



Spring
2016



I just cannot get comfortable in this new year, 2016, without first being sure to say THANK YOU EVERYONE for your continuing care and concern for OCC and the kids we serve. We estimate OCC saw some 600 youth in our various programs last year and sheltered at least 245 of those. We could not have done that, could not have helped those children as we think we did without help from this community. As we all know, the end of the calendar year is also the culmination of several big and often emotionally challenging holidays. We at OCC re-learn every year how hard this season can be for our resident youth because they are not at home with their families, some of them not even sure if they'll ever be "home" again, whatever that home is. But the extraordinary outpouring from so many of you—in the form of love, time, generous gifts, special support, opportunities for fun activities and outings, amazing parties, and unexpected funds to make all that happen (and more!) greatly counteracts the hurt and truly helps to mitigate the uncertainty of our kiddos' situations. Furthermore it tells our youth—and reminds staff and board—what a wonderful and caring community we live in and that almost anything is possible when enough folks take time and effort to show youth there is a better way ahead. Many THANKS to ALL of you who helped the holidays and end of year be such a better time for those we serve.

As we update and recommit to our ever-growing, never-ending 2016 To-Do list for making things better at OCC, we are excited and optimistically empowered, knowing we have increasing support from this community for the children we serve. Your encouragement and faith in our efforts past makes us want to do even more in the future, like start new prevention support groups for families and kids not previously helped, like further enhance our staff knowledge and skills for working with troubled youth, reach out to more families in Clark County through our new Arkadelphia office, and maybe even plant a garden that many will hopefully help tend so our youth can enjoy the produce benefits while seeing some certainty and reassurance in the cycles of nature. Onward into this new year with much gratitude for your continuing support!



Linda L. Ragsdale, LMSW, Executive Director

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Holidays at OCC!!



Every year around the holidays, OCC staff and Board Members gather together with the kids at OCC for a family style dinner, artfully prepared each year, by OCC's own Vickie Davis. During this special evening together, our kids get an idea (sometimes for the very first time) that Holidays truly are a celebration. During this time, we honor our Employee of the Year, selected by all the staff at OCC and we even get a visit from Santa & Mrs. Claus who look on as the kids at OCC receive Christmas gifts from their personal wish lists. None of this could happen without the generous outpouring of support our community provides each year.



OCC's Gender-Specific Peer Groups address Reproductive Health and Teen Pregnancy



Arkansas made recent headlines due to higher than average rates of teen pregnancy in our state. According to the CDC National Center for Health Statistics, Arkansas ranked number one in teen pregnancy rates in the U.S. in 2013, with 43.5 babies per 1,000 live births born to teen mothers. This is significantly higher than the national average of 26.5 per 1,000 live births. Factors contributing to this growing issue include transitions and mobility,

inconsistent or failed use of contraceptives, miseducation about reproductive health, family and peer attitudes toward sexual behaviors and pregnancy. According to the National Center for Health Statistics, teen pregnancy rates in Arkansas have continued to rise, despite over 80% of youth reporting they have received some type of reproductive health education in schools. There has been much work done over the past several years to combat this issue, and yet there is still much to be done.

In efforts to help educate youth and curb this and other obstacles, Ouachita Children's Center offers peer groups which address issues common to teenaged males and females. Girls' Circle and Boys' Council are gender specific peer support groups for youth ages 13-18, which provide a structured yet non-threatening environment in which teens can freely express and inquire about various topics including peer relationships, conflict resolution and communication, self-esteem, goal setting, and reproductive health education. These groups are designed to promote the development of healthy living, confidence, courage, honesty, and communication skills.



Meeting Times - Hot Springs:

339 Charteroak, Hot Springs, AR 71901

Girls Circle - Thursdays 4:00-6:00 PM

Boys Council - Thursdays 4:30-5:30 PM

For additional information or to sign up, please contact OCC at (501) 623-5591.

Participation in these evidence-based groups has been proven to reduce recidivism rates, aggression, drug use and other self-harming behaviors, while increasing self-efficacy, positive body image, and attachment to school.

Meeting Times - Arkadelphia:

401 Crittenden, Arkadelphia, AR 71923

Girls Circle - Mondays 4:30-6:30 PM

Boys Council - Thursdays 4:30-6:30 PM

For additional information or to sign up, please contact OCC at (870) 246-8000.

2016 3rd Annual Krewe of Liberi Charity Ball & Coronation



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 Langston Family Endowment
 Living Waters Church of God In Christ
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 Martin Marietta - Jones Mill Quarry
 McGrew Service Company
 Mid America Science Museum
 Mid-South Engineering
 The Morris Foundation - In Honor of Linda Ragsdale
 The Munro Foundation
 New Beginning Christian Ministries
 New Life Church
 Oaklawn United Methodist Church - Oaklawn United
 Methodist Women

Ouachita Speakers Series - In Honor of Greg Schaffer
 Piney Grove United Methodist Church - Mary Martha Circle
 Presbyterian Kirk In The Pines
 Razorback Pizza
 Red Hat Lady's 'n' Red
 Road Riders For Jesus
 South Hot Springs Lions Club
 Spa City Bop & Swing Dance Club
 St. Mary of the Springs Catholic Church - Hands of Mary
 Statco-Palmer, Inc.
 Sub-Par Disc Golf
 Toy Chest
 Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs
 Unitarian Universalist Village Church
 United Way of Garland County
 Village Card Club
 Walmart - Central Avenue
 Walton's Auction Service
 The Wine Rack & Spirits Shoppe
 Woodmen of the World
 You Look Fabulous Salon

What is ArkansasGives?

Arkansans have a heart for giving. On **April 7, 2016**, you can join together with Arkansans across the state to grow the love for our state's nonprofit organizations. Between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., we're challenging all Arkansans to give to the charities of their choice, including OCC!



Bonus Dollars Help You Give More

During this one-day event, each donation you give will help your favorite nonprofit organizations qualify for additional bonus dollars from Arkansas Community Foundation. All participating nonprofits will receive a portion of a pool of bonus dollars provided by Arkansas Community Foundation; the more a nonprofit raises, the more of the bonus dollars it will receive. In addition, there are additional bonus dollars being given to Garland County nonprofits by the Hot Springs Area Giving Circle.

Grow the Love

Dozens of Arkansas charities will participate, and you can choose to give to the causes that mean the most to you. Imagine the impact of our entire state giving together! ArkansasGives is one day, one easy way to make your charitable dollars stretch farther and shower your favorite nonprofits with support. Good things are happening in Arkansas, and you can help the good grow!

To support OCC on April 7th, go to www.arkansasgives.org between 8am and 8pm and make your donation. Just mark the Ouachita Children's Center as your nonprofit of choice! Then share the information! You can help OCC by posting on social media that you gave as part of Arkansas gives and encourage others to do the same! Watch our Facebook page and website for more information as April 7th draws closer.



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Phone: 501-623-5591
Fax: 501-623-4226
E-mail: info@occnet.org



CREDIBILITY • INTEGRITY • ACHIEVEMENT



Community Partner

WISH LIST

Items in Continual Need

Twin size Sheet Sets & Pillow cases
Bath Towels, washcloths & hand towels
Lice Treatments
Shampoo & Conditioner
Hair Gel
Lip Balm
Deodorant (non-aerosol)
Soap & Body Wash
Lotions
Toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, & floss
Electric shavers & hair clippers
Anti-bacterial hand soap
Medicated foot spray or powder
Female sanitary products
Hair brushes (both boar bristle & plastic)
Wide tooth combs
Hair grease, pomade, pink oil, moisturizer & relaxer kits
Wave caps, shower caps & head scarves
Small Black rubber bands, barrettes & ponytail holders
Men's & Boy's briefs & boxers
Women's & Girl's underwear & bras
White t-shirts & sleeveless undershirts
Socks & shoes (Boy's & Girl's)

Sweatpants & Sweatshirts, all sizes
Gift Cards to Wal-Mart, Old Navy, Shoe Stores etc.
School Supplies (pens, pencils, notebooks & paper)
Backpacks
Books & Magazines with Youth Appeal
Art Supplies (brushes, canvases, paint, etc.)
Sofa set or sectional set
Area Rugs
Cat Food for Tiger (OCC's therapy cat)
Special event tickets or passes
Winter gloves, hats and jackets
Summer bathing suits & Towels
Flip Flops
Stainless steel forks & spoons

Special Items We Currently Need

New Pillows
Window Treatments (curtains & heavy duty blinds)
Plastic or Fabric Wall Hangings
Storage Shelves & Racks
Outdoor plastic stackable chairs
Outdoor benches or wrought iron chairs
Indoor potted & outdoor bedding plants

Corelle or Melamine plates & bowls
Magnetic wall boards with magnets for resident rooms
New matching comforter sets
Paint
Area and throw rugs
Economy car for in-town client transport

Volunteer Opportunities

Adult Mentors for our youth
Assistance with the OCC Vegetable Garden
Assistance with OCC Flower Beds
Academic tutors
Maintenance assistance
Construction of a nature trail around the property
Volunteer barber or beautician services (Haircuts)
Dance or Music classes
Organized sports or games
Poetry, Writing & Arts & Crafts
Piano playing volunteers for sing-alongs
Assistance with painting and organization
CPR and First Aid Trainers