

Inside This Issue . . .

Cover Story:

- The Warmth of Our Hearts
- Making Your Donation Dollars Go Further

Also:

- Adriel Is Growing...
- From the CEO
- Creating A Foundation...
- Building Bridges...
- From Adriel Board Chairperson
- Adriel Day At Cedar Point
- Welcome New Adriel Staff



The Warmth of Our Hearts

Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together make this world a beautiful garden.

We thank you for your ongoing support of our vision and mission to serve children in the spirit of Christian love. Your donations, volunteer hours, and prayers give these young people a stronger foundation on which they can build upstanding lives.

This year we are focused on discovering new ways to increase the efficiency of your donation dollars and providing greater opportunities for youth in our programs.

One way we are looking to do this is by cutting the cost of producing a paper copy of the *Adriel Action* newsletter. By signing up to **receive the newsletter electronically**, you can help us redistribute thousands of dollars to the programs that directly impact our youth. (*Learn more about this and how to sign up for the newsletter below.*)

We are also looking to provide foster families with extra assistance during **Adriel Day at Cedar Point**. In the past, admission for this day was discounted for foster families. This year we would like to **cover the cost of admission** for all of the foster youth attending, alleviating the financial burden to the foster parents who do so much to help these children. (*Find out more about this event on page 4.*)

Another focus this year is empowering our youth by helping them develop the skills they need to become successful adults. The **Adriel Independent Living Program** provides teens in foster care with life



skills classes to help them navigate living on their own and the opportunity to “buy” much-needed items for their new homes through the Independent Living Catalog. The funds to support the catalog are low, so we are asking for your donations to enable us to purchase these much-needed items to help our youth start their new lives as adults. (*Learn more about this program on page 3.*)

If you would like to donate to either pay for foster children admission into Cedar Point on Adriel Day or support our Independent Living program, please use the enclosed envelope or visit our donation page at Adriel.org. Please designate in the Note field on your check or the website which service you would like your donation to go toward by putting “Adriel Day at Cedar Point” or “Independent Living Program.”

All of your donations enhance the lives of the children we serve, empower them to thrive throughout their lives, and exhilarate everyone touched by Adriel to see the wondrous love of God in everything we do.

Thank you again for your support of Adriel.

Don't forget to Like us on Facebook and share with your friends and family!

MAKING YOUR DONATION DOLLARS GO FURTHER

In order to remain good stewards of your donation dollars, we are asking for your assistance to help us take the *Adriel Action* newsletter to the next level by signing up to receive the newsletter via email.

Each year, it takes thousands of dollars to create, print and mail this informative newsletter. By signing up to receive *Adriel Action* in your email inbox, you choose to enable us to use the money we receive to more directly influence children's lives.

Those thousands of dollars can be used for program development, providing valuable youth and family services, and extending foster care and parenting training opportunities.

It only takes a minute to sign up. Go to adriel.org/contact-us/newsletter-signup and provide us with your name and email address, or email Rev. Paul Forrey at paul.forrey@adriel.org to provide your email address. You can then look forward to receiving the Fall *Adriel Action* newsletter right in your inbox.

Don't wait, sign up today!



ADRIEL IS GROWING AND PROVIDING FOR EVEN MORE CHILDREN



We have kicked off the year with a new location in Van Wert and a new office in Archbold, giving us the ability to serve even more youth in 44 of Ohio's 88 counties. Thanks to your monetary donations, as well as individuals donating time and hard work, we were able to transform a dentist office in Van Wert into a pristine new office space with a new roof, electrical and heating to serve children and families.

This new office will offer all Adriel services — Foster Care and Adoption, Training, Clinical, and Family Preservation with two visitation rooms. The Adriel Foster Care and Adoption staff currently serves this region — including Van Wert, Putnam, Allen, Auglaize and Mercer counties. The new location will enable the Adriel team to be more present and provide training and networking support.

The team in the new Van Wert office serves 10 families and 19 children with room to grow and support more families in the community.

We also moved our office in Archbold to enable us to meet the demands of the community in that region. It took a couple months to turn the former Candy Cane Christmas Shoppe in Burlington/Elmira into a space that suits the agency's needs.

With this move, we are able to expand the services we offered at the previous location, including training for families seeking licensure for foster care as well as for adoptive parents.

"We have been fortunate to receive such generous donations to expand our services in these new facilities," says Adriel CEO Todd Hanes. "This kind of generosity enables us to take advantage of even greater opportunities to serve children and families, and opens doors to new opportunities to serve in the future."



From the CEO



Todd Hanes, Adriel CEO has been wearing many hats during the organization's recent transformation. We caught up with him in Archbold — where he was getting ready to set up the IT network for the new facility — and asked him to tell us what's in store for the organization this year.

Adriel is going through a complete transformation. Our strategic plan for this year is two-fold. We're focusing on expanding the services we do best, and also developing new programs centered on meeting the unmet needs of youth and families in our communities.

By leveraging our experience and strength in key core areas, such as foster care, family preservation and clinical services, we can extend our reach into the Van Wert region and enhance the resources offered in the new Archbold office.

Last year we partnered with Heart of Unlimited Boundaries (HUB) to utilize our 50-acre West Liberty campus in new ways. HUB helps children and adults who have developmental disabilities become stronger and more self confident by teaching them to drive go-karts. With so much open property on the campus, it has been a great fit for both of us, and we are looking forward to working with other nonprofits in the area to serve the community.

Our investment in new offices, new teams, and new programs enables us to not only serve more children and families, but open doors into these communities, increasing awareness of what we do and enhancing the opportunities to share our mission with others who want to get involved and make a difference, whether it's joining our staff, volunteering or donating. It's going to be a great year.

CREATING A FOUNDATION FOR ADULthood



Once emancipated, foster children may need some extra guidance and training when it comes to living on their own. The Adriel Independent Living Program helps them build the skills they need in order to take advantage of future opportunities.

Beginning at age 15½, children in the Adriel Foster Care Program are assessed to see where they stand regarding the foundation of their independent living skills — including money management, food preparation, personal appearance, and more. A plan is developed for youth who want to take part in the program, including participation in Independent Living classes.

Youth are rewarded with Adriel Bucks for their participation, as well as getting good grades, doing job searches and applying to college, saving money, planning meals, and completing life-improving classes in their high schools. These dollars go a long way in helping to keep youth on track in the program, as well as have the items they need to create a home of their own.

Using their earned Adriel Bucks, the youth can purchase items for their future homes from Adriel's Independent Living Catalog, including kitchen, general household, bedroom, and bathroom items. The items in the catalog are paid for by donations and purchased by the Adriel staff.

Youth who have successfully completed the program have been able to furnish their new homes and have the confidence knowing that they have the skills to start a new life as an adult.

BUILDING BRIDGES TO SUCCESSFUL LIVES

In February, Ohio launched the Bridges Program to provide guidance and support for young adults who have left the foster care system and transitioned to adulthood.

A voluntary benefits program, Bridges helps eligible young adults ages 18 to 21 find housing, educational support, and employment and community resources. Adriel is a Bridges Regional Grantee, providing Bridges Liaisons to offer case management to and advocacy for the program's participants.

When a young adult wants to participate in the program, they must meet the eligibility requirements set by the state, including being enrolled in college, working at least 80 hours a month or have a medical condition that prevents them from going to school or working.

Adriel's Bridges Liaisons assist young adult participants in developing plans and goals, and reviewing these plans every 90 days, teaching independent living skills, helping them enroll in college or vocational programs, assisting in finding healthcare providers, and providing guidance and positive support.

"There is a lot of need for this kind of program," says Jessica Smith, Adriel's Vice President of Out of Home Services. "Currently we are utilizing our Foster Care staff as Bridges Liaisons, but in time and with growth, we are looking to create a standalone program with its own staff and resources."

To learn more about the Bridges Program, you can visit their website at: <http://bridgestosuccess.jfs.ohio.gov/index.stm>.



From Adriel Board Chairperson *Jim Leonard*



2018 is an exciting time for Adriel. Your support is crucial for Adriel's continued success. There are several vital ways you can become a part of our work this year:

- Facilitate a presentation about Adriel at your church or other organization to ignite new interest in Adriel's mission. Adriel staff and Board members can share news about Adriel's mission and about opportunities to share in our work.
- Solicit, make, or donate items for Adriel's annual auction on Saturday October 20, and volunteer at any Adriel event.
- Start, continue, or increase your financial support of Adriel's mission.
- Pray for Adriel and our work. This newsletter can form the start of your prayer list!

As we partner to serve children in the spirit of Christian love, God will bless and magnify our efforts.
"One person plants, another waters, but it's God who gives the growth" (1 Corinthians 3:6).



Adriel Day at Cedar Point

We are looking forward to our annual Adriel Day event at Cedar Point. Foster families, Adriel staff, Board members and donors are invited to join us on Wednesday, July 25 for a day of fun and excitement at Cedar Point, the Roller Coaster Capital of the World! This agency-wide event includes entrance to both the Cedar Point Amusement Park and the Cedar Point Shores Waterpark, as well as lunch and parking.

This year, through the generosity of our donors, Adriel will cover the entrance fee and lunch for all Adriel foster children, as well as lunch for the foster family households. The entrance fee for foster parents and other household members is deeply discounted to \$37.05.

This is a fantastic opportunity for foster families to spend a day together enjoying thrill rides, family rides and rides especially designed to delight the little ones. It will be a fun day for all!

To register for the Cedar Point day of fun, please call Cathy Mastin at 937-465- 0010 ext. 1131.

Welcome New Adriel Staff

A warm welcome to those joining the Adriel staff in 2018.



Sallie Christian

Training Coordinator

Sallie has a passion for trivia and learning, making her ideal as a trainer. She graduated from Ohio University with a B.A. in Psychology and Family Studies.



Amanda Fava

Licensing Specialist and Consultant

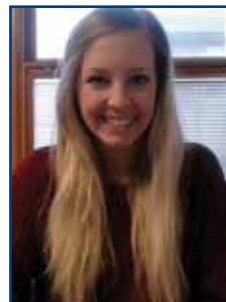
Amanda is passionate about working with children and families, education and learning, and trauma-informed care. She has a bachelor's degree in Social Work and Psychology and a master's degree in Public Administration, and is currently pursuing a master's in Social Work.



Rev. Paul Forrey

Vice President of Development

Paul has served as a United Church of Christ pastor and has elected to shift his ministry to sharing the good news about what God is doing in the lives of children and families whom Adriel serves. He has a B.A. in Fine Arts from Rutgers University and a Master of Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary.



Brydon Lustig

Licensing Specialist and Consultant

Brydon previously worked as a counselor for kids with severe behavioral issues as a result of neglect and abuse, but has always known that foster care is where her heart is. She is a graduate of Cedarville University.



Kyrstin Marshall

Marketing Coordinator

Kyrstin is looking forward to starting a full-time marketing and development career with Adriel. She graduated from Ohio University with a B.S. in Journalism.



Amber Molina

Case Manager

Amber is new to foster care, but has a passion for justice for victims of crimes, and promoting safety for all. She has an AAS in Criminal Justice (Probation and Parole) from Northwest State Community College and a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Ohio University.



Adriel serves 44 counties throughout Ohio.

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

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