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September 2013

A few weeks ago, I received a text from an unknown caller asking if I would come to their graduation. After inquiring who sent the text, I learned it was the daughter of AGC's very first resident. Edna and Olivia lived with our family for six months before moving into AGC on opening day in 1999. Olivia (we called her Livi) was only 4 months old and Edna was 16 with no place to go. When I received the text, I wondered what she was graduating from; no way could it be high school. When I asked, Olivia told me she was thinking about graduating high school early ---next year and just wanted to check to see if I would come. (They live in Texas now.) I was blown away! How could 15 years have already passed since that baby moved into our home?

Time really has flown by, and although it is hard to believe sometimes; it is even harder to believe the changes we see in the families we serve. Here are some of the changes over the years:



Many of our residents now have no home they can return to when they finish our program.

The drugs that are infiltrating our families and schools are no longer just pot or pain killers. Now it's heroin, meth or some lethal combinations of several.

The adult parents, who used to work hard to get their children back in their homes, now are not willing to give up their drugs or lifestyle to get their daughters and grandchildren back.

Another huge difference is the number of children coming to AGC with the moms. Years ago AGC mostly had pregnant girls or girls with a baby. At the current time, we have ten moms in our residential program. Two 17 year olds have two children each and one mom is pregnant with her third.

The saddest change for me is the girl's lack of understanding of scriptures and Christianity. Most new residents still claim Christianity, but very few could tell us what that means. Even the simplest, children's Bible stories are not familiar to them. Somewhere along the way the last 15 years, "the family" has lost ground.

So Dear Supporters and Friends, the fields are still out there waiting for harvest. Every day our workers are bombarded with needs these young ladies have for love, direction and connectedness. One young lady, when offered in court to leave AGC and go to a foster home near her hometown, replied that she wanted to stay where she was because, "those people care about me."

Those words sum up All God's Children's mission statement. We believe every child deserves a chance to be cared for, loved on, and shown Christ's love. Won't you help us?

Pam Smith, Executive Director

## *Foster (because we) Care*

Confession time: My biggest professional fear of the past year has been the failure of All God's Children's new foster care program. When the idea of starting a therapeutic foster care program first came up it sounded promising...but also very intimidating. I have learned since that time that those fears were nothing but a failure of faith in God. Because here we are, on the verge of celebrating the one year anniversary of AGC Foster Care, counting the many blessings that He has bestowed upon this organization and the children we serve.

This past year has seen the certification of six foster families in Fayette and Jessamine counties. These are not your ordinary families either. These are some of the most kind, selfless and motivated families I have ever met. It is such a privilege to work with men and women who dedicate their time, resources and their own family home to serve children who cannot or will not ever return to their own biological families. While we attempt to make the certification process for expectant foster parents as easy as possible, it is not a short process. There are trainings and paperwork and home visits and background checks. But these families endure any brief inconvenience and with eagerness and joy await the placement of a hurting youth.

Because of these families, a handful of children have had the unique opportunity to see life from a different perspective; one they would have never experienced otherwise. This past year, a 17 year old mother who has only ever known emotional, physical and sexual abuse at the hand of her biological father was amazed to experience the dedication and relentless love her foster parents have for her. And things as simple as nightly family dinners have done more than nourish this broken teenager. They have instilled self confidence, joy and a renewed desire to be the best parent possible. Similarly, a runaway 18 year old drug-addict has not only been shown grace in her brokenness; she has found the first stable and healthy family she has ever known. Now she and her son can prepare for a bright future with a foster mother who encourages, forgives and teaches.



To God be the glory for creating beauty from ashes. It astonishes me that He chooses to anoint this ministry every day and it is our prayer that we follow His guidance through the fear, struggles and criticism. Join us in prayer for our foster care program. There is never a shortage of broken children and youth who crave a family of their own who can inspire, guide and lovingly discipline. These are the families we need.

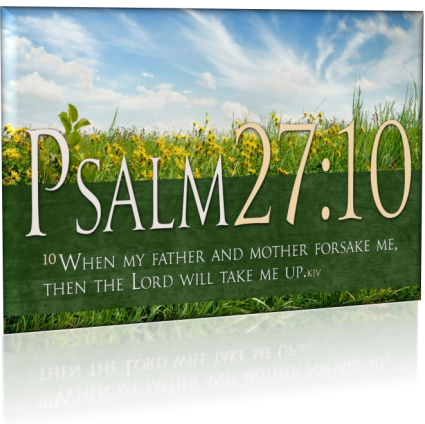
Kathryn Maupin, Foster Care Director



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Get involved and Make a Difference in the Life of a Child Today!

**Ways YOU can  
 get involved!**



2nd Annual Mom Prom, presented by Saint Joseph Jessamine, **Friday, April 25, 2014** at the RJ Corman Hangar. Ladies only event, all ages! Don't miss the opportunity to spend the evening with incredible moms, sisters, daughters and friends. A night full of memories!



Get your engines started for the 6th Annual Chick-fil-A Cruise for Kids, **Saturday, June 14, 2014**. Starting at Bethel Harvest Church with a delicious Chick-fil-A breakfast and ending at Man O' War Harley Davidson with a scrumptious Chick-fil-A lunch. Enjoy a State Trooper led ride around the picturesque byways in Central Kentucky.

NEW 2014 Event! Plans are underway for an event that includes the entire family. A run/walk with a twist that everyone can enjoy. A perfect fall evening is in the making!



The Christmas Village is BACK! It will be a night of wonderment under the twinkling lights and snow covered grounds. A chance to step back in time and experience all the beauty, love and excitement celebrating the birth of Christ. A perfect way to start your December festivities.

**If you are interested in being involved with an event, contact Ronda May (859) 881-5010 or [rmay@kyallgodschildren.org](mailto:rmay@kyallgodschildren.org)**