

Spotlight on Southwestern Illinois All-Stars

Hoyleton Ministries serving diverse population innovatively for more than a century

Since 1895, Hoyleton Ministries - Hoyleton Youth and Family Services, Puentes de Esperanza and the Hoyleton Children's Home Foundation - have been dedicated to helping all people realize the quality of life that God intends for them. For 117 years, the nonprofit organization has continuously served a diverse, growing population across Southwestern Illinois.

"Our staff provides compassionate care to thousands of children who have, through no fault of their own, entered the child welfare system," said Chris Cox, president and CEO of Hoyleton Ministries. "We spend countless hours working to heal the physical and emotional wounds of clients in our care. Prayer and discernment has led us to focus on families that are still living together but experiencing difficulties. Innovation has come to Hoyleton in the form of several new preventative programs, designed to strengthen and lift up families on the brink of crisis."

The faith-based organization's roots are planted deep within Southern Illinois. Cox says its dedicated board of directors - which includes vice-chairman Wayne Barber Jr., co-principal of BARBERMurphy Group in Shiloh - is constantly seeking additional business leadership.

"We're grateful to Wayne Barber for his instrumental leadership and his generous financial support of Hoyleton Ministries," said Cox. "BARBERMurphy has played a big role in what we do. As an organization, we're always looking to develop more relationships with area businesses that are able to provide

services to the most vulnerable members of our communities."

Hoyleton provides 17 different services throughout Southwestern Illinois and is preparing to expand into Marion. Of those, Cox says, is a foster care facility in East St. Louis that has 225 children from birth through age 19.

The Hoyleton Children's Home is a residential treatment program that provides compassionate care for children and adolescents with severe emotional and/or behavioral problems as well as youth who are developmentally delayed. Youth between the ages of 9 and 21 are assisted in a campus setting in rural Hoyleton, Ill. Each child learns how to positively change behavior, achieve established educational goals and live in community with others. The healing process, says public relations coordinator Molly Ronsick, involves therapeutic recreation, individual and group counseling sessions, specialized education programs and healthcare services. The home also provides case management, vocational training and job placement programs.

Residential services at Hoyleton are licensed by the Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services and accredited by the Council On Accreditation of Services for Families and Children.

As children age into adulthood, without an organization like Hoyleton Ministries, many with developmental disabilities do not have the option to move on into an adult environment that is ideal. That's where the nonprofit's new development, its Community Integrated Living Arrangement or CILA, stands in the gap.



Rainbow Ranch Petting Zoo in Nashville, Ill. recently brought its menagerie to Hoyleton, Ill. so residents could enjoy interacting with the animals.

"Hoyleton Ministries now provides the same compassionate care as in the residential program," said Cox, adding that CILA assists those who have aged out children's services by guiding them into secondary education, vocational school or wherever their goals lead them. CILA also helps each young adult gain a foothold in his or her local community by assigning the individual a professional case manager for advocacy and support.

A relatively new outreach that Hoyleton Ministries is offering to a growing number of Hispanic clients, Cox says, is a Spanish-speaking interpreter. "DCFS doesn't have a Spanish-speaking staff member in the southern region, and

often, even if there was not a problem, the child had to be removed because the parents couldn't communicate with the DCFS worker and there was no one available to translate and make sure everything was alright," he said. "Thanks to our program, Puentes de Esperanza (Bridges of Hope), we've been able to provide interpretation and translation services to try to keep more children in homes, which is also less burden on the taxpayer."

For more information on Hoyleton Ministries and for info on sponsoring or playing in its annual golf tournament July 20th, call 618-493-7575 and visit www.hoyleton.org.

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First Clover Leaf Bank's Green Team actively supports local communities' needs

By KATE GENO

If you attend a community event around Edwardsville or Wood River, there's a good chance you will meet members of First Clover Leaf Bank's Green Team. This team is made up of bank employees that volunteer their time and talents to many worthwhile charities and community-centered activities.

"In the 12 years since the Green Team was formed, its members have contributed over 750 hours of service," said Kevin Fitzgerald, vice president and current co-chair of the Green Team. "Nearly every bank employee participates in one or more activities each year with up to 50 employees making up the core team."

In 2011, the Green Team was active in 23 different charitable events including the Relay for Life where it raised \$7,400 for the American Cancer Society, Coats for Kids that resulted in 250 coats collected and a partnership with Joplin Spirit that sent two truckloads of donated goods and \$4,600 to the tornado-ravaged people of Joplin, Mo.

First Clover Leaf Bank also sponsors events that bring a sense of fun to the community, including the annual Santa's Workshop - where kids make holiday crafts and meet Santa Claus - and the annual Halloween Parade in Edwardsville. Due to their hard work and creativity, FCLB employees won the grand prize for their float in the 2011 Halloween parade.

The bank's largest sponsored event is its annual Health Fair, which has been held every May since 2005. Planned and

organized by the Green Team, the fair is free to the residents of Edwardsville, Glen Carbon and nearby communities.

"The idea for the Health Fair came about when the bank staff was planning a customer appreciation day," said Fitzgerald. "They decided to take their plans to the next level by inviting the entire community and making the event about health awareness."

More than 30 healthcare-related vendors exhibit at the fair every year. Exhibitors include Anderson Hospital and local dentists, doctors, chiropractors and more. Information is made available to educate attendees about how to take care of themselves. There are also many kids' activities such as bounce houses and caricature painting. A free picnic lunch is provided for everyone.

This year the fair was held at Edwardsville Township Park for the first time to allow more space for vendors and attendees.

In 2012 the bank also introduced a 5K Fun Run and Walk to raise money for the Edwardsville/Glen Carbon Junior Service Club's Boundless Playground project. Boundless Playground Inc. is a nonprofit developer of inclusive playgrounds. Because 1 in 10 children have a disability that makes it difficult for them to play on traditional playgrounds, Boundless builds playgrounds that are accessible to all children. They also help caregivers with disabilities play with their loved ones in a safe setting. The Junior Service Club has a fundraising goal of \$400,000 to build a Boundless Playground at



(left to right) First Clover Leaf Bank CEO Dennis Terry joins Green Team members Christie Lampe and Kelly Schlechte in celebrating the bank's \$5,000 donation toward the Boundless Playground Project. The future playground will be accessible to all children, regardless of any disability they may have.

Edwardsville Township Park. First Clover Leaf Bank supports this mission for the betterment of the community and was able to raise \$12,000 toward this goal from the proceeds of the Health Fair.

According to Fitzgerald, the Health Fair is a highlight of his time on the Green Team. "It is very worthwhile to see the community where I work come together for a good cause. The

Green Team really works hard to make this a special event. On the day of this year's fair, 33 Green Team members volunteered a total of 147 hours of their time."

Fitzgerald also stressed how privileged the FCLB staff feels to live and work in their community. "As the community supports the bank, the bank employees in turn are dedicated to supporting the community in any way that they can."

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Spotlight on Southwestern Illinois All-Stars

CBRE forms charitable outreach committee, commits to monthly expressions of support

By KATE GENO

Employees at the CBRE St. Louis office were so driven to contribute their time and resources to charitable causes in the area that the firm formed a Charitable Giving Committee in December 2011 to unify and strengthen their efforts.

"Many employees at the company were active in their own individual charities, sending e-mails to ask for support on an ongoing basis," said Liz Schenk, real estate manager and Charitable Giving Committee chair. "The managing director of the St. Louis office, Jeffrey Kaiser, decided to bring everyone together with a common goal by creating the Charitable Giving Committee. The committee of 10 volunteer members began meeting in December and now meets monthly. We've decided to perform one charitable act every month, and part of our job is to research organizations and causes to support."

In March, eight CBRE employees walked in the annual St. Louis Walk for Wishes® at Forest Park to raise funds for the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Missouri. The team raised \$1,000 from in-office fundraising efforts. CBRE also participated in a shoe drive recently to benefit Soles4Souls Inc., an organization that provides shoes for needy individuals across the globe.

The committee's current efforts are focused on raising funds to participate in a special project with Rebuilding Together - St. Louis, the affiliate of a national organization that revitalizes neighborhoods by rehabilitating the houses of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly and the disabled. Since its incorporation in 1992, Rebuilding Together - St. Louis has assisted 1,275 homeowners in the St. Louis area.

CBRE is forming a team to join Rebuilding Together - St. Louis in September on a local home repair project. Teams must include at least 20 people and a minimum of \$5,000 needs to be raised for the project.

"The committee has been organizing various events to raise money for the upcoming project date," said Schenk. "We've had jeans days where employees pay \$5 to wear jeans to the office on Friday, we held a Cardinals opening day ticket raffle and a March Madness basketball pool. So far the office has raised over \$900 from these activities alone."

According to Schenk, the idea to partner with Rebuilding Together - St. Louis came from CBRE's corporate giving and volunteerism network, known as CBRE Cares. CBRE Cares has four main focuses which include disaster relief efforts, a shelter program (such as Rebuilding



CBRE's newly formed, 10-member charitable committee meets monthly to discuss which worthy organizations to reach out to through time, talents and financial support. Among those has been the Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Missouri.

Together), a birthday cake program that delivers personalized cakes to homeless children in shelters and a Foundation that directs employee donations to causes that are important to the company and relevant to society. CBRE Cares will match the fundraising efforts of the St. Louis office for Rebuilding Together up to 50 percent.

"CBRE is very supportive of employees who give their time and energy to important causes," said Schenk. "The company places a great deal of value on community service and giving back. Not only does CBRE allow their employees

to take time out of the workday to attend various charitable events, but CBRE also lends a helping hand wherever it is needed.

"The most gratifying part of being the chair for this committee is that it gives our employees, who might not have participated in an event on their own, an opportunity to get involved and make a difference. I've been with CBRE for almost seven years and it has been really heartwarming to see how many people within our office share the company's enthusiasm in helping those in need."

Prairie State employees, subs give generously to brighten holidays for Washington County needy

By KERRY L. SMITH

Heading into its sixth holiday season of meeting the needs of those less fortunate, Prairie State Generating Co. LLC is proud of its employees and subcontractors' generosity.

Prairie State Energy Campus' annual holiday Food and Toy Drive has been going on ever since construction first began in 2007 on the 1,600-megawatt, coal-fired generating plant and seven-million-ton adjacent coal mine. Ashlie Keener Kuehn, director of government affairs and public relations, says subcontractors generously spearheaded the holiday giving drive in its early years when the bulk of employees were not yet hired.

Because the Prairie State Energy Campus is located in a rural area (Washington County has a population of only 14,000), developing partnerships between various municipalities, schools, churches, food pantries and other organizations to identify individuals and families in need took some time and hard work. The \$4 billion megaproject's subcontractors and PSGC's initial employees, however, were up to the task; many of the volunteers who help identify and work to serve those connected with the 18 local recipient agencies have been part of the drive since its start.

Each November and December, employees turn their attention to

orchestrating and organizing the large-scale drive, donating thousands of dollars and truckloads of toys and food to those in need. In 2011, PSGC delivered 11 trucks of donations to the surrounding communities, \$10,000 in cash to local food pantries and an additional \$3,000 of support to local nonprofit organizations, according to Kuehn. This level of donation, she adds, has been consistent since the Food and Toy Drive began.

Washington County is still recovering from economic devastation in the early 1990s, Kuehn says, when a change in US EPA standards prevented the area from mining coal. Although that is no longer the case, communities here are still in economic recovery mode - and the list of those in need of assistance is lengthy.

The county is located an hour south of St. Louis. It sits in the West Washington County School District, and students living near the Prairie State Energy Campus attend Okawville schools. Prairie State worked with the West Washington County School District throughout its development, says Kuehn, and is thrilled to see the district build several new buildings to benefit its students.

PSGC is part of Lively Grove township within Washington County. The PSGC coal mine adopted the township's name for its mine. While Prairie State is located in Washington County, it sits at the corner of St.



Nearly a dozen truckloads of toys and clothing - combined with more than \$10,000 in cash for local food pantries and \$3,000 more for local nonprofits - is raised each November and December by Prairie State employees and subcontractors to help those in need.

Clair County and Randolph County as well.

Prairie State accepts requests through specifically identified, Washington County-based schools and nonprofits. Employees commit to "adopt" one or more children for the holidays and personally shop for those children at their own expense. Kuehn says a number of the union trades collect donations which are combined in the cash gifts to the food pantries.

Local agencies benefitting from PSGC's annual Food and Toy Drive include: Village of Fayetteville; Sparta Lincoln Middle

School; Sparta Primary Attendance Center; St. Liberty Elementary School; Okawville Grade School; Marissa Elementary School; Lenzburg Village Hall; Oakdale Grade School; Coulterville Elementary School; BCMW Community Services Food Pantry; Tilden Presbyterian Church Food Pantry; St. John United Church of Christ Food Pantry; Grandcote Reformed Presbyterian Church Food Pantry; Marissa Food Pantry; Peace Lutheran Church Angel Tree; Marissa Outreach; Steeleville Food Pantry; and Western Egyptian Food Pantry.

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