

Agape Connection



God is In The Details

Agape Connection

February 2021

“Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?” - Matthew 6:26

By Pam Patterson, Exec. Director

God cares about the details, from toilet paper to finishing the boys' home. 2020 was a crazy year in every way. We started the year in January with several staff battling serious health issues, i.e., cancer, a brain tumor and liver failure. These were the more serious health issues we were covering in prayer when the corona virus came along in March. We did not know what the future held, but we decided we were essential, and thus, as a staff, we chose to keep the ministry running, trusting God every step of the way. And he did not fail us. He showed up every day, and we continue to trust Him.

It was amazing to see how God had already gone before us when the pandemic became real, and toilet paper and hand sanitizer disappeared off the store shelves in the blink of an eye!

In February, Delevan Christian and Faith Christian schools held a basketball tournament with a contest to see who could donate the most items for Agape House. All of their donations filled up two vans, and one of the most popular items donated was toilet paper. It wasn't long before we realized how precious that toilet paper was! God took care of us ahead of time, and that supply lasted us well into the summer months.

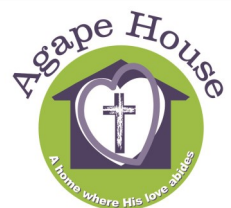
We also had a large supply of hand sanitizer in our pantry from previous donations. Before the corona virus hit, someone mentioned that they did not know how we would ever use up all that sanitizer! Who knew it was soon to become a precious commodity? Again, God provided because He cares.

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Mark Your Calendars

April 24th, 2021

**5K Run,
Walk or Stroll
A
Community
Event!**



Capital Campaign for Scholarships

Thank you to all who supported Agape House through the Capital Campaign that we kicked off at our Information Night. We were blessed to have a donor offer to match funds up to \$50,000, and we are happy to say that our goal was reached, and then some! These scholarships are vital to meeting the needs of families who are unable to pay full tuition fees. This is how we are able to offer our wide variety of programs and services to the boys, girls and their families.

I hope the stories in this newsletter confirm for you that the work being done by God at Agape House is truly making a difference in the lives of many!

Cover Story Continued: *By Pam Patterson, Exec. Director*

In February, we started a new virtual curriculum that provided us with Chromebooks for the online classes, as well as flexibility for those students who chose to go home due to the virus, allowing them to continue with our program virtually. Are you seeing how much God cares for us?

In the midst of all of this, all of our needs were provided for us to complete the renovations of the Boys' Home, including some new volunteers.

Today, we are happy to share that all of our staff/families who were battling health issues have been given a clean bill of health. Our boys' home is up and running strong. God continues to be faithful in providing for our daily needs. And most importantly, He continues to minister HOPE and HEALING to the lost and hurting through His love and the love of others. Today we are ministering His truths and love to 20 teenagers and their families. We have seen salvations and healings, relationships restored and captives set free from addictions.

This past year my faith has stretched and grown me in more ways than I ever could have imagined, but through it all, He has been so incredibly faithful. I am looking forward to watching God work in our lives in 2021 as we continue to put our trust in Him.

Thank you to all who have shared His love through volunteering, praying and donations. Together we are making a difference, one child and family at a time.

Counseling Center Makeover

A special thanks to Kathy Houck and her creative eye for interior design. She has transformed the counseling center into a beautiful haven we are all enjoying. May this heartfelt and inspiring environment bless all those who enter for years to come.



My Experience at Agape Boys' Home

By Chris A

I was forced to come to Agape. I hated being there at first. Agape had a lot of rules...though not as many as most boys' homes...and it was very spiritual. Eventually I grew to understand their customs and rules. When I finally allowed God into my heart, Agape was able to help me manage my anger. God also helped me with my mental health. When I was little, I was abused. Over time, Agape helped me learn to forgive my abuser. This was a huge life lesson for me. I hope to tell my abuser face to face someday that I forgive him. Today, I love Agape House.

On January 10, 2021 I accepted Jesus Christ, and that's all thanks to Agape. I am very grateful. The staff and volunteers are the best, nicest, kindest and most respectful people I've ever met. Everyone is a true Christian. Of all the boys' homes I've lived in, Agape is by far the best. Agape helped me in so many ways. Of course, God did too! I recommend it.

As you do your everyday 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.



My Story

By Aliya

Agape house has helped me grow by helping me control my anger, own up to my mistakes, and help my parents understand me more. This is my 2nd year at Agape House, and my parents, and staff can see such a BIG growth in my attitude. My parents have seen the difference between last year to this year!

A Parent's Perspective

By Kirsten Dodge

I find that over the years, life has never been about me. By the time we found Agape, I was very much a lost, broken, shut-down, anxious person. I was merely surviving, not living. I walked in blind to what the program really was or what would be asked of me. I won't lie, at first it seemed like a lot. I started out wondering why they expected so much of me. But I embraced it. Read the first chapter in a book I didn't know I was even being given to read until the day I moved my daughter in. When I went to the first parent group, I was anxious, of course, but I learned something important in that meeting: I wasn't alone in this anymore. There were other people in similar situations, and there were people who genuinely wanted to help. I cried during the ending prayer that night. I felt such relief! Fast forward to a year and half later, and I'm becoming a whole different person. Not only am I willingly doing the work, I look forward to it! I've come to truly rely and depend on these people and this program. Agape has shown me love. I've learned who God is and how much He loves me. I've begun to get comfortable with prayer. I've been working so hard to better myself mentally, which in turn has led to the beginning of big changes physically. I came to Agape and all these wonderful people barely hanging on. I can't express how happy I am that I found Agape and that I chose to embrace it. For a lot of years, I was really lost! This person that I'm becoming is still new to me, but so far, I really like her. It's a really great feeling to be able to say that I'm finding myself and I'm happy again with the help of Agape and my counselor.

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Farewell Thoughts

By Pauline Loayza

*Thank You
Your gift makes a
difference!*

The definition of time: the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present and future...sticks in my mind as I write my farewell to Agape. My time at Agape has brought me closer to God than I ever could have imagined. When I brought my daughter here nine years ago, I never imagined how life was about to change for ME!! I came to Agape to solve my daughter's problems only to find out that I was part of the problem. In counseling, I would vent about life, my daughter and everything. On my third visit, I had started my rant as usual when my counselor stopped me and asked me one question: "Where do you see God in all this?". It took my breath away. I could not answer the question because I did not have a relationship with God. From that moment, my counseling appointments began to look different; I began participating in parent group, and soon I could not get enough of learning about God and who I am in Him. It has been life-changing for me, and the healthier I got, the better my family became. We are far from perfect, but we have come a long way. I will be forever thankful for the time each Agape staff member has invested in me. Thank you so much!

My role at Agape evolved from being parent to becoming a staff member. I am so amazed at how God can close one door while opening another; that is really what He had done for me. It was my turn to give my time to this wonderful ministry, as its staff has done for me.

Over the past eight years, I have worn many hats, from my start as school office assistant to my role as administrative assistant to the Director of Counseling to my five years as Director/Manager of the Home. My time here has been so rewarding, healing, and God-filled. My love for Jesus has grown so much!

I'm excited to take my experience and love of the Lord on my new journey, where I hope to be able to minister worship, and praise Him with the elderly.

They say life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. God, I love you and praise you!! You take my breath away daily through Your awesomeness. Thank you for your TIME!





Our boys learning trust skills at Holiday Home Camp (left)

Donations from Delavan Christian and Faith Christian Schools (right)

Thank you to all of our supporters!

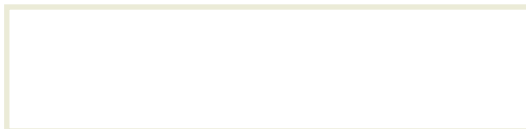


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5K

Saturday, April 24, 2021



A Community Event

In Person or Virtually

April 24th, 2021

Invite Friends & Family!

***Help us bring awareness about
Child Abuse
Prevention Month***

Registration-Sponsor forms & More info can be found at: agapehouseheals.org

