

The Sharing Org
PO Box 73
Armada, MI 48005

April 30, 2010

Dear Prayer Partner,

Ministry Moment

Since day one I have known how important a human's touch is to the people that I serve. I realize that the residents are neither devoid of regular human touches nor words of affirmation from their care givers but I do realize that it is special to them coming from a guest. In the process of building relationships with the residents, I have made a conscience effort to touch them as a way of letting them know how much I care.

Because of this I sometimes get the greatest hugs from some of the mentally handicapped people that I serve and some of the most eager handshakes from others. However, there is one touch that seems most personal to me. One person that I serve is quite deaf and so I have to get really close in order to be heard as I make a proper greeting. Doing so places my head in a position that allows the person to pull my handshake into a "head-bump" where both of our foreheads are rest together in a sort of hug. After a couple of seconds the embrace is released and I am back at my post.

I consider this head-bump much better than a "fist-bump" and I like to think that Jesus was familiar with such a touch when he walked the land as well.

~John

Prayer Requests

*Please welcome with us Jessica Brandenburg to the Sharing Org team. Jessica is presently working on her master's degree in Psychology, very busy helping anybody who needs helping in the tri-county area (ok, maybe not everybody but certainly her non-school hours are filled by those who are in need), and just recently God has placed the Sharing Org on her heart. So we gladly accept her help and are in the process of many changes to the face of the ministry – *specifically how we represent ourselves to the general public*. Please be in prayer that we and Jessica are able to work well together and know God's leading for us.*

There are many things that need to be updated that I have not been motivated to tackle in the last few years. One of these tasks is to create a new Mission Statement. Through prayer, deliberation, discussion, and refinement I think we finally have something that sticks, so here it is...

*We share the gospel with the Adult Foster Care community.
With your support if we may, alone if we must,
but always with the compassion of Christ.*

Please pray that this Mission Statement communicates the heart of our ministry to all who hear it and that God might impress this work upon those people.

Also, please pray with us, for our recently developed public relations plan. Which is that, after we get the new specifics specified, we plan to approach certain churches and invite them to provide an AFC home in their own neighborhood with a monthly gift – *be it handmade cards, a homemade dessert, or fresh flowers*. In this way the residents in the AFC home will be actively cared for by their local church. Instead of asking churches to adopt a home to minister to with direct regular spiritual care, we plan to invite them to provide an AFC home with simple gifts of love. Our present goal is to have 6 churches partner with us in this way over the next few months. Please pray that we realize this goal and that more AFC residents are blessed by our efforts.

Once again, I thank you for praying with us and for us. I am looking forward to sharing with you the blessings that God will provide through us – *all of us*.

Blessings,
John

****THIS JUST IN...** With today's mail I received a letter from The Hagen Family Foundation inviting me to submit an application to be considered for funding. A couple months back I submitted a Letter of Intent to them for a grant to assist with our annual shoebox program. Today's letter informed me that our project appears to be a good fit with their priorities and they would like to give our program further consideration. Please pray that we will complete the full application with the necessary details to win favor of THFF by the June 14th deadline.