

Creating Families



St. Joe's congratulates these 2016 forever families!



Above, The Elzy Family. Below, The McDaniel Family. Both right, The Welshins Family.



From the Desk of the Executive Director



It is a privilege to work with the St. Joe's Board of Directors regularly to continuously evaluate and improve the services we provide to St. Joe's kids. The Board gives their time and talents effortlessly, whether it is sitting on committees like Programs, Finance, Communications and Development, Picnic, or helping get their business, corporation, or own family more engaged with St. Joe's kids. Their caliber of leadership is exemplary and their commitment to best practices assures a bright future for not only the agency but also the clients we serve.

The Board has also worked ardently to take some realistic, hard looks at our annual \$6 million budget, in preparation of the upcoming changes in federal overtime laws and rules, and how we categorize employees as exempt or non-exempt. These new laws take effect in December and present additional funding challenges for many non-profits including St. Joe's. The Board is committed to making St. Joe's Staff just as high a priority as the children we serve. I am proud to work with such an outstanding group of compassionate and skilled individuals who continue to elevate the quality of care St. Joe's provides to the community.

I would like to wish the entire St. Joe's Family 'Happy Holidays' and say thank you for making a difference for all of St. Joe's kids!

Grace C. Akers,
Executive Director

Would you like to help create families for St. Joe's kids? Make a gift this holiday season. www.sjkids.org or call 502-893-0241 today.



ST. JOE'S KIDS AROUND TOWN



St. Joe's kids around town

Thank you so much to all of our partners, champions and individuals who not only help support the Activities budget for the kids, but also who give so much of their time to spend with the kids.



These are just a few pictures from throughout the year that are examples of the many fun and enriching things St. Joe's kids have the opportunities to do!

Far left, soccer camp. Middle left, upclose and personal at the Louisville Zoo. Left, on the walking bridge.



Above, Stu Pollard at Hal & Ben's Bike-In. Right, the outdoor premier at Finn's.

Filmmaker Stu Pollard and the Louisville Film Society shine light on the dire need for children in foster care at St. Joe's

The need to create families for children who have been removed from their homes is more dire than ever before—especially in Kentucky. (Record numbers of kids are being removed from their homes and placed into foster care; largely due to increased awareness and education throughout the country, stricter regulations in place for the safety of children, and epic spikes in substance abuse, mainly heroin, opioids and methamphetamine.) Finding families for these children becomes more challenging because the substance abuse is often a family problem, not just of the parents. Many states have found themselves ill-equipped to deal with the demand for so many foster parents and families. The victims in this equation?

Innocent children.

As a direct response to this problem, St. Joseph Children's Home released a promotional video that was created by local filmmaker Stu Pollard and members of the Louisville Film Society. The team collaborated in creating the video as a way to spread the message about children in need of foster care in Kentucky.

Pollard, who chairs the Louisville Film Society board, said "We were delighted to partner with St. Joe's to help them tell their story, to get the word out to our community about the incredible work they do for so many children in need. LFS members Steve Saley,



Brennan Clark, Nicole Teusch, Patrick Morris, and especially David Andreini all contributed to making this film. We hope this marks the first of many such collaborations between LFS and charitable organizations doing essential work in our community"

Visit our website www.sjkids.org visit us on Facebook page to see the film!
<http://vimeo.com/187700232>

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER



Top right, teacher Takayla Williams with a student. Above, Worms! Right, learning about water pathways. Far right, Let's Move!



Kindergarten Readiness at St. Joe's Child Development Center

St. Joseph Children's Home Child Development Center has been providing trustworthy childcare with quality curriculum for over 25 years. The administration and teachers are highly skilled in preparing children for Kindergarten. The CDC teachers have recently been completing the Brigance assessment on infants, toddlers and preschoolers. This is a nationally normed developmental "snapshot" that helps the teachers know what kids need to promote their development.

Along with the Brigance assessment, St. Joe's continues to focus on literacy, and a re-energized enrichment program, in which the kids participate in activities like gardening, learning about agri-science through worms, music and movement, and science and art.

Director April Manning has 13 years teaching experience in the classroom and conducts monthly workshops for parents! She can be reached at aprilm@sjkids.org or 502-893-0241.



Leadership Institute at St. Joes



Above, Donna Russow, Maria Price, Pamela Darnall, Jennifer Hancock, Marta Miranda, Grace Akers Above right, St. Joe's Training Coordinator Beth James.



St. Joe's partnered with four other agencies for a Leadership Collaborative: The Art and Science of Growing, Managing and Coaching People. The learning and development program was a 12-course program that served the agencies top management and supervisors. St. Joes, Volunteers of America, St. John's Center for Homeless Men, Family and Children's Place, and the Center for Women and Families all participated. The six month long program was lead by Tracey Morris Strategies.

Left, St. Joe's staff.





Giving Children a Home

Residential Treatment
Child Development Center
Therapeutic Foster Care & Adoption Services

2823 Frankfort Avenue
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Grace C. Akers, MDIV
Executive Director

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



Helen Schmitt and her family at the Bell Awards.

**Sewing Society Volunteer
Helen Schmitt wins prestigious
Bell Award for 53 years of service**

Helen Schmitt, a dedicated volunteer of St. Joe's Sewing Society, was recently awarded a Bell Award for her decades of service to St. Joe's kids. Helen has worked for 53 years helping make pillowcases, blankets and quilts not only for St. Joe's kids but also for the beloved quilt booth at the St. Joe's annual picnic. We are so indebted not only to Helen Schmitt, but also to the entire Sewing Society who devote so much time to supporting St. Joe's kids. The Sewing Society was established in 1912 and we are so lucky to have them all in the St. Joe's family.

**Would you like to help St. Joe's kids during this holiday season?
Please make your gift today. www.sjkids.org or contact Development Director
Andrea Pridham at 502-893-0241 or andreap@sjkids.org**

**On behalf of the children
served at St. Joseph
Children's Home,
we would like to invite
you to our**



2017 Schedule
January 19
April 20
June 22
July 13
September 21

Please RSVP to attend:
sallyw@sjkids.org
or 502-893-0241

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