

sharing hope providing help transforming lives

the  
**impact**

Spring 2010 | Vol. 23 | No. 1



*“You are our hope for tomorrow.”*

WEDGWOOD  
CHRISTIAN SERVICES  
50 years of transforming lives  
one child at a time

# the impact

Spring 2010 | Vol. 23 | No. 1

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13, 2010	Legacy Reception Wedgwood Campus	June 24, 2010	Open House Wedgwood Campus
June 7, 2010	25th Annual Charity Golf Classic Egypt Valley Country Club	Sept 11, 2010	1st Annual Walk for Wellness
		Nov 9, 2010	50th Anniversary Dinner featuring Dr. Wess Stafford

Visit [WEDGWOOD.ORG](http://WEDGWOOD.ORG) for more information

# 50 Years of Restoring Hope

By Sam Beals, President/CEO

*There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off. ~ Proverbs 23:18 (NIV)*

The turning of calendars to 2010 signals more than just the beginning of a New Year and decade. It also marks the 50th anniversary of Wedgwood Christian Services. The months ahead will offer many opportunities to reflect on that legacy and what has been accomplished through the Lord's blessing upon our agency. This milestone also serves to inspire the Wedgwood staff, Board and volunteers to remain faithful to the task of restoring hope and providing healing to the children and families who rely on us in their times of greatest need.

Last year's completion of the successful *Building Hope for Children* capital campaign has already yielded dramatic results, improving our stewardship and allowing us to **save over \$1.7 million** in annual operating expenses while doubling our capacity to serve hurting children in the coming years. This could not have happened without the support of many faithful friends who recognize the importance of the work we do in Christ's name. Wedgwood has a long-established reputation for effectively addressing the most urgent, critical issues facing young people today.

This issue of *The Impact* focuses on the **continuum of services** we have developed to respond to our community's needs. Awareness and appreciation for our efforts continues to grow as indicated by three recent awards bestowed upon Wedgwood and Lighthouse Academy. You can learn more about the awards on page 14.

**Here are a few highlights of our recent efforts:**

- **Strengthened relationships** and service opportunities between our Young Life program and Lighthouse Academy students and faculty

- **Expanded Young Life** summer camping opportunities and fall retreats at Timberwolf Lake
- **Enhanced physical well-being** through the new Lighthouse Academy gym, the Frey Foundation Wellness Center, additional outdoor basketball courts and a walking trail
- **Opening of the new DeVos home**, doubling our capacity to treat adolescents with sexual behavior issues
- **Addition of a second Group Home** providing respite care for children and families in crisis
- **Expanded Employment Training Program** that teaches youth vital work skills, self-discipline and a greater capacity for self-sufficiency

The encouraging growth in both size and quality of Wedgwood's services is possible through the sustaining gifts of friends like you. Your support of the *Children's Hope Annual Fund* allows us to keep pace with the increasing demand and in doing so we remain faithful to Wedgwood's founding vision, established half a century ago.

As the children and families we serve experience the life-transforming impact of this ministry, we realize what a privilege it is to partner with you, to be the instruments of His grace and truth through the services we provide.

Thank you for what you have done and may feel led to do in the future to allow Wedgwood to meet critical needs in our community at a greater level than ever in 2010.



the impact

# New Bouma Counseling Center Meets Critical Needs

By Randy Zylstra, Chief Operating Officer

**T**he demand for early preventive support for at-risk children and families has never been greater. Over the past several years, Wedgwood has expanded our **Community Services** programs to intervene in the lives of youth and families before problems grow to levels requiring more intensive solutions. Because these programs continue to grow, we built the new **Henry and Carolyn Bouma Counseling Center** as the latest phase of new construction and campus consolidation.

The Bouma Counseling Center provides a blend of family-friendly convenience for visitors and efficient versatility for the staff who provide a wide variety of counseling and educational services. The front half

of the building is designed for public access, with comfortable waiting areas, four therapy rooms and a larger room to host groups.

A new **Psychiatric Triage** program will have its own private waiting area, allowing clients and families to meet with Wedgwood's psychiatrist and nurses in a discreet, supportive setting. Also, a new café provides a casual meeting place, complete with wireless internet access for more informal contacts between Wedgwood staff and visitors.

Behind the scenes, new work spaces host improvements aimed at increasing efficiency and flexibility for Wedgwood case managers and clinicians. An open floor plan allows for rapid reconfiguration of work space, since Community Programs are subject to many

changes over the course of their development.

Most community program staff spend the majority of their time out of the office, meeting with young people in their communities. Wireless laptop "drop zones" give staff a convenient place to check in, get updated and quickly be on their way again. A dedicated space for interns offers the promise for future students to work more productively with Wedgwood as they earn their graduate and post-graduate degrees.



◀ Randy Zylstra, LMSW  
Chief Operating Officer



**OPEN HOUSE**  
**June 24, 2010**

**Celebrating the completion of the  
Henry & Carolyn Bouma Counseling Center.**

***Please join us from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. for tours and refreshments!***

## Residential Services Expand into the Community



▲ Dawes Court offers a comfortably furnished home for long-term clients.

A critical component of Wedgwood's Continuum of Care is to provide **Family Empowerment services** in a residential setting for those times when families need an extra level of support to work through their issues. In late 2008, Wedgwood partnered with Network 180 (Kent County Community Mental Health) to open the **Woodcliff Group Home**, a residential program in a community environment that meets the needs of local families. This open setting allows boys and girls to maintain continuity with their current school and therapeutic support services, with easy access to parental and sibling visits. Children typically stay in this program for three to four months.

In other circumstances, a child may only require short term placement for a few days. The Woodcliff Home also opened its doors to children whose families would benefit from emergency or scheduled respite times, for example, one weekend per month. Over the past year, Woodcliff staff served both

types of clients under the same roof. Occasionally, the different needs of these two groups created challenges for the adults working with them. As demand for these services grew, Wedgwood and Network 180 recognized that clients would benefit from living in a home dedicated to serving only clients like themselves. This led to acquisition of a new property and the opening in December 2009 of the **Dawes Court Group Home**.

Dawes Court now houses youth in longer term placements, while Woodcliff focuses entirely on serving respite clients. Caregivers in both homes work diligently to build positive relationships not only with the youth, but also their neighbors.

Living in a residential area gives the young people (and the adults who work with them) valuable opportunities to strengthen their social skills. The new Dawes Court facility, a converted duplex, also offers the advantage of more interior living space, including a downstairs recreation room that can be used for family visits, group therapy or simply fun and games.

## Crossroads Program Grows

For over 15 years, the **Engen-Crossroads Home** at Wedgwood has provided intensive treatment for adolescent boys with sexual behavior problems. The treatment model developed by their clinical leadership team is based on the young men's ability to process information and develop insight into their behaviors.

However, many clients with developmental delays have a harder time benefiting from this type of treatment. In December 2009, Wedgwood expanded our sexual behavior treatment services by opening the new **DeVos-Crossroads Program** for young men with cognitive processing problems. This program is more behaviorally based, with a heavy emphasis on activity therapy. Establishing healthy sexual boundaries, learning to respect others and managing difficult emotions are the main treatment focus as staff work with youth on their behaviors and impulsivity.

Our goal is to help boys learn how to stay in control of their feelings, meet their needs in socially appropriate ways and handle stress without making things worse.

The development of a program specifically tailored to reach these children represents a **significant advance in our ability to help them heal** from their traumas and restore their sense of hope for the future.

# Success Stories Reflect Wedgwood's Continuum of Care

By Dave Blakeslee, Staff Writer and Training Coordinator



**T**he staff at Wedgwood enjoy the daily privilege of seeing firsthand God's blessing on their work through the dramatic changes in children's lives. Here are a few reports from across our agency that they would like to share with you.

**Counseling:** "Julie" came to Outpatient services shortly before her 17th birthday. She struggled with multiple health issues that affected her mood, her family, school and social life. Working with her therapist, Julie set goals that would help her transition to adulthood. Julie recently turned 18, ending services with our adolescent program. However, her positive experience with counseling at Wedgwood provided the hope she needed to continue seeking support as she pursues college and a brighter future.



**Residential:** "Michael" came to Wedgwood as an angry teen who often took out his emotions on his peers. After previous difficulties in other programs, he arrived at the Zondervan home as a fully grown 17 year old. The staff poured themselves into Michael, praying for him and dedicating time to 1:1 talks to encourage change and restore his self worth. Over the past several months, we saw Michael transform into a young man who sees a better future for himself. We've been impressed to see Michael boldly say "No!" to old destructive behaviors and friends who tried to tempt him. He's doing well in school and took the initiative to find a permanent part time job off campus after working through our Employment Training Program. We'll soon be sending Michael on as a young man with the potential to lead a fulfilling and successful life!



**Community Programs:** "Sharon" learned from her son's text messages that he was abusing prescription medications and marijuana. When she heard about our substance abuse program, she quickly got in touch with the Group Specialist assigned to her son's school. The early intervention led to her son's referral to the Intensive Outpatient Program where he learned about the risks of substance abuse. A recent contact indicates that Sharon's son continues his counseling, has disassociated himself from that group of friends and is doing much better. Thanks to early intervention, the son she knew before the problems began is starting to come back!



◀ Dave Blakeslee, Staff Writer and Training Coordinator

# Responding to God's Call

By Jim Visser, Chief Advancement Officer

When I began my tenure with Wedgwood's Advancement Department several years ago, Stan Stek impressed me as a thoughtful, inspiring example of Christian leadership at its finest. Over the past several years, Stan's involvement transitioned from Chair of Wedgwood's Board of Directors to his present role on our Advisory Council. Stan's insight, wisdom and legal expertise have proven invaluable on numerous occasions. I'm glad to give you this opportunity to learn more about how God has blessed Wedgwood through Stan and his wife Cyndy.

Stan grew up in Grand Rapids, the son of a professor at Calvin Theological Seminary. After law school, he returned in 1978 to start his career. He's a Principal Attorney with Miller Canfield Paddock and Stone, specializing in commercial and real estate litigation. Cyndy also grew up in Grand Rapids. In addition to a full-time role managing a household of six children, she serves as a Commissioner for the City of Walker.

Stan first learned about Wedgwood from his sister-in-law who worked here back in the 1970s. After attending his first Annual Dinner some years later, he was drawn by Wedgwood's total commitment to its Christian



▲ Stan and Cyndy Stek

purpose and high professional standards. Stan comments, *Some agencies allow their Christian purpose to cut corners when it comes to excellence. Not this agency! They are dedicated to providing core services not merely as good as non-Christian agencies but better and in a more innovative way. That is how Jesus would do it.*

Stan and Cyndy are compelled by many examples of broken lives restored over the years. They believe that *a changed life that was headed toward despair, anger, hurt and possibly crime pays back in a lifetime of difference for that child. These are living concrete examples of God's profound*

*plan to restore His creation, one person at a time.*

Stan recounts a memorable encounter with another Wedgwood supporter at a recent event: *I heard the story of an elderly woman who still reflected the hurt from abandonment in her youth, and how she so wished Wedgwood had been there for her back then. We don't want another child reliving that experience decades from now.*

After a decade of service through pivotal transitions for Wedgwood, the Stek's commitment remains strong as ever. Stan is reminded of Jesus' response to those who challenged him about healing on the Sabbath: *As long as it is day, I must do the work of Him who sent me.*

That work to which God calls us can have profound effects, whether obvious or subtle. Stan offers this challenge for us all: *I do not know what opportunities God puts before you. Whether it is to be a financial supporter, board member, volunteer, prayer partner or providing a timely word of encouragement, seize the opportunity! It makes a difference.*



◀ Jim Visser, MA  
Chief Advancement  
Officer

# Wedgwood's Continuum of Care

By Randy Zylstra, Chief Operating Officer

**F**ifty years ago, Wedgwood's founders answered the Lord's call to dedicate their resources and efforts to providing shelter and guidance to hurting youth. Two separate

ministries were born, offering homes for troubled teens and giving them the physical, emotional and spiritual support to help them heal from the hardships and trauma they had endured. From these simple yet successful beginnings, Wedgwood has continually refined our programs to better meet the needs of troubled youth and families.

Over the years, it became clear that residential treatment services don't always provide the best setting for some kids, and that it's preferable to intervene before problems escalate, whenever possible.

That's why we have developed the **Continuum of Care** model that identifies three **Core Services**, 100% funded by contracts and grants, and supplemental **Transforming Services**, 100% funded by private contributions. It is Wedgwood's Transforming Services that enhance the Core Services, and are critical to our successful outcomes, making the crucial difference in transforming broken lives.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

These are the core services that reach the highest number of clients each year. As part of our commitment to intervene early, Wedgwood provides a broad array of community-based **Prevention Programs**, including Substance Abuse Prevention, Sexual Abstinence Education, and Community Outreach Groups. Complimenting these core prevention

programs are several **transforming services** that rely solely on private donations.

**Pure Passion for Fashion (P2)** and **BreakDown** are two highly effective programs that teach students about the risks of substance abuse, sex before marriage, gang involvement, and provide alternatives to challenge the negative messages of popular culture. **Teens on Track** is another important community program that offers teens positive interaction and support in a club format.

In addition to prevention, there are a number of **core Treatment Services** available to the community.

**Home-Based Services** provide family support in coordination with schools, physicians and other identified supporting resources.

**Specialized Foster Care** places youth who are unable to live at home with other families who are trained to handle complex issues.

**Independent Living** is for young people in need of support as they transition into early adulthood.

**Outpatient Counseling** for individuals and families, including Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy, help young victims of complex trauma.

**Intensive Outpatient Services**, offers therapeutic groups for youth who don't require residential treatment but still need specialized treatment interventions for substance abuse and related issues.

## COMMUNITY

### CORE SERVICES

Prevention ■ Home Based Services  
Foster Care ■ Independent Living  
Outpatient Counseling  
Intensive Outpatient Counseling

### TRANSFORMING SERVICES

Pure Passion For Fashion  
Breakdown ■ Teens on Track

## EDUCATION

### CORE SERVICES

Lighthouse Academy  
Wedgwood Institute

### TRANSFORMING SERVICES

Young Life Opportunities  
Financial Literacy Instruction  
Job Skills and Career Coaching

## RESIDENTIAL

### CORE SERVICES

Substance Abuse Treatment  
Sexual Behavior Treatment  
Residential Treatment  
Transitional Living

### TRANSFORMING SERVICES

Chaplaincy/Young Life  
Employment Training Program  
Wellness Services





### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Wedgwood provides two distinctive core educational services: Lighthouse Academy and Wedgwood Institute for Lifelong Learning. **Lighthouse Academy**, first established by Wedgwood in 2005, is now a separate organization operating under a charter agreement with Ferris State University, and continues to work in close partnership with Wedgwood. Lighthouse provides a crucial opportunity for expelled students to continue their education and in many cases return to community schools when their expulsion expires. Students also have the option of staying at Lighthouse until they graduate. Last September, Lighthouse doubled its enrollment by adding students in Wedgwood's Residential programs.

The **Transforming Services** that support Lighthouse Academy's innovative curriculum consist of financial literacy instruction, job skills and career coaching, and voluntary spiritual life activities through Wedgwood's Young Life program.

**Wedgwood Institute** offers a diverse range of topics to increase understanding and strengthen the quality of our response to troubled youth and families. Trainings are available to Wedgwood employees, youth and child care workers, clinical professionals, administrators, educators and family members.



### RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The core programs most commonly associated with Wedgwood, our Residential homes, provide round-the-clock holistic care for children recovering from abuse, neglect, trauma, and behavioral problems.

**The Van Andel Home** is a co-ed program helping teens recover from problems with substance abuse.

**DeVos and Engen Crossroads Homes** target adolescents with sexual behavior issues.

**Residential Treatment Homes** include both boys (Antonini, Parramore, Zondervan, VanderArk) and girls (Boelkins, Riebel). These secure programs serve clients working through a variety of concerns stemming from abuse, neglect and trauma.

**Cook-Claus Home for Transitional Living** has the clearest connection with the beginning of Wedgwood's story. This co-ed residence opened in April 2008 after relocating from the former campus in Wyoming, the site of the original Wedgwood home from which the agency draws its name. The opening of Cook-Claus marked the first phase of our just-concluded *Building Hope for Children* capital campaign. Residents in this program attend schools in the community and focus on preparing for life as independent young adults. The home features an adjoining apartment, separate from



the rest of the home that functions as a unique transition for clients preparing to live on their own.

**Dawes Court and Woodcliff Group Homes**, in partnership with Network 180, incorporate a Family Empowerment model for youth who need an alternative residence for either short or long term placement.

All of our residential services provide round-the-clock care and clinical expertise that keeps clients safe and facilitates growth and healing. However, it's often the **Transforming Services** that make the vital difference in helping young people make the lasting improvements that truly turn their lives around. Private contributions make it possible to provide:

**Chaplaincy and Young Life** programs help youth experience God's love and redeeming grace. **Wellness programs** include summer and fall camping trips, exercise and nutrition training and education. **Employment Training Programs** teach vital job skills, building confidence and improved self-esteem in the process.



◀ Randy Zylstra, LMSW  
Chief Operating Officer

# Celebrating God's Faithfulness

Last October at our Anniversary Celebration Dinner, over 500 guests enjoyed an inspirational evening with **Dr. Joseph Stowell**, President of Cornerstone University.

His eloquent speech reflecting Jesus' passion for people at-risk acutely aligns with Wedgwood's ministry to serve those who are abused, neglected and hurting.

The evening also reflected on Wedgwood's services today. Completing a successful capital campaign allows us to double our capacity, making Wedgwood the largest provider of services to children in West Michigan, while saving over \$1.7 million a year.

Board Members from the 1980s and 1990s were recognized for their notable leadership, maintaining and



▲ Dr. Joseph Stowell



growing Wedgwood's foundation of faith, prayer and professional excellence.

Looking ahead to Wedgwood's future included "groundbreaking" news of the new **Henry and Carolyn Bouma Counseling Center**, the final phase of our campus consolidation. Powerful and emotional client stories demonstrated how each one of us can

indeed help Wedgwood "Transform lives...one child at a time."

For the many blessings God bestowed upon Wedgwood's Celebration dinner, we give thanks and praise for those who shared their gifts to make this evening a success.

**SAVE THE DATE! November 9, 2010**

**50th Anniversary  
Celebration Dinner**

with special guest, Dr. Wess Stafford,  
President/CEO of Compassion International.

**We are grateful to the following 2009 dinner sponsors and community leaders for their faithful support of Wedgwood's ministry to children and families in West Michigan:**

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# 25th Annual Charity Golf Classic

Once again, we are excited about our 2010 Charity Golf Classic! This popular event will be held on **Monday, June 7**, at the private and prestigious Egypt Valley Country Club, with both morning and afternoon shotgun start times.

This is **your opportunity to help** support critical life-transforming services for abused, neglected and troubled youth in our community; services that are **funded 100% by donor contributions**. All proceeds from the golf event benefit the children at Wedgwood and in our



community. **You can offer hope and healing** in their troubled lives by participating as a sponsor or golfer.

As Wedgwood enters its 50th year, God continues to bless our ministry. We are thankful for **Jim Bruinsma** and **Jim Engen** who are

returning as co-chairs of the golf committee, many former and new committee members, and to all those who participate in this special event.

Thank you for helping to make Wedgwood one of Michigan's leading providers of youth and family services.

# Wedgwood Wellness 5K Run/Walk



After over 20 years of bowling to raise funds to help children enjoy camping and wellness activities, the time has come to step up to a new challenge. Our 1st Annual Wedgwood Wellness 5K Run/Walk will take place on **Saturday, September 11, 2010**.

The 5K Run/Walk acutely aligns with our services, and actively

involves staff members, clients and the community. The morning event is open to individuals and corporate walkers/sponsors to help raise funds for Wedgwood's youth, followed by a special walk in the afternoon for clients and staff.

Proceeds raised will support camping and other life-changing activities offered by Wedgwood's Wellness Services and Young Life. Wedgwood's **Community Services** will also participate to raise funds for their programs. These services, critical to our successful outcomes, are funded 100% by donations to the *Children's Hope Annual Fund*.

This inaugural event commemorates the legacy of a beloved colleague and friend, Terry Chamberlain. Please see our memorial tribute to Terry on page 14.

## Residential Girls Treat Guilds to a Tea Party

In early November, the girls in the **Boelkins-Delta home** had a special request. They wanted to do something special for the guild members who provide residents with birthday cakes, gift cards, Christmas presents and more. The girls felt they didn't have enough of a personal connection with these generous women. A tea party would be the perfect way to say "thank you"!

The girls planned the tea themselves. They reserved a room in the Huizinga Administration building, planned the menu, made table decorations, and were excited about dressing up and using fancy dishes. Two of the girls made individual thank you notes for every guild member, and posters for the wall.

Before the big event, we talked to them about the importance of being good listeners, basic table manners and other social skills. On the day of the tea, the girls met the guild members in the lobby and escorted them to the Kos Conference room. They had learned how to keep the conversation moving by asking questions, and it was interesting to see how many girls discovered they had interests in common with the guild members!

At the end of the tea, an amazing thing happened. The girls spontaneously joined hands to form a human chain with the women and walked back to the lobby, saying goodbye with plenty of hugs and thank yous. One girl shared that this was the first

I LIKED TALKING TO THE LADIES. THEY WERE SO NICE! THEY DO A LOT MORE FOR US THAN I KNEW. I WONDERED WHY THEY DID SO MUCH... AND IT'S BECAUSE THEY LOVE US!

time she had ever used a glass plate and a glass drinking cup.

Planning an event like this engages the girls in everything from tangible skills like menu planning, shopping, prep and set up, to social skills such as showing interest in others, appropriate conversation, and taking time to thank people. It was a fine example of experiential learning on many different levels.

## Special Donations Brighten the Holidays

**Grand Rapids** — As a special project, the student council at **West Side Christian School** took the initiative to collect snacks for Wedgwood residents during the holidays. They delivered 1078 fruit snacks, 150 boxes of animal/graham crackers, and over 1,200 granola bars!



▲ **SPECIAL DELIVERY:** (front, left to right) Alexis and Hannah. (back, left to right) Gabby, Katie, Kelsie, Matt and John

**Hudsonville** — Up to 17 women from several churches have gathered regularly for nine years at the **Hudsonville Reformed Church** to make quilts for the young people at Wedgwood. When a child moves into one of our residential homes, they can select a quilt to keep as their very own. Given that some of the youth arrive with nothing more than the clothes on their back, these quilts can have a profound impact, emotionally, physically, and spiritually. In July, they started making Christmas quilts for Wedgwood and Women in Transition. It took 60 hours to complete the quilt shown above. It's a labor of love as they design each quilt to be special and unique. *All of our quilts have to be happy*, they explain.



**Quick Link:** Visit [Wedgwood.org](http://Wedgwood.org) for photos and lists of the generous donors who made our annual Food Drive and Christmas celebrations a big success!

**Annual Food Drive:** 10 area schools teamed up to collect food for Wedgwood. Their efforts help feed 3 meals a day to 130 children — that's 390 meals each day!

**Christmas at Wedgwood:** Wedgwood's guilds, area companies/individuals provided hundreds of filled Christmas stockings and gifts for the children, everything from games, sports equipment, Wii systems, bikes, gloves, gift cards, crafts and more!

# The Future Reflects Today's Plans

By Gary Raterink, Planned Giving Officer

**T**he future promises to be challenging for all of us. Whether single, married, raising a family, or planning for retirement, your future and the future of those you care most about will be a reflection of the plans you make today.

Estate planning has a long history. In 2 Kings 20:1, King Hezekiah was sick and near death. God's prophet, Isaiah came to the King and said, *This is what the Lord says, "Put your house in order; because you are going to die, and not live."* Such final planning is also a part of Christian Stewardship which involves the faithful management of all the gifts God has given to us – time, talent, treasure. For too many people, financial stewardship means just current income and its present use. Stewardship is also concerned with **accumulated, inherited, and appreciated resources.**

Your will or living trust is an opportunity to remember and be remembered. You can continue to help worthwhile organizations, such as Wedgwood Christian Services. Wedgwood and other causes you have assisted during your life will miss that help when you are gone. Through your will, you can continue to be a part of Wedgwood's on-going work in transforming lives.

**Your estate plan becomes an extension of your life's goals.** In other words, you are continuing your life's work through the resources you have earned and saved. Your will then speaks for you in the future.

#### Some Definitions

We often refer to such estate gifts as bequests. "Bequest" comes from the word "bequeath" which means to give personal property in a will. Giving real property in a will is called a "devise." However, an estate consists of all the property, real and personal, owned by a person at the time of death. **What a person leaves behind is called a legacy.** Legacy gifts to Wedgwood come through bequests in wills, charitable remainder trusts, assignment of life insurance, transfers of property (cash, stocks, bonds, mutual funds), and memorial gifts. **The Wedgwood Foundation holds such assets as a permanent legacy for the donor.** Whatever your reason for considering a bequest to support Wedgwood, please know that such a gift is an expression of your commitment to the furtherance of God's Kingdom on earth. It also encourages others to do the same.

If you have questions about benefitting the youth and families we serve, please call Gary Raterink at 616-831-5623 or email [graterink@wedgwood.org](mailto:graterink@wedgwood.org).

#### BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

The Wedgwood Foundation Legacy Society is looking for more members. There are currently 100 individuals or 63 households that have told us about their plans to leave a portion of their estate to Wedgwood as a charitable gift.

**On May 13, 2010 the fifth annual Legacy Society reception will be held as we say thank you to these individuals for their gracious commitment to Wedgwood.**

Should you decide to include **The Wedgwood Foundation** in your charitable giving plans, or if you already have but have not yet informed us of this action, please call Gary at (616) 831-5623.

**WEDGWOOD**  
**FOUNDATION**  
encouraging charitable legacies



◀ Gary Raterink, CPA  
Planned Giving Officer

## Wedgwood Receives Two Distinctive Awards

The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce has selected Wedgwood Christian Services as their **Non-Profit of the Year**. As Michigan's leading provider of comprehensive youth and family services, Wedgwood was honored for excellence in service, operations, staff performance, Board leadership, and for having a positive impact on the community. The award was presented at the Chamber's 14th Annual Salute to West Michigan Business luncheon on November 13, 2009.

Also last Fall, Wedgwood received the Michigan Home Based Family Services Association **President's Award** as the state's **Home Based Provider of the Year**. This prestigious honor recognizes the high quality standards established by Wedgwood since our first home based contract was awarded in October 2005. Wedgwood was recognized for serving **over 1600 youth** in their homes and bringing the most current evidenced based practices to their families.

Quoting the award letter, *These initiatives are made possible by the dedicated leadership and commitment of all staff. It is with great pleasure that we recognize Wedgwood Christian Services for their outstanding efforts to support home based services and families in our community.*

## Lighthouse Academy Receives Shining Star Award

Last fall, Ferris State University honored Lighthouse Academy with the **Shining Star Award** for being 97% compliant with local, state, and federal regulations in its first year of operation as a charter school. As a result, Ferris State University will give Lighthouse a portion of the fee they receive for services that will provide additional tutoring for at-risk students in a effort to maximize their achievement potential.

Lighthouse Academy began its second year as a charter school on September 8, 2009, also opening its doors for the first time to Wedgwood's residential clients. Expelled and court-placed students from the community returned again this year. The staff more than doubled in size to serve almost **200 students**.

More exciting news for Lighthouse is the opportunity to offer students an after-school **Young Life Club** for the first time due to a gift from **Calvary Church**. This gift will fund a part-time position to run Young Life Club, targeting students from the community who attend Lighthouse.

## Memorial Tribute



Just before Christmas, Wedgwood lost a dearly beloved colleague, friend and sister in Christ when **Terry Chamberlain** passed away.

Since 1994, Terry supervised our Medical Services Department, providing care for children in our residential programs. She demonstrated professionalism and meticulous attention to detail in her administrative duties, but will most vividly be remembered for the extraordinary warmth and compassion with which she greeted the children and everyone she met. Here are a few words of tribute from the nurses she inspired. Their thoughts express the deep appreciation and respect for her felt by the rest of her friends at Wedgwood.

*Terry had the sweetest spirit of anyone I knew. She exemplified the love Jesus had for little children, showing them love no matter how unlovable they were. Any time she would see them, her face would light up and she would give them all of her attention.*

*She was our rock, endlessly patient and kind, always taking care of us so we could simply care for the children. She loved to hold your hand and tell you things were going to be okay. She always was caring for others even during her ordeal with cancer.*

*Terry's knowledge was great; her love for Wedgwood grand; her love for others, bigger still; her love for God and His Son, all encompassing. What a legacy! What a blessing and honor it is to call her a friend.*

In honor of Terry, the medical services office in the Bouma Counseling Center will be named the **Terry Chamberlain Medical Suite**. Additionally, the new Wedgwood 5K Run/Walk has been named after Terry as a lasting tribute to her legacy.

# Spiritual Growth in Action

By Sara Webb, Senior Young Life Coordinator



◀ Our Young Life volunteers make a real difference in the lives of our clients.

once overflowing with water, but has been cut off from the source of water and is now filled with rocks. Each week, through stories from the Gospels, we look at people whose lives were filled with "rocks" and how, through amazing encounters with Jesus, their lives were restored to the way God created them.

Our prayer is that each young person who hears this message of life would ask themselves if they are really living, and if they want to be restored to the life God intended for them – an abundant, overflowing life!

**W**hat do cricket spitting, frozen t-shirts, turkey bowling, a little bit of opera, some singing, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ all have in common? Young Life Club!

**Young Life Club** is controlled chaos, a celebration of kids and life. It's a lighthearted way to point our clients to Christ through games, music, and singing; a place where kids hear a **verbal proclamation of Jesus Christ**.

A typical night at Club begins with a grand entrance. The sanctuary doors open... the music starts... and the kids come pouring in. Young Life volunteers greet each one by name and with a big high five. To get the positive energy flowing, we start a group game with lots of joyful yelling, running around and laughing.

Costumed characters come up on stage amid cheers and anticipation for what they will do that week. We also call individual kids to the

stage to play games or be part of a skit. With staff, volunteers and their peers cheering them on, even the most reluctant participant joins in the fun and feels connected to this wonderful group, basking in the attention and love.

## Laughter Breaks Down the Walls

We love surprising our Wedgwood kids with the unexpected – a raw turkey for bowling, a cricket to spit, or wearing crazy costumes to make them laugh. Laughter is a tool we use to break down the walls they have built up – walls that keep other people and the message of Jesus Christ out. By breaking down those barriers, we are able to open their hearts to hearing the verbal proclamation of Jesus Christ at the end of the evening.

Our theme this year is from John 10:10 – *I have come that you may have life, and have it abundantly*. Our challenge to our clients each week is "how are you living?" We use the visual of a glass that was

## Young Life Camp Update

Once again, Young Life camp was an amazing time for our Wedgwood kids last summer and fall. It's often advertised as the "best week of your life", and for our clients, it was! Everyone who went to camp had the opportunity to do things they had never done before – mountain biking, ropes course, zip line, or just being at a camp with hundreds of other kids. For many of our clients, Christ became part of their lives that week, making it truly the best week of their lives.



◀ Sara Webb, Senior Young Life Coordinator

## October 2009 - January 31, 2010 Gifts

### IN HONOR OF

**Gracine Apol**  
 Bill and Helene Dykstra

**Hattie Armano**  
 Peter and Georgette Lentini

**Dr. and Mrs. Paul Beals**  
 Tim and Cheri Beals

**Jim and Barb Boelkins**  
 Bill and Lannette Ten Have

**Paul and Carolyn Buiten**  
 Iris Jane Buiten

**Roger and Barbara Buiten**  
 Iris Jane Buiten

**Matt Elyea**  
 Fran and Lynn Cook

**Carole Jonkman**  
 Dr. Jeffrey Jonkman

**Douglas and Marjorie Parks**  
 Patty and Dennis Keeney

**Ethel Pasma**  
 Stephen and Lynda Pasma  
 David and Becky Pasma

**Scott and Mari Smith**  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey De Vree

**Tom Stuit**  
 Berends Hendricks Stuit,  
 Personal Lines Department

**Jack and Joyce Vander Sloot**  
 Joan De Vries

### IN MEMORY OF

**Christine Betten**  
 Ken and Judith Betten

**William Buiten**  
 Iris Jane Buiten

**Terry Chamberlain**  
 Steve Baar  
 Yvonne Balk  
 Robert and Grace Bowman  
 Kelly Boyle  
 P. M. Brainerd  
 Mark Burr  
 George and Nancy Buth  
 Pauline Cales  
 Arleen Cannon  
 Mark Chenier  
 Ron and Frances Christensen  
 Mary Ellen Corbett  
 Curt Coty  
 Dave Couch  
 Mary De Vries  
 David and Mary Dechow  
 Timothy Donohoe  
 Carl Drew  
 Brian Dubbink  
 Mary Edwards  
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 Jim and Nancy Engen  
 Jerry and Nina Gortmaker  
 Brian Green  
 Darryl Grimes  
 Dick Gritter  
 Miriam Gustafson  
 Iris Haan  
 Lori Hamilton  
 Doug and Mary Ann Hayden  
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 Jennifer Johnson  
 Shakir Kamali  
 Lora Keleman  
 Rod Killips  
 Eileen Kline  
 Carolyn Kunnen

Jean-Marie Laugginger  
 Mark Leeder  
 Theresa McKenzie  
 Jeff Millar  
 Marilyn Mills  
 Brian and Marilyn Moore  
 Linn and Sharon Peterson  
 Corinne Phillips  
 Ken and Ruth Pohler  
 Wesley and Sara Pontier  
 Carrie Quigley  
 Diane Rabe  
 Bozena Radzikowska  
 Sheryl Rehm  
 Richard and Karleen Root  
 Yvonne and Michael Sandner  
 Marlo Savage  
 Charles Schouman  
 Ken Schultheiss  
 Dave and Sheri Shon  
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 Bonnie Stade  
 Larry Thomas  
 Kathy and Russ Tober  
 Sharon Van Dyke  
 Richard and Ginny Verkaik  
 Donna Walker  
 David Walls  
 Sandy Walraven  
 Gladys Wierenga  
 Carol Wilson  
 Paula Wright  
 Robert Wright

**Suzanne Grant**  
 Elaine Ike

**Dorothy Huizinga**  
 Rebecca Kok

**Leah and Cornileus Kos**  
 Tauno and Lois Williams

**Calvin Nagel**  
 Scott Alkema

Charles Andringa  
 Kenneth and Nancy De Vries  
 Rev. W. Thomas and Evelyn De Vries  
 Frank and Bernice Deppe  
 Nettie Dykhouse  
 David Frey  
 Dick Gritter  
 Linda Hunter  
 Warren and Marvis Jeffers  
 Arthur and Marilyn Kraai  
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 Alyce Veen