



News

LINE

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A publication of Lifeline Youth & Family Services and Crosswinds

Halftime

By Mark Terrell, CEO

After twenty years of leading Lifeline, I decided with the blessing of the board of directors to take some extended time off. In fact, I took the entire month of January off and my wife didn't even consider killing me. (I think.)

It was truly a gift to be able to rest and to consider what God may be calling me to do with the second half of my life. I just turned 52 and was recently asked if I was nearing the point of stepping down as Lifeline's CEO. These events, among others, caused me to consider my mortality. Was I ready to start the descent towards retirement (and ultimately, death) or did God have something else in store for me?

This was one of the questions that I wanted to ponder during my time off. I decided to read *Halftime: Moving from Success to Significance* by Bob Buford—the same book I had recommended to others who were starting to consider if there was more to life than where they were. In the book, Buford talks about the fact that many people

spend most of their life chasing success only to realize that what they want most is significance. Fortunately, it turns out that the second halves of our lives can be more fulfilling, more successful, and more effective than our first!

My time of reflection was really a revelation. To put it bluntly, I don't have to just sit around waiting to die! In fact, I realized that I was already into my halftime—it started when I joined Lifeline at age 32. I realized that my life is full of significance as long as I am seeking and following the Lord's leading. So, for as long as the Lord continues to allow me, I will remain at Lifeline, enjoying this time and making the most of it. What a gift it is to know that this is where He intends for me to be!

Do you know where God wants you? Are you watching as the world passes you by? Do you have passion for what you are doing? If not, why not take a step back and see where God may be calling you?

Change starts here.

Dominican Republic Community Partnerships

Following the success of our Missions & Outreach program in 2013, we began to recognize the great potential of our program to create long-term change if we concentrated our efforts on partnering with carefully chosen communities. For the next few years, both our students and visiting mission teams will work to build strong relationships with the communities of El Callejon and Majaquita in partnership with Dominican natives who have a desire and a vision to see these communities succeed.

Majaquita

Majaquita is a small community comprised of approximately 150 people who are working together to be self-sustaining.

We believe that to be effective in serving others, we must serve those who already have a personal desire and drive to sustain our efforts. Our goal is to come alongside the people of Majaquita to help them implement their vision for improving the community. They have proven their desire to be self-sustainable



Julito, mayor of Majaquita with two of his grandchildren

and to responsibly use their local resources for development and lifestyle improvement.

The village is led by a man named Julito who is not only the mayor, but also the spiritual leader. Julito is a servant-leader who works tirelessly to provide daily

necessities for the people in his community such as food, clean drinking water, electricity, and even gas for cooking. All of this is done in a way that uses the natural resources of the community.

El Callejon

El Callejon is a community made up of roughly 100 families. Crosswinds has begun building strong relationships with two couples who have taken leadership roles in the community.

The first, a young couple named Rudy and Yajaira, have



Rudy and Yajaira, community leaders in El Callejon

persevered through the personal loss of two children to start a school called "Los Chiquitines" for children ages 5-12 in the community. Their dream is to provide K-12 education in the years to come.

The second is couple named Reynaldo and Lourdes. After struggling with alcoholism and depression for many years, Reynaldo and Lourdes both gave their lives to Christ and have committed themselves to serving Him and serving others. Reynaldo now provides jobs to men in the community by hiring them to load plants onto his truck, which he then delivers to different cities. As they work together, he shares with them how Jesus changed his life. His dream is to grow his business, allowing him to employ even more men from the community.

Changed Lives: In-Home Family Programming

Who will I run into there? What if I fall apart? I'm so angry at times—what will they think of me? These are some of the questions that may run through people's minds as they consider seeking professional help for the problems their family is facing. As painful as a situation has been, sometimes the idea of going to a support group or counseling office seems like it will only add more stress to an already stressful situation.

With Crosswinds In-Home Family programming, all of this stress is avoided as our therapists visit our client's home in person.

"We really enjoy that you come to our home. It is so nice not having to find child-care for our younger children while we focus on our teen daughter."



Family Counseling

Our family counseling program provides in-home therapy to families facing issues such as marital strife, grief, teenage rebellion and more. Each family in our care meets regularly with a Crosswinds therapist, either in-person or online via our e-counseling sessions.

E-counseling is ideal for families who live outside of the state of Indiana, or for families with members living in different locations. For example, if a family is undergoing therapy for their teenage son but the mother lives in Texas and the father lives in Florida, both can still participate in the virtual family counseling sessions with their son.

Family Coaching



Crosswinds also offers a Family Coaching program for families who don't see themselves quite at the point of needing counseling, but feel they could use a "tune-up" in areas like communication or supporting one another.

Family Coaching begins with an evaluation of the areas in which the family is doing well and the areas in which they need improvement. Our Family Coaches then work with the family to give them tools to improve the areas that need some work.

Have you stopped to evaluate your family dynamics recently? If you or a family close to you is in need of some encouragement or extra help, contact us for a consultation at www.crosswindsyouth.org or (855) 927-7963.

Lifeline & Crosswinds Staff Updates



Brenda Gerber

Lifeline Youth & Family Services and Crosswinds, Inc. are pleased to welcome Brenda Gerber into the position of Vice President of Development.

Brenda has spent the last two years in Indianapolis where she served both the Governor and the First Lady of Indiana. She served as the Deputy Finance Director for the “Mike Pence for Indiana” campaign and as the First Lady’s Chief of Staff.

Besides her children, Bailey and Brady, she considers her single greatest achievement co-founding the Carriage House—a psychosocial rehabilitation facility established to restore seriously mentally ill persons to maximum social and employment functioning.

Lifeline and Crosswinds look forward to having Brenda on board as an effective and inspiring leader, whose key role will greatly impact the future growth of our organizations.

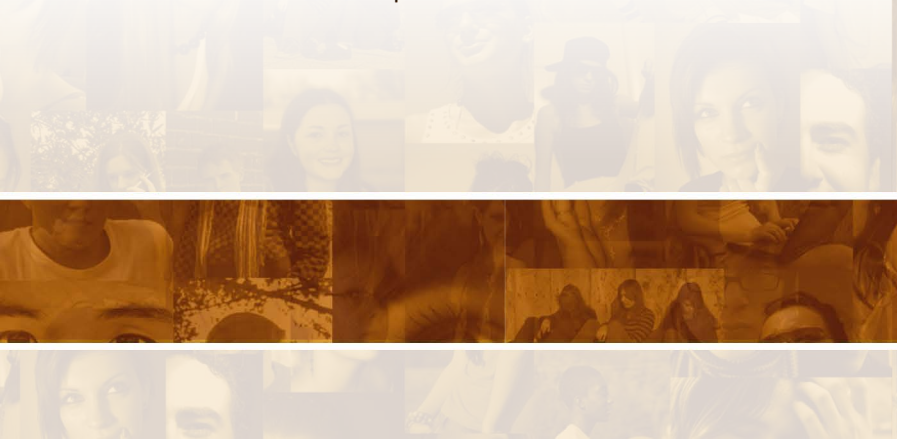


Jeff Schumacher

Jeff Schumacher was recently named Program Development Director. He will officially oversee Lifeline and Crosswinds’ clinical quality in Residential Services, Home-Based Services, and at Caribbean Mountain Academy.

Jeff comes to his new role with 28 years of experience in the adolescent childcare field and 23 years of experience in the residential childcare field.

We are excited to see how God expands our teen and family ministries under Jeff’s leadership.





Crosswinds Wins \$16,000 in Super Service Challenge

Super Service Challenge is an annual competition that allows volunteers to earn money for a non-profit of their choice. The volunteers document their service in video format and submit it to the Challenge for public viewing and voting. This year, two entries submitted on behalf of Crosswinds were chosen as winners!



The County Line Church of God mission team entry was selected as a \$10,000 winner.




The Kingdom Building Ministries mission team entry was selected as a \$5,000 winner.

In addition, the entries prompted a \$1,000 gift from the National Christian Foundation of Indiana.

The prize money will help us continue providing excellent and affordable service to families and teens in crisis. Crosswinds works to provide scholarships whenever possible to financially struggling families that could not otherwise afford the help they need.

Thank you to all of those who submitted entries on behalf of Crosswinds!




Connecting Others with Help

This spring, Crosswinds will launch a new website that will include an updated design, new giving platform, and resources to help teens and families in crisis. Our hope is that these resources will be a valuable tool for you if there is a family in your life that may need our services.

If you see a family close to you spiraling out of control, a non-threatening way to connect them to the help they need can be just a click away by forwarding a blog article or Facebook post that relates to their situation.

www.crosswindsyouth.org



Dedicated to preventing and reducing juvenile delinquency by providing innovative programs through which adolescents can become responsible and productive. Facebook | YouTube

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Crosswinds was created to provide everyday families the resources and options they desperately needed to help them overcome the issues of helping a struggling teen.

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