

## IN THE NEWS

### Welcome New Staff:

*David Wence, Director of Turning Point Education Center*

David was born and raised in Linton Indiana. He has an associate's degree in Law Enforcement from Vincennes University and a bachelor degree in Human Resource Development from Indiana State University. David states: "I am a family man and have three teenage sons whom I love very much. I still live in Linton and have a home next to where I grew up as kid. I enjoy working outside, raising a garden, seeing the fruits of my labor and sharing them with others. Over the last few years I have taken up running to get myself in good physical condition. I have competed in marathons and several 5k races. I also coach the Linton High school girls cross country team and like to pass onto them what I have learned from running." Welcome David!

*Tiffany Ledbetter, Youth Care Specialist at Miriam Home.* Tiffany worked at Open Arms ten years ago, but had to leave due to a family illness. We are excited that she has returned with all her knowledge and experience. Tiffany is a 2007 graduate from Indiana Business College with an Associate's Degree in Medical Assisting. Tiffany has three daughters, Lydia, age 20, Sierra, age 15, and Clover, age 12. She has two grandchildren Konner, age two and Karter, age 1. As a child, she volunteered at the nursing home with her grandma, which was an influence for her to begin a career in the medical field. Tiffany says she has a strong desire to do the Lord's work and feels that God has led her to OACM again to enrich and guide the residents to a God filled life as well. Welcome Tiffany!

### Miriam Home News:

**Illinois Trip:** The Miriam Home residents had the privilege of going to Springfield, Illinois on a two day trip in early August. We stayed one night at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel and Conference Center. The following day we toured the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, it was fascinating. We also toured the home President Lincoln and his family lived in while they lived in Springfield. In addition, the residents toured the Lincoln Tomb. The girls touched his bronze nose, which is supposed to bring good luck. They also threw pennies in the fountain along the trail. Of course we already know they are blessed. Each resident shared that they had a fun time and wanted to go back. This is one trip we would highly recommend for anyone having interest in Lincoln history.

**Quilts Donated:** Troy First Christian Church Women's Bible Study located in Troy, Indiana donated hand- made quilts for the girls. Thank you so much TFCC Ladies, they are beautiful and the girl's love them.

Link: <http://www.troyfirstchristian.org/>

### TPEC News:

TPEC began the school year on August 16th with approximately 15 in attendance. The attendance has now grown to 25 students with a variety of high school and adults. TPEC is currently working with 4 students in credit recovery. Mrs. Charla Byers returned to teach this year after her six week long internship with the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Mrs. Byers worked with the Director of Education while at the museum.

TPEC has just hired a new part-time teacher Mr. Curt Carr. Mr. Carr has several years teaching experience and has worked with local schools in shop classes. In addition Mr. Carr has provided GED classes with various Indiana Department of Correctional facilities. Mr. Carr will be teaching the morning classes Monday through Friday.

The Linton Work One GED site continues with Mrs. Brenda Campbell. Classes there are every Tuesday and Thursday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### **Foster Care News!**

Open Arms would like to welcome two new sets of foster parents in the Orange and Lawrence County areas. Brian and Angie Ferguson and Darrin and Ashley Chapman recently received their foster parent license and are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to care for God's children. We continue to seek individuals/couples who are interested in foster parenting and who are willing to open their hearts and home to a child in need. We are seeking foster parents in the Greene and surrounding counties. Open Arms provides the required training and will assist in completing the necessary background checks and paperwork. Our average age for foster youth is around 14 years and older, however, there are occasions where younger children come through the system. Open Arms also provides training specific to the child in each home and assists the foster parents in dealing with behavioral/emotional challenges that may arise. One thing that sets Open Arms apart from other foster care agencies is the fact that Open Arms views foster parenting as a ministry. Foster parents provide for the youth's spiritual needs and introduce them to the love of our heavenly father. The hurt and pain that these children have endured can't be healed by anyone other than through a relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you feel that God maybe calling you to open your heart and home to a child in need, please contact Marcie Dierdorf at (812)659-2533 or by email [marcie@openarmschristian.com](mailto:marcie@openarmschristian.com) You may call and inquire and even attend the first few training classes in order to gain additional information with no obligation.

### **OACM in the Greene County Daily News!**

#### **Back to School Blow Out**

On August 12<sup>th</sup> Open Arms celebrated their annual Back to School Blow Out to commemorate the beginning of a new school year. Eighty-nine attendees enjoyed a night of food, music, volleyball, cornhole, a large waterslide, face painting, fun and fellowship. To read an article about this great event go to the link: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1753003.html>

On August 8, 2011, GC Daily News published an article on the partnership between Dr. Linda Powers D.D.S.,M.S.D. and OACM to help children in need of orthodontia. Foster children, even though covered by state insurance, are not covered for orthodontia work. Dr. Powers has stepped up to the challenge and has graciously agreed to help these children by providing these services at a low rate.

If you would like to contribute to Open Arm's "Smile fund" to help children in need of this type of service, click on our link:

To read the entire articles go to the following link: <http://gcdailyworld.com/story/1751367.html>