

News

LINE

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“His Plan” *By Mark Terrell, CEO*

“But they do not know the thoughts of the Lord; they do not understand His plan, that He has gathered them like sheaves to the threshing floor.” ~Micah 4:12

Who would have thought that what was started 20 years ago by a church in Goshen, Indiana would be an integral part of what Crosswinds is doing today to change the lives of young people from all over the United States?

During our mission trip to CMA, I had the opportunity to talk to over 20 men and women who had traveled from northern Indiana to invest in our community in the Dominican Republic. Many of these individuals had come down each year for the past 20 years and were interested to see and hear what Crosswinds was all about.

I was able to share with them that it was our goal to see children and families stay together and never need to come to CMA. I explained that we wanted to help families be the families God intended and that one of the ways that we were doing this was by working with the entire family, rather than just the child.

They were excited to understand that one of the special things about our program was the opportunity for our students to be involved in community service every week.

They were all thrilled that we believed that the house the students had helped build that week for an 84-year-old woman would be something they would remember for the rest of their lives. And that this would help the students understand that their lives were truly blessed and they had much to be thankful for.

At the end of our conversation, I was prompted not only to thank them, but also to have them think about how God was using what had started over 20 years ago to help a different organization with different leadership accomplish His intended purpose.

Change starts here.

My Mission Experience By Emily Engel Corporate Communications Specialist

Freshly painted buildings, tropical landscaping, and breathtaking views—as I stepped onto the campus of Caribbean Mountain Academy for the first time, I was in awe of its beauty. But by the end of my time there, it was clear that the physical beauty of the campus paled in comparison to that of the hearts of those I encountered.



This February, I had the opportunity to join the Lifeline Staff Mission Team that traveled to Crosswinds' Caribbean Mountain Academy (CMA) in the Dominican Republic. Being brand new to Lifeline, I approached the trip with little to no expectations.

Our first service project included shoveling 250,000 pounds of rock and dirt to build the foundation for a rainwater harvesting system for a local non-profit. Nothing brings out true character more quickly than a project like that!

But I wasn't the only one that week who learned a lesson about finding joy in service. As we sat in our team debrief and discussed what we would take away from our time at Caribbean Mountain Academy, one sentiment echoed over and over: the passion for service of the Crosswinds staff had touched us all.

Being fortunate enough to have heard several staff testimonies throughout the week, I knew what many of them were sacrificing to be there. But they still loved each student as if he or she was their own child, and it was evident that in doing so they had earned the students' respect and love.



One staff member told me, "Everyone [at CMA] has a relationship with students and I think that's one of the main aspects that makes our students successful. We just continue to pour into them, even when they mess up." What an amazing example of Christ's love for us!

I came away from the trip with a powerful reminder that there truly is nothing more beautiful than a selfless heart of service.

To learn more about my trip to the Dominican Republic and also to follow others along their journey, "like" Crosswinds on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CrosswindsYouthOrg.



Pierceton Woods Academy Pumas

The PWA Pumas completed their 2nd season on March 8, 2013. The Puma's had a total of 33 players participate in the program, along with two young men who kept the books and stats, and ran the scoreboard.

At the start of the season, the Pumas had an outstanding team, but throughout the season many of the young men successfully completed their programs and went back home with their families or on to the next stage of their life. By the start of the new year the top seven players had moved on. After a 5-0 start, the Puma's lost seven of their next eight games to finish 6 – 7 for the season.

The Pumas had five games off the campus, one in Warsaw, three in Fort Wayne, and one in Plymouth. The Pumas thank all of the teams who participated. They also want to express their great appreciation to the Grace College basketball program who supplied all the officials, held a clinic, and supported the program with extra goals, basketballs, and general support.

The goals of the basketball program are to provide the Pierceton Woods Academy youth with opportunities to be part of a team, to learn discipline and hard work, and to learn sportsmanship and commitment. This team was extremely successful in reaching all of these goals.



The PWA Pumas (in black) working together.



OPPONENT	RESULT
PWA vs. Benton Bucks	41-34 W
PWA vs. FW Crossing	37-32 W
PWA @ Grace Baptist HS	70-6 W
PWA vs. Smith Academy	29-23 W
PWA @ FW Crossing	38-36 W
PWA @ Lakeland Christian	16-28 L
PWA vs. Whitley Warriors	29-46 L
PWA vs. Grace Baptist	52-38 W
PWA vs. Smith Academy	42-47 L
PWA @ FW Guard	29-48 L
PWA @ Whitley Warriors	26-46 L
PWA vs. Troy Center	43-46 L
PWA vs. Troy Center	35-50 L



CROSSWINDS

Student Profile

Typically, students enrolled at CMA exhibit destructive behavior ranging from passive aggressiveness and total lack of motivation, to rebellion and physical threatening. These tendencies or “warning signs” for your teen and family may include:

- A significant change in sleeping or eating patterns
- A drastic or significant, sustained drop in grades
- Defiance; disobedience; blatant disregard for authority or the feelings of others
- Lying; cheating; stealing; and manipulation of others
- Experimentation or usage of drugs and/or alcohol
- Blatant sexual promiscuity or inappropriate relationships without boundaries.
- Threats of violence including cutting or self-mutilation, suicide
- Seeming hatred of family, isolation, emotional disconnection
- Gang-banging or “wanna-be” gang identification
- High stress or anxiety; avoidance of home; always seems sad or angry
- Fascination and/or pursuit of magic-power, or “the dark arts”
- Narcissism or extreme controlling actions and attitude
- No significant change in attitude or behavior after months of counseling

If your child is exhibiting any of these warning signs, we encourage you to contact us for help.

www.crosswindseyouth.org
(855) 927-7963



Specialized Training

With increasing challenges facing the children and families we serve, we’re taking steps to ensure that our treatment teams are more equipped than ever. Thanks in part to funding from the **English, Bonter, Mitchell Foundation**, our staff are participating in specialized training in a variety of treatment areas including attachment disorders, sexually maladaptive behaviors, addressing childhood trauma, and evidence-based practices.

Most recently, more than 40 of our Home-Based Services staff were trained in “Motivational Interviewing.” This treatment approach has been proven effective in overcoming resistance and engaging clients in the change process—something that will be incredibly useful as we work with family members who may not realize their role in their families’ struggles.

We’ve already seen this training at work! Here is what one of our therapists said about the process:

“I really focused on applying what was learned in training with a young man I see for therapy who was resistant to change. It was AMAZING! He opened up on such a whole new and deeper level, and even surprised himself with some of the connections he made...on his own! It enabled him to come to conclusions about changes he wants to make. It was very powerful.”



youth & family services, inc.

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GET INVOLVED

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Can you imagine being a parent making minimum wage and doing everything you can to help your child but coming up short when it comes to successful treatment? What would you suggest that a parent do when they know their child is about to cross-the-line in their actions and end up in jail? At Crosswinds, we want to give parents an alternative to simply allowing their child to take that last step and allowing the courts to dictate their future.

The financial support of caring people like you makes it possible for Crosswinds to offer scholarships to families seeking residential treatment for their child who cannot afford the full tuition.

MISSION & SERVICE TRIPS

Help Crosswinds spread the word about the opportunity that we offer to serve in the Dominican Republic. Teams not only bring hope to the people of the Dominican, our staff, and students during their time on campus but also bring knowledge back to their hometown.

After spending time working alongside our students and staff, team members are able to refer struggling families to a program they have experienced first-hand. Come serve with us.

Changing hearts and bringing hope.