



Oesterlen Services For Youth, Inc.

Oesterlen Services For Youth has been working with steadfast faith to meet the needs of the more than 1,000 children, families and adults that participate in our diverse programs to address mental, emotional, and behavioral health throughout the year. Did you know that Oesterlen not only provides residential programming, but also specialized treatment foster care, home-based treatment, community counseling center, and a life skills center? Moreover, Oesterlen is always evolving to meet the needs of our communities. During the Summer of 2018 and into early 2019 the leadership of Oesterlen participated in strategic visioning exercises in an effort to connect with those individuals in communities across the state in need.

During the course of the last year we have taken steps to strengthen and grow our Life Skills Center. Most notably, our Wood Shop program was the recipient of grant funding from the Clark County Mental Health Foundation enabling us to purchase additional equipment for the more than 50 year old building that once was a residence hall. Youth are encouraged to use not only the Wood Shop but all facets of the Life Skills Center to explore areas of vocational interest while developing positive coping skills for real-life issues.

The primary goal of the Life Skills Center is rooted in the work of creating a place for at-risk youth to learn new skills, create opportunities for community integration, and seek whole family well-being. Oesterlen's Life Skills Center provides goal-directed therapy and solution-focused interventions. The main objective in programming is to provide restoration and education in social and interpersonal skills, as well as establish the foundations for positive functioning in daily life. This includes managing one's social and physical environment, balancing the demands of family life, educational responsibilities, and job-readiness skills. In addition, whether in the wood shop, the garden, the barn or the art room, youth have the satisfaction of completing a project that is creative as well as useful.

Chapel services continue to be held with residents every Sunday afternoon. Chaplain Dave Jackson leads meaningful faith-filled discussions with the youth in each of the three residential units and provides prayer and support for them. Chaplain Dave is part of the Development and Church Relations team, which includes Amanda Nicol, the new Director of Development and Church Relations and Pastor Rachel Tune the Church Relations Specialist who works part-time with us. Congregational teams – whether youth groups, councils, or bible study groups– who want to visit Oesterlen and take a tour of the Life Skills Center, are invited to contact us at anicol@oesterlen.org or 937.399.6101 x114.

Oesterlen Services for Youth cannot exist without the support of congregations and donors, who provide much needed school and hygiene supplies, quilts, volunteer assistance, and financial support. Every day, this is your work of serving the neighbor in action, and we as an agency are grateful! Finally, Oesterlen Services For Youth would like to wholeheartedly thank Pastor David Buchenroth, Pastor Ralph Wolfe and Kay Labosky for their dedicated service to the Board of Directors, and Pastor Rachel Tune, who recently accepted a staff role at Oesterlen, opening her seat for new leadership. At this time, Oesterlen has openings for Board Members in Southern Ohio. Has Christ placed a call to serve on your heart? We would love to speak with you more about the critical ministry opportunities that are available!

Yours in service to the Lord, **Donald L. Warner**, LISW-S, ACSW, Executive Director, Toll Free (800) 404-5437 / 937.399.6101 X 111 or Direct (937) 398-0211 or dwarner@oesterlen.org.