



SHELTER CARE INC. NEWS

Serving children and youth in Summit County since 1972

Shelter Care
A Residential Program for Children



Inside this issue:

The Highlands continued 2

Health & Human Services 3

Street Outreach Services 3

Shelter Home Program 4

Note from Ex. Director 4

Highlighting “THE HIGHLANDS”!

The Highlands Teen Pregnancy Shelter has experienced some great new projects and we would like to share those with you:

- Our new baby library, courtesy of Keith and Kristin Seher who started a new non-profit named Bright Star Books. Although there are several programs that provide books to children, Keith and Kristin specially focus on creating a culture of reading for children ages 0-3, the years which research indicates are crucial for language development. They developed our little library and will continue to provide a developmentally appropriate mini-library for the teen girls and their babies when they transition out of the Highlands. ***Our library is adorable!***



Getting ready for change!

Helping

The

Highlands!

Would you like to support teen moms and their babies?

Just send your check with “The Highlands” in the memo field and it will go to direct care for the moms and babies. Or, check our website for the “Wish List”.

“Great books give you a feeling that you miss all day, until you finally get to crawl back inside those pages again.”

Kathryn Stockett (author of “The Help”)

- Our expansion project has begun! When it’s finished we will be able to house up to 10 youth and babies. Right now our capacity is limited to 5. The Highlands is one of only two programs in the State of Ohio that is licensed as a ‘residential parenting facility’ by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. Since it’s opening in 2005 over 100 teen moms have been turned away due to lack of space. This new remodeling project will be able to help many more teen moms live in a safe and stable environment and learn good parenting skills. Those skills will impact our community for years to come.

Looking forward to serving more youth and babies!

Dreams of young girls...



Your gifts and support of our programs help make dreams come true! So... recently I asked the young women who reside at The Highlands Teen Pregnancy Shelter, “what do you dream about for your future?”

- “Living on my own, going to college, working as a child care professional.”
- “I’d like to have my own place soon, then go to school to be a pharmacist. I would also like to move out of state...maybe South Carolina or Texas. They both look like nice places to live.”
- “I want to be able to live on my own but mainly I want to finish school ...then I’d like to join the military and study to be a nurse.”

These are dreams from three young women, two who have babies and one who is pregnant. One came to The Highlands last week, one has been there 3 months and one has been there 8 months. When I asked them about how they found their way to the shelter, they all reported that they had case workers in the community who recommended the program. Two reported that they had a history of running away from their foster homes and one reported that she was there because her mom is in drug treatment and there is no one at home to take care of her. The stability, structure and nurturance they are provided at The Highlands is a life saving gift to these girls as they learn to care for their babies. They all stated that their willingness to be in the program was because they want to be *good moms* and take *good care* of their babies.

“The Help” Philosophy....

“You is kind. You is smart. You is important.” The character in ‘The Help’ movie, Aibileen Clark, used those words to teach love to the baby she cares for. No matter how others may treat her, the sweet little baby will know that Aibileen believes in her. Consequently, she can grow into those words because each day she is loved with encouraging words.



At The Highlands we teach the teen moms how to speak good and loving words to their babies as well. We know that words and good parenting skills can help grow great children. Our mission is to do just that!

Your support of our program is another way of saying to our teen moms, “You is kind. You is smart. You is important”. Thank you for speaking words of love with your donations and contributions!

Health and Human Services

"No man needs sympathy because he has to work...Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

Theodore Roosevelt

Three of our programs are supported by federal grants from the Department of Health and Human Services, under the Administration for Children and Families, in the office of Families and Youth Service Bureau. We have been fortunate to receive these grants for many years and that's attributable to our committed staff and the ethical work environment we maintain through the Shelter Care organization.

Recently, our inspectors from the Department of Health and Human Services came for a visit. At the end of their inspection they met with us. Here are a couple of comments: "Shelter Care is like a big family" ...they were impressed with the relational quality of our programs; "the SOS (Street Outreach Services) drop in center is a great place that feels comfortable for kids...very nice!" "You do more than most programs like this around the country". They were impressed with the support we give homeless youth!

Overall, we received high marks... as usual! And, we can only thank our great staff for their hard work!

SOS Opens Drop In Center

~ help for homeless youth!



The old brick house tucked into the neighborhood on Crouse Street, neighboring St. Michael's Church, is beginning to raise curiosity in the minds of those within eyesight. Usually, it's quiet. The blinds stay turned down, the doors all shut, and only safety lighting appears outside. However, on occasion, you will see a handful of young adults open the gate, trek up the sidewalk, and disappear into the building. Sometimes these individuals will return later in the evening, when the blinds are drawn and the building is lit up. It is then that three gentleman appear in the windows, talking to the young adults, preparing meals, stepping outside to take care of the garden...

Who are they? Where are they coming from? What's going on inside that building?

The SOS Drop-In Center is up and running Monday 12-4 by appointment and Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday from 4-8 pm. This center is for homeless or at-risk youth ages 16 to 21 who are struggling with stability in their lives. Each and every one has a different story to tell about how they came to be "homeless" and they all have different needs. Staff meet with them to discover what those needs are, discuss their goals, and develop a plan. They are able to sign up for housing, food stamps, and medical care in this building. They can access the computer to look for jobs or educational information. The kitchen is open for them to prepare a meal or grab a snack. They are free to take a shower upstairs or use the laundry facilities downstairs. If they need clothing or hygiene products, it is offered here. Bus passes are also a hot commodity and are offered for important needs such as employment, appointments, and school. And lastly, they are able to rest in a world that doesn't stop spinning, regardless of the struggles that they face.

We welcome everyone to check us out at 847 Crouse Street in Akron! We will be hosting an Open House event on Wednesday, October 1st from 3-7 pm and look forward to a great turnout!

Thank You to the Metro Asst. Group for donated bus passes!

Shelter Care Inc.

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We are on the web:

www.sheltercareinc.org

On Facebook ~ Safe Landing
Street Outreach Services...

And, Twitter...



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A Note From The Executive Director—Dr. Wesley D. Fair

From the Executive director

What are you most grateful for? Is it your friends and family? Your health? Your job? Your education? At Shelter Care, we are grateful for you. In many ways, what we have and what we do are because of the generous contributions of individuals, churches, groups and foundations in the community.

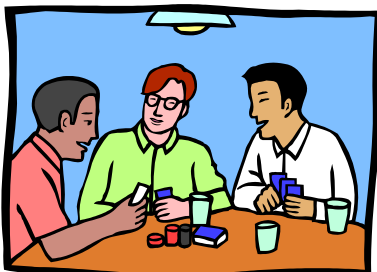
I am reminded every day of the impact of the programs and services we offer at Shelter Care, and of their connection to those who provide help in making that happen. We were founded back in 1972 in response to a need for group homes for youth coming through the juvenile courts without a place to live. We have continued to grow over the years, adding facilities, staff and services to meet the needs of a growing community. Today we are just as committed to providing the types of residential care, crisis, respite and outreach services most needed by the children and families in Summit and surrounding counties.

I am committed to sharing the vision that Shelter Care is a thankful steward of not only the many contributions we receive, but of the charitable hopes, dreams and intentions of those who give. Our board and staff are truly grateful for your support as we strive together to build a safe and healthy future for the benefit of our children, families and communities.

Thank YOU!

**RUSS & MARY BETH
SIBERT!**

**YOUR DONATIONS KEEP
OUR KIDS VERY HAPPY!**



Shelter Home Program

The Shelter Home Program is fortunate to have a great friendship with Russ and Mary Beth Sibert. For the past few years the Siberts have been making regular donations to our Shelter Home program in order that our youth can participate in some great life-changing activities.

The Shelter Home Program consists of a married couple and 4 teenagers who need a therapeutic, structured and nurturing environment due to abuse, neglect or behavior management problems. Having funds available so that our houseparents and clinical staff can plan healthy and healing activities is a real treat!

Thanks to Russ and Maribeth, we have been able to go sailing, stretch in a yoga class, learn new coping skills, participate in exciting equine therapy and successfully make it through a challenging ropes course. All these activities build resilience and esteem for our young people...necessary skills for a successful life!

A problem is a chance for you to do your best.

~Duke Ellington