

THE GATE POST

Your connection to the ongoing work and news of Gateway Woods



GATEWAY WOODS

Apostolic Christian Children's Home

888.443.GATE (4283) | gatewaywoods.org

◀ Inside This Issue ▶

Summer Volunteer Program | Touching Hearts & Souls
Career Opportunities | Auction News | A Mom's Testimony
Adjusting To A New Reality | Scholarship Opportunities



Home-Based worker Marc Grim (L) talks with teen client.
The heart of Home-Based Services is prevention.

PREVENTING THE PROBLEM

By Marc Grim, Home-Based Services Worker

Last year, I transitioned from being a Houseparent to a Home-Based Services worker. I have found this new role to be one of the most practical ministries of Gateway Woods. During the time my wife Diann and I were Houseparents, residents were on our turf here on campus. By contrast, I now have the opportunity to meet families in their own homes. This provides a greater level of comfort for the family and makes the service feel less clinical. I am able to work with families on real life problems and we are able to observe the family dynamic in real time. Clients seem to be very willing to open up about some of their most private and sensitive challenges.

During this recession, financial problems seem to be priority number one for many of our families. We are able to help encourage families to get on a budget and to learn to use their financial resources in more effective ways.

Home-Based Services started in 1998 with one staff person. Today we have 4 staff who are committed to making a difference in the lives of troubled families. In 2008, our program served 53 clients and in 2009 we served 162 clients!

The heart of Home-Based Services is prevention. Last year Gateway Woods received a subcontract that allows us to provide private in-home services to troubled families who are not yet “in the system”. This is a very exciting and challenging tool to help families before the state must get involved. We are thankful for every opportunity we have to share Christ with others.

As a Home-Based Services worker, I have also been blessed to see several generous acts of giving by our supporters. One of our donors provided a car to a struggling family in desperate need of transportation for a job. This unexpected gift brought the family to tears and has produced a motivation that would not have been possible otherwise. They were able to see for the first time that there are people in this world whom they have never met that care deeply about them.

ANSWERING THE CALL

By John Stoller, Foster Care Manager

“Do you have a home for two little boys,” the County Caseworker asked? “The oldest is 22 months and the other is 10 days old. The 22 month-old can’t sit without props and was tested positive for methamphetamine. The 10 day-old little boy is in the hospital. He also tested positive for methamphetamine and there could be other complications that we are not aware of at this time,” she said. “Both parents tested positive for methamphetamine and are not willing to change their ways. If they don’t change, we will terminate parental rights and these boys will be up for adoption.”

I replied, “Let me call one of our foster families to see if they would consider taking these two little boys.” I called a Christian foster family and explained the situation.

“We will pray about it and get back with you,” they said. They soon called back and said they would take both of the little boys! They know it is going to change the dynamics of their home. They know there will be nights when they will lose sleep because the boys will not settle down. They know this could be a long process. They also know they have been ‘called’ to this ministry.

“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? To loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?” Isaiah 58:6-7

The Foster Care department at Gateway Woods is one that is not very visible. A visitor to the campus would not see the foster children and yet there are seven employees working in this department in the administration building. Foster Care has grown rapidly in the past three years from 16 to 55 children in our care. Our Case Managers have frequent contact with the foster parents and children. Each child comes with a different heart-wrenching story. We are thankful for every child we can place in a safe Christian home where they will have not only their physical needs met, but also their spiritual needs.

Foster Care is a ministry where families can work together as missionaries in their own home. Some are in their fifties and are empty nesters but have an extra bedroom or two. Some are younger with children of their own. Each one has a testimony of how God called them. We are thankful there are those who are willing to listen to the call of God and step out of their comfort zone to share their lives, their hearts, and their homes.

“For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger...” Matthew 25:35

MODELING CHRIST’S EXAMPLE BY SERVING

By Joel Stickling, ‘10 Summer Volunteer Coordinator

I have always seen Gateway Woods as a place of opportunity. Opportunities for the children there to learn about Christ and change their life, for the staff to teach and mentor the children, and for volunteers to show Christ to the children in their daily walk. Last summer I served as an education intern at Gateway Woods School. I am thankful to be serving as the Volunteer Coordinator this year and look forward to working with volunteers from all over the Midwest and beyond.

If you are age 19 or older, please consider taking the opportunity to serve at Gateway Woods during the summer



“I urge you to pray about getting involved with this ministry and the children that make Gateway Woods so special.”

months. Every year those who give of themselves and work around campus have richly blessed Gateway Woods. I am excited to see what this summer holds! No matter the length of time you are able to come out, I would urge you to pray about getting involved with this ministry and the children that make Gateway Woods so special.

Please visit our website: GatewayWoods.org/supporters/volunteer to fill out a Volunteer Application or contact Joel at (888) 443-4283 or his cell at (309) 397-8309 with any questions you may have.

TOUCHING HEARTS & SOULS

By Jeff Schumacher, Administrator

First of all, thank you for your support in 2009 and again in 2010. Our faithful supporters have wonderfully blessed Gateway Woods over the years in so many different ways. Because our God answers prayer, the single most effective way to help our ministry is to PRAY! Whether it is praying that the Lord will move in the hearts of fellow believers to work here (*see p. 3*), or that hearts and lives can be changed by the love and truth of Christ, or that we will have needed finances, prayer is essential.

Your gift of time is always appreciated. We are gearing up for our summer volunteer program. We are very thankful to have Joel Stickling as our summer Volunteer Coordinator. Please encourage the young adults in your church to talk with Joel or visit the volunteer page on our website: GatewayWoods.org/supporters/volunteer.

You can also support Gateway Woods by donating to and attending our Annual Auction on Saturday, August 7th. Please consider helping us fill some of the open volunteer slots that keep our Auction running so smoothly.

“Including all of our services, the total number of clients we serve had increased from 214 in 2007 to 390 in 2009! This growth is exciting but also sobering as we are reminded again how much we need our supporters to help as we touch hearts and souls.”

Your financial support is critical to the growth and sustainability of our five programs, especially in these uncertain economic times. While we receive much of our operating funds from public agencies, looking forward it appears that the state will be a less reliable funding source, thus our dependence on our supporters will increase.

Over the years we have ministered to many privately placed children in our Residential Program, most of whom are from Apostolic families. We are humbled and honored to serve our churches. At this time we have seven residents from families who can only pay a portion of the total cost of care.

I ask you to please remember all of these needs as you consider your support for Gateway Woods. Again, thank you for partnering with us as we continue to minister to children and families in need.



Teacher Christy Wiegand (L) has the opportunity to teach several privately placed children in our Residential Program, most of whom are from Apostolic families.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AT GATEWAY WOODS

Praise God for His continued provision at Gateway Woods! We are very thankful that He continues to provide us with the right staff. Here are some career opportunities waiting to be filled.

Job Title	Job Duties	Qualifications
Assistant Houseparent	Assist Houseparents in a supportive role as a third adult in the household helping to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the residents. Work closely with brothers and sisters whose hearts and lives are dedicated to a common mission with an eternal reward.	Be at least 21 years old and have good communication skills, teamwork skills, self-motivation and flexibility. Be sensitive to the special emotional and physical needs of Gateway Woods' residents and have a dedication and love for young people.
Alternate Houseparent	Houseparenting at Gateway Woods offers an opportunity for a couple, directed of the Lord, to come to work in a full-time on going ministry at Gateway Woods.	Be at least 21 years old, have a solid marriage, and have good communication skills, teamwork, motivation and flexibility. Be sensitive to the special emotional and physical needs of residents and have a dedication and love for young people.
Illinois Adoption Manager	Oversee program start-up and development of Licensed Child Placing Agency in central Illinois. Perform adoption home-studies and other adoptive placement tasks. Promote Gateway Woods' adoption services to churches and the community.	At least a Master's Degree in Social Work from an accredited school and three years work experience in social work administration OR a Master's Degree in human services field and five years of work experience in human services administration.

The above full-time positions offer competitive wages and benefits. To inquire about these opportunities, please call us at (888) 443-4283. All applicants must be members of the Apostolic Christian Church.

◀ Gateway Woods Auction ▶

August 7, 2010

Mark your calendars for our 34th Annual Auction on Saturday August 7, 2010! Our theme this year is "Family, It's Who We Are." Every year Gateway Woods is impacting hundreds of families through its five programs.

Our hope is that your family will attend this wonderful event and experience a day filled with Christian fellowship, delicious food, and generous giving. We rely on you, our supporters, to donate items to be auctioned, to volunteer on the days prior to and on Auction day, to purchase Auction items, and to earnestly pray for God's blessings on this powerful event.

Please visit our Auction page on our website: GatewayWoods.org/supporters/annual-auction for important reminders and information regarding this event. We will also have an insert specifically for our Auction in the summer Gate Post.



Please join us on Saturday, August 7th for our Annual Auction. We depend on your support to continue to reach more children and families in need.

DEDICATED TO CHANGING LIVES

By A Day Student's Mom

In 2008 I thought my daughter Alena was lost to me forever. She had F's in every class her freshman year of high school. She was involved in a gang, doing drugs, and who knows what else.



"Alena was not only given a good education foundation but a formula for life. Not only did Gateway Woods help to save a life but a family as well.

Through a series of events, Alena was incarcerated at the local youth detention facility. Her dad, step-mom, and I were trying to find a youth home for her that was far away from Fort Wayne to get her away from the gang she was in.

I spent many days crying and mourning the loss of my daughter. I knew if we sent her away I might never see her again.

But God had other plans. At the detention facility, Alena was given a psych evaluation by a student intern and it was horribly inaccurate – not by my judgment but by her therapist's opinion. That psych evaluation was so bad that none of the youth homes wanted to admit her to their programs.

We decided to look into a local solution and turned to Gateway Woods. During all of this, I had been let go from General Motors and was unemployed. We didn't even know if we would be able to afford this lifeline even if they would take Alena. It was a very frightening time in my life.

We made an appointment to talk to Tim Wiegand about the possibility of Alena coming to Gateway Woods School. At that point he had not read the psych evaluation. By the time we had come for an interview, the psych evaluation had landed on his desk. We were feeling pretty hopeless by then.

When Tim Wiegand called us after the interview to say that Gateway Woods was willing to take a chance on Alena

(when no one else would), I cried, not tears of sadness but tears of relief.

With that hurdle out of the way our next problem was financing. Alena's dad had very little money and I was unemployed. I would have done just about anything to help pay for this lifeline that had been handed to us. Gateway Woods not only took a big chance on Alena, they helped us fund her expenses as well.

What kind of price can you put on a life saved? As a popular TV commercial says – it's priceless.

I hold here in my hand Alena's most recent report card. A+'s and B's and written across the bottom are the words "honor roll recipient." I am the proudest mom in the world! But the people who should be most proud of this accomplishment are Alena for her hard work and the staff of Gateway Woods School. They poured their love, biblical principles, and dedication to changing my daughter's heart.

Alena is a life changed because of the work being done there. She was not only given a good education foundation but a formula for life. Not only did Gateway Woods help to save a life but a family as well.

Thank you staff! You changed our lives and gave us the most precious gift of all, our daughter!

STRESS & STRETCH ADJUSTING TO A NEW REALITY

By Tim Sauder, Advancement Director



"In preparation for this uncertain future and for the sake of good stewardship our programs are making cuts and being more resourceful."

In our last issue we shared some of the threats and challenges of our economy. We promised to share some of the ways Gateway Woods is adjusting. But before we do that, some thanksgiving is in order. While donations and our Annual Auction were down in 2009, we were delightfully surprised by your Christmas and end-of-year giving which were 3% higher than last year. We thank God for our faithful supporters who perhaps responded to the reality that we have more kids than ever in our care 24-7 while previous donations were down. (From 2007 to 2009 our client numbers for all programs combined have increased from 214 to 392 or 83%!) Or perhaps it was because the agriculture sector of our support base had bumper crops. These donations provided a counterbalance to the slow housing and construction sectors of our supporters. Whatever it was, we are very thankful.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." 1 Corinthians 4:2

Looking forward however, we remain quite concerned. Issues with public funding by the state of Indiana, which provides nearly 70% of our program operating revenues, are still unsettling now and unclear in the long term. In preparation for this uncertain future and for the sake of good stewardship, our programs are making cuts and being more resourceful.

- Gateway Woods School has found grants to use for staff training and to cover our Teacher's Aide's salary for half the year- a \$15,000 savings. A Butter Braid fund-raiser by faculty and students provided funds to purchase new calculators and equipment. Our number of students has increased by 13% while maintaining the same faculty level.
- Our Home-Based Services staff who are on the road a lot are sharing offices, using less expensive computers, and making due with much older cars. They have submitted grants to fund portions of their services to troubled children and families.
- Our Foster Care Staff and parents held a buffalo burger dinner with meat supplied by one of our foster families that raised over \$3000 and built community relations.
- Through volume purchasing, effective use of food banks, and raising our own beef and pork, our Residential Treatment Program has cut its food budget by 25% even as our census has grown.

We are aware that our donors have had to sacrifice and economize in order to maintain their level of support for our ministry. We are inspired, challenged, and then compelled to make the best use of dollars, facilities, and manpower while effectively turning lives around to Christ. May God grant the increase!

2010 SCHOLARSHIPS

By Andrew Gerber, PR Coordinator

Every year, Gateway Woods awards scholarships to students enrolled in undergraduate or postgraduate work leading to a degree in a social services field. The scholarships are available to any member of the Apostolic Christian Church or friend who attends on a regular basis.

These scholarships can be used to pay for tuition, books or other related educational costs. A previous recipient thanked us by saying "As a fulltime graduate student in clinical psychology, with a wife and newborn baby to support, the Gateway Woods social services

scholarship was extremely helpful in making ends meet. I am now a full-time therapist, and extremely grateful to Gateway Woods for facilitating my graduate training in this field."

Previous applicants and recipients are also invited to reapply. There is no employment commitment on behalf of Gateway Woods associated with the award of a scholarship. A description of the scholarship and application are available on our website: GatewayWoods.org/supporters/scholarship or by contacting Andrew Gerber by phone (888) 443-4283 or email andrew.gerber@gatewaywoods.org. Applications need to be returned to Gateway Woods by June 15, 2010.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;" Colossians 3:23

SERVICES

PHONE 888.443.GATE (4283) FAX 260.627.3601 WEB gatewaywoods.org

Residential Child Care, Teen Mothers, Gateway Woods School, Home-Based Services, Foster Care & Adoption



14505 Klopfenstein Road
P.O. Box 151
Leo, Indiana 46765

place
non-profit indica
here

Change Service Requested