



**Great Circle**<sup>®</sup>

*Where futures take shape*

FALL 2011

## Celebrate!

*Hundreds of children in foster care find forever families thanks to agencies working together*

Many children will celebrate the upcoming holidays in a forever home. This year, Great Circle care managers and agency partners found permanent homes for more than 630 children living in foster care.\* The placements included reunifications with family, adoptions and guardianships.

“It is an absolute labor of love and a true reflection of the heart of a social worker,” said Sheila Buie, director of community based services for Boys & Girls Town of Missouri – St. James. “It took a lot of hard work, long hours and taking on of additional duties to complete all the licensing and the multiple steps involved.”

When a child enters foster care, there is a team of individuals who work together to help find that child a permanent home. The team is called the Family Support Team. The Family Support Team can include the state caseworker, officers of the court and juvenile office, a Guardian ad Litem and foster parents. Biological parents are invited to participate in the team.

“We have tried very hard to open up and maintain communication with the circuit officials and believe that has made a huge impact on successfully finding permanent homes for children in foster care,” Buie said. “It is a celebration for all of us.”

“We have tireless staff members who are passionate about helping children find forever homes,” said Julia Adami, director of community based services for Boys & Girls Town of Missouri – Columbia. “It takes lots of hard work and patience to achieve success.”

\*Contract year began October 1, 2010 and ended September 30, 2011.



**Dear Santa,**

**The thing I want most for Christmas is a better life. My life is broken. I would like for God to help me get a family. And also a big stuffed animal and a baby doll.**

**Love, Cassie**

## Toys, gift cards, donations needed!



Great Circle has holiday wish lists for the hundreds of children in our care. Whether they live in a residential cottage on one of our campuses or are in a foster home, we want every child’s holiday wishes fulfilled. We rely on the generosity of kind supporters to help us fulfill holiday wishes.

To donate, please call your local campus or donate online at [www.great-circle.org](http://www.great-circle.org).

Columbia (573) 874-8686 • Springfield (417) 865-1646 • St. James (573) 265-3251 • St. Louis (314) 968-2060

The mission of Great Circle is to reshape vulnerable lives through a community of partners, teachers, and leaders, giving children and families the confidence to create bright futures.

Founding agencies: Boys & Girls Town of Missouri • Edgewood Children’s Center

## Hidden Secret - Letter from a grateful parent

Your program was a godsend in our most desperate time of need. Lexi learned to deal with feelings and pain that she had hidden for years. The program



empowered her to start coming out of her self-prison. When we came home she did well at first, then she started having problems again. She came to me in the middle of the night crying and saying she was having severe suicidal thoughts again.

We immediately knew that she needed more therapy from the only place that has ever been able to help her, the SAFE program. During this stay the real cause of all her problems came out – as a child she was sexually molested by a family member.

We were completely unaware! She had hidden this since she was 8-years-old out of shame, guilt and fear. With the staff's help, she was finally able to deal with it and move forward. I feel the first

visit to the program primed her to reveal her secret but she fought it. After coming home it became too much to handle and she finally was able to tell her family. She is on her way to recovery.

As a mother this has been the most difficult thing I have ever endured. My heart breaks for all she has been thru and all she tried

to handle on her own when she was only a child. I can't tell you how it makes me feel to again see my child laugh and smile. She is

blossoming into the wonderful young woman she is and I owe it all to you and your program and staff. Thank you for giving my child and my family our lives back.

Our love forever,  
Lexi's Mom

***“Thank you  
for giving my  
child and my family  
our lives back.”***

## Tribute & Memorial Gifts (May 1, 2011 – August 30, 2011)

*We are humbled that you chose to pay tribute to family, friends, loved ones and others with a gift to Great Circle agencies. Thank you for supporting treatment programs for children and families.*

### In Honor Of

**Karlos Bledsoe**  
Dr. and Mrs. M. Gilbert Grand  
**Julie Corley**  
Mr. Michael Corley  
**Laura DiLeo**  
Ms. Katie Corey  
**Rachael Dockery**  
American Society for Women Accountants

**Eutoala Heisner**  
Mrs. Leona M. Bochantin  
**Sarah Howard-Willms**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wuertenberg  
**Danielle Kilpatrick**  
Mrs. Judy Clayton  
**Mike Meyers**  
Mr. Charles P. Derleth, Jr.

**Kip Rapp**  
Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation  
**Goldie Salsman**  
Mr. Robert Salsman  
**Howard and Fran Seigel**  
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Weitman

**Charles P. Smallwood**  
Mr. Charles D. Mueller  
**Susan S. Stepleton**  
Mrs. Joyce L. Berger

### In Memory Of

**Eddie Barmer**  
Mr. Richard S. Schmidt  
**Martha H. Belzer**  
Mr. William D. Kleyboecker  
**Omer Bradsher**  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Roberts  
**Kenneth R. Coleman**  
Mr. Lance M. Rubin and  
Ms. Karen K. French  
**Fred A. Coutts**  
Mr. Charles D. Mueller  
**Paige Lynn Dunaway**  
Mr. and Mrs. Vincent D. Hillyer

**Rick Hawkins**  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Cronister, Sr.  
**Sally K. Hermann**  
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**Tricia Hofman**  
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**William F. James**  
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Archway Sales Inc.  
**Sidney and Sara Rose**  
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**Byron Rasberry**  
Mrs. Maralyn J. Weaver  
**Nancy Smith**  
Mrs. Kathy A. Murphy and  
Mr. Gerald W. Grindler

**Henry H. Weaver**  
Mr. Doug Beaver  
Mr. and Mrs. James Dauphin  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven A. Dick  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve L. Hendricks  
Mr. and Mrs. Anton Imhof  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Roberts  
Ms. Elaine Rufkahr  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wuertenberg  
**Don Wehde**  
Mr. and Mrs. John C. Agnew

## Fresh Start - Teen finds a new lease on life

She was 17, and she was angry. One of her good friends had killed himself, and she could not stand living now that he was gone. The



Changing Prisms mentoring workshop came out. The workshop enables young women to work side-by-side with adult

women who are successful in their business and personal lives. Cheryl was the perfect candidate.

When she came back, it was like there was a new Cheryl.

The next week her cottage was scheduled for School in the Wilderness at the Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch. Cheryl said she would “never go to the woods again” because she was raped in the woods when she was 16. After assuring her that she would be safe, she attended. There were

***“When she came  
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Cheryl.”***

five whole days of being challenged and rising above what she thought she could handle.

Cheryl was transformed. She began creating strong bonds with others and became a role model for her peers. She was no longer depressed, suicidal, or angry. Instead, she showed understanding and desired to learn about life. Her experiences at the Changing Prisms workshop and School in the Wilderness helped Cheryl realize how much she means to the world.

friend was a soldier who suffered from depression after returning from Afghanistan. They had used drugs together, building a bond that seemed too strong to break. After his suicide she couldn't stand living.

She tried to push others away. Staff members remained firm. They stuck with her despite her lashing out. Three months into treatment, applications for our

To learn more and/or to support these and other treatment programs, visit [www.great-circle.org](http://www.great-circle.org).

## Finding a voice

*Parents of children with autism have somewhere to turn*

Lucas had many health problems after his birth including seizure disorders. When he was 3, he was diagnosed with autism. As he grew older, he became harder for his parents to control. He couldn't speak. He climbed on top of furniture. He fought toilet training. And there was the biting. His behavior got so severe, his mom left. Alone with two toddler sons, Mike was having a hard time keeping his job and taking care of the boys.

When Lucas was 5, Mike heard about Edgewood Children's Center. When he came to visit, he blurted out how he had been desperately praying for help. Lucas was enrolled and things began to change.

Through the work and care of trained staff, Lucas learned to use picture communication. He was potty trained. Within a year and a half, he could speak words.

Now, he greets everyone with, “How are you feeling?” and requires the response, “I am good, Lucas!”

Recently Mike saw a staff member out shopping. He stopped to say, “You saved my son's life – and mine.”

***Our Great Circle of care  
includes you!  
You help create new lives.***

***Thank You!***



# Great Circle®

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Founding agencies:  
Boys & Girls Town of Missouri  
Edgewood Children's Center



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Thank you to our *Volunteers!*



Thanks to The Bank of Missouri and the Kiwanis Club, who heard that we were in need of school supplies for the kiddos on our Columbia campus and jumped into action! They were able to fulfill every need on our list AND provide 52 backpacks as well! We cannot thank them enough!

When Duncan Murphree-Roberts, below (fifth from left), was deciding on his Eagle Scout rank from Troop 5 in Springfield, he wanted to help other kids. He held a book drive that collected more than 700 books!

He then organized a book fair for the kids living on the Jim D. Morris Campus of Boys & Girls Town in Springfield. Other Scouts and family members helped organize the books. Left over books became libraries in the children's cottages.

