April 2014
Coyote Hill ~~ A Safe Place to Be a Child
PO Box 1
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Harrisburg, MO 65256

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Memorial and honor gifts must be received by the 12th of this month in order to be included in next month's newsletter.

Coyote Hill Christian Children's Home

Providing a professional, yet traditional family home for abused & neglected children in mid-Missouri since 1991.

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News from the Hill

April 2014

A Safe Place to Be a Child

He is Risen INDEED

With Easter quickly approaching, we hope you enjoy some stories in preparation for it:

Some of the children in The Zimmer Home asked questions about Lent and what it meant, after hearing it mentioned on the radio at the beginning of March. After an explanation, two of the older girls decided to give up some electronic devices until Easter. Home Parents Charlie and Jaimee Marshman wanted to encourage them in their decision and did likewise. One of the 8-year-olds in the home decided to join in, resulting in the following humorous conversation:

Giving up electronics is not as easy as you'd think...

8-year-old: *"I could give up my DS for Lent."*

5-year-old: *"Yes, you could give it up to me!"*

In all seriousness, however, some of the discussions have been extremely enlightening and life-changing. Charlie explains:

"One day, a child in our home felt compelled to apologize to all of the kids for some bad attitudes and behaviors. I was disappointed to see most of the kids respond with a 'whatever' type of attitude, not really appreciating the sacrifice and humility the teen was displaying with her sincere apology.

We stopped what we were doing and I asked all of them to imagine Jesus suffering on the cross, in deep pain and anguish, and how He would have felt if we simply looked at Him and said, 'Whatever - it's no big deal, Jesus.'"

They were extremely touched. More questions and explanations ensued, and before the discussion ended one of our young ladies wanted to turn her life over to God and accept Christ's sacrifice for her!"

Thanks for your continued support, which allows for so many life-changing lessons to be taught to our children.

The Power of Blessing

Jacob & Amy, with Blessing

If you've been a part of our Coyote Hill family for very long, you know our smiling and encouraging Case Manager/Education Center Director, Amy Kingery. She and her husband, Jacob, served for four years as Home Parents, and Amy has continued on staff with us since then.

Perhaps what you don't know is that we were all extremely excited to learn last summer that Amy and Jacob were expecting their first child! Many challenges were on the way, however, as Amy explains, *"From the beginning of our pregnancy we asked God to allow the pregnancy and our child to be a blessing. We decided if our child was a girl we wanted to name her 'Blessing.' In late August we found out that our baby might be facing some serious challenges. We were scared, but asked God to use this for His glory."*

Blessing arrived prematurely on Jan 6, 2014. She was diagnosed with a rare chromosome disorder and was expected to have a very limited lifespan. The doctors told Amy & Jacob they would never take their baby girl home. They were wrong.

Blessing survived longer than medically expected, and Amy & Jacob were able to take her home on January 30. Five weeks later, on March 6, she went to "sing, dance and play with Jesus." Sixty days on this earth - such a short amount of time - and yet what a powerful testimony Blessing and her parents created in those sixty days. Her dad, Jacob, being a landscaper and lover of plants, explained it this way at Blessings' Heaven Day celebration, *"One day while holding her I started feeling angry towards God, as I thought about how I will never get to see her bloom."*

But then God graciously gave Jacob this calm assurance, *"Then I realized...I was seeing her bloom. She was blooming right then. It hit me that Blessing was an annual. Annuals are meant to grow, bloom and die in a season. They do this to produce seeds. The seeds she produced are deep seeds of faith, hope and joy."*

Amy explains that God began preparing them for this moment years ago. *"Tammy Atherton shared with me many years ago when we began home parenting, 'You have to hold them with an open hand.' Our children, whether foster children or biological children, really are God's. We are just chosen to take care of them for a season."*

Mom in The Wright Home, Merri Heberlein, also shared that this has been a growing experience for the children of Coyote Hill who know and love Amy. *"It's especially hard for the younger children to understand, as it seems so unfair to them. But Amy and Jacob's peace through the situation, and our explanations that life is a gift and a miracle - no matter how big or small, long or short - is helping them.* ***Our seven-year-old expressed it well after the service, 'I'm sad because we will miss her, but happy for her to be with Jesus and I'm happy Amy and Jacob got to be her mommy and daddy. It's hard to feel so many things at one time.'"***

Merri concludes, *"We're grateful that Amy became a mom. Watching her love every moment of motherhood - no matter how hard or emotional it was - was inspirational to me. It's such an honor to know them."*

If you're interested in learning more about baby Blessing and Amy & Jacob's journey, they've set up a Facebook page to share her story with everyone: www.facebook.com/BlessingKingery.

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made..." ~Psalm 139:14a

For Our Supporters

Machens Toyota Scion Donates Van

Thanks to Joe Machens Toyota Scion, we now have a nice minivan to use at The Wright Home!

Dan Kellar, Heberleins, Gary Drewing

Dan Kellar, General Manager, explains why they donated the 2004 Toyota Sienna to Coyote Hill, *"I was happy to be able to a part of the gift, along with Gary and Rusty Drewing. Machens Dealerships have been consistent supporters of Coyote Hill because of the local impact you have. As we all look down the road at what our future holds, it is clear that the children and youth that we help today will have a great impact on their lives and the lives they will someday touch. Planting seeds like this, in a field with the right care, will yield many returns for all of us. For Joe Machens Toyota Scion to be able to donate this van is a very rewarding way to give back to the community that supports us."*

7th Annual Coyote Hill Golf Tournament

Presented by: Joe Machens BMW
www.joemachensbmw.com

Format: 18 Hole, 4 Person Scramble
Lunch and Drinks Provided
Additional Contests: Longest Drive, Closest to the Pin, Hole-in-One Chances

A big THANK YOU to our sponsors:

Larry & Anna Gross
MAA Missouri Auto Auction
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Email kari@coyotehill.org for details, or visit *www.coyotehill.org* for details and a printable registration brochure.

5th Annual Coyote Hill 5K Run/Walk

WHEN: Saturday, May 17, 9 AM

WHERE: Veterans United Home Loans
2101 Chapel Plaza Court

Register SOON!
www.coyotehill5k.com