Ashler Manor Celebrates 10 Years!

Residents Dedicated to Giving Back

Throughout the past ten years, Ashler Manor has made it a priority to give back to the community. Our agency has partnered with Lycoming County SafeKids and Comprehensive Highway Safety to deliver pedestrian safety programs to pre-school & Kindergarten in various Lycoming County communities. Since the inception of the Pedestrian Safety Program, Ashler Manor residents have delivered programs to over 400 children served. Ashler Manor also maintains an Advisory Board of community-minded individuals who provide support, direction, and encouragement.

In our care are 14 children in the beginning stages. The children have been up to 26 months old, and we are looking for adoptive families to prepare for their adoption. Ashler Manor offers a Community Based Residential Program and Supervised Independent Living Services to serve neglected, abused, or abandoned children, ages 12-18. Our residents are active with volunteering hours at local nursing homes, elementary schools, Project Linus, and other organizations. We continually strive to offer positive community outreach experiences for the youth.

Finding Forever Families

The 2005-2006 year brought excitement & celebration for children, families, and staff as we facilitated the adoption finalizations of 28 special needs children. Undoubtedly, our goal is always to promote the children with permanency, but when reunification is not achieved, we shift to explore potential adoptive resource avenues. In past years, foster parents have stepped up to provide a number of children with a chance at a forever family. In the recent year, we have experienced an increased number of kinship resources that have volunteered to make these critical lifetime commitments.

While recognizing the importance and long-term benefits of adopting a special needs child with a sense of belonging and permanency, the agency also recently transitioned from the adoption program to the permanency program. By capturing our mission of promoting permanency, we want to ensure that resource families and children are fully aware of the permanency options consisting of reunification, adoption, placement with a fit and willing relative, and legal guardianship. The Board of Directors approved a plan to move the inaugural country for the international adoption program.

Private Adoption Program Launched

Families United Network embarked upon an exciting journey during the past year. In an effort to expand our spectrum of services, the Board of Directors approved a plan to move into domestic and international private adoption.

Early in 2006, a decision was made to focus on Guatemala as the inaugural country for the international adoption program. By March, we had established referral relationships with three reputable attorneys in Guatemala City and several physicians selected by the US Embassy to complete the final medical examinations for all Guatemalan children adopted by US citizens. To date, we have several families well into their adoptions of Guatemalan infants and several more in the beginning stages.

Families United Network is also exploring opportunities to work with adoption authorities in Ukraine, Nepal, and Vietnam. These programs are expected to develop sometime in late 2007.

In the midst of this excitement, there is also a focused campaign to make it known that we now have a system of experts in Pennsylvania to assist individuals and other agencies by conducting home studies and preparing the requisite reports. Families United Network, Inc. continues to search for ways to serve children and families who otherwise may not have their most important needs met through finding each other.

Finding Forever Families

Adoption Services

Profiles: 23%
Preparation: 6%
Child: 40%
Post Adoption: 23%
Families/United Network, Inc. has been blessed in many ways this past year. During a time of tightening fiscal constraints at the federal, state, and county levels, as evidenced by a movement of children into lower levels of care and reduced referrals, we have seen significant growth. We believe that this is an attestation of our quality programming for children and youth, and the outcomes that we have been able to achieve.

Our comprehensive continuum of services ranges from foster, kinship, and residential care, to state-wide adoption services as a SWAN affiliate; and both domestic and international adoption. We are currently contracted with nearly 50 counties throughout Pennsylvania. As recognized leader in child social services, we have had a significant impact on children’s lives, and have assisted many children and families to reunite in a healthier environment.

We have been successful in attaining our goals through the dedication and hard work of our staff, our Board of Directors and Advisory Board members, and especially our large network of resource parents. They have all approached their many challenges with a large dose of enthusiasm and the will to succeed. Thanks to your efforts, a sense of hope for both children and youth, and they now have new role models on which to pattern their behavior and lives. Our youth have come to us neglected and abused, and we have helped them to heal.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our children.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Neuhard
Chief Executive Officer