

# Creating Families



## Raise the Roof!

St. Joe's construction of the four new residential 'cottages' is on schedule to be completed late spring/early summer 2015. We hope to have the kids moved in by mid-summer! The new 'cottages' will provide for a more therapeutic, home-like environment for the severely abused and neglected children who call St. Joe's home. Abel Construction is overseeing the project, which is the largest expansion project to date since 1885. We will be announcing ribbon cutting details in the next few months.

Thank you so much to all of our donors, big and small for making the cottages a reality for our kids!

Stay connected and up to date by joining us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/StJosephChildrensHome](http://www.facebook.com/StJosephChildrensHome) and/or signing up for our e-mails contact Pam Stone at [pams@sjkids.org](mailto:pams@sjkids.org).

## FOSTER FAMILIES: HIGHLIGHTS



## We're Going Home!

At St. Joe's, we create families. We have been a safe haven for children in need since 1849. Last year we celebrated our 100<sup>th</sup> adoption (over the last decade) and in 2014 alone we were proud to facilitate 11 adoptions for children who needed families! Fostering has been described as the toughest job you will ever love.... At St. Joe's, love is what we are built on; it is our foundation. With a caring and devoted staff, we have been giving children a home since 1849 and we will continue to serve that mission. Glenn Rutherford, author of *Loves Home* said, "Whenever children need it, St. Joseph Children's Home will be there in some capacity, in some aspect....caring for the young ones who need care the most." We would like to say *Congratulations* and *Welcome Home* not only to the Schmidts, but to ALL the families we have helped create over the years!

**Are you a St. Joe's Alumni? Would you like to stay informed and get involved?**  
Please contact us at [pams@sjkids.org](mailto:pams@sjkids.org) or call 502.893.0241 for Pam Stone or Sally Walko in the Development office.



*The Schmidt family on adoption day 2014*

### LIFE AT ST. JOES



**T**hroughout the year, the Activities Staff at St. Joe's work diligently with community partners to provide unique and special experiences for St. Joe's kids. Kate Biagi-Rickert, Joann Childers and Joe Hartlage dedicate themselves to introducing the kids to a diverse array of fun, educational and creative activities and outings. Here are some of the 2014 highlights.



Bill Abel, of Abel Construction, hosting a special trip for St. Joe's kids in Indianapolis

Right, Learning Auto Mechanics at Race Day in Indianapolis (provided by Bill Abel)



Two children who became best friends while living at St. Joe's; this photo was taken days before they went to their new forever families.



Thank you to the Notre Dame marching band for showing St. Joe's kids all their instruments and playing on our front lawn!



**Would you like to know more about St. Joe's kids?**  
Visit [www.sjkids.org](http://www.sjkids.org) and read our Meet the Kids series



Thank you so much to our donors for taking the kids shopping and ALL the support at the Holidays!



Face Painting with Volunteers on Halloween right before trick or treating



Super Hero masks created by the kids



Thank you to The Alumni Association, Dr. Bob Burkhardt, and Peggy Bostleman for the Kentucky Kingdom Passes!



**Did you know that St. Joe's outcomes for kids in care are among the top in Kentucky? St. Joe's has an average 93% rate of success in placing children in a home.**

Thanks to Texas Roadhouse Internal Audit Department for the Fun day! That's St. Joe's Staff in the dunk tank!



St. Joe's kids Art for their booth at Mellwood Arts Center Fair



A rainy day race for the Run Club!



Outdoor movie night during the summer on the lawn

## GRACE'S ACES



Grace Akers reading *The Polar Express* to The Child Development Center children



Grace Akers with Board member Barbara Carter at Picnic 165

I am celebrating my 5 month anniversary at St. Joe's, and I can say enthusiastically that I have cherished each and every day.

My first day at St. Joe's was Friday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, or what we lovingly refer to as the beginning of "PICNIC WEEK". I watched the booths go up and the lights turn on, and it felt like magic. The Sewing Society and the booth captains are here much of the week as are generations of families who volunteer. I was immediately struck by the strength of our families, many of whom are fifth generation volunteers. They understand the importance of family and they want to pay that gift forward to the children of St. Joe's.

The Friday afternoon before PICNIC is a big cookout with our kids and volunteers. It is fun to sit side by side with a "pickled pretty" on one side and a St. Joe's child on the other. I think I ate 2 hotdogs too, because Chef Finbar cooks them better than anyone I know. Friday Night LIVE arrived with country music and fun, and it felt like Christmas Eve. Finally PICNIC arrived, and our staff and volunteers across our three programs, Child Development, Foster Care, and Residential Treatment Center, came out to work and to celebrate with our friends and community. It was without a doubt the best first week on a job ever, and I was just getting started.



Grace Akers with Board Chair Thurman Senn doing the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge with the CDC children Fall 2014

My work life prior to coming to St. Joe's was spent at the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and I worked for 24 years in public child welfare. I believe in the mission of serving our most vulnerable children, and to ensure that children grow up in safe and nurturing families. One of the many reasons I was drawn to St. Joe's is that they not only believe that it is a fundamental right of all children to have a family, but they work to make this right a reality. One of the many things that makes St. Joe's a special place to work is that I get to see our children every day. We've had children enter our residential treatment program since I've been here, and I can already see progress.

Over 50% of our children have a goal of adoption when they get to St. Joe's which means that they will not

go home to their birth family. I believe that it is not only our job to find family for these children, but that it is our community's moral imperative to give children a home. I know from looking at the statewide comparative private childcare report, that St. Joe's is as successful as anyone in the state in finding family for children. St. Joseph Children's Home celebrated over 100 adoptions, which means that 100 children in our community now have their forever family. Families who adopt understand what our volunteers and staff also inherently know... that adoption not only heals a current generation but adoption pays it forward for generations to come.

I am so thrilled to be a part of these successes and I look forward to continuing to create families for children in need in Kentucky.

## Sewing for Kids

For over 100 years the Ladies Sewing Society meets several times weekly in the lower level of St. Joe's landmark building to create pillowcases and quilts of all sizes that generate revenue to support St. Joe's kids. Most of these are raffled at the annual Picnic, but the women work all year long to make that booth a success. Since 1912 this group of women devotes so much time to supporting the kids of St. Joe's. We are eternally grateful to them for the love, kindness and commitment they show to our children in residential and foster care. Thank you so much to all of you!

Did you know that each child who enters the residential treatment program receives their own personalized blanket? Additionally, that for every adoption then Sewing Society makes each child their own quilt with their name and adoption date embroidered into it? See photo of three recently adopted children with their new quilts at the courthouse!

**Would you like to learn to quilt?** They will teach you! The Sewing Society welcomes new members-men and women. They meet on Monday and Wednesday from 9-2. Please contact Kate Biagi-Rickert for more information at: [kateb@sjkids.org](mailto:kateb@sjkids.org).



Above, the Richie Family adopted Fall 2014. Right, Sewing Society 1962



**In loving Memory of Gloria Fortwengler;**  
we will miss her dearly and are so thankful to have had her in the St. Joe's family.

## PICNIC 165: For the kids...



Top, dining alfresco under St. Joe's shade trees. Above, Rich Flaherty at the ever-so-popular Cake Booth. Below, the St. Aloysius 'Friars Club' fried nearly 5,000 chicken dinners.



Family fun at the Frogger Booth

The 2014 annual St. Joe's Picnic was the 165th anniversary for the event that many Louisvillians see as the 'sign of the end of summer'. Tried and true traditions blend with new and fresh approaches to this massive Picnic on St. Joe's front lawn. This year Summit Media and Q103.1 sponsored Friday Night LIVE, headlined by local country rocker J.D. Shelburne and opening acts Blackbird County and the Shane Dawson Band. Also new was the off campus parking available via shuttle that alleviated some of the parking congestion we experience in Crescent Hill for the second Saturday in August. As usual, the crowds were enormous, the cake

booth was the most popular, and despite the rain interruptions, many families and friends gathered for their 'reunions' at St. Joe's to eat fried fish, chicken dinners, and play some games. St. Joe's is thankful to all the sponsors, volunteers, friends, and supporters, who all come together to make this event a success!



Local country rocker J.D. Shelburne on Friday Night LIVE.



**SAVE THE DATE**  
for PICNIC 166, Sat., August 8!

**Do you have a picnic story you would like to share with us?**  
We would love to hear from you. Share your photos with us!  
Please contact Picnic Coordinator Rachel Firkins at 502.893.0241 or [rachelf@sjkids.org](mailto:rachelf@sjkids.org).

**Would you or your company like to volunteer and support a booth at the picnic?**  
If so, contact Kate Biagi or Rachel Firkins at 502.893.0241



# What working at St. Joe's means to me: From St. Joe's Therapists

## RESIDENTIAL & FOSTER CARE



Therapy plays a key role in the process of healing which is so vital to treatment plans for St. Joe's kids. The children in the residential treatment program and the therapeutic foster care and adoption programs see St. Joe's therapists regularly on an individual and group level (children we facilitate foster care for throughout the state see therapists but not at St. Joe's). Working through the trauma that they have experienced is a milestone in the children's journey of recovery. St. Joe's kids are in the highest tier of 'trauma levels' designated by the state which means they have experienced things in their young lifetimes (St. Joe's serves the specialized niche of 6-14 year olds) than we can possibly imagine. Therapists working with 'trauma babies' have intense, emotional and exhausting jobs. Here's what some of St. Joe's therapists have to say about their work:

### ■ Jennifer Puckett says:

"My professional social work background has always centered around working with youth, ages 18 and under. I was an intern at a Family Resource Center in the Portland neighborhood, working with at-risk children and families, I was an intern at a therapeutic foster care agency, I have worked for the Department of Juvenile Justice, working with juvenile delinquents, and I have worked with clients in both PRTF and PCC settings. What helps get me through the day are the kids. Despite numerous trials, hardships, neglect, and abuse they have faced in their short lives, the kids are capable of such love, kindness, warmth, and the drive to succeed. If I were placed in their shoes, I don't know that I could wake up and carry on with a smile on my face, but they do. That is why I work at St. Joseph Children's Home."

### ■ Lizzie Minton says:

"Working at St. Joe's has certainly been the highlight of my career as a therapist. Although our kids have endured significant trauma, they remain hopeful and resilient. They show me daily how to stand in the face of adversity, and do so with a smile on my face. While it is often difficult to hear the stories of our kids, we see daily what love, nurturing and positive attention can do to heal their pain. It is a privilege to be a voice for the children who cannot stand up for themselves and to ensure that their needs are met. The staff and administration at St. Joe's truly work tirelessly to give these children a place that they can call home."

### ■ Sara Young says:

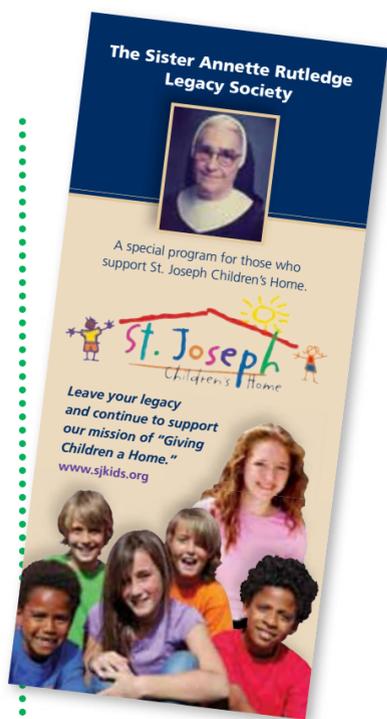
"Most of my professional experience involves working in an adolescent residential setting, and in family preservation services. When I began my journey as a social worker (which I imagine is similar to becoming a Jedi), it was a constant struggle to find the energy to put a smile on my face at the end of the day. The sad stories, the heartbreak, the tragedy in client's lives was overwhelming and disheartening. At St. Joe's I have found it to be easier to smile at the end of the day, because I share a common set of values and beliefs with the people I work with everyday. When I come to work I know that my co-workers also come to work for the only reason to do good for someone else. Because we would want someone to do that for us."

### ■ Lauren McNally says:

"My professional experience has consisted of working with at-risk youth of all ages and their families, mainly in community-based programs. At St. Joe's, I mainly work with the children in our therapeutic foster care program and occasionally with the children in our residential program. It's definitely difficult and heartbreaking to hear about the trauma and disappointment these children have experienced over their short lives. At St. Joe's, we all have a common goal and interest, which is to provide a safe and loving environment for these children. I am lucky to work in such a place where I feel supported and encouraged daily by my coworkers. And working with cute kids doesn't hurt either!"

## In Loving Memory of Eugene "Gene" William Eckert • 4/30/1944-11/30/2014

To know Gene Eckert was to love him. The St. Joe's family was so blessed to have Gene as our friend, our family, and such an advocate for St. Joe's kids. Gene's leadership and dedication to St. Joseph Children's Home was extraordinary and undeniable. He will be missed terribly by all of us at St. Joe's, and we are so thankful to have had the opportunity to call him our friend.



## Leave a Legacy for St. Joe's Kids

Would you like to support St. Joe's Kids in a big way? Please consider making a planned gift to St. Joe's and extend and maximize your support of severely abused and neglected children. Your legacy gift allows you to support St. Joe's mission for many years to come while also fulfilling your financial goals and objectives. The Sister Annette Rutledge Society was established as a way to honor those who have remembered St. Joe's with a planned gift. Sister Annette worked at St. Joseph for over 42 years. Your gift may be in the form of an bequest made through your will, life insurance, charitable trusts, etc. Your planned gift will help create families for years to come. Please contact Andrea Pridham, Development Director, at 502.893.0241 or andreap@sjkids.org for more information.

## CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



The Child Development Center at St. Joseph Children's Home has some exciting changes in 2014! In May Angela Jacobi became the new program director. She has her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education along with a Kindergarten Endorsement. Angela has worked in Early Childhood Education for 14 years. Her experience, passion, and love for children made her a natural fit for St. Joe's.

The most exciting news for the CDC is that we are now enrolling for Full and Part-Time Care. Part Time care has just recently become available. We are so excited to be able to help so many more families!

Our first ever Trunk or Treat was held this past October (see photos above). Families and staff volunteered to decorate their trunks one evening, while the children went Trunk or Treating! It was a HUGE success, and we can't wait to do it again next year. In December, we held our First Annual Combined Christmas Program. The children from all our Preschool classes performed for families and friends. After the performances, crafts and cookie decorating was set up for the children. The big guy himself, Santa Claus, came to pass out presents and take pictures! It was a great night enjoyed by all. Several events are planned



**NOW ENROLLING!**

having professionals come to St. Joe's. Depending upon the theme, the teachers plan to make sure that the children stay busy with fun activities and projects! Ms. April and Ms. Abbey are dedicated to the Elementary Age children that we serve. Our Summer Camp is a place where the children want to be!

If you would like a tour of St. Joe's CDC classrooms, Please call Angela Jacobi at 502.893.0241 today.

throughout the year to help bring our families together. They are as much fun for our teachers as they are for the children! Our teachers are always helping generate new ideas to help the children grow and learn.

Don't Forget--spring and summer break will be here before you know it! The Child Development Center offers care during those times that school is not in session. Ms. April Crow and Ms. Abbey Gravatte work hard planning for those weeks, making sure the children have fun while still learning! Multiple Field Trips to places like Squire Boone Cavern, Derby Dinner Playhouse, and kazooing take place weekly. Besides going on field trips, the children are offered experiences by

## Child Development Center Quality Preschool. Trustworthy Childcare.



**We Now Offer Full and Part-time Care!**  
Call Angela Jacobi at 502-893-0241 or e-mail at [angelaj@sjkids.org](mailto:angelaj@sjkids.org)

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**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**



If you would like to receive your St. Joe's newsletter by email, contact Pam Stone at pams@sjkids.org



**Check us out on Facebook**

**ANNUAL ST. JOE'S SOCIETY MEETING**

Wednesday, February 4, 7:00pm in the Gymnasium  
RSVP required to Sally Walko, Development Department

**FOSTER CARE TRAINING CLASSES FOR 2015**

The 1st round starts Thursday, January 8th – March 5th  
The 2nd round starts Tuesday, April 14th – June 9th  
The 3rd round starts Thursday, July 9th – September 3rd  
The 4th round starts Tuesday, September 22nd – November 17th

There is a informational meeting the first Tuesday of the months prior to the above mentioned training rounds at St. Joe's at 5:45 p.m. Please feel free to call 502.893.0241 to rsvp for the meeting or if you have further questions.

**FOSTER CARE WISH LIST**

Pull-ups sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5  
Gift cards for birthdays & incentives  
Diapers – all sizes  
Baby wipes  
Underwear/socks for school age children  
Pajamas for school age children  
Boy's toys 5-12 year old children  
Teen incentives/awards/gifts  
(book sets, gift cards, CD's, Games, UL and UK stuff)

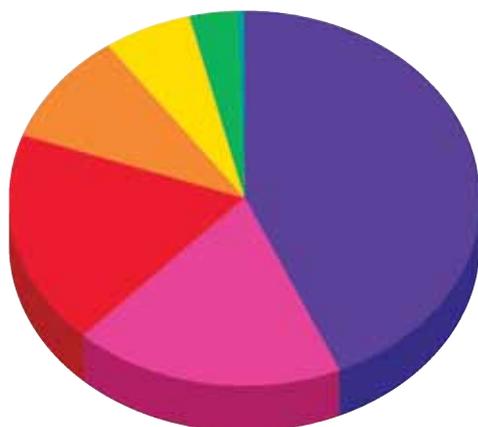
Large gift bags (Christmas, Birthday & all occasion)  
Tissue paper – any color  
Infant items – we can always use diapers, wipes, new bottles and gently used car seats, pack n plays, high chairs and other baby related items  
High school supplies – scientific calculators (this is a HUGE need), binders, dividers, etc..



Grace Akers  
Executive Director

**St. Joseph Children's Home  
Operation Board Members**

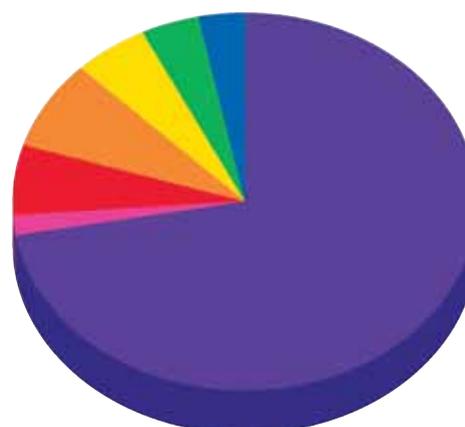
Felicia Alfred  
Steve Bogus  
Barbara Carter  
Craig Harbsmeier  
Kelly S. Henry  
James A. Hillebrand  
Dr. Jay Miller  
Tim Mulloy  
Chuck Nopper  
Alex Ratterman  
M. Thurman Senn  
Chris Whelan



**2014 REVENUE**

- Residential – 2,399,259
- F/C – 1,019,874
- CDC – 1,024,575
- Picnic – 534,099
- Contributions – 335,687
- Dues, Legacies & Misc – 184,311
- Govt Subsidies – 23,064
- Sales of Assets – 1,500

**Total Revenue – 5,522,369**



**2014 EXPENSES**

- Salary & Benefits – 4,199,587
- Public Relations – 96,951
- Property Maintenance & Utilities – 352,435
- Education & Entertainment – 444,807
- Program Supplies & Expenses – 304,128
- Food Services & Supplies – 234,663
- Insurance – 1,037
- Travel, Business & Professional Fees – 187,828

**Total Expenses – 5,821,436**