

IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY ONE FAMILY AT A TIME!



SUMMER NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016



THE CEO's CORNER

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It's hard to believe that summer 2016 has finally arrived! Although winter was surprisingly mild, spring came in like a lion! From chilly nights to cloudy mornings, it was evident that seasons were changing. Then, just like that, another change has come! The sun is shining bright. The stars and moon are filling the night sky. The streets are full of children's laughter and beaches across the country are crowded with vacationers, water sportsmen, and locals alike. It's in climates like these that it's easy to forget the needs of some. Yes, change has come for those like you and me. But, for the poor, homeless, and destitute of the city, it's "just another day."

So often, when the cares of life weigh you down, it's impossible to see the sunshine and light at the end of the tunnel. For those served by Genesis Outreach, Inc. - the poorest of the poor - the plight of their hopelessness coupled with the realities of their meager existence can become too much to bear. Where do you turn when every well has dried up? Cash is low, food is scarce, housing options are limited, and your pride is depleted. You've utilized every resource

you could and still are falling short. You may even be working, yet that's not enough to meet all of your needs either. This is where we can help.

Genesis Outreach, Inc. provides a safe environment for homeless individuals and families to excel in developing acceptable physical, social, and mental practices in "everyday living" and life management. All services are dedicated to the preservation and reunification of families by offering affordable housing opportunities leading to permanent housing, self-sufficiency, and sobriety. We work to rescue the poor and underserved from tipping over the brink of poverty into homelessness, crises, or worse yet, criminal activity. Additionally, we strive to give a "hand up" versus a "hand out" to ensure that systemic change is taking place in the families that we serve.

Albert J. Brownlee

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR 2015—2016 DONORS

Genesis Outreach, Inc. believes in the adage that “it takes a village to raise a child.” Without resources, our efforts to help the homeless remain only good intentions. However, with generous partners like you, we are able to respond in order to meet the needs of our residents. We truly believe we can do what we do in large part because of the generosity and financial giving of others. Our work is a partnership with many, including you!

Trudy Adams
Apartment Association of Fort
Wayne—Northeast Indiana
Baker Street Restaurant
Ann Blue
Charles Brockmeyer
Ayana Brooks
Gina Brooks
Sondra Brooks
Josiah & Kasandra Brown
Albert & Tamarah Brownlee
Gene & Dorothy Brownlee
Terence Brownlee
Cirque de Soleil
K&N Carpet
Pastor Donovan Coley
Lorraine Craig
Angela Daughtery
Kayla Davis
Shauna Davis-Hughes
Connie Denton
Helen Durham
Econolodge
Family Dollar Stores
FedEx Kinko's
David G. Fisher
Linda Golden
Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church

Larry Gautsche
Mary Harris
Bishop E.C. Haywood
Pastor Mark Haywood
Hilton Hotel at the Grand Wayne
Hupe Insurance
Tara Jellison
Celeste Johnson
Erica Jones
Michael Kellogg
Louis King
King's Barber Shop
Elise Klingaman
Jenetta B. Knox
Karen B. Knox
William Law
Vendredi Lee
Christine Lindsey
Karla Lynch-Jackson
Phillip & Beth Lock
Edith Marquissee
Laleta McClure
Greta McKinney
Pastor Brenda Morrell
Pastor David & Deshawn Moore
John Niederman
Panera Bread
Allen Person

Pizza Hut
Hy & Marie Plimpton
Thomas Potter
Alex Presley
Robin Ramsey
Renaissance Pointe YMCA
Rescue Ministries, Inc.
Henry Etta Savage
Dee Scott
Trinity English Lutheran
Church
Caroline Shook
Justin Ruffin
Victory Worship Center
Fatima Washington
Louise Washington
Lawrence & Everleina Wattley
Beth Wenzel
Judah White
LaToya Williams
Renetta Williams
Square Williams
Willie David Entertainment
Julian Woods
Gwen Woodson
Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

SAVE THE DATE!



Mark your calendars for **the 28th Year Celebration and 1st Annual Gala** to be held on Saturday, October 29, 2016. The evening will feature dinner, silent auction, dessert reception, and a live theatrical performance of the Broadway/Tony Award Winning Hit Musical, *Ain't Misbehavin'!* If you are interested in being an event sponsor or purchasing a table, call 260-744-2800 or email info@genesisoutreach.org.

IPFW, INDIANA TECH, AND GENESIS OUTREACH JOIN HANDS TO FIGHT HOMELESSNESS

On Saturday, April 16, 2016 students from IPFW and Indiana Tech joined hands to help renovate a home to house a local homeless family. It was nearly two weeks before, that a young mother - who had recently lost her job - along with her daughter entered the doors of Genesis Outreach, Inc. seeking assistance. She had previously been "couch surfing" (staying overnight with relatives and friends) at the time, but desperately longed to find affordable, stable housing of her own and regain control of her life. The homeless mother had been referred to Genesis Outreach by a family friend who was being served through our permanent supportive housing program, Promising Partnerships.



Through the Promising Partnerships program, Genesis Outreach, Inc. provides permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless families and individuals whom, except for housing, would not receive supportive services, and except for support services, would not remain housed. Program participants become self-sufficient while gaining stability, economic empowerment, and enhanced community development and neighborhood impact. Success is measured by increasing income and maintaining housing for 12 months without experiencing future episodes of homelessness.

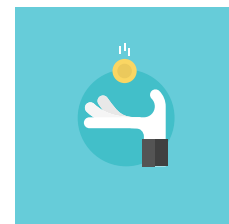


Within weeks of creating a housing and self-sufficiency plan with Genesis case management staff, the mother was able to obtain full time employment, childcare assistance, and was ready to start her new journey. Special thanks to the IPFW and Indiana Tech students along with residents of Genesis Outreach programs that volunteered for a combined 40 hours to quickly repair and renovate a dilapidated, vacant house in east central Fort Wayne that once was a community eyesore, but now is a lovely home.

It's through partnership like these that Genesis Outreach is impacting local homelessness one family at a time! If you are interested in making a donation to end homelessness call our offices at 260-744-2800 or visit us online at www.genesisoutreach.org/donate.

MATCH DONATIONS

Special thanks to our statewide housing partners for their donated match contributions totaling \$297,158 to the Promising Partnerships permanent supportive housing project. Truly, it takes a village to save a community and Genesis Outreach, Inc. appreciates your support of its housing initiatives taking place in northeast Indiana! Hats off to Housing Opportunities, Inc., La Casa, Inc., and Pathfinders Services, Inc.



MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY ASSOCIATION

Genesis Outreach, Inc. supports the MDA: On June 2, 2016, Fatima Washington, Assistant Director of Genesis Outreach, Inc. participated in the 2016 MDA Lock Up of Fort Wayne. Fatima became a jailbird for the afternoon in hopes of raising funds and awareness in the local community regarding kids and adults with muscular dystrophy, ALS and related life-threatening diseases. By finding research breakthroughs across diseases, caring for individuals from day one and empowering families with services and support in hometowns across America, the MDA help kids and adults live longer and grow stronger.



INTERN REFLECTIONS



My name is David Fisher and I graduated magna cum laude in May 2015 from Manchester University with a Bachelor of Art in Social Work. A requirement for the degree is a spring internship. Genesis Outreach came to my attention through Indiana Intern website. Working with the homeless population hadn't been on my radar, but I tried for it anyway. My time at Genesis was challenging and rewarding. I started the internship rather unclear of who I was as a social worker. By the end of my time with Genesis, I had a clear view and voice as a social worker. My confidence had risen and I felt better prepared to enter into the social work field. I want to thank everyone involved with Genesis from staff to residents. My time there is something very special to me. As I head into my masters' program, I know that I have the skills needed because I honed them with Genesis.

THE CURT W. FUHS TRUST

On behalf of the Board of Directors, staff, and residents of Genesis Outreach, Inc., I would like to thank the family of Curt W. Fuhs for a recent contribution of \$20,000. Funds were provided for operational and programmatic support of the Grace Haven emergency shelter, Genesis House transitional shelter, and Promising Partnerships permanent supportive housing programs. Born in Fort Wayne, on December 27, 1930, Curt W. Fuhs served in the US Marine Corp. He worked as a buyer at Magnavox (where he sang as a baritone in the company chorus), then as a manager of Hobson Road Laundry, and he retired as owner of Mr. Curt's Lawn Service. He was a member of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church for most of his life. A lifelong bachelor, he lived simply, saving most of what he earned to create a substantial charitable trust. Mr. Fuhs passed away on August 27, 2012, but his memory and spirit lives on in the work that his family continues to do in his honor throughout the community. Thanks for being a part of the Genesis Outreach family!

NEW STAFF MEMBERS



Steffan Rice joined the Genesis Outreach team in the spring of 2016 as the Senior Case Manager. In this role, Steffan provides homebased case management, advocacy, and family reunification services to residents of the Genesis House transitional living program and families in distress throughout northeast

Indiana. A graduate of Indiana Tech, Steffan received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology in 2011. He has over 6 years of social service field experience involving youth mentorship, family services, and crisis intervention.



Celeste Johnson is the newest member of the Genesis Outreach staff. As the Client Services Coordinator, Celeste develops life skills classes to support long-term program goals of increased self-sufficiency, maintenance of sobriety, and family reunification.

She is currently a candidate for an Associates in Leadership and Biblical Studies at Crossroads Bible College. An ordained minister and certified early childhood educator, Celeste is a proven servant-leader who appreciates helping others achieve their fullest God-given potential.

ADDITIONAL NEW HIRES

Tiffany Townsend, Resident Assistant and LaSean Cole, Maintenance Technician

A TRIP TO THE CIRCUS!

On Friday, May 13, 2016, Genesis House residents and their children attended the Garden Brothers Circus at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. This evening of family fun and entertainment was done in conjunction with Greater Christ Temple Church which provided transportation for children of residents living out of town to come to Fort Wayne for the weekend and to attend the circus event along with staff members of Genesis Outreach, Inc. In addition to a carnival-like atmosphere and pre-show, the Garden Brothers Circus had everything you'd expect to see from elephants to tigers to death-defying acrobatics. The pre-show included motorcycle daredevils somersaulting and spinning in a big Globe of Doom. While the main event pulled out all the stops with Chinese acrobats, a human slingshot, racing camels, crazy comedy with circus clowns, daring aerialists, skilled musicians, and impromptu audience participation during a dance sequence at the end. Truly, it was a night to remember!





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In addition to AmazonSmile, Goodshop is another avenue through which you can support Genesis by shopping online. All it takes is a user account, selecting to support Genesis, and finding the products you're looking for. Click the link!

goodsearch.com/how-it-works



Genesis Outreach, Inc. was awarded a grant from St. Joseph Community Health Foundation

and Parkview Health for its HEALing Kitchen project. As an official partner of the Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative, Genesis Outreach will create awareness and linkage to opportunities to lead to better health and wellness especially in low income, food dessert areas of Allen County. 14 residents of the Genesis House transitional living program will attend 8 cooking classes along with life skills seminars that include nutrition and budgeting between July and August 2016 as a part of the HEALing Kitchen project. Linda Golden, former Executive Director of Genesis Outreach, Inc. and owner of Mother's Catering, LLC, will serve as the course instructor. Special thanks to St. Joseph Community Health Foundation and Parkview Health for its generous contribution!

***Special thanks to our
community partner, Family
& Children Services, Inc.,
and Stephen Jarrell for their
donation of office/lobby
furnishings!***

THE DOORS OF GENESIS ARE BEING OPENED

In an effort to alleviate access limitations by persons who require the use of wheelchairs, Genesis Outreach, Inc. is making accessibility improvements at its administrative office building located at 2605 Gay Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46803. Since our founding in 1988, Genesis Outreach, Inc. has provided affordable housing assistance, supportive services, and case management to residents of northeast Indiana. Over the years, as housing needs have increased and local homelessness has risen, more individuals and families who are physically and/or mentally disabled have applied to our programs or sought emergency assistance. This has brought a heightened awareness by the Board of Directors and organizational leadership for the need to ensure that ALL persons have equal access to the administrative building where the housing services office is located and applications are submitted.



A local contractor, Wen Way Construction, partnered with Genesis Outreach, Inc. to install the ramp and widen the entry door at a reduced cost. Additional lighting improvements and signage are being made throughout July to provide added safety and security to those accessing the building during early morning or evening hours. Funding for the project has been provided by the AWS Foundation through its Mighty Money Grant program. Thank you to all who have participated in this much needed renovation and enhancement of services for the disabled community of northeast Indiana.

LOCAL CHURCHES LEND A HELPING HAND

As with life, rainy days come and go. However, when you are a low-income family struggling to do all you can to make ends meet, rainy days can seem like torrential floods. Recently, several families being served by Genesis Outreach, Inc. simultaneously experienced severe housing challenges and personal crises that were seemingly insurmountable. Homelessness seemed imminent with no immediate resolve in sight. That is, until a few local ministries partnered with Genesis Outreach, Inc. to ensure that the families remained in place and their emergent needs were fully met. With combined donations of nearly \$4,000, we were able to provide affordable housing assistance, essential supportive services, and basic needs supplies to all of the families in need, bringing them to immediate stabilization and allowing them to continue upward mobility towards self-sufficiency. Special thanks to Abundant Life Church, Greater Christ Temple Church, and Rescue Ministries for your generosity, servant-leadership, and benevolence!

Likewise, Pathway Community Church, made a \$10,000 donation to the Promising Partnerships program to ensure its ongoing contribution in ending community homelessness. Promising Partnerships provides permanent supportive housing for approximately 220 homeless individuals in Allen County whom, except for housing, would not receive supportive services, and except for support services, would not remain housed. Through this project, persons in need of long-term housing become self-sufficient while gaining stability, economic empowerment, and enhanced community development and neighborhood impact. It's truly because of partners such as these that Genesis Outreach, Inc. continues to exist! Thank you kindly and may God bless you always.

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Albert T. Brownlee
CEO

Fatima Washington
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Candice Hall
COUNSELOR

Gina Brooks
HOUSING SERVICES MANAGER

Steffan Rice
SENIOR CASE MANAGER

Celeste Johnson
CLIENT SERVICES COORDINATOR

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Helen Durham
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Ayana Brooks
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FACILITIES
Isaac Brooks
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Akenya Surry
Judah White
LaSean Cole

Genesis Outreach, Inc.
2605 Gay Street | Fort Wayne, IN 46803
Office :: (260) 744-2800 | Fax :: (260) 744-2811

✉ info@genesisoutreach.org
🌐 genesisoutreach.org
📘 Facebook // Genesis Outreach, Inc.

Impacting Our Community One Family at a Time!



Genesis Outreach is dedicated to the preservation and reunification of the families we serve. We provide affordable housing opportunities and programs with the purpose and hope that they will lead to permanent housing, self-sufficiency, and long-term sobriety.