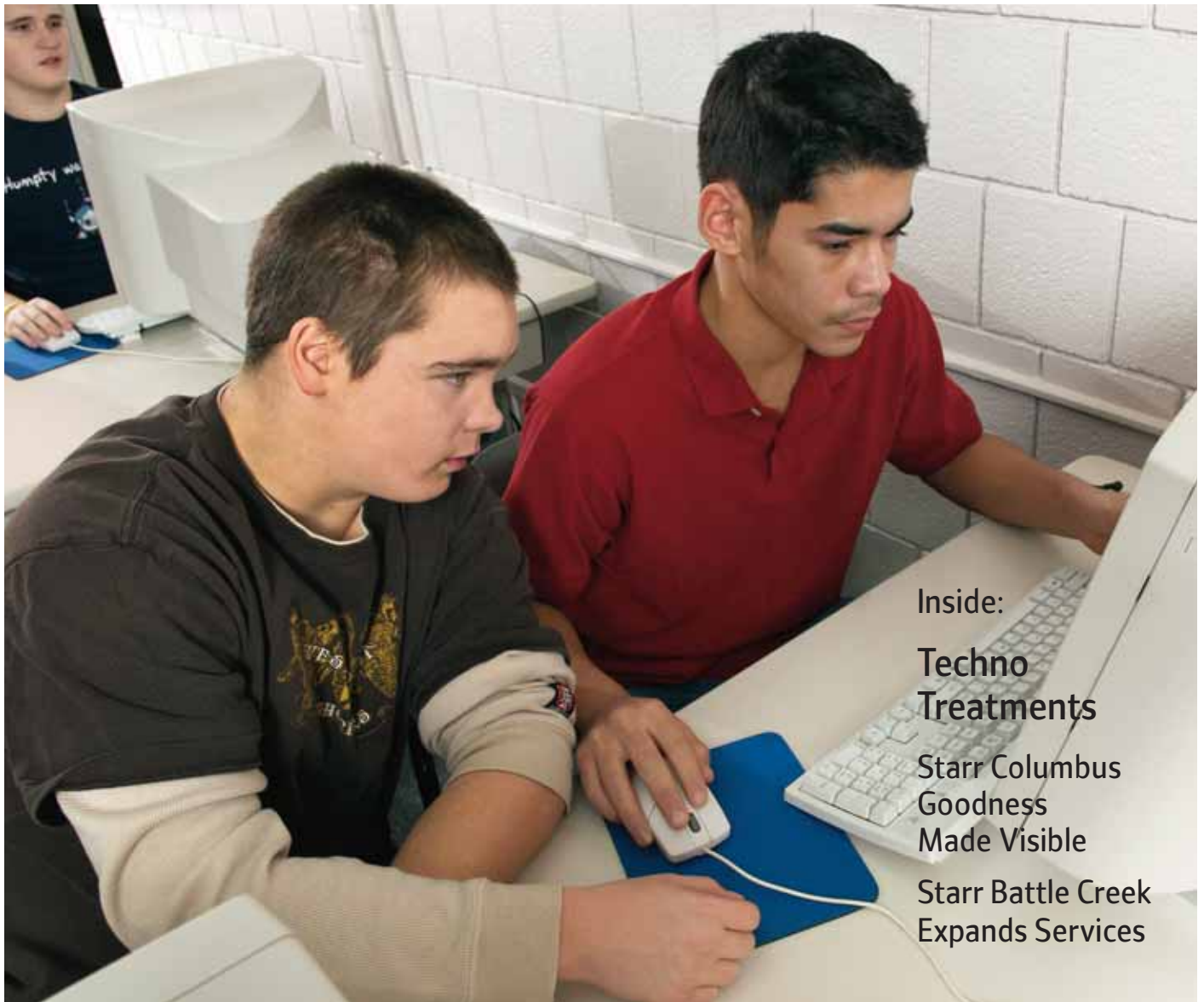


Starr News

S P R I N G 2 0 1 0 | V O L U M E 6 7 N O . 1

STARR COMMONWEALTH SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SINCE 1913



Inside:

**Techno
Treatments**

Starr Columbus
Goodness
Made Visible

Starr Battle Creek
Expands Services

M I C H I G A N A N D O H I O ' S P R E M I E R C H I L D R E N ' S C H A R I T Y

Michigan: Albion, Battle Creek, Detroit | Ohio: Van Wert, Columbus Hannah Neil Center

Starr News

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Mission:
Create positive environments where children flourish.

Starr News Spring, 2010 Volume 67, No. 1

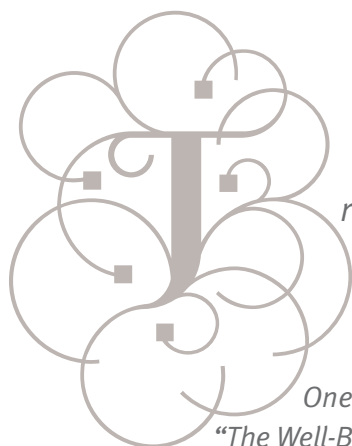
Starr Commonwealth is accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families & Children. Starr Commonwealth is a non-profit organization serving children and families regardless of race, religion, color, or national origin. Founded in 1913, Starr is licensed by the states of Michigan and Ohio and serves children and families from locations in Albion, Battle Creek, Detroit, MI.; Van Wert, and Columbus, OH. The Albion campus is a Michigan Historic Site. Starr Commonwealth receives funds from social agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.

Honorable Eugene A. Moore, Chairman of the Board; Martin L. Mitchell, Ed. D., President and Chief Executive Officer; Wm. Chuck Jackson, MA, Executive Vice President and Chief Program Officer; Christopher L. Smith, B.B.A., C.P.A., Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Simon P. Bisson, CFRM, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer; Elizabeth A. Carey, Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy & Administrative Services Officer.

13725 Starr Commonwealth Rd. Albion, MI 49224-9525 517.629.5591 info@starr.org



Martin L. Mitchell, Ed.D.
President/CEO



*reating children in the twenty-first century requires
twenty-first century thinking and evolving with the times.
Today’s youth and families face far greater challenges and
much deeper issues than those of some generations before.*

*One of the most significant findings of a 2002 report,
“The Well-Being of Our Nation: An Inter-Generational Vision of Effective
Mental Health Services and Supports,” is that children and youth who experience
dysfunction at the hands of poor systems are much more likely to become
dependent on failing systems as adults. Without proper treatment and support
as children, their likelihood of dependence increases as adults.*

*Our mission is to provide positive environments where children flourish,
but we’re also farsighted enough to understand the long-term
consequences for children as adults when their needs are not met
early. At Starr Commonwealth, we realize that in order to meet
these vastly different and increasingly more difficult challenges
of today’s youth, we must adapt as well.*

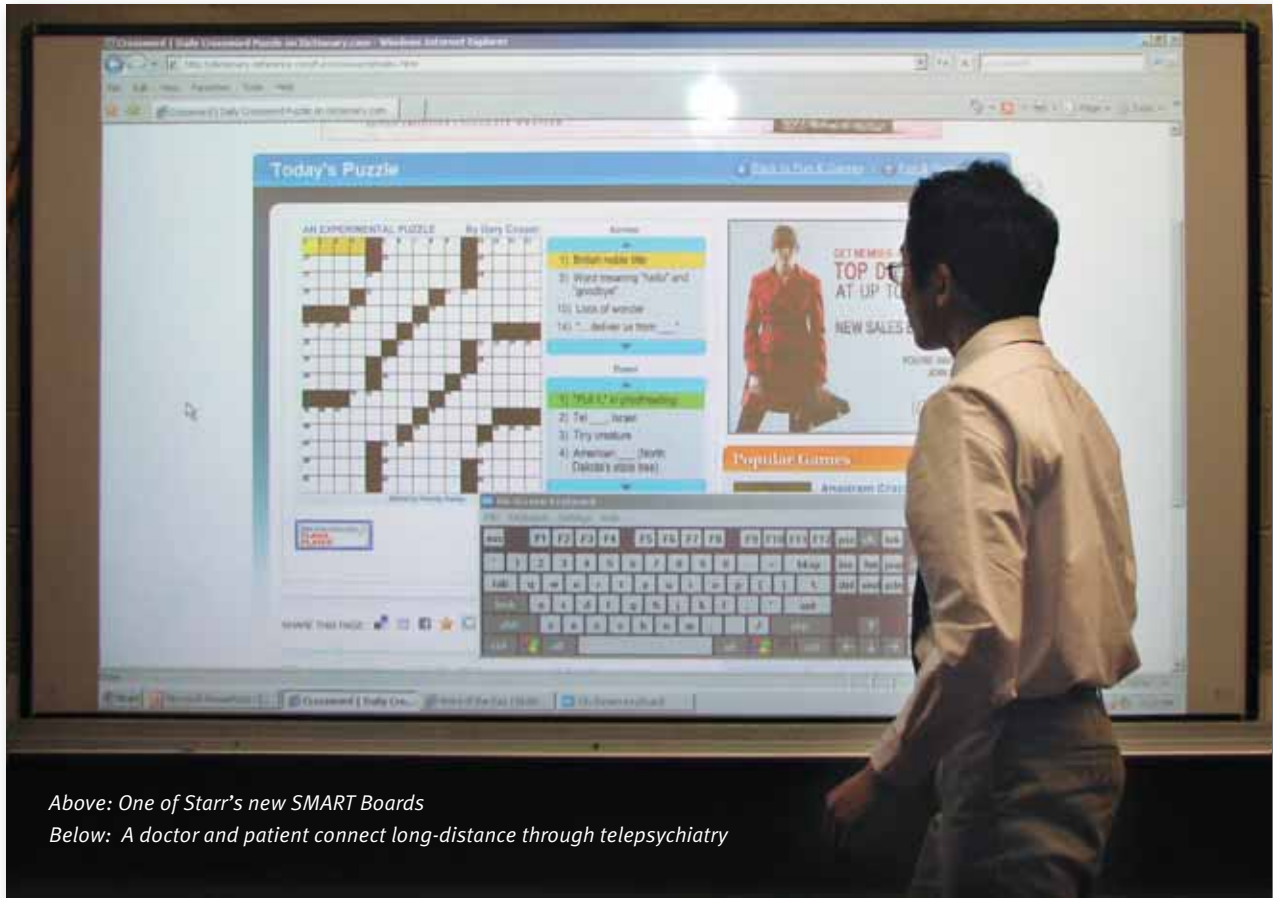
*This is why you’ll notice from the stories inside that Starr,
Montcalm Schools and the Starr Institute for Training are finding
new, innovative ways to address the mental health and educational
needs of the youth and families we serve. New technologies are
being used in the classroom; new approaches are in place clinically;
and new programming is now part of our portfolio, allowing Starr
to expand its presence in the community and serve a new
group of at-risk youth.*

*By exploring technology and diversifying our programming,
Starr is meeting the needs of at-risk youth today and improving
their tomorrows. With your help, for which we are so grateful,
the cycle of poor outcomes can end, for them and their
future children.*

Martin L. Mitchell

Martin L. Mitchell, Ed.D., President/CEO





Above: One of Starr's new SMART Boards

Below: A doctor and patient connect long-distance through telepsychiatry



Techno TREATMENTS

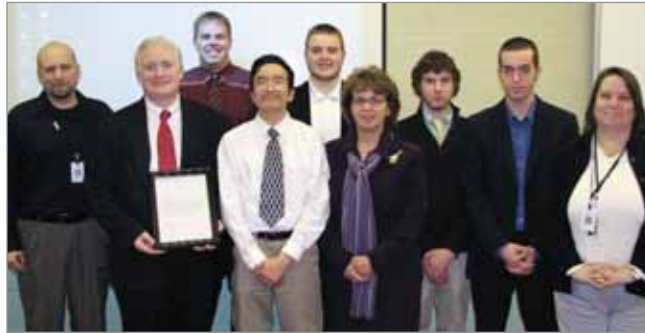
In an era when we are constantly being confronted with new gadgets and technology, Starr Commonwealth is considering how to best put these new tools and methods to work for the betterment of youth.

Many of the youth in our care are in need of professional psychological and psychiatric services, but due to geography, the best services are not always the most readily available. With some of our youth, traditional classrooms and textbook learning does not meet their educational needs. More innovative approaches are needed to reach these students.

For those reasons, Starr Commonwealth has begun exploring the usage of new technologies to increase the access to service and enhance the provision of services currently available.

At Montcalm School for Boys in Albion, SMART Boards have been installed in two classrooms thanks to a generous donation from Chemical Bank of Marshall, Michigan and other generous donors.

SMART Boards are an interactive technology that allows users to connect the computer and projector. This assistive technology has proven very effective, especially among students with special needs who require different modalities to learn. SMART Boards allow many students the opportunity to interact with a computer in a group setting.



Chemical Bank's generous donation provided two SMART Boards

“We have an extremely diverse group of students here, all with various learning styles,” said Nathan Smith, a teacher at Starr Commonwealth’s Montcalm School for Boys. “With the new SMART Boards, students are interacting more and becoming more engaged. We’re bridging the gap between learning and true comprehension.”

In Van Wert, Ohio, the youth in Starr’s residential treatment program for boys are required to undergo a psychiatric assessment soon after placement. The young men currently are transported to Columbus, Ohio to see a psychiatrist Starr consults with for its youth at Starr Columbus. Transporting the youth to and from Van Wert to Columbus is time-consuming and costly, but the personal interaction between the youth and doctor is necessary.

However, after that initial face-to-face visit, subsequent sessions are then conducted by way of telepsychiatry, where the youth and doctor connect through videoconferencing.

“Telepsychiatry will not replace traditional interaction between doctors and patients,” said Dr. Jim Longhurst, Senior Vice President of Clinical Services for Starr and Director of Montcalm Schools. “What it does allow for is access to a greater network of psychiatric professionals specializing in a wide variety of clinical issues, and in some cases, the technology can allow a continuum of care not previously available.”

For example, Starr and Montcalm students come from all over the country and some internationally. With these new technologies in place, a child in care may be able to receive the same care and services from a doctor back home.

Starr currently is looking at ways to expand its use of technology in meeting the needs of youth in our care, specifically with the students of Montcalm Schools, many of whom come to us with mental health diagnoses. Starr currently is in discussions with faculty and staff of Michigan State University’s telepsychiatry program to create a strategy for utilizing the university’s service in our program.

“We’re excited about the future and ways in which Starr Commonwealth can explore new technologies to enhance our programs and further improve the quality of care that youth and families receive from Starr,” Longhurst said. “The ways in which educational and mental health needs are being met is forever changing, and for some, the possibilities seem endless.”



Write these kids off in 2011.

\$50.00

\$100.00

\$200.00

OTHER



Make a generous donation today and get a nice tax deduction next April. You'll also make a big difference in the lives of area youth. Donate online at starr.org.



Education has always been an important aspect through my life thus far and will continue to be as I transition into a new chapter of my life in college. Thanks to a scholarship from Starr Commonwealth, I now can achieve my goals, both academic and personal.

Academically, I plan to work to my fullest potential so that I can be proud of the work that I've done. I want to challenge myself intellectually and try immersing myself in various subjects so that I can be sure I lead myself into a career that I am interested in and can be passionate about. Also, I applied and was accepted to live in a "Learning Living Community," which is a dorm where one can be connected with other students by taking an extra class or seminar focused around an interest that the students have.

Going to college also allows me to work on some personal goals. I'll have the opportunity to be independent and appropriately use my freedom. I'll be able to use skills I've learned both at Montcalm and when I came home from Montcalm in areas such as building relationships and making responsible, healthy decisions.

Before going to Montcalm, my behaviors were out of control and I was completely blind to the ways they were affecting not only myself, but those who care about me. After a very rough few months when I first arrived at Montcalm, I finally started working on learning better ways to deal with my emotions and relationships with other people. I learned my cycles and how to correct my negative thoughts and self-talk. I realized that people, such as my family, genuinely care about me and began to let them be a part of my life and accept their support in a positive way.

Montcalm helped me realize it's okay and not so scary to let down my guard and I now feel comfortable asking for help and support when I need it, which has allowed me to successfully deal with my problems.

Emotions aren't so overwhelming to me anymore. Before, I would do anything to avoid and eradicate emotions I thought were too intense. Self-destructive acts gave me that "quick fix" I was looking for, but I learned it isn't a long-term solution. After finally allowing myself to feel those emotions, I realized they were only temporary. I realized I'm capable of managing difficult times by using coping skills such as going for a walk during difficult times or engaging in an activity that helps me relax and take my mind off things. *continued on page 19*



“Although I was bitter at first about having to be at Montcalm, I now realize it’s been the single most life-impacting experience in my 19 years of life. I’m very grateful for those at Montcalm who helped me see the light at the end of the tunnel.”

Ali, former Montcalm School for Girls student

Goodness Made Visible

Thank you to all who attended and supported the Goodness Made Visible Luncheon held in November 2009 in Columbus, Ohio.

About 250 guests attended the event and more than \$25,645 was raised to support programs for troubled youth and families in central Ohio. Starr Columbus offers residential care and community-based services for at-risk youth and families in crisis, including in-home family stabilization, treatment foster care for troubled and abused children and independent living for transitional youth and young adults.

"We are thrilled to have shared with the Columbus community the great work that is happening at Starr Columbus on behalf of children and families," said Natalie Coles, Director of Development for Ohio. "We look



Right: Shameikia Smith, MyPlace counselor, and Diamond, former MyPlace youth.

Below: Maria Myers, her daughters and Stafford, a graduate of MyPlace.



forward to getting more of our community members involved in shaping the lives of our young people, and we thank everyone who is already giving of their time, talents and treasure to kids in our community."

Also attending were members of the Starr Hannah Neil Development Board and their guests. The Development Board consists of active and Emeritus members dedicated to the well-being of central Ohio children and families. Historically, the center has benefited from prestigious and influential board members who have promoted the center's mission and fundraising efforts by engaging prominent corporations, community leaders, executives and volunteers. More than 75 individuals from Columbus area businesses and organizations have served on the board since 1983.

Since its inception, the board has supported the operating costs of the center and has directly provided more than \$800,000 in unrestricted funding, all of which is used locally. Less than 3 percent of contributions are spent on fundraising and more than 80 cents of every \$1 donated goes directly to the center's programs.

"We are thrilled to have shared with the Columbus community the great work that is happening at Starr Columbus on behalf of children and families."

Natalie Coles – Director of Development, Starr Columbus

continued on next page

Thanks

We wish to thank all the generous donors who gave during the holiday season to assist Starr Commonwealth in fixing broken lives.

During our most recent call for help, we received \$47,400 in charitable donations. Your tax-deductible gifts directly benefit the youth in our programs by providing hope and healing, not just during the holiday season, but year-round.



Because of you, Starr is giving troubled children the opportunity and skills to take responsibility for their actions, make better decisions and lead healthier, more productive lives.

Starr Commonwealth is a Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity.

We guard your privacy. Starr Commonwealth does not sell or trade donor contact information. We do recognize and celebrate our donors' contributions by using their names in various publications. If you would like your gift to remain anonymous, please let us know. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Development Office at 800.837.5591, ext. 2436 or info@starr.org.

During a particularly touching and emotional moment, Maria Myers, a member of the Development Board, spoke to the audience about her past and why she volunteers her time and resources to Starr Columbus and its youth.

"Eighty-seven percent (87%) of the youth treated through Starr Commonwealth's Hannah Neil Center do not end up 'back in the system.' That's a success story I want to help continue," Myers said.

Debbie Beyer, Vice President and Director of Marketing for Fifth Third Bank, serves as President of the Development Board and is a Starr Commonwealth Trustee.

"At a time when financial resources have decreased, the demand for more specialized therapeutic services, like those available at Starr Columbus, is increasing," Beyer said. "On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the Development Board, we are so grateful for the support and generosity of the many individuals, groups, organizations and businesses that believe there is something good in every child and are assisting Starr Columbus in meeting its needs."

Starr also wishes to recognize Time Warner Cable, Nationwide, Schottenstein, Zox and Dunn, and Bob Evans for their sponsorship support that helped make this event possible.

Goodness
Made
Visible

Commonwealthia

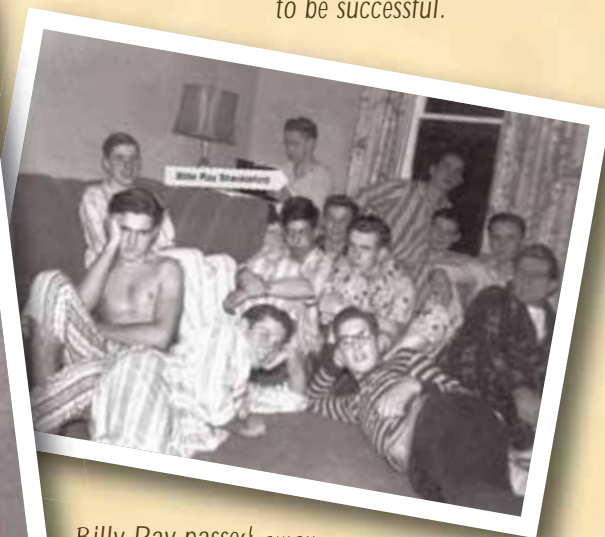
by Amy Reimann, Director of Archives and Alumni Affairs

Billy Ray Shackelford was born November 11, 1935 in Speedwell, Tennessee, and grew up with six brothers and four sisters in the Monroe, Michigan area. In August 1950, Billy Ray came to Starr Commonwealth and stayed for a total of 31 months. Upon leaving Starr, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force, took basic training at Sampson Air Force Base and served in both Korea and Vietnam. His career path eventually earned him the position of Flight Engineer on Air Force One and Air Force Two.

During his career in the Air Force, Billy Ray was privileged to fly vice presidents Walter Mondale and George H.W. Bush. He also was present on one of the flights that brought back the recently-released hostages from Iran in 1980. Among his other proud moments was flying Muhammad Ali to Zaire on a diplomatic mission requested by President Jimmy Carter. He flew countless dignitaries, actors and military officials around the world, eventually visiting every continent except Antarctica. He was stationed at many Air Force bases around the country including Lackland, Barksdale, Sawyer, Andrews, Hickham and Scott.



After retirement in the 1980s, Billy Ray kept busy driving a truck and eventually a school bus in Texas. He also was an avid electronics buff and collected the newest and greatest in electronics as soon as it was available. He always believed the structure and guidance he received at Starr Commonwealth and in the Air Force gave him the skills he needed to be successful.



Billy Ray passed away September 8, 2009 and is survived by his wife of 39 years, Joyce, three daughters, two step-daughters, seven grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, three brothers and three sisters. We are grateful to his brother, Gary Keck, for providing Billy Ray's history for the Starr Commonwealth archives collections.



If you have questions or comments about any Starr historical topics, please contact Amy Reimann, Director of Archives and Alumni Affairs at 800.837.5591.

Featured Friends

Dan and Cyndi Hesselings of Van Wert, Ohio are passionate about many things in life, including football, animals and children. In their support of Starr Van Wert, the couple has found a way to combine all three.

As President of the Van Wert Area Browns Backers Club, Dan recently presented Kelley Jones, Executive Director of Starr Van Wert and Montcalm School for Girls, with a check for \$2,000.

Dan has worked with the staff of the Van Wert campus for several years to apply for a Cleveland Browns Foundation grant. He was informed in November 2009 that his club, one of 381 clubs nationwide, was selected to be only one of three to receive the \$2,000 grant for its selected charity.

"I just about started crying when I found out," Dan said, adding that he had applied for this grant numerous times. "This year, we just did everything right and the NFL has a similar motto as Starr in there being 'no such thing as a bad child.' I knew they would appreciate in Starr what I have always appreciated."



Starr's Kelley Jones with Dan and Cyndi Hesselings and Montcalm students

Dan said he was "wayward as a child" but now has the means to help make things better for others. He and his wife, Cyndi, are no strangers to the Starr Van Wert campus. Several years ago, after youth from the Starr Van Wert campus helped the Hesselings with yard and landscape work, Dan arranged for every staff and student on campus to receive tickets and transportation to a Cleveland Browns football game.

They have been longtime advocates for the programs and its youth, and recently contributed toward the Interactive Animal Habitat on the campus, donating a couple of their very own rabbits, cages and food supplies as well as funding.

The grant money received from the Browns Backers Club will help support and sustain the Animal Habitat as well as help pay students who are on transitional living plans for part-time jobs.

"It's spectacular that our little Browns Club did what we did and secured this grant," Dan said. "You just don't know what you can do until you do it."

Jones credits the Hesselings for helping to make the Interactive Animal Habitat a success and for recognizing the value of believing in the youth at Starr and Montcalm School for Girls.



"Dan and Cyndi truly are two of the most generous and thoughtful people," Jones said. "We are so appreciative for their time and support of the work we do here at Starr. It's because of people like the Hesselings that we are able to provide hope and healing to the youth and families we serve here in Van Wert."

For more information on how to create a named endowment or give to Starr through other means, please call our Development Office at 800.837.5591 or visit www.starr.org.



Starr expands services in Battle Creek

youth to be able to exit the system more capable of being responsible, productive members of our community, these programs create a plan that is geared toward holding the young offenders accountable for their actions, developing their level of competence, and protecting the needs of the community.

“When representatives from The Advocates approached Starr Commonwealth asking if we would have an interest in taking over their programs, we immediately saw the connection to our mission,” said Sabrina Corbin, Executive Director of Starr Battle Creek. “When students are expelled or suspended from school, often as a consequence of their own actions, there are few alternatives that will allow them to continue their education and it is often the case that when these youth are not in school that they fall further into trouble.”

With the acquisition of The Advocates, which will continue to operate from St. Philip Catholic Church’s Tiger Room, Starr will further expand its footprint in Battle Creek and begin offering:

Juvenile Diversion Program (JDP) – an alternative to formal court processing for first-time, non-violent offenders;

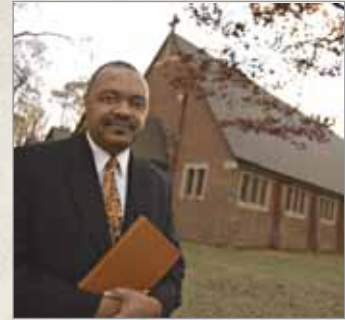
Daytime Curfew – a safe haven where law enforcement staff can bring youth in violation of Battle Creek’s daytime curfew ordinance;

Suspension Center – featuring NovaNET Credit Recovery programs where students who have been suspended or expelled can continue their studies and recover credits in order to graduate.

“With the support of school officials, law enforcement and our existing service delivery partners, Starr is further demonstrating our commitment to Battle Creek area youth with the expansion of our program offerings at Starr Battle Creek,” said Martin Mitchell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Starr Commonwealth. “In addition, we are grateful for the financial support from foundations and private funding sources, and the leadership of our local Starr Trustees. We are blessed to live and work in a community that is willing to provide meaningful solutions for children and families in crisis and look forward to expanding our services to more local youth and families.”

Chaplain's Message

If you've had a chance to read some of the articles in this edition of Starr News, I'm sure that you have noticed a "technology" theme. When it was suggested that I write something reflecting on this technology theme, I had an Alfred E. Newman, of MAD Magazine, moment, "Who Me?" Despite the best efforts of my family and an outstanding IT Team here at Starr, I remain hopelessly challenged when it comes to technology. It's a miracle really that I've been able to compose this short message on my computer!



Chaplain Kenneth T. Ponds

CHANGE IS GOOD BUT GOD'S UNCHANGING LOVE IS BETTER

One of the promises of technology is that with each change our lives should become easier and less complex. We should be able to do things faster and have more time for other pursuits. However, it seems to me, that each new change brings more complexity and even less time for other pursuits. I feel even more stressed, even more pressured to achieve, to keep up so that I'm not left behind.

The joy of a New Year is that amidst the complexities of life we are assured that one thing never changes, and that is God's love for us. God's love is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. No strings attached. Simple! I've heard it said that change is good; perhaps, but God's unchanging love is better.

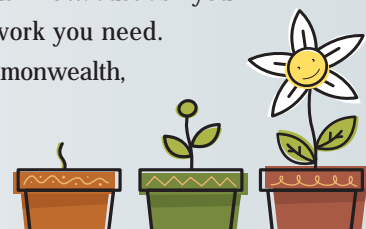
New technologies such as the SMART boards in place in some of the classrooms and the use of telepsychiatry undoubtedly allow Starr to continue to provide quality services for young people and their families. Let us never forget, however, the constancy of God's love. Love so great that Floyd Starr, and every Starr employee who has followed him, worked, and continue to work, hard to make love visible in the lives of young people.



Watch your gift grow. Do you work for a company that offers a matching gifts program? Or, are you retired from a matching gifts company? If so, you could double – maybe even triple – your gifts to Starr Commonwealth children simply by letting us know. Just ask your employer or former employer to provide you with the paperwork you need.

Fill it out and send it to Attention: Development Office, Starr Commonwealth, 13725 Starr Commonwealth Road, Albion, MI 49224-9910

Thank you for caring!



“I think about Starr every day.”

Claire McKee attended Starr in the 1970s and fondly recalls his time at Newton Hall, especially his Polish house mother and the donation Helen Keller made of the trees in front of his cottage.

“I also remember seeing Uncle Floyd walking the grounds and speaking with him on occasion,” he said.

McKee recalled a time when a fellow classmate was trying to run away.

“To this day I can see Uncle Floyd with tears in his eyes asking, ‘why would you want to leave such a special place?’”

“Then I saw the tears and understood what he meant.”

McKee said he was a very confused and troubled boy growing up in Flint. His mother was hospitalized when he was a child and his father was working.

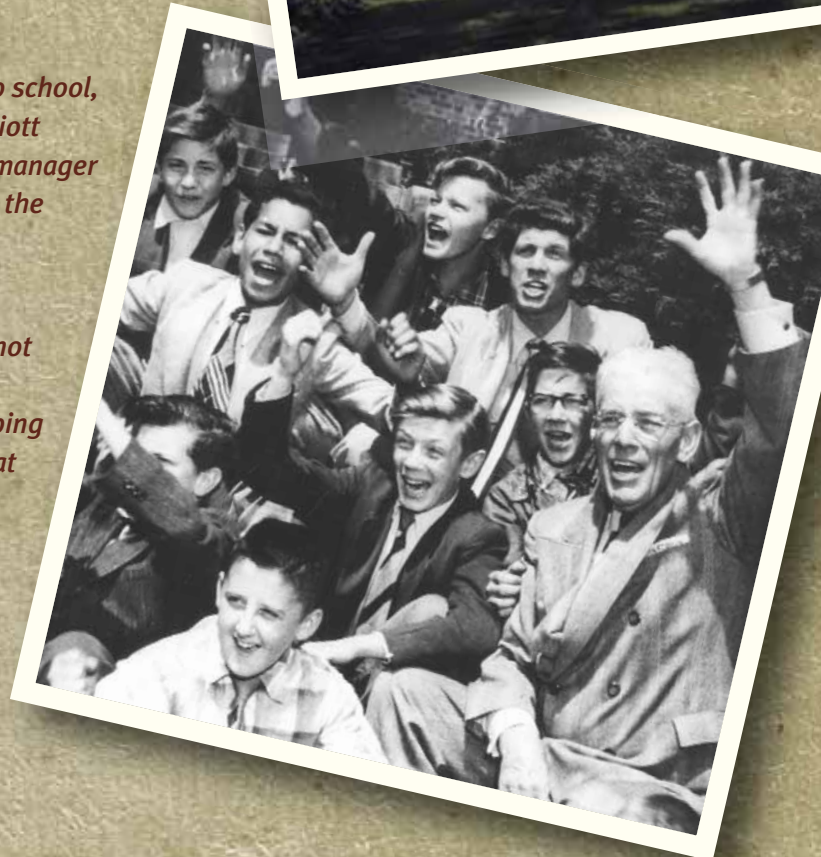
“I hung out with the wrong people and that got me into a lot of trouble and then some,” he said.

After graduating from Starr, McKee went back to school, joined the Navy and then later worked for Marriott Hotels for 17 years. He now works as a service manager in one of the largest motorcycle dealerships on the East Coast. He is married with a daughter, 14, and a son, 11.

“I have now been married 20 years and would not change a thing,” he said. “I believe Starr was a turning point due to the family setting and helping me grow up a bit. So I thank Uncle Floyd for what he did for me and others like me.”

We thank Claire McKee for reconnecting with Starr through the Alumni section of our website, www.starr.org, and encourage all Alumni to share their stories as well.

*Photos top to bottom:
Helen Keller tree planting ceremony
Newton Cottage today
Floyd Starr and his boys*



WELCOME ELIZABETH CAREY



Elizabeth A. Carey has joined Starr Commonwealth as Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy & Administrative Services Officer.

In her new role, Carey will provide leadership for Starr's strategic direction of investing in its people, as well as help shape the future of Starr's talent management initiatives and business strategies. Carey has a comprehensive professional background that includes social work, government relations, statewide and national association leadership and operations.

She most recently served as the Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for the Alliance for Children and Families. She directed day-to-day operations, planned and executed strategic plans, coordinated member recruitment and retention efforts, and helped determine the public policy agenda.

Carey is no stranger to the nonprofit social service sector of Michigan. Before serving in a leadership role at the Alliance for Children and Families, Carey was Executive Director of the Michigan Federation for Children and Families, a statewide organization located in Lansing for nonprofit social service providers. While at the Michigan Federation, Carey directed the public

policy efforts at state and national levels, organized and implemented grassroots advocacy efforts, and represented the federation membership with the legislature and state/federal departments.

"Elizabeth's experience and knowledge, both on a national and regional level, in nonprofit leadership and social services is an enormous asset to the Starr Commonwealth team," said Martin L. Mitchell, President and CEO. "We are truly honored to have Elizabeth joining our management team and are excited about what the future holds with her passion for children and commitment to excellence."

Prior to overseeing the Michigan Federation, Carey was director of governmental relations for the Council on Accreditation in New York City, and began her career as a social worker in Michigan. Carey earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in social work at Michigan State University.

Starr Commonwealth Together with Arts and Industry Council

Proudly present a Palm Sunday Service & Student Art Exhibition

"No Greater Love"

Visual and performing arts by youth of Starr Commonwealth

Sunday, March 28, 2010

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Chapel-in-the-Woods
service, with a
performance by the
All Starr Choir and
dramatic skits.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Brueckner Museum,
with talented students
displaying multimedia
artwork.

Public is welcome.
Light refreshments will be
served at the Museum.



SPECIAL REMEMBRANCES Honor and Memorial Gifts

HONOR GIFTS are thoughtful ways to remember a special person and/or a special occasion, such as a new birth, birthday, anniversary, graduation, Mother's Day or Father's Day, while also helping Starr children. When sending an honor gift, please provide the

address of the honoree. We will send an acknowledgement card to let them know of your thoughtfulness, but we won't mention the gift amount. You may call in your honor gift for faster acknowledgement at: 800.837.5591. Honor gifts also may be made online at: www.starr.org.

MEMORIAL GIFTS offer an enduring tribute to the memory of a friend or loved one, while extending a helping hand to the children of Starr Commonwealth. When sending a memorial gift, please provide the address of a family member of the deceased to whom we can send an acknowledgement card. We will let them know of your thoughtfulness, but won't mention the gift amount. You may call in your memorial gift for faster acknowledgement at: 800.837.5591. Memorial donations also may be made online at: www.starr.org.

Here is a listing of Honor and Memorial gifts received from 10/09/2009 to 02/06/2010. Givers are listed below the name of the person in whose memory or honor they contributed. Gifts not listed here will appear in a future issue of *Starr News*.

If we missed your name or an error has occurred with your listing, please forgive us and contact us so we may correct it in the next issue.

IN HONOR OF:

KELLY ALI

Mrs. Nancy Marzella
Miss Amy Spiess

JEROLD ALTMAN

Association for Psychotherapy, Inc.

DANIEL ARTMAN

Mr. and Mrs. Ira B. Artman
Mrs. Norma S. Artman

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LAUREN BRIEDENBAUGH

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EDIE AND DAVID COLE

Mr. and Mrs. Harold L. Walters

JULIE COLLINS

Ms. Mara Wolke

JENNA LEE COPENHAVER

Mr. and Mrs. Ira B. Artman

KAREN CORCORAN

Association for Psychotherapy, Inc.

LARRY DELANOY

Ms. Josephine Shade

ELLEN KAY DOUGLAS

Association for Psychotherapy, Inc.

STEPHEN DOUGLAS

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Miss Amy Spiess

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Mr. and Mrs. Russell Greene

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Mr. and Mrs. John E. Herring

CHERYL LITRELL-HEMSWORTH

Association for Psychotherapy, Inc.

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Miss Amy Spiess

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BOBBI LUCAS

Mrs. Nancy Marzella
Miss Amy Spiess

JOHN MASON

Association for Psychotherapy, Inc.

J. NICK MARZELLA

Association for Psychotherapy, Inc.

HERMAN J. MCCALL

Mrs. Cecilia Ann Anderson
Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey C. Carrier
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Crist

Mr. and Mrs. George D. Goodman

Ms. Patricia Hiatt

Mr. and Mrs. John Lawter

Dr. and Mrs. James E. Longhurst

Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Mattea

Dr. and Mrs. Russell G. Mawby

Mrs. Laura McFadden

Dr. and Mrs. Martin L. Mitchell

Dr. and Mrs. Arlin E. Ness

Reverend Kenneth T. Ponds

Mr. Scott Pricco

Mrs. Sylvia S. Richey

Mr. and Mrs. Jon A. Rhoades

Ms. Diane Shuster

Ms. Joyce Soebbing

Mr. William Steele

Team 1 Plastics

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Voigt

Mr. James Youngdahl

GENA MERKEL

Mrs. Nancy Marzella
Miss Amy Spiess

GLORIA MERKEL

Mrs. Nancy Marzella
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Montcalm taught me the importance of responsibility. By taking responsibility for my actions, I can learn from my actions and try to prevent them from happening again. Blaming my actions on someone else isn't acceptable and certainly isn't the truth.

When I graduated from the program, my perspective on life had changed. I valued my life, recognized my strengths and learned to deal with my weaknesses and limitations, cared about my family, and finally felt like I was headed in the right direction.

Although I was bitter at first about having to be at Montcalm, I now realize it's been the single most life-impacting experience in my 19 years of life and always will be valued and remembered. I'm very grateful for my parents who never gave up and who never stopped loving me and for those at Montcalm who helped me see the light at the end of the tunnel and helped me get there.

- Ali, Former Montcalm School for Girls student



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