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 Enhance Adriel's Yoder Activity Center

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## **Enhance Adriel's Yoder Activity Center**

Honor the legacy of John L. Yoder with your support



In 1986, the Yoder Activity Center was built to house Adriel's school and residential summer programs. This new building, named in memory of John L. Yoder, included classrooms, a gymnasium, a kitchen and cafeteria. The uses of the Yoder Activity Center have since transformed. Adriel still utilizes this space for special events, but now the building has expanded its reach to serve other organizations in the

community. Currently the Yoder Activity Center provides an arena for the special education of high needs youth through the Madison - Champaign County ESC. When possible, the building is also used by local churches, has hosted events for local youth sports organizations, has been used as a Logan County election polling site, and has provided a place to gather to share in the West Liberty Community Christmas meal. After 35 years of use, the Yoder building is in need of a new roof and a replacement heating system for the current boiler. Thanks to generous donors, we have reached almost 50% of our fundraising goal needed to support this additional cost above and beyond Adriel's budget for regular maintenance and upkeep. Your donation to this Capital Project provides the funds needed to keep this building running and serving the West Liberty and surrounding communities. If you would like to support this current fundraising campaign, please visit https://adriel.networkforgood.com/ and designate your donation to the 2022 Yoder Building Capital Campaign or complete the included donation form.



Improvements have begun on Adriel's Yoder Activity Center roof! Help us reach 100% of our campaign fundraising goal. Visit adriel.org to learn more.

## The Faith Journey of a Former Foster Youth

Jonah celebrated his baptism just before his 30th birthday. Despite leaving the foster care system almost a decade ago, he wanted to use this opportunity to bring awareness to foster care. So Jonah invited all the support people in his life to help share his testimony and success story. Adriel's Director of Foster Care Placement and Compliance, Rhonda Peterson, was blessed to be a part of Jonah's baptism ceremony. Rhonda was a consultant at Adriel during Jonah's foster care placement. Rhonda reflects on Jonah's journey since that time, explaining that Jonah far exceeded the expectations that others put on him. "Others put limits on Jonah but he did not allow those limitations to prevent him from being successful."

Jonah was adopted at birth with his twin brother but when his adopted family experienced a tragedy, Jonah was placed in the foster care system at the age of 13 alone. He moved through several foster homes until he was able to emancipate at the age of 21. Despite Jonah's struggles, he is now thriving - Jonah has his own car and place to live, works full time, and is an active member of his church. A woman named Roxie provided respite to Jonah throughout his time in care and has remained a steady support in Jonah's life beyond his time in foster care. Jonah recalls fond memories of going bowling and eating 'greasy hamburgers' and was planning to spend his 30th birthday enjoying dinner with Roxie and her family. Another constant in Jonah's life has been his faith. Although Jonah's adopted family attended occasional church services and celebrated Catholic holidays, it wasn't until Jonah was invited to join his foster family for a church service, that he really found his own faith and beliefs. At first he was hesitant to attend, but after going for the first time, he loved it! He became active in the youth group, met new people, and developed lasting friendships. After a leadership change within that particular

church, Jonah's friend introduced him to a new church: West Liberty First Church of God, where he has become an active member - and was recently baptized. Rhonda describes Jonah's journey as a beautiful example that the fruit of seeds sown now may not be seen for years to come and Adriel has been blessed to be a part of that journey!

one Lord, one faith, one baptism Ephesians 4:5 What would Jonah tell his 13-year-old self?

"You've come a long way"

"Keep doing what you are doing and you will succeed"

What would Jonah share with a child currently living in a foster home?

"The hard times will pass"

"Reach out to your support people and talk to those people you trust"

What advice would Jonah give to a foster family getting ready to provide a home for a foster child?

"Kids in care are hurt; consider love and have patience"

"Focus on praise; tell them when they are doing a good job"

"Counseling is key - not only for the youth but for the foster parents as individuals or couples"



Children come into foster care for a variety of reasons. Their families often struggle with poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, substance abuse, and child abuse or neglect in the home. When children come into foster care, they may be scared, hurt, and confused. They need someone to be a listener, a coach, a friend, and a guardian. They need someone to care.

We know it feels like a life-changing decision, and the truth is, you're right. Your love, support, and willing spirit will leave an enduring imprint on their hearts and yours. We know this based on more than a century of caring for children and foster families. We see it every time a new family decides to be the one. We've got your back. Will you help by being the ONE to have theirs?



Spring is always a wonderfully busy time here at Adriel. National Social Work Month takes place in March; Adriel staff and supporters wear blue in April to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month; Adriel celebrates National Foster Care Month throughout May with parties and events for our foster families; and Adriel recognizes Reunification Month in June.



# Adriel

# **Benefit Golf Scramble**

Monday **September 12, 2022** 12:30 PM

**Eagle Rock Golf Club** 211 Carpenter Road Defiance, Ohio

### Join us for a fun day of golf for a great cause!

Plenty of on-the-course games and prizes for the top three teams.

Proceeds benefit Adriel's foster care and adoption, clinical services, training, and family preservation programs.

Adriel serves over 400 children and families each year from Northwest Ohio and around the state.

### Register online at www.adriel.org or for more information, contact:

Kyrstin Marshall, Adriel Marketing Coordinator at 937-407-1190 or foundation@adriel.org Tiffany Nofziger, Adriel Golf Committee at 419-250-2898 or tiffyd3715@gmail.com





Adriel serves children and families throughout Ohio.

Visit our website at https://www.adriel.org/ and keep up to date with us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/Adriel.Inc.

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