 recently added Counseling Care by Hoyleton in two additional schools in the district.

“Supporting youth in their schools does so much for the entire community,” explained Tina Kampwerth, Hoyleton’s Director of Clinical Services. “Schools give our services access to families, families give our services access to communities. The outcomes create trust and tight-knit communities where the rates of violent acts and suicides are reduced.”

Looking ahead, Kampwerth is looking to expand Hoyleton’s Counseling Care to other schools in District 189 this year; & other school districts in the new future.

The social challenges of today for many find their way into homes, businesses – and schools. That’s why Counseling Care by Hoyleton is a much needed, and critical resource, supporting youth and families that’s available in several schools in East St. Louis School District 189.

The program is embedded into a school, with all services provided at the school. This enables Hoyleton’s clinicians to learn about the school community and learn how to better address the behavioral needs of students, families, teachers and the entire community. The impact of the program is being felt throughout the entire community.

The program is just one of seven agencies chosen for funding in a new Violence Prevention Program in Southern Illinois. The program has been created for youth & young adults that come from an environment that may suggest their life path will include the Juvenile Justice system; or, for those youth that are already involved in the Juvenile Justice system.

Using a pre-test as the basis, the results lead to the level of prevention that may need to be required to keep someone out of the system. This program is for youth and young adults, 14 – 24. The study outcomes will also reveal insights about health issues, smoking, use of drugs and involvement in the court system.

While she’s been onboard for under a year, Hoyleton’s new Director of Clinical Services has been on a life-long journey of making a difference in the lives to youth and families. Born in East St. Louis, Kampwerth came back to the area to make a difference in the community where she grew up.

“Friends questioned why I would leave my position as Clinical Director and come back to this region and do this job. It was an easy decision for me – it was a decision that allows me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of youth and families; to help make communities better. Why wouldn’t I come back?” As a key piece to Hoyleton’s future, Kampwerth sees new opportunities in programs, services and partnerships. “We’re just starting – there’s so much more for us to accomplish.”

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This program helps facilitate the care continuum through child and family teams, arranging and organizing traditional and non-traditional services including disbursement of flexible funds to prevent placement of youth in foster or therapeutic residential care, stabilize foster care placements and help youth achieve permanency.
“Dear Future Me”

For National Prevention Week last May, Hoyleton’s In-Community Care team led a “Dear Future Me” effort that encouraged youth at Okawville High School to describe in writing what their futures will be because they choose not to use alcohol. School leadership reported students were fully engaged in the program.

Mental Health First Aid Training:
- Oct. 13: Lebanon at McKendree
- Dec. 11: Alton at Centerstone
- Feb. 5: Carterville at John A Logan

DEA Drug Take Back Day:
- Oct. 27: Contact Hoyleton for ways to get involved
Adoption Day in Madison County planned for November 17; Hoyleton Foster Home ready to celebrate – again.

She doesn’t recall just how many kids she’s fostered for the past 18 years but she is looking forward to adopting a third child at Madison County’s celebration of National Adoption Day. This year, National Adoption Day is November 17 and Donna of Belleville will be on the steps of the Madison County Courthouse once again. At last year’s celebration, she adopted her daughter. In 2016 on Adoption Day she adopted her son. This year, she’s hopeful everything will be in place to adopt once again – this time a 14-month old.

“Fostering is a great way for adults to work with kids – to help them grow and learn to become whatever they want. For me, fostering leads to adopting kids to help them have a stable forever home,” said Donna.

Last year’s Adoption Day in Madison County saw the second highest number of adoptions done in the United States: 45 adoptions to 31 families. The success of Adoption Day in Madison County wouldn’t be possible without the incredible commitment and support of many – from judges to attorneys to volunteers and organizations like Hoyleton.

Judge Hylla says that Adoption Day in Madison County is a team effort. While it happens on a single day, planning begins many months earlier and include many people. On Adoption Day in Madison County, six judges volunteer their time to oversee the adoptions; nearly three-dozen other volunteers including attorneys, guardian ad-litems, social workers – even entertainers for the anticipated 300 - 400 families and kids in attendance – participate to move the adoption process along and to make the day a celebration.

“Of my ten nieces and nephews, four of them are adopted,” said Judge Hylla. “Madison County’s Adoption Day promotes awareness of the many children waiting to be adopted – and the opportunity for individuals and families to welcome a child into their homes. The Day is also an opportunity to celebrate all the adoptions that happen on Adoption Day – and to celebrate adopted children and families from years past.”

In Illinois, there’s a three-year wait for most in foster care before being adopted – one of the longest in the US. Adoption Day starts at the Madison County courthouse on Saturday, November 17 at 9 am. Everyone is welcome to join the celebration.

Here are the Main requirements to become a foster parent:

- Participate in a home inspection and social assessment;
- Complete 27 hours of training focused on foster care and the needs of children who are in foster care;
- Complete a criminal background check of all household members;
- Be financially stable; and
- Complete a health screening and receive a TB test.
- Have a bed and enough bedroom space for the child.
Farmer’s Market makes fresh food possible; Puentes involvement growing.

In a new partnership with the East Side Health District, the Fairmont City Library Center is the home for a new Farmer’s Market on the second and fourth Fridays between May and October. Hoyleton’s Puentes de Esperanza team is making it easy for the individuals and families it serves to get fresh food at the Market as it provides a $25 food voucher to be used at the Market to purchase fresh produce and vegetables.

“This is a great way to help get our clients access to fruits and vegetables that may not often have the ability to afford,” said Kristen Shinn, MSW who is the Director of Community Support Services including Hoyleton’s Puentes de Esperanza program. “All the food sold at the market comes from local farms in the area so not only does the market help the individuals and families buying the food but also the farmers growing the food.”

Cold weather is coming; warm clothes are needed.

As it has in the past, Puentes de Esperanza is putting the final touches on its clothing drive for 2018 for Latino families in the Metro East. While donors can still adopt a family and/or donate gifts, the gift list is a little different this year.

This year, very basic warm clothing items are needed. Here’s the list of the gently used needed most:
- coats
- sweaters,
- sweatshirts
- long-sleeve shirts
- pants
- gloves
- hats
- scarves
- mittens

Anything warm to wear for men and women, are desperately needed. And any new packages of socks, underwear and boxers are always welcomed. Deadline for drop off is October 18.
Team Overview

Like every other organization, Hoyleton is faced with recruiting & retaining passionate, experienced team members – at every level of the organization. Today’s nearly “full employment” status makes the prospects of finding new team members challenging and the need to retain current team members more important than ever. With this environment, Hoyleton has refined its approach to better compete for talent.

Hoyleton’s using innovative approaches to attract and retain team members. For example, rather than having job fairs, Hoyleton introduced Interview Fairs that assure applicants get a guaranteed interview, go through the pre-screening process including background checks and drug tests and if qualified, an offer for employment that usual includes a start date on the following Monday. At a recent Interview Fair, Hoyleton added 15 new hires.

Hoyleton has also developed its own Leadership Training Program to provide professional development to select team members. The current Leadership Training has 20 Hoyleton team members working through eight courses on specific topics over the course of four months.

Another change in regard to recruitment is the onboarding process that includes a mentor-partner for the new hires as well as a more integrated training schedule.

For current career opportunities, visit www.hoyleton.org
He says he was just like many of the youth he works with everyday Hoyleton – a good person with a challenging disability. Meet Keith Driscoll: father of three, ordained minister, challenged his entire life with Savant Syndrome – and, Hoyleton’s Recreation Activities Supervisor.

Driscoll has seen the challenges youth face from his own perspective. “I was a behavioral student. I acted out, acted up to get attention. I could have easily lived in a facility as a youth.” But he didn’t.

As Driscoll describes it, the love of God, his mother, his uncle, and his siblings kept him home and helped lead him on his journey that he continues today. “Not long ago, I wouldn’t have shared my story – I just wasn’t comfortable with it. But now, having the opportunity to work with the youth at Hoyleton – to help them get what they need & help guide them on their path, I think it’s important that they know I was one of them.”

Driscoll describes it as a blessing to work with youth; and, to be working at Hoyleton. “The direction I was given was, ‘if you can help a child in some way, do it’ – I appreciate the fact that the sole focus of what we do is on youth and families.” Driscoll started at a Shift Supervisor but was promoted quickly to his current role. “The leadership of Hoyleton recognizes people and their work fast. Everyone here is quick to tell you ‘good job’ – everyone here promotes an atmosphere that is filled with opportunity and advancement.”

When Driscoll isn’t with youth at Hoyleton, he’s co-pastoring a church in Centralia with his wife; doing mission work (he recently returned from Puerto Rico); or, being an engaged, and proud father of his three children which includes his oldest daughter who has Asperger Syndrome; a son who is playing football on scholarship at McKendree University; and, his youngest daughter who is in high school and who Driscoll says is the ‘best athlete of them all’.

On September 11, Driscoll will celebrate his one-year anniversary at Hoyleton. While he’s been trained in CARE, his peers say Keith’s been taking the CARE approach long before it came to Hoyleton. As Keith describes it, his approach is simple, “Love conquers all.”
Hoyleton’s Emerging Adults Services give young adults life skills training that will last a lifetime.

For too many young adults aged 17 – 21, aging out of foster care presents new challenges. Hoyleton has long recognized this transitional time in the lives of youth and has created several programs to meet the specialized needs of youth facing this stage in their lives.

Hoyleton’s Transitional Living Programs (TLPs) meet the unique needs of youth. For intellectually disabled young men aged 17 – 21, Hoyleton’s program helps up to eight men to develop independent living skills needed to reside in its Lehre Haus community. Similarly, for expecting & parenting mothers under guardianship of DCFS and between 17 and 20 years old, Hoyleton’s program teaches these young women the living and parenting skills they need to live independently. This program takes place at Hoyleton’s Hagar House facility. The New Life Parenting Program works to develop nurturing, effective and safe parenting skills for pregnant and parenting youth in foster care.

Hoyleton’s Independent Living Program (ILP) provides youth who are aging out of foster care the opportunity to learn essential life skills and practice living independently while still having the guidance of Hoyleton’s caring staff.

“Meeting the needs of emerging adults who are aging out of foster care is a priority,” said Sharon McDevitt, Director of Child Welfare for Hoyleton. “We’ll continue to meet the growing, and ever-changing needs of these young adults as they immerse into living independently.”

Hoyleton’s Emerging Adults Services give young adults life skills training that will last a lifetime.
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When you recognize someone or mark a special occasion with a gift, we will notify the honoree or honoree’s family with a letter describing the memorial or honor gift that includes our thanks.

For additional information about making an Honor or Memorial gift, please contact Amanda Garrison at 618-688-4742.

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MISSION

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.

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