

Ohio Conference Report 2016

Todd Hanes, President/CEO

Ohio Conference has been invested in Adriel's ministry in so many ways, including support for our chaplain and spiritual guidance program, comforters for our kids, advocacy and prayer support.

Ohio Conference generously supports the spiritual guidance program for our residential youth. Ohio Conference holds the credentials for our campus pastor, Erin Dye, and local and distant Mennonite churches in the Conference contribute to the Spiritual Development Fund, covering approximately 38 percent of our chaplain's salary. This important program is one that our counties do not fund but is part of what makes Adriel a premier provider of exceptional care for the mind, body and spirit. The basic tenets of the spiritual development program are 1) weekly Bible study groups for all youth in their homes and 2) weekly and community-supported Adriel Live. However, this program incorporates so much more! Coordinating volunteer visits full of kickball and crafting fun, participating in community worship services through bell choir and song, decorating a float for the local parade, and adorning costumes for our annual Christmas program are just a few of the blessings we enjoy in this program.

Local Mennonite churches and their pastors are regularly involved on campus. They consistently attend our Pastors' Breakfast every other month. These pastors and other congregation members help host our campus worship service, Adriel Live. (Tedrow Mennonite from northwest Ohio also hosted this year!) The local Mennonite churches as well as other West Liberty congregations helped provide all 63 of our direct care staff with cookies and a \$25 gift card for Christmas 2015 and 2016. Oak Grove Mennonite (West Liberty) takes one residential house for Angel Tree gifts and also hosts the West Central Region Foster Parent Appreciation Party each May.

In another note, our chaplain serves on the Voice Task Force to aid Ohio Conference leadership and congregations. This group hears concerns from Ohio Conference congregations and voices them to Mennonite Church USA. The invitation to the committee stems from a respect to Adriel's far spreading connection with Ohio Conference congregations.

The women's groups continue to be a blessing to our mission. They provide beautiful quilts and other items for our annual auction as well as the necessary items collected for our residential homes and our foster care regions such as sheet sets, towels and comforters. Our Northwest Ohio Adriel Auxiliary hosted their annual ice cream social, which is attended by many from Tedrow, Zion, Central, Lockport, Inlet, Pine Grove, and West Clinton Mennonite churches. They are a constant support especially for our Northwest and North Central foster care regions.

As we look forward to FY 2017 Adriel will continue to serve children by emphasizing 1) the importance of the wonderful people and organizations that generously give so that the children we serve can experience a Christian homelike setting and 2) continued focus on our community and county relations to maximize the potential of our work.

Our youth are resilient in their life experiences, and so are we in the way we serve them. We are a people of passion, daring, tenacity and optimism. We will continue to enrich lives of children and families and strengthen our communities. Thank you for all you do for Adriel and our children.