God’s Love for His Children  By Pam Patterson, Exec. Director

It is so sad when we as parents set up boundaries for our children to follow to keep them safe and they don’t follow them. I think about telling a young child that they can ride their bike in the driveway but they are not to go in to the road. The child sees the road and thinks about how much more freedom and fun they could have if they ventured out into it. He decides to not follow his parents warning. All of a sudden a car comes around the corner and hits him! Thank God he was not killed, but he has been hurt. Your heart as a parent is breaking as you hear the cries. You wish he would have trusted you and listened to you!

I imagine that is how God feels when we venture outside His guidelines. When God’s word tells us how we should live, it isn’t because He wants to control us, constrict us, or stop us from having fun. He wants us to be safe! He knows what is best for us as an individual and as a society. I think of how far we as a society have gone from following His boundaries. One example is the sexual boundaries He has placed. His word says that sex should only occur in marriage, but we have decided to stretch that boundary. Many rationalize sex outside of marriage, affairs, pornography and so on. This has led to a very slippery slope. Now we live in a society that 1 out of 4 children are sexually abused and one of the fastest growing industries is sex trafficking. I often wonder how did we as a society get to the point that we sexually abuse our most innocent precious beings. How did we get to the point we buy and sell another human being for our own sexual pleasure? The answer appears to be fairly easy: We have turned away from God and His teachings. As a society our hearts have grown cold. Does God still love us when we make these decisions? Yes! Does His heart break for us and those our decisions hurt? Yes!

I picture Him as that parent above with His heart breaking over how hurt we are, wishing we would have trusted Him and His ways.

I hear stories every day from precious children that have been hurt tragically, usually from adults, and my heart breaks. I pray for the day that all of us would be willing to look deep within ourselves and seek God for healing in the areas that we need it so that we don’t hurt others. I pray we would learn to trust God and seek Him so we would live according to His purposes to be part of the healing and not the pain. I pray we would see that as we venture outside His boundaries we began a slippery slope that usually ends in pain. I do praise God that no matter what has happened to us that He can turn all things around for good for those that love Him. I believe that He will do above and beyond what we could ever imagine. If we are the ones that have stepped outside His ways, we can repent, turn and trust God and He is faithful to forgive. Our God loves us with a never ending LOVE. His heart breaks when we walk outside His ways causing ourselves and others pain for those decisions.
Home and School for Boys OPEN: Can you help us complete the project?

We are beyond excited to have the lower level of our boys’ home done! It has been an amazing journey, watching God provide for our needs in the most amazing ways.

Thank you to each one of you who came alongside of us as the hands and feet of Jesus! We hope you will join us for the open house on Sunday, December 8th from 1-4 (details on back page).

Here are some of the remaining spaces left to be remodeled for recreation and staff living quarters.

Can you help us complete this project with your time, talent and finances? We’d love to have you join us! Give us a call at 262.275.6466 or send donations to PO Box 68, Walworth 53184 or see gift registry on back page.

for King & Country Concert: Some of our teens were able to attend an inspirational concert recently, we are grateful for the gift of tickets. Here are some of their thoughts.

“Last night at the concert, I learned. . . that God will work things out for me, and that I need to continue to put my whole heart into Him. I also learned that getting through addiction and struggle is hard. But extremely possible. . . really impactful to me. . . it made me realize that whatever I, or anyone else is going through, it is possible to overcome it.”

“The concert influenced me to be brave, to have faith, and to trust God. . . I needed it to be captivated in my mind. That God is here for me. That I can trust Him. . . and He will always be there for me. That my past is my past. It doesn’t define my future. It doesn’t define what beauty God is going to make out of me. That God only knows what is going to happen in my life. And that he holds me through everything. I can see my present and future through His eyes, no matter what anyone says about me.”

“I thought that it was really cool that they gave us tickets for free and they were really close up!”

“I heard the Lord loudly say that you are loved and cared for.”

“. . . the way they interacted with the crowd and showed how much they cared for other people, can change the world.”

“Their testimonies broke through each note that fell off of their lips and the beat of the drums vibrated to my heart calling to God. With my hands raised and voice singing my own testimony, I left feeling more loved than I have in a while!” Praise God!!!
What would you ask for if you could make one wish for Christmas that money cannot buy?

* At least 5 hugs that last for 30 seconds.
* My family to be whole, and that my dad loved me and never abandoned me or my sister, and that my sister was never hurt by him or other family members.
* Healing of relationship with my parents.
* Family able to forgive me & not hate me anymore. I need them, especially my Mom.
* To live with my Mom.
* For my family to get along; and have a better relationship with my Dad.
* Everyone around the world to have a good day/food with family & friends.
* My Dad was a good person & still alive.
* Happiness, joy, peace & love in my family.
* No fighting; I cry every night just thinking of how we all hurt each other.
* A whole weekend to bond with Bonilee.
* Hope in my future.
* To be home with my family.
* A weekend with my mom.
* For God to make the world a better place, and for me to be a part of that change.
* For everyone to get along without arguing, fighting, gossiping & yelling.
* To see everyone laughing, including each other when playing.
* Love

As you do your holiday shopping this year, please remember us while shopping Amazon Smile by choosing “Agape House” as your charity of choice. Proceeds from your purchases will be donated to Agape House.

STAFF NEEDED:

Do you know someone who has a heart for ministry with young people, and is interested in working in the home mission field? We are currently seeking to fill the following 3 positions:

**FT Live-in RA & PT RA for Girls Home, PT RA for Boys Home**

Contact Pam at 262.275.6466 or go to www.AgapeHouseHeals.org/employment to find the application to submit or send a resume to office@AgapeHouseHeals.org

Christmas Wish Lists

If you would like to help meet some of our overall ministry needs, here are a few items we could use:

1) Twin Sheets, white, fitted, extra long
2) Twin Sheets Sets, white
3) Mattress Pads, extra long, twin size
4) Pillow Cases, regular size
5) Kitchen and Bath Towels, blue and gray
6) Toys that use playdoh
7) Sound System for Counseling Center with independent volume
8) 10 copies: It’s Not Supposed to be This Way
9) Reception Area Seating for Counseling Center: 4 chairs or 2 chairs and a love seat
10) ROKU
11) White Board: 4’ x 5’
12) Immersion Blender
13) Baking Sheets and cake pans (round, square, rectangle)

Thank you for your consideration of this request!

Call 262.275.6466 with any questions or to arrange a time to drop off any donations
We would like to thank our Sponsors for our Annual ‘Give Them Hope’ Information Night
Thank you to all who attended, donated and helped us to have another successful evening, with a special thank you to these sponsors:

Nieuwenhuis Bros

Christmas Open House at Both Homes: Girls & Boys
Come celebrate the warmth & wonder of Christmas at our annual Christmas Gift Bazaar and Open House.

215 S. Main St (girls) / 119 Phillips Ave (boys)
Come see our homes decorated for the holidays, cookies, coffee, and warm cider to share, songs to sing, and lots of gifts to purchase for special people in your life.

We have a gift registry for the Boys Home at: Target.com/registry.
Contact Elsa w/any questions: 630.362.4662