

sharing hope providing help transforming lives

the

impact

Spring 2009 | Vol. 22 | No. 2



WEDGWOOD
CHRISTIAN SERVICES
transforming lives one child at a time

the impact

Spring 2009 | Vol. 22 | No. 2

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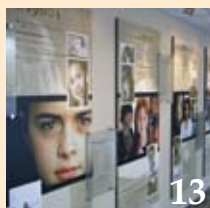
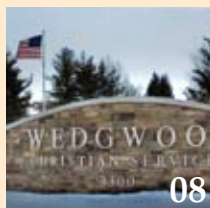
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January-March 2009



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Dave Blakeslee, Patty Keeney

www.wedgwood.org

Stewardship Commitment Demonstrated and Renewed

By Sam Beals, Chief Executive Officer

Wedgwood's success in meeting the most urgent needs of today's children creates a steady demand for our services.

Our strong growth and expansion in recent years, and our consistent record of effectiveness over time, is largely due to faithful, loyal donors whose support allows our ministry to thrive.

Your generosity and clear desire to support Wedgwood's founding principles play a crucial role in defining our mission. This has been recently demonstrated by the success of our *Building Hope For Children* capital campaign, which is highlighted on pages 8 and 9 in this edition of *The Impact*.

We deeply appreciate and respect the tender hearts and sincere commitment of our donors. We know you want the children to experience God's unconditional love through our services and through their relationships with our staff, which provide the keys to their past, present and future success.

Your continued faithful support plays a critical role in helping us meet these opportunities. Your input sustains the mission and value-added services of this ministry, strengthening our ability to operate all aspects of our work at a high level of efficiency.

Generous support also demands responsible stewardship. We desire to be transparent and forthright in how our resources are used, and we gladly welcome a variety of accountability measures:

- Our Board of Directors' governance and ongoing donor contacts
- Annual audits by our accounting firm and State and County referral sources
- Licensing reviews by the State of Michigan
- Accreditation reviews by the Council on Accreditation
- Audits by the Evangelical Council on Financial Accountability

Our campus consolidation and ongoing efforts to operate as lean as possible, redirecting the savings into providing increased services, ensures that our donors can realize the highest possible value for their investment in Wedgwood's mission and ministry. Each day brings us fresh assurance of God's faithful provision and we take great satisfaction in conveying His love to children and families on behalf of those who faithfully support our efforts.



An Outpouring of Support for At-Risk Youth

By Jim Visser, Chief Advancement Officer

Looking ahead to Wedgwood's upcoming Golf Classic, I had a chance to connect with Byron Bank CEO, Pat Gill. Pat is a great friend of Wedgwood, and I am pleased to share Pat's thoughts about Byron Bank's support and his belief in Wedgwood's mission with you.

How did you get involved with Wedgwood?

Several years ago, I had the pleasure of being asked to consider providing support and participating in fundraising activities for Wedgwood. Arrangements were made for me to visit the campus. What I experienced there was compelling – the staff, the environment, the children in their care. In short, I was hooked!

In what ways have you been involved?

Most recently, I served as a volunteer leader on the *Building Hope for Children* Capital Campaign cabinet. I also serve on Wedgwood's Advisory Council, and Byron Bank has been pleased to sponsor Wedgwood's Golf Classic and Celebration Dinner events. Beyond that, I'm happy to be a donor and cheerleader!

What drives you and Byron Bank to be so supportive of Wedgwood's mission and work?

The Wedgwood staff passionately believe in their mission. Their enthusiasm is contagious, and they are uniquely successful in addressing



▲ Pat Gill, Chairman, Byron Bank

the greatest needs of children and families. Wedgwood's commitment to serving at-risk youth grows from a real-world understanding of the challenges – past, present, and future – faced by those they serve. Their approach balances empathy, responsibility, accountability, and spirituality in a unique and effective manner.

What stands out in your memory of personal involvement with Wedgwood?

My first visit to the campus occurred on a very cold winter's day. Any discomfort due to slogging our way through the blowing snow was quickly replaced by the warm welcome I received from the staff and the overall quality of the experience.

Subsequently, Byron Bank partnered with Wedgwood as the Title Sponsor of the annual Golf Classic event. This is our third year of doing so. The thoroughness of preparation, the thoughtfulness shown to sponsors and the quality of the event is unmatched. We are so proud to play a role in this outstanding event.

What do you desire for the children benefitting from Byron Bank's support of Wedgwood?

I want the children to receive life lessons of hope, optimism, personal responsibility and faith. Despite the personal challenges each child has faced, Wedgwood's outstanding staff members have dedicated their lives – personally and professionally – to opening the doors of opportunity for them.

How might you encourage others to support Wedgwood?

Simply stated, there is no more meaningful way to make a positive difference in the life of an at-risk young person. In the process, the fabric of our society is strengthened.



◀ Jim Visser, MA
Chief Advancement
Officer

Generous Donation Benefits Lighthouse Students

Entering the final weeks of an exciting first year as a charter school, Lighthouse Academy looks for ways to build on their success. One big step they plan to take in 2009-10 is developing a physical education curriculum. Thanks to Calvin College Wellness Coordinator **Roy Zuidema** and **Glenn Van Andel**, Chair of Calvin's Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance & Sport Program, the project is well on its way.

As Calvin neared completion of the new **Spoelhof Fieldhouse Complex**, Roy contacted Wedgwood to see if we might be interested in some used professional-caliber fitness equipment. Of course, we were grateful for the offer! Since Wedgwood had just installed new equipment in our own Wellness Center, we saw this gift as best suited to go to Lighthouse Academy.

Roy coordinated the pick-up and our Facilities staff braved the cold winds of January to move 14 Nautilus and TechnoGym machines from Calvin's campus to their new home, a workout room right next to the Lighthouse Gym. The machines are in excellent condition and we know that they will provide great benefit to students this fall and for years to come.



▲ Fitness Equipment donated by Calvin College

A Lesson in Christian Stewardship

It is never too early in life to learn the virtues and joys of giving. That's a value Wedgwood teaches youth in our care through service projects and in other ways. Recently, Wedgwood's Young Life program was blessed by a kind and unexpected act of generosity.

Kerkstra Precast, Inc., a producer of pre-cast/pre-stressed concrete products based in Jenison MI, recently decided to make a \$10,000 gift to one local organization. But rather than make the choice of recipients themselves, they enlisted the help of Economics students from nearby Calvin Christian High School. After setting up an application process that drew 30 proposals, the students selected 10 to make formal presentations to their class. The field was narrowed down to three finalists, and in the end, Wedgwood's Young Life program was selected to receive the generous \$10,000 donation!

The goal of Kerkstra Precast's "Learning to Give" program is to give young people an experience that teaches the value of philanthropy and the many factors to consider when choosing an organization to support.

Calvin Christian Superintendent, Bill Haverkamp, comments, "Having our students involved in 'Learning to Give' was a huge blessing. Through it, they learned the essentials of Christian stewardship. Watching them screen various agencies and seeing their personal passions impact the decision was heartwarming. I was personally encouraged to see Wedgwood chosen as the recipient. Having worked there for ten years and being instrumental in bringing Young Life to Wedgwood, I was gratified to see the students moved to choose Wedgwood Young Life as the recipient."

Leaving a Legacy

By Gary Raterink, Planned Giving Officer

EVERYONE WOULD AGREE THAT THE OLDER POPULATION IN THE U.S. IS EXPANDING.

By 2030, the number of Americans aged 65 and over is projected to more than double from **35 million to 71.5 million**, representing nearly 20% of the total population. Of all the people who have lived to age 65 in the history of the world, more than half are alive now. Over the last century, the general U.S. elderly population grew 89% compared with the total population growth of 39%.

What is the importance of all this in the world of charitable giving?

It probably means that more people will be willing to commit to donations accruing after their death. Many people wait until close to the end of their life to make a gesture of charitable giving. Instead of going

into detail about the available vehicles for planned giving, such as charitable gift annuities, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance, etc., we would like to take a step back and discuss the **importance of leaving a legacy** after your earthly journey is complete.

In one of his books, author John Maxwell has defined a legacy as “something we leave behind to the next generation.” It can be possessions that we give to others, or principles that carry on beyond our lives. It can also be people we have influenced, whose lives are better because of knowing us.

Maxwell points out that we should be intentional about the legacy we want to leave. By doing so, we can make a greater impact on a future generation. Now is the time to begin choosing the legacy you want to leave. Charles F. Kettering, GM researcher, said it this way, “The greatest thing this generation can do

is lay a few stepping stones for the next generation.”

A person’s attitude can greatly influence the legacy they leave. Educator D. Elton Trueblood said, “We have made at least a start in discovering the meaning in human life when we plant shade trees under which we know full well we will never sit.” Remembering the ministry of Wedgwood with an end of life bequest makes a strong statement about how you lived your life, and what was important to you.

We stand ready to help you with your plans, and through our membership in the Barnabas Foundation, we offer you free legal service for leaving a lasting legacy. Choosing to leave a charitable legacy to Wedgwood will be a reflection to others that you believed in **transforming lives... one child at a time**. Please call Gary Raterink at (616) 831-5623 or email graterink@wedgwood.org for questions and assistance.

The Wedgwood Foundation Legacy Society

Several years ago, we formed the **Wedgwood Foundation Legacy Society** to recognize individuals who have informed us of their plan to leave a legacy gift toward Wedgwood’s ministry. Currently, membership stands just under 100 individuals. If you have

included Wedgwood in your future gift plans, but have not shared that information with us, would you please let us know? We hold an annual reception to honor and say thank you to each Legacy Society member, and would like to thank you as well.



◀ Gary Raterink, CPA
Planned Giving Officer

A Leader in Lifelong Learning

By Vito Lentini, Associate Director, Wedgwood Institute

The Wedgwood Institute provides top-quality opportunities for Lifelong Learning to our employees, clinical professionals and others in West Michigan and from across the state.

Years of experience in offering treatment services to children and families, combined with a strong and renewed commitment to our core Christian values, uniquely prepare Wedgwood to step forward as a leader in responding effectively to the numerous challenges facing children and families in today's world. The Wedgwood Institute offers a diverse and wide-ranging variety of topics designed to strengthen the quality of our response to the needs of our clients and customers.

The Institute's offerings connect with four audiences:

- **Clinical Professionals** – instructing therapists, social workers and others who are required to earn Continuing Education (CE) credits as part of their professional licensure.
- **Community** – informing area youth and child-care workers,

coaches, educators, clergy, family members and others who benefit from our experience of working with hurting and disadvantaged youth.

- **Management and Leadership** – enhancing the skills of administrators, professionals and others who supervise people and organizational efforts.
- **Staff Development** – providing quality training to Wedgwood employees to fulfill professional mandates and respond to ever-changing needs of our various client populations, in addition to other job-related performance issues.

For more information on the Institute's training sessions, please visit wedgwood.org or contact Vito Lentini at (616) 831-8642 or vitol@wedgwood.org.



◀ Vito Lentini, MS
Associate Director,
Wedgwood Institute

Second Annual MLK Celebration

This January, the staff and children of Wedgwood's residential homes celebrated the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at our annual MLK Luncheon Celebration. Staff volunteers led fun activities and games that made the day a great success. Youth expressed their enjoyment and a desire for more

time at each booth so they could learn even more. Many staff commented that the activity offered great encouragement to them in keeping their passion for justice alive just as Dr. King did.

As Christians, we must be people who act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God. ~ Micah 6:8

Educational Services Overview

Wedgwood understands the importance of investing in prevention and education efforts that help at-risk youth avoid falling into further hardship. In addition to Lifelong Learning opportunities for adults through the Wedgwood Institute (see accompanying article on this page), we provide a wide range of other educational services:

- **Substance Abuse Prevention** in schools, community centers and churches
- **Sexual Abstinence Education** for Middle and High School age students
- **Community Outreach Groups** addressing topics of vital interest in local school settings
- **Community Awareness Events/ School Assemblies** that promote healthy values
- **Voluntary Young Life programs** for students at Lighthouse Academy
- **Support for Lighthouse Academy's programs** targeting expelled and severely at-risk students.

Pure Passion for Fashion Coming Soon!

Instead of lectures about risky behavior, **Pure Passion for Fashion** showcases the importance of abstinence in a high-impact, multi-media event blending fashion, music and technology for teens and families. Keep your eyes and calendars open for this year's Pure Passion for Fashion Show. For more information check out www.purepassionforfashion.org.



Building Hope for the Future

By Jim Visser, Chief Advancement Officer

IN EARLY 2008, WEDGWOOD'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS PRAYERFULLY EMBARKED ON A MAJOR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN TO STRENGTHEN OUR IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF MORE CHILDREN.

As the demand for services increased, Wedgwood's Board of Directors saw the opportunity to advance our mission of bringing God's love to more children and families. They also recognized that our multiple campuses and outdated

buildings presented a serious obstacle. The *Building Hope for Children* Capital Campaign focused intently on three main goals:

- Strengthening our ability to address the devastating problems of abuse, neglect, poverty, teen pregnancy, and school expulsions

- Constructing new and renovated facilities that allow us to expand the capacity and effectiveness of our services
- Consolidating four campuses into one, resulting in new efficiencies and savings of over \$1 million annually

With the support of trusted friends and supporters throughout West Michigan, we set a goal to raise \$8.5 million. Just about a year later, we're pleased to report that God has blessed our efforts beyond

expectations, resulting in \$8.7 million committed to date.

The campaign's outcome is both deeply gratifying and profoundly humbling, given the struggling economic climate. The generosity of our donors' earthly treasures inspires us to be careful stewards of our financial and human resources as we guide at-risk youth to Christ, the source of eternal hope and healing.

Wedgwood's *Building Hope for Children* campaign has already resulted in substantial benefits:

- New and improved facilities on one campus improves communication, resulting in a more responsive service environment.
- A stronger economic footing based on annual cost savings, fiscal strength, and stability enables us to withstand the tough economy at a time when many organizations have already made severe cutbacks.
- Enhanced program capacity and efficiency allows us to respond to new opportunities such as doubling enrollment in Lighthouse Academy, opening the Woodcliff Group Home and other innovative efforts.
- A more child-friendly campus supports the healing process through walking/nature trails, a fishing pond, redesigned landscaping and courtyard areas.

This historic campus consolidation will allow Wedgwood to not merely survive, but to thrive in years to come.

The consolidation process has helped Wedgwood transform our core prevention, education, counseling and residential services, which are reimbursed by government



sources, into financially sustainable programs that operate on balanced budgets. Wedgwood is also committed to providing **value-added services**, which are critical to the spiritual, emotional and physical well being of our youth, and prepare them for future self-sufficiency. These value-added services receive no public funding, and are fully supported by donor contributions to the **Children's Hope Annual Fund**.

The Children's Hope Annual Fund allows Wedgwood to provide the following value-added services:

- **Chaplaincy and Young Life** offer Christ and His message of hope and healing to troubled youth. Wedgwood's residential success rate of 85% compared to the state standard of 70% is due in large part to these programs.
- **Educational Services** in support of Lighthouse Academy allow faculty to maintain average student-to-teacher ratios of 15:1 rather than the 30:1 ratio common in traditional school settings.
- **Positive Youth Development** programs bring positive and inspirational messages to youth

in school and neighborhoods to counteract the messages sent from our sexually saturated culture.

- **Employment Training Program** teaches skills that prepare youth for future independence and increased self-respect.
- **Wellness Services** address the emotional, mental and physical well-being of residential clients through therapeutic activities, special excursions and camping experiences.

The support for the *Building Hope for Children* has been monumental. And now, the entire Wedgwood community remains eager to continue the work, bolstered by the knowledge that your continued investment of time, prayer and resources in the **Children's Hope Annual Fund** will enable us to pursue our mission ever more faithfully into the future.



◀ Jim Visser, MA
Chief Advancement
Officer

STILL TIME TO REGISTER!

WEDGWOOD CHRISTIAN SERVICES

24th Annual Charity Golf Classic

DATE

Monday, June 1, 2009

LOCATION

Egypt Valley Country Club
Both morning and afternoon flights

Wedgwood's Golfer Gift:

CERTIFICATE FOR FREE ROUND OF GOLF

at Egypt Valley

Redeemable in 2009 Golf Season

Call (616) 942-2392 to register today!


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BANK
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Making a Difference

By Grace DeVries, Administrative Specialist

For nearly 50 years, hundreds of Wedgwood's children have received prayers, birthday cakes, Christmas gifts, special comfort items, furnishings, and love from people they don't even know — thanks to a special group of women who serve God by serving others.

Spiritual service is at the heart of Wedgwood's Guilds, and has been since the first Guild formed in 1959. That year, several women transformed a house on Fountain Street into a lovely bright and clean home for girls who needed help. At the same time, the Wedgwood Acres Guilds were busy sewing drapes and getting a home in Wyoming ready for boys. Both groups hosted breakfasts and luncheons to promote Wedgwood's ministry and to raise money. As the Guilds grew, each member offered whatever they could contribute — time, talent, prayer or financial support. An



early Guild member recalls how beautiful it was to see women from various denominations come together to make a difference in the lives of at-risk youth.

Today there are 100 active Guild members who work tirelessly to meet the needs of over 650 youth who are in residential treatment each year. As the need for more Guild members grows, please consider what you can do for the young people living at Wedgwood. If you can use your time or talent to provide one birthday cake to a child, help make Christmas special, or become involved with another Guild activity, we would love to hear from you. Please call Grace De Vries at (616) 831-5621 or email gdevries@wedgwood.org.



◀ Grace DeVries
Administrative Specialist

Open House — June 25, 2009



Thanks to our generous donors, the
Building Hope For Children Capital Campaign is

NOW A REALITY!

Please join us at the Wedgwood Campus on THURSDAY, JUNE 25 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. to celebrate the success of our \$8.5 million capital campaign. Tours will be available.

Fostering Hope . . . One Child at a Time

By Della Levi-Bouie, Foster Care Manager, Licensor



◀ Corwin and Kay Tischer

Wedgwood's ministry to troubled youth in our area includes comprehensive, holistic, Christ-centered foster care services.

As the need for loving, well-trained foster families continues to rise, we would like to recognize the exceptional dedication of one couple who has provided foster care services for 45 years – **Corwin and Kay Tischer**. They open their home to children with severe behavior problems who are often difficult to place elsewhere, and give them hope for the future.

Corwin and Kay expose their foster children to all aspects of life on their farm, teaching them personal responsibility as they care for animals and help with chores. Long term clients have the opportunity raise a hog and sell it at a local fair to save money for college. Kay also teaches them to sew quilts.

Thanks to the loving and nurturing environment provided by the Tischers, countless at-risk children have been empowered to succeed as they continue their journey into adulthood.



◀ Della Levi-Bouie,
Foster Care Case
Manager, Licensor

What do a U.S. Senator from Colorado and Miss Teen USA 1992 have in common? Ben Nighthorse Campbell and Charlotte Ayanna were once at-risk children who were given the chance to shine because of the love and dedication of foster families.

May is National Foster Care Awareness Month

Every child deserves to grow up in a loving home and fulfill God's plan for their lives. However, there are many children whose families are unable to care for them for a variety of reasons, including neglect, abuse, emotional impairment, mental illness and substance abuse. Nationally, there are over 500,000 children in foster care, and over 500 right here in West Michigan. Part of

Community Services Overview

Wedgwood offers a full spectrum of effective, innovative, and urgently needed services to strengthen families in West Michigan. In addition to Specialized Foster Care (see article at left), we offer these community-based services:

- **OUTPATIENT SERVICES** offer a holistic, person-centered and strength-based philosophy of treatment therapy for youth up to age 18
- **IN-HOME SERVICES** provide support for families with children who struggle with severe emotional disturbance
- **JUVENILE COMMUNITY JUSTICE** provides interventions for youth on probation, those at risk for residential placement, and those returning to their communities after residential treatment
- **JUVENILE JUSTICE REINTEGRATION** is an in-home alternative for delinquent, abused and neglected youth who are transitioning from a secure residential setting to a less-restrictive environment
- **INDEPENDENT LIVING** provides support for youth aged 16-18 who need assistance as they transition into productive members of the community
- **ADOLESCENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES** include assessment, outpatient counseling, outreach services and treatment
- **PARENT MENTOR PROGRAM** provides in-home mentoring for parents of children who are receiving Network 180 services

Donors Support Camping & Wellness Activities

By Connie Frazier, Advancement Manager

We express heartfelt appreciation to all our sponsors, bowlers and their supporters, and staff who participated in Wedgwood's Knock 'Em Down for Kids bowling event to send **200 kids on camping trips and activities** this year.

Without your support, these experiences would not be possible. Camping and wellness activities receive no public funding and are supported **100% by the philanthropic support of our generous donors.**

You help provide **Young Life camping** experiences to at-risk youth, where they benefit emotionally, physically and spiritually with Christ as the central focus. And, you help provide **wellness activities**, such as recreational camping, canoeing, fitness/nutrition training and physical exercise, to develop a healthy and productive lifestyle for more than **650** youth in Wedgwood's residential programs.

All of these activities provide opportunities for troubled children and teens to enjoy positive new experiences and are a critical part of how Wedgwood transforms lives, one child at a time.



◀ Connie Frazier,
Advancement Manager



On behalf of Wedgwood's children, we thank the following sponsors for helping to transform lives, one child at a time:

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Wedgwood's History at a Glance



▲ Designer: Scott Tiedgen at Visual Entities

As Wedgwood praises God for 49 years of service and ministry to hurting youth, a new **History Wall**, located in the Huizinga Administration Building, documents Wedgwood's rich history decade by decade:

The 1960's - The beginning. Christian Youth Homes (for girls) and Christian Home for Boys incorporate as separate entities.

The 1970's - The merger. The two homes merge and the name becomes Wedgwood Acres-Christian Youth Homes.

The 1980's - Expansion. The Kentwood Campus Residential Center, Outdoor Recreational Facilities, Velting Activities Center are completed. New programs begin: Chaplaincy, Wedgwood Christian Counseling Center, and Employment Training Program.

The Wedgwood Foundation is established.

The 1990's - Community. Community-based services begin, including an alliance with Grand Rapids area Young Life. New facilities include a residential unit in Cutlerville and the Nagel Chapel and Conference Center in Kentwood. The name becomes Wedgwood Christian Youth & Family Services.

To honor those who provided the foundation and vision to build upon, the History Wall recognizes our Board Members from the 1960s through today. Please stop by to visit this timeless history display that speaks of Wedgwood's mission, values, and vision.

For more information on our history, please visit wedgwood.org and select *Our Story* from the *About Us* menu.

Mark Your Calendars . . .

49th Anniversary

Celebration Dinner

Tuesday, October 13, 2009
DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

Featured Guest –
Dr. Joseph M. Stowell,
President of
Cornerstone University



Dr. Stowell is an internationally recognized speaker and author. His web ministry, *Strength for the Journey*, features daily devotionals, weekly messages

and commentary, and downloadable Bible studies. Dr. Stowell's distinguished career in higher education and church leadership is based on a desire to build a strong and vibrant community where the presence of Christ is evident, and to govern and lead in ways that engender mutual confidence and trust.



Retired Teacher Connects with At-Risk Students

By Heidi Cate, Principal, Lighthouse Academy

KATHY DEMBINSKY ISN'T THE KIND OF TEACHER WHO SEEKS THE LIMELIGHT— BUT SHE IS AN EDUCATOR WHO LIKES TO GET THINGS DONE.

Throughout her 30 year teaching career, Kathy Dembinsky has touched the lives of over 3,000 middle and high school students. Although her primary focus has been math, she has taught everything from home economics to English. After transitioning into retirement a few years ago, Kathy used her free time to stay involved with kids, who benefit greatly from her experience and genuine interest in their lives. She specializes in 1:1 and small group mentoring for students at Lighthouse Academy (LA).

Wedgwood opened Lighthouse Academy in January 2005 with a mission to serve expelled students with no other educational options. The short-term goal was dropout prevention, keeping at-risk students on track to graduate. The long-term goal is to help young people find their potential, discover talents, and fulfill dreams that difficult circumstances threaten to stifle.

Last September, Lighthouse relocated to a new building on Wedgwood's campus, opening under a charter agreement with Ferris State University. The move allowed LA to



▲ Kathy Dembinsky works closely with her students in Geometry class

enroll more educationally at-risk teens. LA works with 7th through 10th grade students and will add junior and senior classes in years ahead. Their teachers and support staff possess the skills and commitment needed to reach these at-risk youth.

Whether Kathy's students struggle with being too far behind in basic education, or the lack of social skills that makes it hard to work in groups, her efforts provide a "safety net" to catch youth right where they are. She brings a great combination of experience, insight and warmth to connect with young people.

"A few years ago, I was recruited to teach two hours a week after I'd retired. Now I'm here all the time! My sister asked me recently if I think I've found my calling in life? Well, maybe I have!" Kathy also points out a stockpile of donated academic materials and educational supplies. "A lot of people like to help out, and these kids really appreciate it."

Kathy has found a surprisingly effective ally in keeping students focused and attentive – knitting! These days, she has more boys than girls knitting in her small groups.

"As much as we'd like to, we can't give our kids better self-esteem – they earn it by finding their own success. Knitting takes some students by surprise when they learn how good they can be at it. That opens them up to try new skills and subjects that didn't interest them before. Our students are doing higher math like advanced algebra, trigonometry, functions and statistics. It's amazing and rewarding to see what they can achieve."

The students and faculty at Lighthouse Academy are very fortunate to have Kathy on our team!



◀ Heidi Cate, MA, LLP
Principal, Lighthouse
Academy

Be Still and Know that I am God

By Sara Webb, Senior Young Life Coordinator

“COME UNTO ME ALL YOU WHO ARE WEARY . . . FOR YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOUL”
MATTHEW 11:28A AND 29B

For the children at Wedgwood, true rest is very hard to find. Their minds are ON all the time. They worry, have regrets, feel anxious about the future, and grieve for the past.

In Matthew 11, God promises rest when we come to him with our worries, fears and anxieties. In fact, **God is insistent on rest.** Psalm 23 says that God “makes us lie down”. It does not say that He asks us to lie down, He *makes* us lie down. **Rest is necessary to hear the voice of God.**

One of the most important things that Young Life and Chaplaincy accomplish at Wedgwood is giving our clients rest. We provide Christ-focused opportunities that shut off the voices from the past and tune into the quiet voice of God. It is amazing to see how different these children are when their souls are at rest. They laugh freely, they smile more, and they experience the joy of living in the present.

One of the new additions to the Nagel Chapel is the **Young Life Gathering Grounds Coffee House.** Our goal is to provide a place where kids come and find rest. While



resting their souls, relationships are built, and they can experience Christ. Each week more than 40 of Wedgwood’s youth come to the coffee house and interact with other residents and staff. Even though the coffee house is right here on campus, it feels like we are somewhere else. It has become a safe haven for our residents to get away from their troubles and find rest in being a ‘normal’ teenager for a while.

While we are in the coffee house, we watch movies, play on the Playstation, race karts with the Wii, and play card and board games. Some clients just come to sit and talk over coffee, popcorn and hot cocoa. The coffee house also hosts two book clubs and a poetry night for the Wedgwood girls. It has been such a great addition to our Wedgwood community. I am looking forward to what the next year will bring as we continue to grow and provide even more opportunities in



the coffee house for our kids to rest and experience Christ!

Every week as I spend time in the homes, the boys and girls ask when is the next worship? Or when is Young Life Club? Or when do we volunteer next? The programs that Chaplaincy and Young Life provide are programs that youth of all ages look forward to attending. I don’t think that all of them could articulate exactly why they look forward to these events, but my guess is that they are **experiencing rest in Christ.** We pray that by giving kids opportunities to rest, to tune out the past and hear the voice of God, that they will make the choice to embrace a personal relationship with Christ.



◀ Sara Webb,
Senior Young Life
Coordinator

January - March 2009 Gifts

In Memory Of

Gifts given in memory of a loved one are placed in the Wedgwood Foundation, which helps fund Wedgwood's programs for youth

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Wedgwood Christian Services' Mission Statement

Extending God's love to youth and families through professional counseling and educational services.

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