



Hoyleton Youth & Family Services

# Hoyletonian

Winter 2023



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Dr. Tron Young

### Vice Chair

Amy Mistler

### Secretary

Karen Holtgrewe

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Hoyleton Youth & Family Services

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Rev. Don Jones

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Hoyleton Youth & Family Services

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Administrative Officer

Amy Mistler

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## President's Letter

Greetings,

This year has been a season of growth for our organization. As many of you know the dream of a new therapeutic residential campus finally became a reality and we broke ground on a new campus this summer. Construction moved along smoothly throughout the late summer and fall and currently our six brand new cottages are all constructed and at various stages of inside work. We anticipate some youth will begin moving into their new homes right after the first of the year.

This is a once in a generation project and I cannot thank you enough for your support. Our work to provide more therapeutic options and updated amenities for the population we serve would not have been possible without your generous support.

Hoyleton is viewed as a leader in the state of Illinois at providing services to intellectually and developmentally delayed children. The need is still high for additional treatment options so the state has requested Hoyleton increase its capacity to serve more children. Therefore, our work to serve and provide for intellectually and developmentally delayed youth will not end when construction of the Hoyleton campus is complete. Plans are already in the works for a second residential campus in the Metro East.

Growth is evident at Hoyleton outside of the construction projects and as you continue to read the articles in this issue of the Hoyletonian you will read stories of perseverance, recognition, new found purpose, realized potential and expansion of our services.

The work we do to provide the necessary care to the clients we serve is not easy but it is rewarding. It is a great feeling when you can step back and see positive results from the work that has been done. We are so grateful each of you are on this journey with us and we hope you appreciate the uplifting stories about Hoyleton clients, staff, board members and donors who have experienced personal growth as a result of our mission.

My hope is that you will continue to journey with us. Each and every day we are answering God's call to enable all people to realize the wholeness of life that God intends.



Chris L. Cox  
President & CEO

## Hoyleton Executive Team

**Chris L. Cox**  
*President & CEO*

**Julie Neuner**  
*Chief Program Officer*

**Shavonda Mitchom**  
*Chief Financial & Administrative Officer*

**Brice Bloom-Ellis**  
*Chief Strategic Initiative Officer*

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*Director of Project Implementation*

Kristen Shinn  
*Director of Community  
Support Services*

Caron Strother  
*Director of Financial Operations*

Adam Woehlke  
*Director of Behavioral Health Services*

Shannon Moore  
*Corporate Secretary*

## Introducing Our New Board Chair



We are happy to introduce Dr. Tron Young as our new Hoyleton Board Chair. Dr. Young has been a Hoyleton Board member since 2019 and is now stepping into the Chairperson role replacing Ann Ferguson-Stephens, who has completed her term as Board Chair. Ann will continue to serve on Hoyleton's Board as the Chair of the Fund Development committee.

Dr. Young is an experienced and award-winning educator, currently serving as the Principal of James Arthur Middle School in O'Fallon, IL. His commitment to education, coupled with his strategic thinking,

uniquely qualifies him to guide our organization. His ability to drive results in challenging environments has made him a role model in the field of education, winning him the 2020 Illinois Middle School Principal of the Year. Other accolades include; the Pacesetter Award from Kaskaskia College, Illinois Education Association Bob Haisman Teacher of the Year, and the 100 Black Men United Educator of the Year Award.

Hoyleton President and CEO Chris Cox said, "we welcome Dr. Young's appointment. His impressive experience, dedication and proven track record as an educator will be instrumental in our growth."

When asked what he hopes to accomplish in his role as Board Chair he responded, "to help Hoyleton continue to grow as a leading provider of restorative care. I plan to ask questions that determine not where we are but where we want to go."

Be the thermostat, not the thermometer, is Dr. Young's mantra. He references this in speaking engagements with fellow educators, parents, students and in his podcast that is titled with this mantra. This analogy comes from one of Dr. Martin Luther King's speeches where he argues that we must change society rather than be changed by it. Dr. Young is passionate about being the change. "I try to show my students each day how to create an environment that can be most successful for them, Young said.

Dr. Young makes sure his students know it is OK to make mistakes,

get frustrated or have a bad day. "I tell them when you are in my school or my principal's office you can be a kid. I let them be sad, happy, silly, or mad. This interaction allows me to connect with them on their terms," he explained. This approach has many similarities to Cornell University's CARE program model that we follow at Hoyleton. CARE provides a framework for keeping relationships at the center and guides everything we do and this intention resonates with Young.

Dr. Young is from Centralia so he is familiar with Hoyleton. "I grew up with friends and family who worked there, many are still there today," Young said. It wasn't until he joined our Board in 2019 that he realized the full scope of our services.

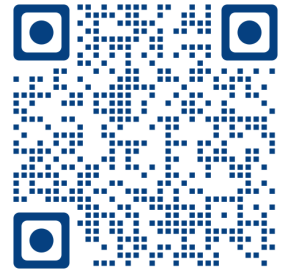
We are confident that Dr. Young's dedication, passion, and rich experience will positively contribute to our mission. Hoyleton's work has always been centered on helping and empowering those in need and Dr. Young is well-equipped to take the lead in this journey. He carries the right blend of empathy and authority, along with an evident love for education and his community, all of which are integral in successfully spearheading our board and overall organization.

**"Hoyleton is a true wraparound agency with services and resources to support the whole family. I believe this type of care is what is needed to make a real difference."** ~ Dr. Tron Young



## Benefits of Year End Giving?

Please remember Hoyleton Youth and Family Services in your Year End Giving. A charitable donation can help lower your taxable income via a tax deduction. To claim a tax-deductible donation, you must itemize your taxes and your donation must meet certain guidelines. The amount of charitable donations you can deduct may range from 20% - 60% of your AGI. Please contact your tax preparer for more specific guidance.



To make a donation please scan the QR code, visit our website [hoyleton.org/donations](https://hoyleton.org/donations) or mail a check to Hoyleton Philanthropy Department, #8 Executive Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208

Another donation option is the IRA Charitable Rollover. This allows individuals who are over 70 1/2 years old to donate up to \$100,000 to the charity of their choice. This is done directly from your IRA, without the donation being counted as taxable income when it is withdrawn. To qualify, contributions must come from a traditional IRA or Roth IRA, and must be made directly to a qualified charitable organization. The donor may not receive goods or services in exchange for the donation, and they must retain a receipt from the organization.

We will mail you a thank you for tax purposes upon the receipt of your gift. If you have any questions, please contact Alice at (618) 688-7094 or at [adrobisch@hoyleton.org](mailto:adrobisch@hoyleton.org).

The benefit of charitable donations is that you give and receive at the same time. By supporting Hoyleton Youth and Family Services you are providing loving and caring support for the children and families we serve daily.

***We urge you to consult your tax advisor for the federal, state, and local tax consequences of a charitable contribution.***

## CHRISTMAS 2023 THANK YOU!

Hoyleton Youth and Family Services would like to thank you for your continued contributions for our mission. Thanks to your generous donations, children in our care can enjoy the magic of the holidays! It takes many donors and volunteers to make the holidays **BRIGHTER** for a child in care. Thank you for your support.

Blessings,  
Hoyleton Youth and Family Services Staff

## Get Involved In 2024

### Third-Party Fund Raising Events

Hoyleton would love to be the beneficiary of donation drives and fundraising events planned by your club, organization, school or business. If you would like to discuss partnership opportunities that support Hoyleton's mission, please send an email to [philanthropy@hoyleton.org](mailto:philanthropy@hoyleton.org)

### Group Participation

Groups interested in volunteering should reach out directly to the Volunteer and Special Events Coordinator, Christy Schult, at 618-688-7092. We welcome participation from business organizations, churches and school clubs who support our mission and are looking to fulfill community service hours by donating their time and talents.



Fire & Iron Motorcycle Club 168 donated \$5000 in proceeds from their 2023 Poker Run to Hoyleton



Staff from Wells Fargo - St. Louis branch created birthday cake boxes complete with all the ingredients so a child in care could make a cake on their birthday





## Golf Results Hoyleton Golf Classic Friday, October 13, 2023

### WINNERS!

#### Flight A

1st Place: **Auffenberg Team**  
2nd Place: **Theilken Team**

#### Flight B

1st Place: **Williams Team**  
2nd Place: **Niemann Team**

#### Flight C

1st Place: **Davis Team**  
2nd Place: **Decker Team**

**Total Donated: \$31,000**

### PRIZE HOLES:

Longest Drive for Men: **Irving Gray**  
Closest to the Pin for Men: **Phillip Miller**  
Longest Drive for Women: **Shirley Hoy**

### POKER WINNER:

**Stan Niemann**

### 50/50 WINNER:

**Chris Decker**

Thank you to our 2023 Golf Co-Chairs:

Chris Bagwell, Co-Chair Donna Davis, Co-Chair

### THANK YOU!

A sincere thank you to all of you who came out and supported Hoyleton Youth and Family Services. Our youth are grateful for all you do and we are happy to have you as our partners!

We are always looking for more volunteers at Hoyleton, if you have an interest, please reach out!  
[www.philanthropy.org](http://www.philanthropy.org)

Watch for next year's date!

### SKINS GAME:

Flight A: St. Paul UCC—Freeburg Team  
Auffenberg Team  
Neuner #2 Team

Flight B: Schult Team  
Habermehl Team  
Computype Team

Flight C: Boyce #3 Team  
Decker Team  
Davis Team  
Hurford Team

A special thank you to our sponsors:



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## Career Assistance Scholarship Winners Dinner



Hoyleton Youth and Family Services held its Second Annual Career Assistance Scholarship Dinner Tuesday, October 24th at Bella Milano in O'Fallon, IL.

The celebratory dinner was attended by the scholarship winners and their invited guests, members of the Hoyleton Board, and Hoyleton staff who worked directly with the honorees. Hoyleton Board Chair, Dr. Tron Young and Hoyleton CEO, Chris Cox, presented each recipient with a \$1,000 scholarship and a chrome book to assist them on their career path. "The dinner is a great way to

honor and recognize our recipients. The career assistance program is an example of how Hoyleton continues to give support to the students and families they serve," Young said.

Each scholarship recipient expressed their gratitude to Hoyleton for the services they received as a client as well as the scholarship funds that can be used for everything from tuition to transportation.

The scholarship program was created to support our clients' ability to reach their full potential. Any client who is actively pursuing a career and has received services from Hoyleton Youth and Family Services or Puentes de Esperanza is eligible to apply.

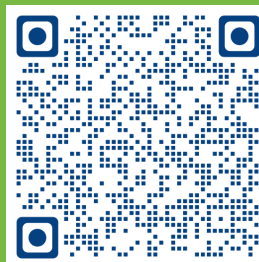
Funds for the scholarship program were donated by The Hildebrand Family, in memory of their parents who were lifelong educators, and by the Estate of Laverne A. Doeling to further the education of Hoyleton clients. Scholarships were

awarded based on the applicants' plan and desire to continue their education or pursue a career. The funds can be used for education or training as well as expenses that support that process. Applications are accepted throughout the year with a deadline in August. If you are interested in learning more about the career assistance program or would like to fill out an application, please visit <https://hoyleton.org/career-assistance-scholarship/>.



# Hoyleton

To learn more about the scholarship or to apply,  
scan the QR Code now:



## Schippel House Says Goodbye To First Ever Client



Schippel House opened 8 years ago in November and they are marking the anniversary in a very bittersweet way, saying good-bye to their very first client.

Mike arrived at Schippel House on November 9, 2015, when he was 13 years old. Eight years later he left Schippel House, a grown and much more capable man.

“During those 8 years we became part of Mike’s family,” said Schippel House Program Manager Claudia Lewis. “Mike leaving was a sad day for us. We have created many happy memories with Mike and his family. We are going to miss having them close,” Claudia added.

Mike’s family feels the same about the Schippel House staff. “Thank you all for everything you have done for Mike and our family. We appreciate you guys and we will miss you,” said Mike’s sister Megan.

Mike came to Schippel House from a hospital where he was receiving rehab services, for malnourishment. He was unable to stand up and could not engage in any activities outside of the sitting position. In those early days Mike did not speak and was terrified to even get out of the van. Schippel staff took it slow with Mike and after a while he started to engage. They worked with him one-on-one and little by little began teaching him words to express his needs and wants. Mike taught the staff a lot too. It was Mike who taught staff how to read non-verbal cues and how to better understand hypersensitivity. Together they learned to communicate. At Schippel House there is a wall that has everyone’s photo, Mike would occasionally take staff to the wall so he could point if he wanted to know where a certain person was that day.

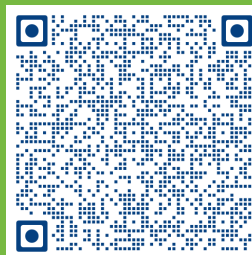


Over the years the Schippel Squad bonded with Mike who loves NASCAR, the St. Louis Cardinals, big trucks, and animals! During his time at Schippel he attended a NASCAR race, several Cardinal games and enjoyed multiple trips to the zoo.

While living at Schippel House Mike had weekly visits with his Mom Lori and sisters Megan and Hanna. All of the Schippel Squad are close to them too. They celebrated any small and big success in Mike's life together, just like a family.

“Mike's progress at Schippel House inspires us and gives us hope and purpose, knowing that we cared and helped to change the life of one of our kids,” said Claudia.

To learn more about Schippel House,  
scan the QR Code now:





## Campus Construction Update



Construction has been moving along as planned since the ground-breaking ceremony on July 27, 2023. Phase 1 of the project, which includes six 3,700 square ft. residential cottages, is scheduled to be completed by early spring. We plan to move youth into their new homes one cottage at a time so youth assigned to cottage one or two should be settled in by mid-January. Each cottage has six bedrooms so each child has their own room, there are 2 shared bathrooms. Other features in the home include a shared living room, kitchen and dining room, laundry

room and storage space.

Once all youth are moved in to the new housing the previous cottages will be torn down. This will clear the way for Phase 2 to begin which includes a courtyard and new administration building. The courtyard will be positioned in front of the cottages that are arranged as a semi-circle which will frame the courtyard area and the 14,700 square ft. administration building will be erected in front of the courtyard. Expected completion of this phase is summer 2024.

Opportunities to highlight the rich history of Hoyleton Youth & Family Services will be recognized with tributes on the new campus. Several ideas and plans for this are still being evaluated.

Upon completion of the Hoyleton campus our attention will be focused on an additional residential campus in the Metro East. As a leader in care for the developmentally and intellectually delayed the state is counting on us to increase our capacity to allow for additional treatment options.



Funding for both construction projects are a blend of private donors and state and federal grants. We will continue to update you on our progress and look forward to working with you to make it happen.

## Samson Honored As Facilitator of the Year

Margaret Samson, a mental health therapist at Hoyleton, has been awarded the title of Facilitator of the Year by Nurturing Families Center, a renowned program offering the Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP). This family-centered, trauma-informed initiative aims to promote nurturing parenting practices and discourage neglectful or abusive ones. Sonya Thorn, the founder and CEO of Nurturing Families, praised Samson's proficiency in implementing the program with diverse clients, and expressed a wish to clone her to transform agencies across the country. The Nurturing Families curriculum is designed to equip individuals and organizations with the skills and confidence required to cater to current societal needs and can be tailored for families with children of all ages. Samson expressed her gratitude for the recognition and her appreciation for the program and the people who have supported her over the years.



**"I know Margaret has helped every family she has touched. Her gift of compassion is rare and should be rewarded twofold."** ~ Sonya Thorn, *Nuturing Families Center Founder & CEO*

## Struggling Single Mother Becomes Successful Advocate



Success can take many forms, from receiving recognition at a conference to achieving personal growth and accomplishment. For Claudia Hernandez, success has meant overcoming adversity and finding a way to give back to her community. As a Bilingual Family Advocate for Puentes de Esperanza, Claudia is able to help others who are going through similar struggles that she once faced.

Before finding her calling as an advocate, Claudia was a struggling single mother trying to rebuild her life after a difficult divorce. It was through the services provided by Puentes that Claudia was able to regain her footing and

find the support she needed. Puentes staff members advocated for Claudia and her children in court when she was unable to do so herself. They also provided resources on finances, health care, child care and housing. Most importantly, Puentes offered Claudia a listening ear and emotional support during a challenging time.

Grateful for the care she received from Puentes, Claudia became a volunteer for the organization. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she became a Community Navigator and helped educate the Latino community about the risks of the virus and how to stay safe or get help. These experiences further strengthened Claudia's relationships with Puentes staff and members of the community.

Now a Bilingual Family Advocate herself, Claudia is able to pay forward the kindness and support she received from Puentes. By offering guidance and resources to those in need, Claudia is making a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Her journey from struggling single mother to successful advocate is a testament to the power of resilience, perseverance, and community support.

## LifeSet Conference

A LifeSet client was recently given the opportunity to attend a conference along with program supervisors Marvin Childs and Desnikka Kilpatrick. The conference, hosted by Youth Villages, brought young adults from across the country together to discuss their success in the LifeSet program. LifeSet is an individualized program that empowers young people during their transition from foster care to adulthood. LifeSet provides comprehensive support to youth as they age out of state services and work to establish their independence.

The conference, Achieving Success: Partnering with Transition-Age Young Adults for Strong Mental Health Workshop, gave Deonta a chance to share his story and hear from others who have prevailed despite numerous challenges and hardships of growing up in the foster care system. The two-day workshop brought clients, leaders from youth support systems, welfare researchers and providers from foster youth agencies across the country together. The workshops and speakers during the conference were designed to ignite conversation and encourage collaboration among the attendees in an effort to create solutions to challenges and gaps in the child welfare system. Deonta and LifeSet Supervisor Marvin Childs were part of a panel that represented Illinois Lifeset. LifeSet Supervisor Desnikka Kilpatrick said the conference was amazing and very beneficial for providers. Desnikka was particularly intrigued by speaker Shenandoah Chefalo, author of the book Garbage Bag Suitcase, a memoir of her life in foster care. Deonta was selected to attend the conference because of his personal growth and success living independently in Belleville.





## Honors & Memorials



Tributes



Gifts From

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**Donn Willeford**

Bambi Tebbe

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Kenny and Karen Schau

**Wilbert and Carmelita Sensel's 76th Anniversary**

Family of Wilbert & Carmelita Sensel

**Wilbert Sensel's Birthday**

Family of Wilbert & Carmelita Sensel

**David & Carol Shanks**

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**Marge Wolfmeier's 70th Birthday**

Robert & Marge Wolfmeier



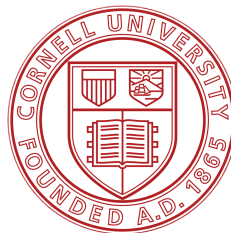
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