



CREATING FOREVER FAMILIES

The RISE Chronicles



09/09/2020

www.unksplace.org

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Who Changed Your Life?

We all remember life-changing moments. Advice that got us to think and act differently. That special, unforgettable person whose actions and words put us on a better path, changed us at our core, and gave us purpose.

What would your life be like without them?

The Other Wes Moore tells a story of two boys with the same name growing up in the same neighborhood, equally disadvantaged. As adults, the one is sentenced to life in prison, the other is a decorated Veteran and successful businessman and author. How did this happen?

It boils down to the decisions each of them made. Decisions

shaped by the influencers in their lives.

You can make that type of difference!

Right now, roughly a half of a million foster children are in need of someone like you. Someone who can be the difference between prison or a successful life.

Whether you foster, adopt or volunteer a little of your time at a group home, you have the ability to be a life-changer.

Follow your heart, do your part.

Foster children need all of us to do our part. Be for them that person who changed your life.



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Innovative program designed to improve the lives of foster children.

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Highly credentialed educational professional hired to transform education at Unk's.

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RISE

Reversing the Statistics.

Respect

Integrity

Savvy

Effort

Unk's Place is preparing to role out our RISE Program, designed to educate youth on how to:

RISE above their circumstances.

RISE above the lies.

RISE to their potential.

The innovative approach focuses on the four pillars of character development: respect, integrity, savvy and effort.

The goal is to reverse the stats that illustrate the majority of



foster children will drop out of school, never go to college, and be dead, pregnant, in prison or on drugs by the age of nineteen.

How many children need to suffer before we (the community) do something about it?

For RISE to work, the youth need volunteers, guest speakers, and mentors who will role model the four pillars.

Each issue we will delve deeper into RISE, and how it and the volunteers are impacting the youth.

No matter your age, education or occupation, the youth need you. We appreciate all those who help to make a difference.



Case Workers are unsung heroes and heroines who deserve our support and gratitude.

Case Workers... Angels in Disguise?

Behind the scenes, Case Workers devote their lives 24/7 to do whatever it takes to rescue children from abuse.

It's not easy being awoken at 2AM to do an emergency placement for a child.

Daily exposure to the tragedies these children face takes a toll on their emotions and thoughts, yet they bear this burden bravely and keep advocating and protecting the children they serve.

Unk's Place understands the demands and responsibilities Case Workers handle every day in their battle to advocate for traumatized children.

We are very thankful for what you do and would like to recognize and thank you!

You are Angels in disguise and what you do matters. Keep up the amazing work and know that you have our gratitude and support!

SPOTLIGHT

George Young

Case Worker
Franklin County



George Young has literally dedicated his professional career to social services, being at Franklin County Children Services for 29 years and at a community corrections institute for two years, while also serving as a Chaplain at the Franklin County Juvenile Detention Facility. He originally planned to do youth ministry, but found his passion in child welfare where he has gladly remained.

George has seen many trends come and go, but firmly believes if we are to help children, “we need to stick to the basics and instead of looking for the next big thing that someone famous wrote a book about, just provide the quality care and guidance the children need.”

We have witnessed dozens of examples of how George is always attentive to the needs of his clients, but one recent incident stands out. A youth in our care suffered the unfortunate and untimely loss of his mother. This particular youth is sadly no stranger to death, having already lost two siblings and a grandparent in under two years. George was compassionate and helpful, and gave extra attention to this youth during his despairing time of need. He also met us at the funeral and was the last to leave. He provided the support and nurturing this youth needed during this traumatic time. It was truly inspiring.

George’s heroic acts provide an example to us all of how important our jobs are, and the impact we can have on these kids.

Although Unk's Place appreciates all the county officials across the state, we would like to take a moment to honor two amazing gentlemen who deserve a spotlight, George Young and Scott Timmerman.



Scott Timmerman

CASA Volunteer GAL
Franklin County

Scott Timmerman is a retired social worker with an LISW-S and MSSW from University of Louisville. His compassionate work history illustrates that he too has dedicated his career to helping children. Scott worked at Franklin County Children Services, Talbot Hall, a chemical dependency treatment center, and at Children’s Hospital, where he served as a Social Worker and Supervisor on the Child Abuse Team. He was also the VP at NYAP in Columbus where a portion of his duties included Care Management for child welfare and work on the Shelter Care Group Home Program. Scott finished the last three years of his career as a Social Work Coordinator and stated, “Those were the most rewarding years of my career, both professionally and personally.”

Currently a CASA volunteer GAL, Scott continues his mission of, “helping children and families who have endured trauma and face adversity that many of us cannot imagine.” Scott also assisted our youth through the loss of his mother, attending the funeral and being extra attentive day and night, going the extra mile to ensure the youth’s needs were met. Another inspiration for us all.

Reaching beyond the workplace, Scott’s humanitarianism and equal rights advocacy drive him, “to be anti-racist, to identify and to challenge systemic racism.” Oh what a wonderful world it would be if more people had Scott’s attitude and dedication.

Please join us in celebrating these two heroes and all the amazing, wonderful and commendable work they and the rest of the industry do to help children and families. We appreciate you all!

REVERSING THE STATS



Each issue will present the stats we are aiming to reverse. These illustrate why RISE is so important and how the children need all of us.



Ongoing intervention by our LISW-S and Case Managers provide our youth with consistent counseling aimed at getting them to RISE.

Trauma-Informed Care

177,368

The number of reports filed for neglect and abuse of children in Ohio in one year.

13,725

The number of children who live apart from their families in out-of-home care.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.unksplace.org

<https://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Ohio.pdf>

<https://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/mental-health-and-foster-care.aspx>

trau·ma

deeply distressing or disturbing experiences with lasting effects on an individual's functioning and mental, physical, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being.

When trauma has caused up to **80 percent of children in foster care to have significant mental health issues**, compared to approximately 18-22 percent of the general population, it is important for these youth to receive ongoing intervention.

Unk's Place hired Shannon Hurst, an LISW-S with over twenty years of experience in social work, specializing in traumatized youth, including Family Centered Treatment.

Are foster children "bad kids"?

Although society can tend to stereotype foster children as "bad kids", their behavior is a product of their traumatic prior experiences; such as severe

neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse, or parents with mental health issues, drug addiction or ongoing abandonment.

It only makes sense that these children mimic the behaviors they learned from their parents.

They are not bad, they just need what everyone needs...

Love, attention, to feel safe and a sense of security, and to have some control or influence over their lives.

Under the direction of Shannon, Unk's Place strives to improve the emotional and mental stability of the youth through behavioral health.

Together we can reverse stats and give foster children the same shot at a normal life as everyone else.



Education

The Key to RISE.

Unk's Place believes the foundation for success is education. RISE is not just about fancy words or crafty illustrations. RISE is about true change. Positive change that takes years to cultivate, where education is the driver.

Unk's Place hired Dion Sampson, a highly credentialed, well known, and respected professional from the education sector with many successful years working with underserved youth.

Dion is structuring each component of the educational process, emphasizing good attendance at school, higher grades, after school



activities, structured home life, independent living, and gaining employment.

With RISE as the catalyst, the focus is on mind, body and soul to educate the youth in every aspect of their lives so they become independent, stable and ready for a happy life. Stay tuned to see the difference education and RISE will make!

A SHOUTOUT TO OUR HEROS & HEROINES

Thank You...

Lowe's and Desmond Terrell

for your generosity in providing and spreading mulch in the landscaping of our new home at 40 Macy, Dayton, OH.

Thank You...

Children's Hospital of Dayton

for your generosity in providing a plethora of Croc shoes for our youth.



Thank You...

LexisNexis Cares and Pamela Rath

for your generosity in providing five laptop computers to help with our virtual classroom.

We could not do what we do without you, you truly are heroes!



No. 1 Goal:**Forever Families**

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to read our first newsletter!

Each quarter, we will strive to provide content that shines a light on the problems inherent in the foster system, how the children are impacted, and what we can do together to help.

It is our number one goal to build a community that will help foster children to develop mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually.

Together we can help these children find forever families and have opportunities to live a normal, healthy, productive life.



UNK'S PLACE HOME #2 IS LICENSED AND READY TO OPEN!

Please consider us for your placements:

Home 1: Boys 11-15

Home 2: Boys 16-21, including SMI

For More Information...

www.unksplace.org

 <https://www.facebook.com/Unksplace/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/unksplace/?hl=en>

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/64280066/admin/>

To Volunteer, Donate, Get Involved...

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A Home with Purpose