

POSSIBILITIES are endless...



HFK
Specialized Foster Care
& Adoption Programs



Kidz Rainbow Center
Daycare & Early Learning



www.hopeforkidsinc.org
Phone 814. 353.0200
Fax 814. 353.1545

www.kidzrainbowcenter.org
Phone 814. 353.7777
Fax 814. 353-7779

1400 Fox Hill Rd
State College, PA 16803

Southeast Office
PO Box 87
Fogelsville, PA 18051
Phone: 814. 571.1186

Centre County Community Foundation Visit

Off the bat, Hope For Kids (HFK) looks like any other office. But upon closer inspection, the playground in back, the toy chests, and the paper trees adorned with children's names that line the walls show that something different is going on here. Upstairs, people work toward HFK goal of providing disadvantaged children with specialized foster care services from a Christian worldview, giving them a loving family and reintegrating them into the community.

After giving me a tour of the offices, Executive Assistant Patti Menges takes me downstairs to the Kidz Rainbow Center, a separate agency that offers daycare services, where it's anything but your usual office atmosphere. As she takes me around, I encounter rooms filled with children of different age groups, from tiny infants asleep in their cribs, to toddlers playing with toys, to 5-year-olds who excitedly tell me about their recent trip to a bug museum. Having so many children a stone's throw away might overwhelm your average office dwellers, but Menges eagerly takes a sobbing little boy in her arms, patting him on the back until he quiets down.

Providing *specialized* foster care means that the children HFK works with are behaviorally challenged, their needs are too intense to be served appropriately in traditional foster care and they are at high risk for institutional placement.

"It's not just neglect or poor parenting. These children have been exposed to unimaginable abuse," President/CEO Brenda Goldman said. "The post-traumatic stress they endure creates lifelong challenges."

According to Goldman, being a Christian organization is a key element of what they do, because the children need spiritual healing as well as mental and physical healing.

Though state budget issues have hit them hard, the organization currently has 34 foster kids placed with 39 foster parents.

HFK receives referrals from the PA counties and matches children with families they think will be compatible. Many of those children, 14 last year, then go on to be adopted by their foster families.

Taking care of troubled children is a challenging act of love that not everybody is cut out for. People who just do it for the stipend don't last, Goldman said. HFK foster families are extremely dedicated. They've had many fathers who have quit their jobs to stay at home with their foster or adopted children, including Goldman's own husband.

HFK has an organization endowment fund at the Centre County Community Foundation. Goldman called money from this fund, from the United Way and other sources a blessing, especially during these tough economic times, because it enables HFK to pay for services it provides, including counseling and mental health services for the kids.

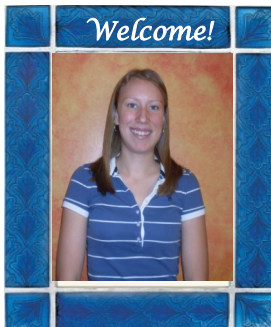
The people of HFK often come up with ideas for the organization based on situations they're facing in their own lives. Menges and Goldman have both experienced the challenges associated with caring for an aging family member, and that experience has inspired them. In the future, HFK would like to have an intergenerational program on-site where the elderly will spend the day receiving care and services and interacting with the little ones from the daycare program. Older people are often delighted and energized by time spent with children, and "It's a wonderful way for kids to develop respect for the elderly," Goldman said.

They would also like to create a non-medical home companionship program, Goldman said, adding that these proposed programs would create jobs in the community. Until funds for those programs can be found, the people of HFK will continue to work hard to give disadvantaged children a better life. Though not theirs by blood, Goldman said foster parents unconditionally love their foster children like one of their own.

"We birth these children through the heart," she said.

-Erin

(This article was written by Erin Rowley and published on the Centre County Community Foundations website)



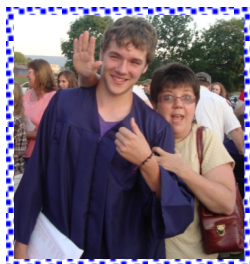
Meet our PSU summer intern, Amanda Liddick. She is from the Philadelphia area and is majoring in Human Development and Family Studies.

Trainings and Events

- July 15 All Agency Picnic
- July 19-22 SWAN Conference
- Aug 10 DPW Inspection
- Aug 13 Senator Jake Corman's Day with the Spikes
- Sept 13 FREE Training on Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse
- Oct 1 Annual Foster Parent Training



Why I Do Foster Care



I remembered on Monday evening why I do foster care. Sometimes, when things are tense and schedules are crazy and life is inconvenient, I forget.

Monday evening, I was committed to attending two different meetings, one beginning at 7:00 and one at 8:00. But, shortly after 6:00 I opened my front door to find my first foster son

standing on my doorstep. Sam was placed in our home on 2 different occasions about six years ago, and his stays with us were fairly brief. He has maintained contact over the years, but it had been quite a while since I'd heard from him.

When I opened the door, Sam simply asked, "So, were you thinking about going to graduation tonight?" Well, I hadn't been, until that point. And, in addition to the 2 meetings, I was way behind on cleaning, and my in-laws were arriving the next afternoon to spend the night. There was a lot to do. But, I went to graduation. And had my picture taken with Sam. And, I am so glad I was able to be there.

Sam's visit reminded me why I do foster care. The fact that he thought of me on this very important night signifies to me that I did have a positive impact on his life. And, the fact that I went reaffirms to Sam that there is someone in the world who will always make time for him.

I'm not bragging when I say that I'm not sure that Sam would not have walked across the stage Monday evening had it not been for our intervention in his life. Instead, I am humbled and feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to play a role in this young man's life. And I am so proud of Sam. This is why I do foster care.

Polly (HFK Foster Parent)

School Based Trash To Treasure



Mr. Perry, Marion Walker Elementary and Shaelah Pepperman

HFKs partnered with local elementary schools and a preschool program, HFKs collected TONS of unwanted school and craft supplies left over from the 2010/2011 school year and has been reconstituted for use by our adoption department. When there are no words for the children to express their feelings about the past, then art becomes a safe mode of expression for kids who are healing from old hurts as they prepare to be adopted.



HFKs wishes to thank the following groups for their participation and assistance with our first annual *School Based Trash To Treasure* Program: UPS store of State College; Moyer Family Daycare; 4th grade at Marion Walker Elementary School; Mr. Schulz's 5th grade at Houserville Elementary, St.

Johns Catholic School; Ferguson Township Elementary School; State College Friends School. Additionally, without the help and assistance of Kyle Pepperman, Paula Campbell, Erin Rogers, Brad Morrissey, and Ronnie Shawver, we would not have been able to pull this project off. Because of our collective efforts, the adoption department's supply cabinets are FULLY stocked (at least TEMPORARILY).

Kids Helping Kids



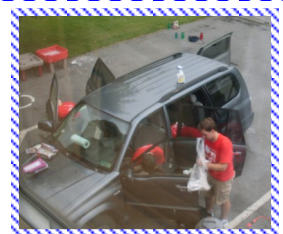
Jennifer Pepperman, Patti Menges, Tydan Campbell, Jason Cameron and Evan Cameron

Ferguson Township Elementary in State College recently completed their service project for 2010-2011. They supported the Pajama Program with their own Pajama Project. They collected over 100 pair of new pajamas and paired them with books for the foster children at HFK. Often times, the foster children are admitted to the HFK's program with only the clothes on their backs. A great big **THANK YOU** to all the kids for all their hard work in helping the foster children have a new pair of pj's and a book for a bedtime story!

CitiServe & PSU Students Day of Service



HFK & KRC had the privilege of hosting CitiServe, (members of the Calvary Baptist Church) and PSU Students to help us with a variety of needs. From painting the ark and corral, washing vehicles, scrubbing foam tiles and outdoor toys, and washing windows to removing bird nests, these wonderful folks gave graciously and tirelessly of their time and hard work!



We are blessed to have such giving partners in our community. *Thank you!*

Thanks to the PSU Football Team



One of HFK's foster children had the fabulous chance to spend the day with the Penn Sate Football team. He was able to get to know some of the players and even got to wear a helmet in the PSU locker room!





Movin' on Up....with Keystone Stars



The staff at KRC have eagerly been working on moving up in the Keystone Stars Program from a Star 1 to a Star 2. Our designation visit went great and our staff enjoy all of the professional development opportunities. We hope to officially be a Star 2 by mid-July!



2011 Graduates!



On June 3, 2011 nine of our preschool children celebrated their transition to kindergarten with a graduation ceremony. Surrounded by family and friends, the children proudly accepted their first diploma! The celebration continued with cake and a slideshow highlighting all the memories they have made at KRC over the years.



SENATOR JAKE CORMAN'S KIDS DAY with the Spikes

Bring your family and come visit our booth on Saturday, **August 13, 2011** from 12 p.m.–3:00 p.m. for this free event at Medlar Field!
See you there!

Can you sew?



KRC is in need of volunteers to sew Velcro closures on bibs.

Please call 814-353-7777

Summer Kidz Camp



Our summer program is in full swing! The children are enjoying playing in the sprinkler, riding bikes and going on field trips. They look forward to Lake Tobias in July and can't wait to cap things off with an Ice Cream Social at the end of summer!



Easter Egg Hunt



The Lord is Risen! To celebrate this wonderful occasion, the children at KRC, ages 1-13 hunted down eggs filled with yummy treats hidden by no other than the Easter Bunny!

KRC Needs & Wish List

Small Items

- Construction Paper (assorted colors) for 6 rooms
- Washable Tempera Paint (brown and all primary colors) for 6 rooms
- Bulletin board backing paper (any colors, but white)
- Google eyes (all sizes)
- Easel paper
- Sidewalk chalk
- Stickers
- Pipe Cleaners (assorted colors)
- 6" x 9" felt sheets (assorted colors)
- Foam Sheets (assorted colors)
- Small toys for prize box
- Children's scissors

Large Items

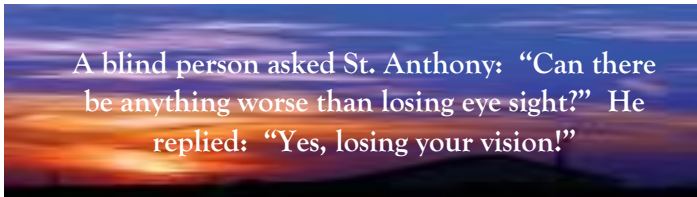
- 6 passenger Van
- White board easel (Priority)
- TV/DVD combo for 6 rooms
- TV stands for 6 rooms
- 6-8 person baby buggy
- "I Am The Boss" Baby Sit in Toy



HFK
POSSIBILITIES
Kidz Rainbow Center

1400 Fox Hill Rd,
State College, PA 16803

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
State College, PA
Permit No. 213



find us on
facebook

Never Deprive a Child of Hope
It Might Be All They Have



For more information or questions regarding this newsletter, please contact the Newsletter Editor: Patti A. Menges at pmenges@hopeforkidsinc.org

HFK/KRC Partners with the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program



HFK & KRC have recently partnered with the Centre County Juvenile Probation Department participating in the Balanced and Restorative Justice Program. The program partners with local organizations that might be in need of Community Service that can be completed by juveniles.

We have had great success and have been able to complete so many jobs with the help of this program that we just never seem to find the time to do! The kids have done everything from putting together and painting a playhouse for the playground, to pulling weeds, emptying trash, sorting pajamas, cleaning bathrooms, and organizing our shed and storage unit. The kids have been well-behaved, respectful, and needed very little direction. Hopefully, the kids will take these experiences as they get a glimpse of “real life” and enable them to become responsible and productive members of our community.

To participate in this program, please contact Susan Lucas at sllucas@co.centre.pa.us or (814) 355-6771.

I would like to support Hope For Kids with the following:

___\$100 ___\$250 ___\$500 ___Other: \$_____

Sponsor One Child's Adoption ___\$5000

___Regular Monthly Gift:\$_____/Month



HFK is a 501 (c) (3) Non-Profit.
All donations are tax deductible.

Thanks to all our donors. Your gifts are making a difference in the lives of children & families!

www.hopeforkidsinc.org

DONATE ONLINE

Please make checks payable to: Hope For Kids

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone/Email: _____