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Adriel's Evolution of Services

For more than 120 years, Adriel has served the “least of these” in our community and surrounding areas through residential services, foster care and adoption, and family preservation. With our roots firmly planted in the Mennonite church, we have aimed to serve children who are most in need by providing quality care in the spirit of Christian love. The last few months brought changes to the services that Adriel provides.

After heartfelt prayers and much deliberation, our Board of Directors made the difficult decision to close our residential program. We made this decision with a heavy heart but with faith that God will lead our organization into a strong, new era. Our West Liberty campus gives us an opportunity to expand our services and begin planning for an Adriel that will provide new programming for youth in high quality ways for years to come.

This decision has not affected our Foster Care and Adoption or Family Preservation programs. Both of these programs are solid and well performing programs that are going strong. We are so blessed with many wonderful foster parents who love and support the children that have been entrusted to them.

Since its beginning, Adriel's mission and service to children has evolved with the needs of our population.

Adriel's history in serving children began when the Mennonite Orphan's home was opened in 1896 in Wayne County, Ohio before moving to its current location in West Liberty in 1900. The Glover Estate became the Mennonite Orphan's Home and a residence for children, mostly orphans, from throughout Ohio and surrounding states. Children, aged infants to late teens, resided at the property that is still home to the agency today.



In the 1950's state agencies began to play a larger role in the care of homeless and foster youth, and Adriel's board identified a new purpose and goal for the children's home. It soon began the organization's mission to serve developmentally disabled children and children with learning disabilities through a program specifically designed around the needs of this population. In 1957, Adriel School was opened and 11 teenagers were enrolled and resided on campus.

As children's and families' needs continued to change, so too did Adriel's programs. In 1982 Adriel became a multi-service treatment agency providing foster

care, residential services, day treatment, outpatient therapy and case management. Overtime, the foster care program expanded from the base office in West Liberty to regional offices in Archbold, Dublin and Toledo, Ohio allowing Adriel's foster care program to grow and serve exponentially more children. Today, we continue this tradition of serving the needs of families and children through the continuation of excellence in foster care and family preservation services.

We are confident that our programs and staff have given thousands of children the chance to heal from their past and acquire the tools that they need to move forward in life. We have always felt that God was guiding us through this mission even as the path has not always been easy. Working with children who have faced unimaginable hardships and who bring with them behavioral challenges is some of the most difficult work imaginable.

It is only through your support that we have been able to touch thousands of lives throughout our 120 year history. Thank you for your continued support and faith in our mission. We look forward to sharing stories of children's success and lifechanging experiences as we continue in this important work.

Ongoing Needs

- Financial Support
- Comfortors for Foster Children
- Hygiene Supplies
- Prayer Support

Paul* (now 1 year old) has been a huge blessing in our lives. At age 50ish we wonder why we have this desire to still be parents? God has blessed us with 5 (wonderful) biological children, our house is full and so is our schedule. Yet, for whatever reason we have had this desire in the past to do foster care but did not feel the time was right, until now. We have understood how blessed we are by God in many ways, and in some ways it feels to us that since God has so blessed us, is there any way we can try to bless others.

Paul was our first foster child placement. We were most interested in babies or young children. We picked Paul up at the hospital when he was 4 days old. He captured our hearts from the beginning and he continues to do that. Four out of our 5 children are living at home for this first year of Paul being with us and their help was incredibly appreciated but even more we appreciated their love for Paul and their enjoyment of him. Our church family and extended church family at school have also been huge supports and encouragements as they have loved Paul as much as if he was our own – and that has been a blessing as well.

An unexpected blessing has come in the form the relationships we have formed with Paul's biological parents. We have found them to be generous and loving parents who truly want what is best for Paul but in many ways have not had some of the support we enjoy. We find Paul is a lot like his Dad, very sociable



and likes to laugh and smile. He is amazingly cute, we chalk this up to his Mom as all his siblings are beautiful as well.

We were not sure how long we would have the blessing of Paul for. However, after having him for 7-8 months we had the strong desire to have him dedicated in our church as we have with our biological children. To us, a baby dedication is a fun time of formally saying that while we have many desires for Paul, our deepest desire is that he grows up in the church and learns to know Jesus and his family (the church). It is also a time where we remember that God has entrusted our children to us but we are attempting to raise them for him. It is a time when the church commits to helping in the raising and support of our kids as we cannot do this job alone, it takes a community.

And so, it seemed very natural to have Paul dedicated. It turned out to be a wonderful time for Trish and I and our family. Paul's dad came to the service. It would have been terrifying to me but he seemed right at home and to truly enjoy the service. We shared how the verse in

James about true religion taking care of orphans and widows spoke to us as we decided on doing foster care. Most of all we felt the overwhelming support of the family of God in the raising of Paul. Our church family has supported us in many ways throughout our lives and this experience has been no different. We relish the chance that Paul and his family have at enjoying the same support and love that we have found. Even more so, we relish the thought of them learning to know Jesus himself who alone can change us and give us joy and fulfillment in our lives.

We, of course, do not know the future. We do not know what tomorrow will bring. We do, however, know that God is good and he wants what is best for us and for Paul and his family. We will cherish the day of Paul's baby dedication as a wonderful memory and a sign of the future that he will enjoy. One of the many blessings that God has brought with Paul and his family in the life of our family.

*Name has been changed to protect child's privacy

Foster Care Mental Health Program

Adriel Foster Care Program offers youth in need of out-of-home placement the opportunity to live in a safe and loving home with a family in a community setting. While in out-of-home placement, some children and adolescents may benefit from counseling services to allow them to process their life experiences, work towards healing from trauma they have encountered, and/or address behaviors that may be causing problems for them at home or school. Adriel believes that mental health treatment for the youth we serve can be an essential part of promoting wellness.

Children and adolescents will be connected with a Master's level

clinician in the region in which the foster family resides through the Adriel consultant whom the family works with if it is determined that the child may benefit from therapeutic services. Foster families or case workers who are interested in services, should contact their consultant to discuss a referral being made. Clinicians work hand in hand with foster parents and guardians to bring a dynamic approach to treatment. Treatment is individualized and unique for every child, and clinicians use evidence-based and evidence-informed practices to guide treatment.

Some of the concerns that may be addressed while meeting with a clinician from Adriel are:

- Anger and Aggression
- Attachment Issues / Relationship Building
- Depression, Anxiety, Social Withdrawal
- Family Changes and Transitions
- High Risk Behaviors
- Inattention/Impulsivity
- Non-Compliance with Authority
- Parent-Child/Family Functioning
- Poor Social Skills
- Trauma/Grief/Loss

Additionally, consultants and clinicians can help with making a referral for a child in foster care to see a psychiatrist, as well, if it is felt by the team that the child may benefit from a medication evaluation in addition to therapy services.

New Office Space in Defiance

With office space in West Liberty, Dublin, Toledo and Archbold, Ohio, Adriel serves 42 counties with foster care and family preservation programs providing foster care services, opportunities for supervised and enhanced family visitation between children in foster homes and their biological families, respite care and family coaching.

In January, Adriel hosted an open house for the satellite office recently opened in Defiance, Ohio. The space, located at The Compass, provides three rooms where Adriel employees can offer services and programming to families in need.

“At the Defiance office we provide supervised visitation when a child is removed from their biological home,

therapy services to children in our foster care program and many other services,” said Jessica Smith, Director of Foster Care and Adoptions. “The Northwest region office staff are doing a fantastic job, and experiencing growth in all areas of programming. This new space allows for us to continue to provide family preservation and foster care services to as many families as possible.”

The Defiance, Ohio office space serves an average of 15 families each week through its programs. The January open house allowed the public to view its new office space and visitation spaces, learn more about Adriel and its mission, as well as learn more about becoming a foster parent.

“Adriel will continue to do our best to provide services that better families and children in Ohio,” said Todd Hanes, Adriel CEO/President. “This new space is exciting for our agency but also exciting for the many families that will be served by the wonderful staff that see their mission as aligning with our own of providing quality care to children in the spirit of Christian love.”



Important Upcoming Dates and Events

Adriel Yard Sale

Friday, May 19th &
Saturday, May 20th

500 N. Detroit Street
West Liberty, Ohio

Proceeds benefit Adriel's
programs and the
children served through
Adriel

Family Fun Night

Benefit Auction

Fri., Oct 20, 4-7 PM
Sat., Oct 21, 10AM

500 N. Detroit Street
West Liberty, Ohio

Chili Cook-Off, Family
Friendly Games, Music,
Food, Auction, Gift Shop
and Food

Adriel Ice Cream

Social

July 20th

Ruihley Park, Archbold,
Ohio

Proceeds benefit the
Adriel Auxillary and
Adriel's Programs

Adriel Golf

Outing

Monday, September
11th

Eagle Rock Golf Course,
Defiance, Ohio

Proceeds Benefit Adriel's
Programs and the
children served



If you have questions or concerns or would like to make a donation, please contact
Terri McGarry, Director of Development at terri.mcgarry@adriel.org
or 937-465-0010, ext. 113 - Thank You!



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