

Starr News

S P R I N G 2 0 0 9 | V O L U M E 6 6 N O . 1

STARR COMMONWEALTH SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1913

Inside:

**Have a Little
Faith in Me**

Children's Home
of Detroit Joins Starr

Learning to Sew
Mends Souls

hope

MICHIGAN AND OHIO'S PREMIER CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Michigan: Albion, Battle Creek, Detroit | **Ohio:** Van Wert, Columbus, Hannah Neil Center

Starr News

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Mission:

Create positive environments where children flourish.

< **New Addition to Starr**

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Children's Home of Detroit*

self-esteem

Cover Story: >

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Have a Little
Faith in Me*



Starr News Spring, 2009 Volume 66, No. 1

Starr Commonwealth is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families & Children. Starr Commonwealth is a non-profit organization serving children and families regardless of race, religion, color, or national origin. Founded in 1913, Starr is licensed by the states of Michigan and Ohio and serves children and families from locations in Albion, Battle Creek, Detroit, MI.; Van Wert, and Columbus, OH. The Albion campus is a Michigan Historic Site. Starr Commonwealth receives funds from social agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Jon Rhoades, Chairman of the Board; Martin L. Mitchell, Ed. D., President and Chief Executive Officer; Herman J. McCall, Ed. D., Executive Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer; Christopher L. Smith, B.A., C.P.A., Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Simon P. Bisson, B.A.(Ed) Hons, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer; Wm. Chuck Jackson, MA, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer.

13725 Starr Commonwealth Rd. Albion, MI 49224-9525 517-629-5591 info@starr.org

respect



Martin L. Mitchell, Ed.D.
President/CEO

It is a challenging yet very exciting time right now for Starr Commonwealth, our Board of Trustees and the friends of the organization.

Our hearts remain passionate and our minds focused about providing the highest quality of services and programs for youth, families and professionals. Our short-term residential Substance Abuse program is full as is the Montcalm Structured Transitional Living program and our community-based services continue to thrive and flourish.

Despite a weakened economy, we continue to meet the needs of the youth and families who've turned to us for help. However, as organizations like Starr Commonwealth suffer from these challenges, they also are reaching the limit of their ability to absorb risk and still meet the needs of children and families.

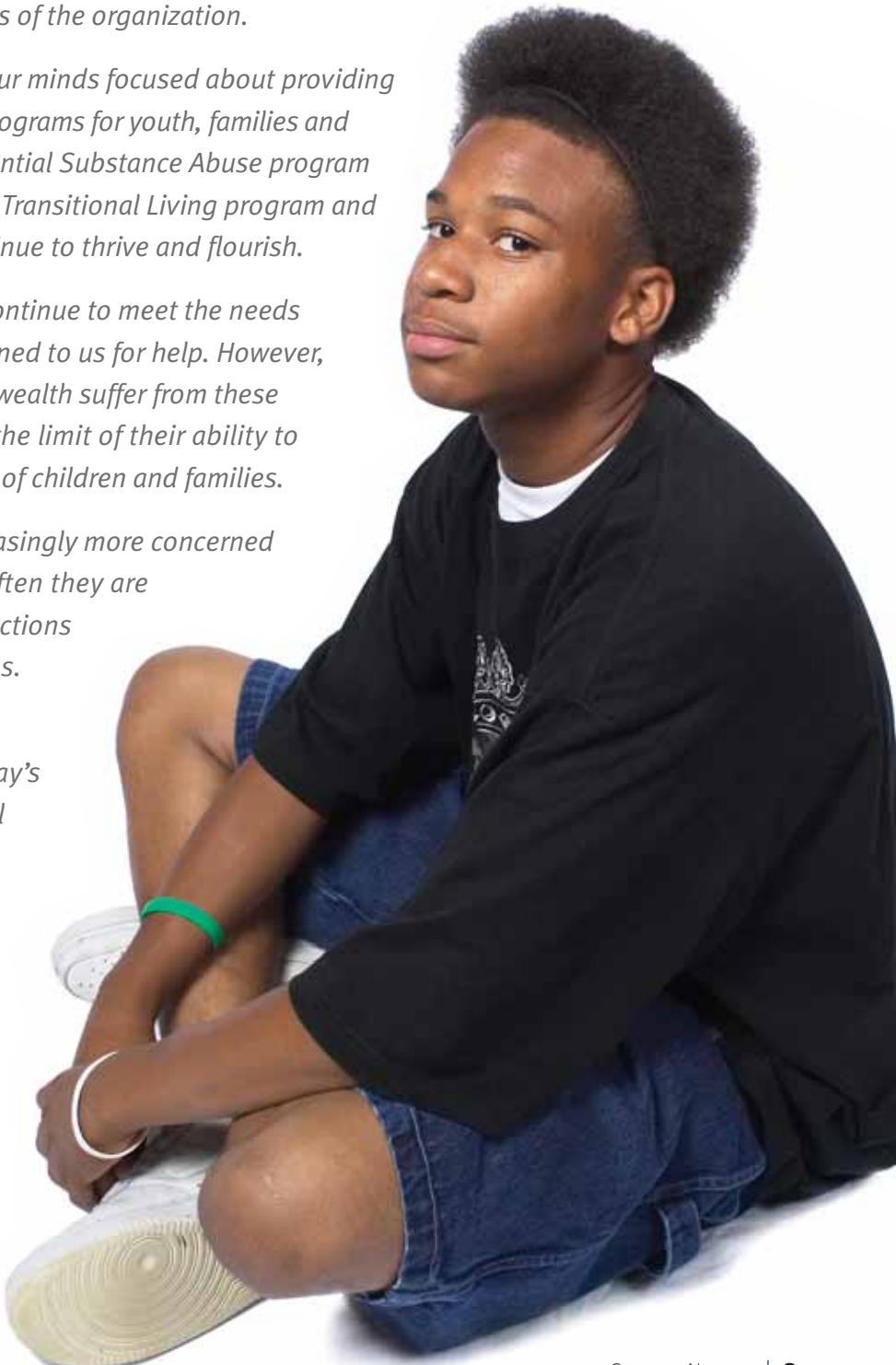
During times like these we are increasingly more concerned about the well-being of children. Often they are victims of their parents' adverse reactions to financial woes and stressful times. They need us now more than ever.

We know that an investment in today's at-risk youth can be beneficial to all of society. Early intervention and prevention services, like those that Starr Commonwealth provides, will transform a child's life.

Just like the children we serve, all we're asking is that you have a little faith in us.

Martin L. Mitchell

Martin L. Mitchell, Ed.D., President/CEO





Have a little faith in me

During the past century, Starr Commonwealth has been a progressive and pioneering agency in creating innovative new programs and services for children and families while staying true to our core values of **honesty, compassion, respect, responsibility and fairness**. In doing so, we've opened the door to bright, hopeful and successful futures for thousands of youth. But we couldn't do it without the love and support of generous friends of the organization.

At Starr, we dig deeper to uncover the underlying issues that cause children to act out. We look beyond the surface issues to promote real and lasting changes by transforming children's values. We have faith that there is greatness under those tough exteriors. For many of the children who come to Starr, we give them the *first* chance they never had.

Meet Joe, a young man from Detroit, Michigan who is symbolic of so many of the young men served through Starr's transformational programs:

Nearly 5,000 children, families and professionals are forever changed by Starr's broad spectrum of services in Michigan and Ohio. On any given day we provide direct care services to more than 700 children, ages ranging from birth to early 20s.

“Being at home was like living in a dungeon in that I had no one to lean on. I had no motivation to do what was right. I really did not think that anyone had much hope in me so I had lost all hope for a better future. I became afraid of people and life itself. Since coming to Starr Commonwealth, I have had an opportunity to let others into my life and allowed them to help me. I’m learning to have more faith in what I can accomplish, through others who have faith in me.”

behaviors. Our reputation as a leader in programs for youth wasn't without the help of the many individuals and organizations who have supported our cause. As we look forward to our Centennial Anniversary, we celebrate the thousands of families, youth and professionals forever transformed by the programs and services provided through Starr. Our treatment works and it lasts.

Last year, 85 percent of the youth we served reported being more productive and in less restrictive environments one year after their Starr experience. More than 80 percent were free of convictions, free of charges and passing in school.

We all want a society where children are valued and where juvenile delinquency and crime are non-existent, but the facts paint a different picture. We are focused on the children who continue to need our support. Nationwide each year, police make 2.2 million juvenile arrests; 1.7 million cases are referred to juvenile courts; an estimated 400,000 youngsters

Our private placement programs have served nearly 200 youth from across the country and internationally through our Montcalm Schools, further spreading our national reach and impact.

We love these children until they learn to love themselves. Unlike other tough-love and punitive-based programs that try to control behavior, Starr Commonwealth programs are built on practices that place a premium on lasting value change, not just changing



cycle through juvenile detention centers; and nearly 100,000 youth are confined in juvenile jails, prisons, boot camps, and other residential facilities on any given night.¹

The truth is that children make mistakes. Sometimes influenced by their environments, peer pressure and poor modeling, sometimes by immaturity to understand the consequences of their actions. Some are able to help themselves and see their errors before it is too late; for some, it takes a positive adult to step in and offer guidance. For many, however, it is too late. The story is typified by poor attendance in school, expulsion and further negative behaviors and more serious consequences.

Young people who penetrate the systems deeply – those who end up confined in locked detention centers and training schools – suffer some of the worst odds of long-term success of any youth cohort in our nation.

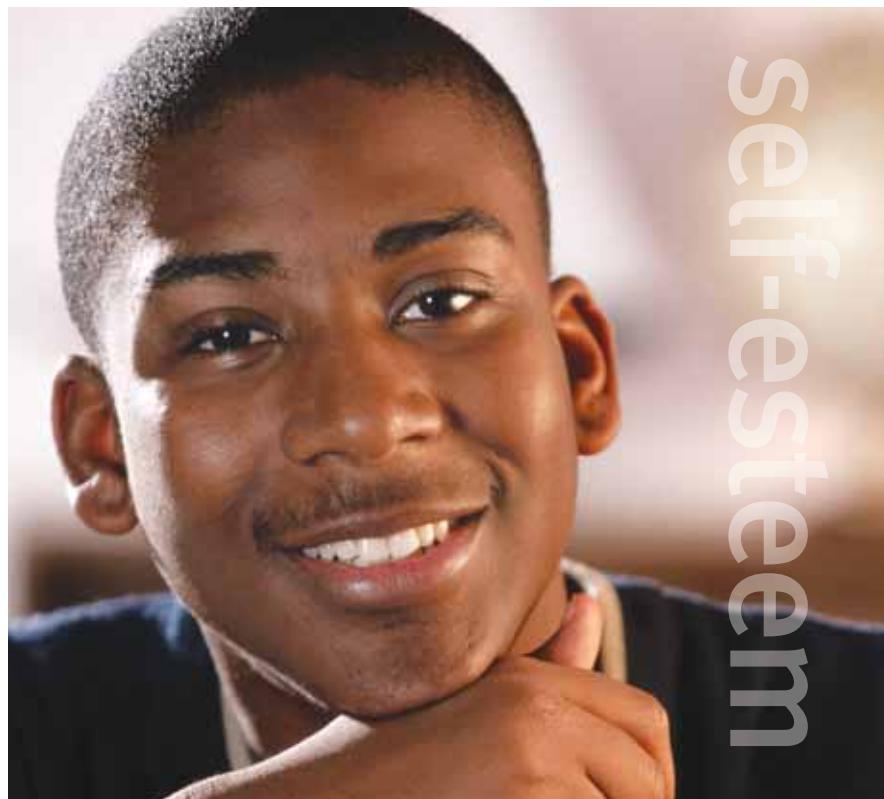
“I never thought I’d be the one reaching out for help. I never realized how real peer pressure was until an incident happened in my family. It was hard. I was so angry. But Starr was there. The staff was kind and worked with me as a parent to improve the areas that I needed to improve while helping my son feel good about himself. They rehabilitated him and, in areas where I was weak as a parent, they helped me too.”

our children. That's the bad news. The good news is that so many have stepped forward to partner with state and local governments to allow agencies like Starr Commonwealth help troubled children shine.

We love these children until they learn to love themselves.

With your help, we are expanding our continuum of care with the creation of new and innovative community-based services that address the

Over their lifetime, they will achieve less educationally, work less and for lower wages, fail more frequently to form enduring families, experience more chronic health problems (including addiction) and suffer more imprisonment.² Without an investment in our youth, the outcome for these “disposable kids” can be bleak. Divesting them of self-worth, punitive punishment and more “adult-styled” consequences have long been proven as ineffective methods to help save

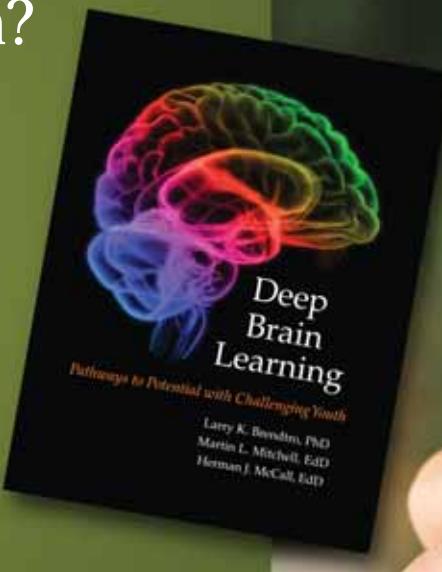


What's really going on in the heads of today's struggling youth?

Find out.

Deep Brain Learning
*Pathways to Potential
with Challenging Youth,*
from Starr Commonwealth.

Pre-order your copy at starr.org



growing needs of youth, families and schools right in their homes and in their communities. Starr is working closely with the government to meet those needs at every stage and level of need.

Our child-centered and family-focused approach supplies the compassion, love and support but our services are not fully effective without your investment in their basic needs. Devoting resources to our youth creates opportunities for the children to shine who most often are in the shadows. With your help we can meet the growing needs of the youth we serve. We can equip children and families with the educational tools and life skills needed to get beyond hopelessness and dependency. We can change their lives.



Their need is now. We're ready today and we'll be ready tomorrow. Because tomorrow looks a whole lot more hopeful with you by our side.

¹Data on juvenile arrests, court referrals, and youth in confinement taken from the website of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Statistical Briefing Book, available at <http://ojdp.ncjrs.org/ojstatbb/index.html>. Cited in The Annie E. Casey Foundation 2008 Kids Count Data Book.

²Chung, H.L., M. Little, and L. Steinberg, 2005, "The Transition to Adulthood for Adolescents in the Juvenile Justice System: A Developmental Perspective," in *On Your Own Without a Net: The Transition to Adulthood for Vulnerable Populations*, D.W. Osgood, E.M. Foster, C. Flanagan, and G.R. Ruth (Eds.).

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Commonwealthalia

by Amy Reimann, Director of Archives and Alumni Affairs

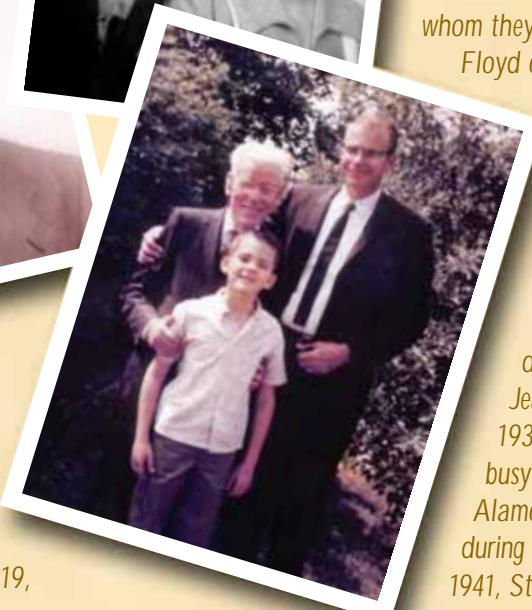
Family always meant something invaluable to Floyd Starr. The Starr Commonwealth archives hold a wealth of information about his family – his natural daughter Margaret and also about adopted son David.

But it was not until recently that more information came to us about Floyd's other adopted son, Stanley.



William Leach was born Dec. 3, 1905 to Nettie Mae and Springfield Leach. In 1913, Nettie died and Springfield attempted to raise sons Junius, 15, and William, 7, on his own. Springfield himself passed away in 1917, leaving William to be raised by his aunt Bertha Wood Noah. Unable to care for him financially, his aunt took him to Starr Commonwealth where he became the 115th boy to enter into Floyd Starr's care.

Starr archives show that William arrived Sept. 20, 1919, and had been placed by his guardian from Chelsea, Michigan. A story related by both Floyd and Stanley is that a group of Starr boys were on a field trip to a museum and when asked what they saw in a particular painting, the answer William gave so moved Floyd that he investigated a further companionship with the boy that resulted in his adoption. His name was changed to Stanley Max Starr.



Much to Floyd's disappointment, Stanley did not wish to pursue college after high school. Floyd's plan included having an heir to replace him one day at the helm of the thriving Commonwealth. Stanley instead struck out on his own, leaving Starr Jan. 9, 1923, and moving to nearby Battle Creek, where he held numerous odd jobs.

In 1926, Stanley moved to St. Louis where he worked at several automotive service institutions. He married Marie Schmidt in 1931. They had a son whom they named William Floyd on Feb. 9, 1934.

The young Starr family moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, in March 1938, and welcomed daughter Cathrine Jean on April 11, 1939. Stanley was busy owning the Alamo Tire Company during this time. In 1941, Stanley entered the Civil Service, a career he would continue for the rest of his life. William was married to Joyce Neumann in 1963. Joyce had a son, Randy, with whom Starr Commonwealth now enjoys a great relationship. He is Floyd Starr's eldest great-grandson.

Photos clockwise from left: Baby William Leach who became Stanley Max Starr; William Floyd Starr; Stanley and Marie Starr; Floyd Starr with grandson William and great grandson Randy.

Stanley succumbed to cancer on June 5, 1966, to Floyd Starr's great dismay. His untimely death followed closely that of Gordon Langley, another of Floyd's boys to whom he was extremely close, and these events proved to sadden Floyd Starr for a long time. Catherine, in the meantime, had also married and had three children, and Marie and Cathrine's family traveled to Albion to visit Floyd during the summer of 1966. William brought his wife and young son to Starr Commonwealth the following year. Randy continued to write and visit regularly in the summers and at Christmas through the next 10 years.

Randy recounts his visits as always interesting. "Grandpa would always find something interesting for us to do. We would visit museums and zoos or other schools for boys and even the state school for the deaf. As fascinating as these trips could prove, my favorite time spent with him was the time alone, polishing our shoes together, or popping popcorn in the fireplace at Candler Hall. Those times will burnish in my memory the remainder of my life."

Floyd Starr corresponded with his extended Texas family throughout his life, always planning visits and sharing news. Randy was able to attend Floyd's memorial service at the end of the summer in 1980. Marie passed away in 1992, William in 1998 and his sister Cathrine in 2000. They have left behind a legacy of family connections that continues to this day. Four Starr great-grandchildren and 11 great-great-grandchildren survive in Texas.

Randy was able to visit the Albion campus for 2008's Founder's Day and brought copies of letters and photographs for the Starr archives. We are grateful to him and his wife Tracey for their visit and the ability to have a more complete picture of the extended Starr family for the archives. ☺

Family
C O N N E C T I O N S

If you have questions or comments about any Starr historical topics, please contact Amy Reimann, Director of Archives and Alumni Affairs at 800.837.5591.



Starr Commonwealth unveils new logo

Starr Commonwealth recently unveiled a new logo designed to better reflect and draw a connection to its many child-centered services. The logo features a new icon, a stylized depiction of a child in an uplifting pose which also forms the outline of a star.

The logo represents Starr Commonwealth's philosophy: *We see something good in every child.*SM

"Our new logo visually represents what we often communicate with words when we discuss our organization and its programs," said Martin L. Mitchell, President and CEO of Starr Commonwealth. "Our programs build up youth, helping them to overcome their personal obstacles and move forward in a positive and rewarding path. The new logo design will help us say that with fewer words and help the community draw connections between Starr Commonwealth and the many programs we offer."

Founded in 1913, Starr Commonwealth offers a full spectrum of community-based early intervention and prevention services as well as specialized residential programs and is internationally recognized as a leader in "strength-based" transformational programs.

For more information visit www.starr.org.

We are proud to announce the addition of Children's Home of Detroit to Starr Commonwealth.

Because of Starr Commonwealth's excellent reputation, the Trustees of the Children's Home of Detroit elected to transfer the organization's assets to Starr as a way to carry on its legacy and mission.

"In our long-term strategic planning, we identified Starr Commonwealth as a gold standard provider of services for children and families and a suitable candidate for affiliation to continue our own tradition of serving children and families," said Bruce Vande Vusse, President of the Board of Trustees for Children's Home of Detroit. "In the challenging and evolving environment now confronting agencies like ours, we look forward to working with Starr Commonwealth to discover and deliver the highest quality and effective services that can be delivered to make a positive impact on children and their families."

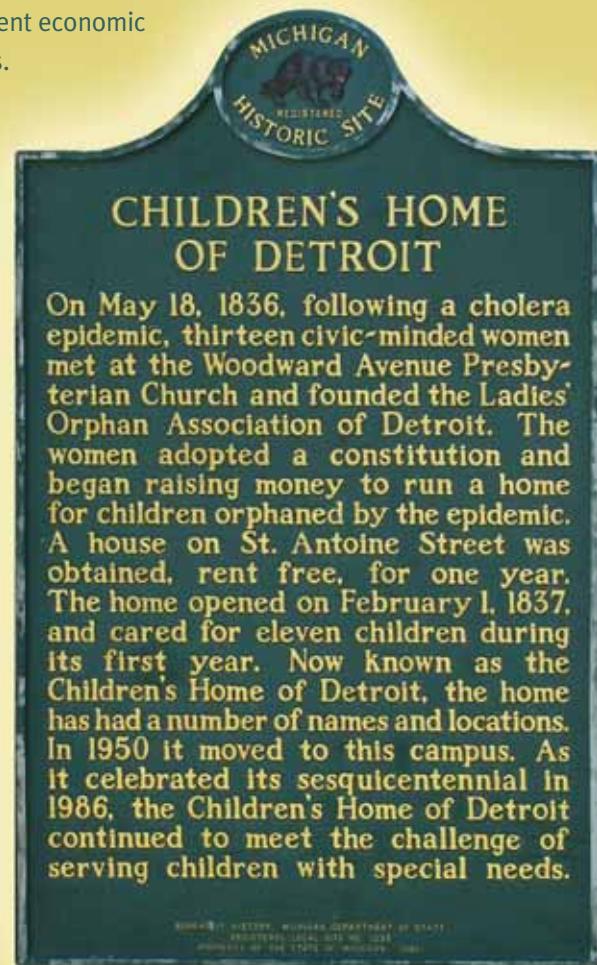
Children's Home of Detroit joins Starr family

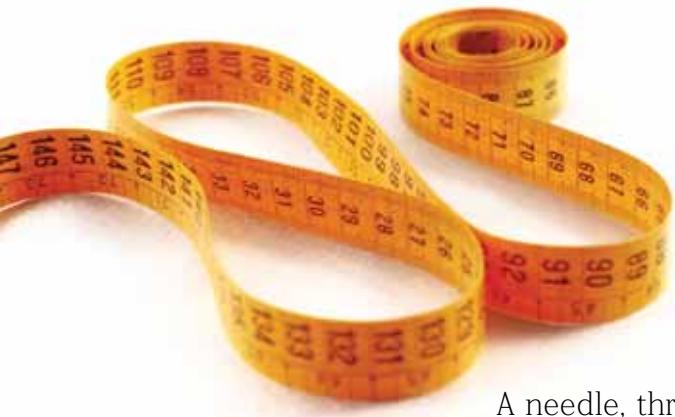
Currently there are no programs being operated at the Children's Home of Detroit. Starr will evaluate the needs of youth and current economic conditions before deciding on the future of these assets.

"We are proud that the Children's Home of Detroit is entrusting Starr Commonwealth with their rich legacy of caring for children and families," said Martin L. Mitchell, Starr Commonwealth President and Chief Executive Officer. "We look forward to continuing their work as we pursue early intervention and prevention services, community-based programming and possibly residential alternatives."

As Starr evaluates programming options, the National Institute for Trauma and Loss in Children (TLC) will continue to operate with Dr. William Steele overseeing that program.

"Our legacy of having a profound impact on children's lives will now continue well into the future with Starr Commonwealth who for 95 years, have themselves, created positive environments where children flourish," said Steele, Executive Director of Children's Home of Detroit. "We are excited that with Starr we will offer a full array of services for at-risk children in the southeastern Michigan area."





Learning to sew mends Souls

A needle, thread and sewing machine are now new tools in the therapeutic activities offered at Montcalm School for Girls.

"We could not have predicted that the girls would become immersed in learning how to use a sewing machine, thread a needle and cut out patterns," said Sarah Hueve, staff member at Montcalm School for Girls. "We could not have predicted that many of the students would want to work even more on their projects back at the cottage. The girls have a great sense of accomplishment and pride after completing their projects."

Working with local Van Wert women in the Sewing Guild has given the girls so much to look forward to. Every week they ask the staff, "When are we sewing again?" The staff recalls the days when the girls seemed a little less comfortable with the idea. They seemed to think, "this is something my Grandma does."

However, when they realized that they could make anything from clothes to pillows to handbags, which happen to be a very hot item among teenage girls, the group really seemed to have a renewed focus. They could create something that was uniquely their own.

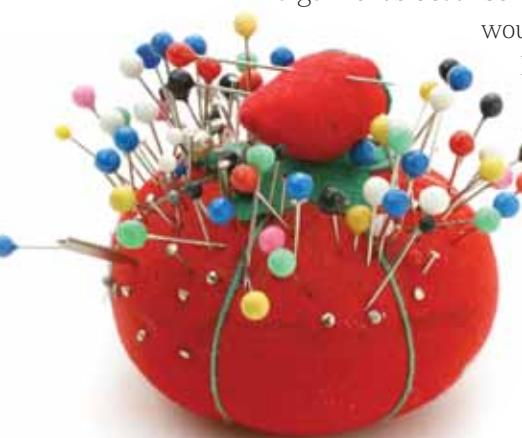


The group also has been given the opportunity to have fun, the kind of fun teenagers should have. The group learned a new coping skill, a healthy coping skill that is useful to them beyond Montcalm. This coping mechanism also allows them to once again have fun without harming themselves or others. This also is a creative outlet that has spawned potential career opportunities for girls who did not really care too much about their futures. Girls that did not find education important have now learned to sew and are considering futures in fashion design.

The girls also no longer see their clothing as disposable items. A missing button or broken zipper is no longer a garment's death sentence. Many of these young women have been fortunate in their lives and would have thought nothing of getting rid of clothing because a button fell off.

Now these same ladies are armed with the tools and skills to see the possibilities and can appropriately fix the problems presented to them.

"In a way, the Sewing Guild has become a metaphor for what we try to teach," Hueve said. "We try to teach them that problems are opportunities. Just because a little part of you may feel broken it doesn't make you less valuable. Perhaps you don't know how to fix it now, but we will guide you how to work the machine. We will teach you to thread the needle. We will help you cut the pattern and piece it together. And with hard work and determination, you will turn out to be a work of art."



Stanley Allen, Distinguished Alumni

Stanley Allen of Clive, Iowa was honored with Starr Commonwealth's Distinguished Alumni Award during the Founder's Day program on October 5, 2008.

The Distinguished Alumni Award is bestowed on former Starr students who exemplify core values of honesty, compassion, responsibility, respect and fairness. These former students demonstrate high personal standards, are involved in their communities and are committed to Starr and the future of the organization.

Allen was a resident at the Starr Commonwealth Albion Campus from 1970 to 1974, during which time he lived in Ceeley, Kresge and Wilcox cottages. Allen graduated from Albion High School where he played football and was a member of the track team. He broke the school shot put record, which stands to this day.

Allen then joined the U.S. Navy where he boxed and played football while stationed in Alaska, the Philippines and Japan. After the Navy, Stan settled in California where he spent several years as a district manager for Wal-Mart and Payless Shoe Stores. He is currently a Technical Project Manager and Business Systems Consultant with Wells Fargo and Company where he manages Information Technology Projects.

"It is our pleasure to recognize Stan Allen with the Distinguished Alumni Award as he has in the past 30 years accomplished a great deal of success and has done so by simply recognizing his inner strengths and living a positive lifestyle," said President and Chief Executive Officer Martin L. Mitchell.

"I cannot begin to express the feelings I possess around being nominated to receive such an honor," Stanley Allen said. "Being the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award is significant to me as it celebrates a culmination of not just my efforts but those of others at Starr who took the time to provide inspiration, support and direction while I was a student there."

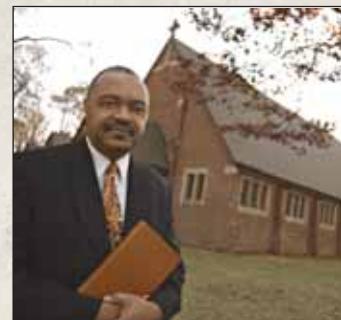
responsibility

We guard your privacy. Starr Commonwealth does not sell or trade donor contact information. We do recognize and celebrate our donors' contributions by using their names in various publications. If you would like your gift to remain anonymous, please let us know. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Development Office at 800.837.5591, ext. 2436 or info@starr.org.

Chaplain's Message

In difficult economic times charity is certainly affected, or is it?

Given the economic challenges facing many individuals, families, businesses, governmental entities, our Nation and even the world, charity is probably an appropriate theme, especially for Starr Commonwealth, which relies on the generous support of friends and donors to help provide high-quality services for youth.



Chaplain Kenneth T. Ponds

Normally, when we think of charity we think of someone voluntarily giving their money, or items of value or other resources to help someone, or something in need. Usually they receive recognition in return – their name on a building, or listed in the Annual Report, etc. Charity is important to entities like Starr Commonwealth, because it allows Starr to provide the necessary services to the young people, families, and others whom we serve through our different programs each year. To that end, Starr works tirelessly to help people attain the vision of the difference they can make in a young person's life through the gift of their resources. During difficult economic times, this is the understanding of charity which is affected most.

AGAPE LOVE IS SPONTANEOUS AND SELFLESS, CONCERNED MORE ABOUT THE WELFARE OF ITS OBJECT THAN ITSELF.



However, the first and true meaning of charity is love. Not just any type of love, but agape, God's love. Agape is love given freely, with "no strings attached." It's not given because it has to be given; it is given simply because God chooses to do so. It is given without any expectation that the recipient will return love to the giver. There is nothing the recipient can do to earn this love, or become worthy of this love.

Agape is spontaneous and selfless, concerned more about the welfare of its object than itself. This type of charity is never in short supply. God extends to and invites us into agape; to become selfless givers of charity.

In the Gospel of Luke (6:38), Luke puts it another way by saying that when you become a selfless giver of charity then you will be given a full amount in return. It will be packed down, shaken together, and spilling over into your lap. Love extended is love returned and overflowing. Love accepted is love that leads to relationship and to community. Within community we as human beings reach our full potential.

At Starr we work to reconnect young people to "community." Something which I believe Floyd Starr understood very well. Let us receive agape first, and the other understandings of charity will follow in abundant supply.

Watch your gift grow. Do you work for a company that offers a matching gifts program?

Or, are you retired from a matching gifts company? If so, you could double – maybe even triple – your gifts to Starr Commonwealth children simply by letting us know. Just ask your employer or former employer to provide you with the paperwork you need.

Fill it out and send it to Attention: Development Office, Starr Commonwealth,
13725 Starr Commonwealth Road, Albion, MI 49224-9910

Thank you for caring!



The Starr Commonwealth Charitable Gift Annuity. The more you give, the more you get back.



A gift annuity is the win-win of charitable gifts. You get the satisfaction of knowing you're doing something important for the present and future children of Starr Commonwealth and you're guaranteed a stream of income for life!

Here's how it works. You transfer cash, securities, or other property to Starr to create your charitable gift annuity. Starr then pays you or the person you designate a fixed amount each year, for life! You can receive a nice tax deduction for the year you create the gift annuity, and, if you had donated appreciated property, you may save on capital gains tax. Among other benefits, part of your gift annuity income is tax-free, plus, the rates are based on age, so no health exams! When the gift annuity ends, after your life, the remaining principal passes to Starr Commonwealth to benefit children in need.*

For a detailed, no obligation analysis of what your gift might mean to you and the children of Starr Commonwealth, please call the office of Planned Giving, at 800.837.5591.

*not available in all states

Gift Annuity Rate Tables (Single Life)	
Age	Rate
55	4.8
60	5.0
65	5.3
70	5.7
75	6.3
80	7.1
85	8.1
90+	9.5



Featured Friends

Semper Fidelis!

"Semper Fi" the Latin term made popular by the U.S. Marines for its translation "always faithful" personifies the deep devotion of George Shaffer to his wife, his children, his grandchildren, and to Starr Commonwealth.

George Shaffer, a marine, husband, father, grandfather, and retired insurance executive shared a loving marriage with Mary Ellen for more than 63 years until he passed away last summer.

Beyond his passing, George's legacy of helping children will continue because of the foresight that he and Mary Ellen showed in funding a charitable gift annuity with Starr Commonwealth.

Through the years, George was known for his teasing, strong will, and love of family. His decisiveness was evident to Mary Ellen when he proposed soon after their first date. Their quick decision became a lifelong commitment that generated children and grandchildren who continue to honor George through their actions.

Memories of grandpa include chocolate milk, antique cars and funny stories. They also include an appreciation of the man whose word was as good as a promise, and the man who shared his earthly treasures with those less fortunate.

A charitable gift annuity was a wonderful way for George and Mary Ellen to support Starr Commonwealth with a tax deductible gift without losing an income source. And, because the Shaffer's annuity provided for two beneficiaries, Mary Ellen will continue to receive income from the charitable gift annuity for the rest of her life.

By funding a charitable gift annuity, donors to Starr Commonwealth help our children with an immediate tax-deductible gift that goes to work right away to help improve the lives of children. Our donors also receive guaranteed income for the rest of their lives. Even better, part of each payment is tax-free for many years to come. The rates are based on several factors, including the donor's age, and are set by the American Council on Gift Annuities. And, once set, the rate, and donor income, are never affected by changes in the economy.

Many donors choose to fund a charitable gift annuity with cash gifts, while others make gifts of appreciated stock or property – reducing capital gains and spreading them out over the life of the annuity.

Charitable gift annuities have been a wonderful investment for the Shaffers. They continue to be prudent investments in a turbulent economy, and they are a savvy investment in the future of our children.

For more information on how to create a named endowment or give to Starr through other means, please call our Development Office at 800.837.5591 or visit www.starr.org.



Mary Ellen and George Shaffer



Acknowledgements

Starr Commonwealth wishes to show appreciation to **Chemical Bank** for their timely and generous donation toward purchasing holiday gifts for students on our Albion, Michigan campus. Because of this contribution, all 190 students at Starr Albion were able to choose a holiday gift for themselves and had the opportunity to purchase a gift for their families. Thank you to Mark Montross, Community President of Chemical Bank, Diane Ramirez, Vice President and Regional Sales Manager and Teri Fogel, Assistant Vice President and Albion Branch Manager.

We also are grateful to **Hastings Mutual Insurance Charitable Foundation** for providing medical assistance to youth served through Starr's residential and community-based programs in Calhoun County. We wish to acknowledge Holly Throop of Hastings Mutual and Tom Kolassa and John Avery, both Senior Vice Presidents from Hub International Midwest, for their assistance.



You gave the gift of hope.

Thanks to your gifts, our children are receiving the help they need to be successful.

Over the holiday season, many of our friends heard from Michael, a Starr graduate who started college last fall. He shared his past difficulties and the hope that Starr Commonwealth provided through our nurturing programs. We are so proud of Michael and of his accomplishments – but we couldn't help children like him without YOUR help.

Starr Commonwealth offers children the strength to help children build a bright future. Over the holiday season, we received \$61,413.50 in generous donations that are at work today helping struggling children succeed.

Thank you for your compassion!



SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES

Honor and Memorial Gifts

HONOR GIFTS are thoughtful ways to remember a special person and/or a special occasion, such as a new birth, birthday, anniversary, graduation, Mother's Day, or Father's Day, while also helping Starr children. When sending an honor gift, please provide the

address of the honoree. We will send an acknowledgement card to let them know of your thoughtfulness, but we won't mention the gift amount. You may call in your honor gift for faster acknowledgement at: 800.837.5591. Honor gifts also may be made online at: www.starr.org.

MEMORIAL GIFTS offer an enduring tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one, while extending a helping hand to the children of Starr Commonwealth. When sending a memorial gift, please provide the address of a family member of the deceased to whom we can send an acknowledgement card. We will let them know of your thoughtfulness, but won't mention the gift amount. You may call in your memorial gift for faster acknowledgement at: 800.837.5591. Memorial donations also may be made online at: www.starr.org.

Here is a listing of Honor and Memorial gifts received from 10/26/08 to 1/31/09. Givers are listed below the name of the person in whose memory or honor they contributed. Gifts not listed here will appear in a future issue of *Starr News*.

If we missed your name or an error has occurred with your listing, please forgive us and contact us so we may correct it in the next issue.

IN HONOR OF:

DANIEL ARTMAN
Mrs. Norma S. Artman

ANN S. BAIR
Ms. Linda D. Guth

ELLEN BAKER
Dr. and Mrs. Robert F. Baker

MARY BAKER
Dr. Ellen K. Baker

SUSAN L. BEAZLEY
Mrs. Sylvia S. Richey

LUCY MARTIN BISSON
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bisson

RUTH CATHERINE BISSON
Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bisson

DAVID AND EDIE COLE
Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Walters

JENNA COPENHAVER
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STUDENT SUCCESS STORY

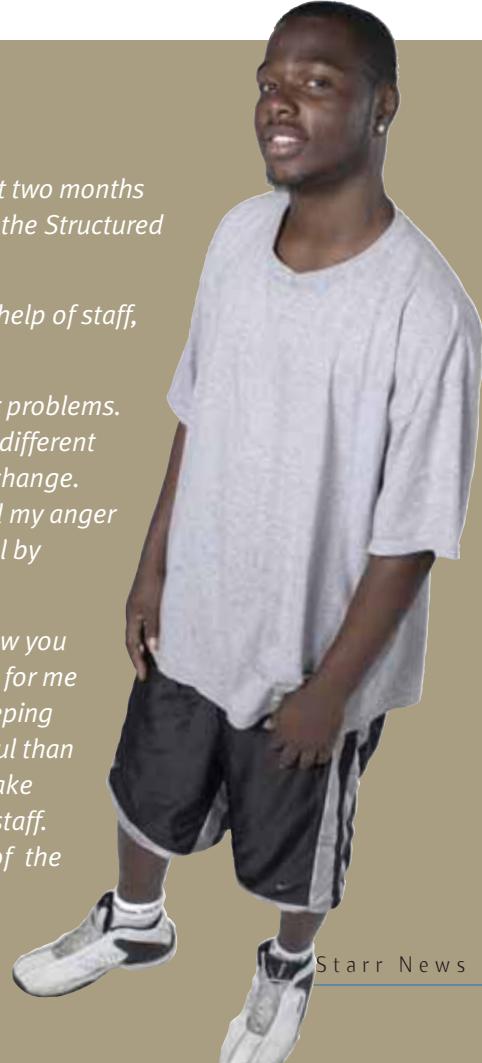
Andrew's success

I have been at Starr for almost a year now. For the past two months I have been living at the Gauss House, which is part of the Structured Transitional Living program.

When I first came to Starr I stayed at Reynolds Cottage, where with the help of staff, I was able to become who I am today.

I came to Starr Commonwealth with a substance abuse issue and anger problems. It was challenging being here at first. The environment was completely different than where I was before and the people here really wanted to help me change. With this new environment and the help from staff, I was able to control my anger and stop it before it got the best of me. I also accomplished a huge goal by achieving sobriety and have been sober now for nearly a year.

I have learned that anger is not a bad thing and, in fact, it is normal. How you control it is what makes the difference. I have also learned that in order for me to stay sober I must change my environment and make sure that I am keeping myself busy. I learned that helping others sometimes is more meaningful than just helping you. But, most of all I have learned how to have fun and make meaningful positive relationships with my former group members and staff. That is what has been most important to me. I am going to miss a lot of the people here and definitely plan on keeping in touch after I return home.





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