

# The PROMISE

NEWS FROM CUNNINGHAM CHILDREN'S HOME

Summer 2010



**CUNNINGHAM**  
Children's Home



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Rhonda Whitaker, President-Elect  
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Mary Ann Harvey, Spoon River  
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Joan Volkmann  
Ron Wilcox  
Carolyn Yockey

### Cunningham Children's Home

1301 North Cunningham Avenue, Urbana, IL 61802  
P.O. Box 878- Urbana, IL 61803-0878

Tel: (217) 367-3728

Fax: (217) 367-2896

Email: cch@cunninghamhome.org



### The Promise of Judge Joseph and Mary Cunningham:

“That our home shall forever be kept as a Children’s Home, hoping and praying that it shall in some degree turn attention to the pressing demands in our midst, for the care and nurture of our own.”

–Thanksgiving Day 1894

### Our Philosophy

*Kids’ Needs First*

### Agency Leadership:

Marlin Livingston, President/CEO  
Pat Ege, Vice President for Program Services  
Dan Holmer, Vice President for Finance  
Cloydia Hill Larimore, Vice President for Advancement

### Accreditations, Licensure, Approval:

Council on Accreditation of Services for Family and Children, Inc. (COA)  
United Methodist Association EAGLE Commission  
North Central Association Commission on Schools  
Illinois State Board of Education  
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

### Memberships:

United Methodist Association of Health and Welfare Ministries  
The Child Care Association of Illinois  
Illinois Association of Private Special Education Centers  
United Voices for Children  
Voices for Illinois Children - Foster Kids are Our Kids Campaign  
Champaign County Human Services Council  
United Way of Champaign County

*A mission and ministry of the United Methodist Women of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference in partnership with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church.*



*Marlin visits with E.J.*

## BEYOND THE NUMBERS: HOPE

*Message from Marlin Livingston, President/CEO*

**W**hat is your success rate? Time and time again, I am asked this question.

There are many ways we measure success. For example, if a youth leaves our main campus residential program and is able to move to a foster home, group home, or a transitional program, that is a success. If the youth stays in that same placement for at least six months, that is another measurable

success. In our special education schools we look at graduation rates and individual improvements on behavioral and academic benchmarks. If a student reduces the number of time outs or increases his reading level, these are observable, measurable outcomes.

Numbers are important but numbers rarely tell the complete story. As you know, many of our “kids” will stay in touch with us throughout their lifetimes. Cunningham is often the most stable environment our young people have known, and they find the need as adults to reach back and reconnect with that stability.

Recently I experienced different types of success when I visited with two young men I had worked with ten years ago during my first tenure at Cunningham. The first young man has most recently been living on building rooftops in a small rural community, homeless and broke. He is waiting for an appointment at the Mental Health Center. He has now come to terms with his mental illness and recognizes his need for help. By contrast, the other young man has just graduated from law school and is now studying for the Illinois State Bar exam.

Both of these young men are bright, hard working, and charming. When working with the two as boys, I had no way of knowing the men they would become. You cannot predict or pick the ones who will succeed – nor should we try. We approach our work with a belief and a hope that all our kids will achieve success. You see, offering hope cannot be a conditional proposition. All our children are offered hope – in many cases we represent the first adults who believe in them.

And, as we look at the stories of these two young men, I see the success and the continuing hope in both of them. One is facing the challenge of asking for and receiving the help he is now ready to accept. The other is facing the challenge of stepping out into the world with great responsibility to uphold the law and fight for justice.

We are reminded that behind the measures and the numbers, there are real lives representing the joys of success and the sorrows of failure – and, the promise. The promise the Lord has for each of us – the plans for a future and a hope.

---

*Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,  
says the Lord; plans for good, not for evil;  
plans to give you a future and a hope.*



# INNER FOUNDATION, OUTER SUCCESS

*Message from Cloydia Hill Larimore, Vice President for Advancement*



*Cloydia points to Mike Cruz's name on the list of graduates.*

The juice ran down my chin and the tears down my cheeks as I bit into my first fresh peach of the season. Why the tears? Suddenly, I realized – the tears were for Grandma. My grandmother loved peaches and she loved me. When I bit into that peach all the memories of her love consumed my heart and overflowed in my tears.

Not every child knows they are loved. Sometimes the memories that flood the hearts of our Cunningham kids are not joyful, but terrifying. A memory of past abuse can overwhelm our children and send them into a state of anger and rage. Recently, one child was lashing out at others and threatening to hurt herself. But patiently, with fine honed professional skill and genuine love, Cunningham staff safely guided her through this difficult time.

This issue of The Promise celebrates many recent successes at Cunningham – the success of our kids and the success of exemplary staff. These achievements are visible – Mike Cruz graduating from DePaul University's College of Law; Lauren McBride completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Illinois; Hannah Penny Chillis, Amy Fellers, John Skillings, and Mike Shannon honored as Circle of Courage Award winners; and Gail Block and Vern Fein retiring from accomplished careers at Gerber School.

These visible successes are built on inner, less visible achievements. To have the foundation to positively build upon, our youth must overcome painful memories, develop inner strength, and come to believe that they are worthy of success. We might not see these successes along the way, but these inner victories are as hard-won as any diploma or professional accomplishment.

Cunningham youth's generous act of sending soccer balls to children at Lifesong School in Zambia reflects an example of success from the inside. At Cunningham, children who have been rejected in so many ways learn they are loved; in knowing that, they are able to reach out and share that love with children on the other side of the world.

One of our youth wrote, "I found out that God cares and people I don't even know care about me. So I want you to know that I care about you and so does God!"

You are one of those people who care. Even though you don't personally know young people at Cunningham, your gifts of support send them the message that someone cares. In receiving your love, our young people learn to reach out to others.

Your support builds an inner foundation for outer success. Thank you for caring.

## A HAND UP



*upper left: Mike Cruz flashes a smile after crossing the stage.  
above: Lauren McBride (far right) and friends celebrate commencement at the University of Illinois.  
left: Pat Ege, Vice President for Program Services, celebrates with Mike on graduation day.*

**H**aving lived in a children’s home as a young boy, Bill Myers knows first hand the struggles Cunningham Children’s Home youth encounter. He also knows the importance of strong adult role models and the value of a good education. After achieving his own personal professional success, Bill wanted to help others with a hand up, not a hand out. That is one reason why he established the William P. Myers Education Fund in 1980 for the benefit of current and former residents and students of Cunningham.

This year, two Myers Education Fund scholarship recipients achieved a major goal in their educational journey. After attending Parkland College, Michael Cruz received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2007. This May, Mike graduated from DePaul Law School in Chicago. Mike is currently preparing to take the Illinois State Bar exam and begin his legal career.

Lauren McBride will begin work toward her master’s degree this August. As a continuing student and Myers Education Fund scholarship recipient, Lauren is appreciative of those who have helped her during her journey. “After all the obstacles I have been through, I know that anyone can make their dreams come true if they put their mind to it and ask for help. There are many people willing to help those who want to help themselves.”

Thank you Bill for providing your support to these outstanding young people!

### TOUCH THE FUTURE BY MAKING A BEQUEST

Remembering Cunningham in your will is a way to continue serving the ministry you support today, while making a lasting contribution that will ensure future generations will benefit from your gift.

Please use the following statement in making your bequest: “I give, devise and bequeath to the Cunningham Children’s Home Foundation of Urbana, Illinois a charitable non-profit organization, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars (\$ \_\_\_\_\_) or \_\_\_\_\_ percent ( \_\_\_\_\_ %) of my estate to be used to carry out the mission of Cunningham Children’s Home.”

# NOTICE ME

by Theri Landgraver, Gerber School Teaching Assistant



I didn't ask you to...

Help me,  
Or care about me,  
Or even see me.

But I want you to,  
And need you to,  
Notice me.

Don't listen to my ugly words,  
But look into my eyes.  
That is where the real me lies.  
Notice me,  
Please.

I'm tired of...

Being Scared,  
Feeling alone,

Fighting,  
Hurting,  
Acting tough,  
Being Angry.

See my pain,  
Notice me.

Care about me,  
No matter what.  
Challenge me,  
To be my best.  
Give me rules,  
To keep me safe.  
Lift me up,  
When I stumble.

Help me,  
To succeed,  
At being me.

*Notice Me* was written by Theri after supervising a student who lashed out in violence during a time of intense crisis. It can be hard to see past that sometimes, but as Theri said, "I believe our kids are aggressive because they are so hurt and scared. They are also afraid they will be hurt again. They need us to see past all their defenses and love them. They want us to love them and help them but are afraid to let us do so because so many people have failed them before, for whatever reason. Part of it is a test. Is our caring real? Is it real enough and strong enough that we will continue to care no matter how they challenge us? In some ways, our youth don't want us to care because it is easier to deal with not getting what you want than actually having someone see their pain."

# INTO A COMMUNITY OF LOVE AND CARING

## 2010 CIRCLE OF COURAGE AWARDS

Our family of professional staff draw on personal inner strength to mentor and care for the welfare, safety, and security of young people at Cunningham. Each year we honor four exemplary staff who embody these traits and consistently demonstrate the core principles of the Circle of Courage therapeutic model.

Congratulations to the 2010 Circle of Courage award winners:

**Belonging: Amy Fellers**, Goodman Milieu Coordinator  
Amy radiates a sense of compassion and caring as she creates a safe

atmosphere of belonging for each youth she serves. She understands that challenging behaviors do not define our children – a tough day for a kid is just that, a tough day. For eight years now, Amy has been letting kids know, “you matter and you are part of us.”

**Mastery: John Skillings**, Transitional Living Site Educator

John’s gift is more than just being competent in his work. John’s gift is his ability to be himself and give of himself in all that he does. Teaching youth how to be responsible, “adult” men has been John’s passion for the last nine years as he has guided hundreds of young men to become the best they can be.

**Independence: Michael Shannon**, CIRCLE Academy Teacher

Mike is an educator at heart with a simple philosophy - “We have a responsibility to educate these kids.” His expectations are high and when you walk into Mike’s classroom you see minds at work. With a smile that hasn’t diminished one kilowatt in sixteen years, Mike looks each youth in the eye and reminds them, “You can do it.” And with Mike’s help, they do!

**Generosity: Hannah Penny Chillis**, CIRCLE Academy Behavior Interventionist

For over ten years Ms. Chillis has been providing encouragement and motivating students in her calm, matter-of-fact, and generous manner. Her motives are genuine and the kids know she is there for and with them. Often, a student’s behavior begins to dramatically change as he or she learns to trust the open-hearted spirit of Ms. Chillis.



*pictured from left: Michael Shannon, Hannah Penny Chillis, Amy Fellers, and John Skillings.*

The Circle of Courage resiliency model provides a therapeutic framework for nurturing healing and wholeness. As articulated by Brendtro, Brokenleg, and Van Bockern in *Reclaiming Youth At Risk: Our Hope for the Future*, the Circle teaches that children need four inter-related experiences:

- Belonging (attachment)
- Independence (autonomy)
- Mastery (achievement)
- Generosity (altruism)



The Circle of Courage has no sharp edges. It serves as a soft, nurturing framework to guide young people away from isolation and despair into a community of love and caring.

# IN HONOR OF...

*The following honor gifts were made between  
July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010*

## A

Amy Acree  
Krista Borbely  
Rev. Leroy & Marilyn Allison  
Ernie & Beth Bartholomew  
Nicholas & Sara Amidon  
Duane & Sheila Kieseewetter  
Gladys Andres  
C. Ray & Myrtle Prussner  
William & Mary Annin  
Kip & Karen Mecum  
Don & Kathy Arnold  
Sandy Lu & Fred  
Mary K. Arnold  
Sandy Lu & Fred

## B

Sue Beach  
Lucy Sudol  
Sam Banks & Family  
Peter & Joan Hood  
Rev. & Mrs. George Youtzy  
Heather Baranowski  
C.R. Baranowski  
Douglas & Mary Bauling  
Roscoe & Annette Pershing  
Gary & Barbara Beck  
Nancy Compton  
Jean Barnes  
Susan Smith  
Kate Becker  
Judy Worman  
Hope E. Benson  
Joanne Hartenbower  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Boudouris & Family  
Nancy Ribes  
Brenda Shields Bishop  
Dean Bishop  
Krista Borbely  
Arlene & James Borbely  
Sheryl Brandenburg  
Bessie Slifer  
Jane Brichford  
Marie Bolh  
Daniel Brillhart  
Susan Archambo  
Quentin, Disa, & Evan Brummet  
Gary Brummet & Donna Juhl  
Rev. George & Nora Brunner  
Stephanie B. Lyng  
Trent & Shirley Buchanan  
Nancy Compton  
Mrs. Lillian Buckley  
Mary Hodson

## C

Nicole Cajindos  
Justin Cajindos  
Ray Campo  
William & Peggy Campo  
Randy & Laura Cannady  
Rita Cornille  
Judith Carner  
Marilyn de Jong  
Champaign Faith UMW  
Jan Briggs  
Aidan Chrisman  
Grandma & Grandpa Chrisman  
Anna Marie & Richard Chrisman  
Larry & Ernestine Lawler  
Cissna Park UMC  
Betty Steiner  
Roger & Cindy Cook  
Mother (Viola Cook)  
Gail Coffman on her birthday  
Tom & Marilyn Anell  
Jim Coffman  
Sam & Donna Coffman  
Dan & Bev Doty  
Sue Duncan

Sandy Fleisher  
Tom & Becky Fleisher  
Kenny Knox  
Dave & Robin Mahrt  
Norlyn & Diane McCormick  
Sylvia Schumaker  
Mary Waechter  
David & Leslie Wilt  
Mark & Sue Wolford  
Phyllis Compton  
Nancy Compton  
Richard & Regeana Compton  
Nancy Compton  
Rodney & Joy Compton  
Nancy Compton  
John & Mary Corum  
Brenda & Kennedy Zook  
Chaplain Gay Crede  
Joyce & Tom Hein  
Stephanie B. Lyng  
William & Ruth Norris  
Brenda Pacey  
Chaplain Gay & Rev. Dan Crede  
Don Dodson  
Norma Jean King  
Geraldine Kron  
Rev. & Mrs. George Youtzy  
Anne Cremeens  
Karen & Ed Schultz  
John & Evelyn Cuba  
Audrey & Bill Prynny  
Cunningham Advancement Team  
Stephanie B. Lyng  
Rosalie Rippey  
Cunningham kids  
Delmar & Sheryl Smith

## D

Florence Day  
Roberta Sterrenberg  
Carol & Ed Diener  
Phyllis Newman  
Karleen & Ralph Dude  
Larry & Ernestine Lawler  
Katie Duncan  
Stephanie B. Lyng  
Debbie Durbin  
Mulberry Grove & Pleasant  
Mound UMW

## E

David Ealy  
Bill & Rosella Ray  
Ken and Marge Engelman  
Russ & Mary Jeckel  
Thomas Ewing  
Alisa Mitchell

## F

Farmer City Shakespeare Club  
Susan Hazlett  
Jeanette Fate  
Myrtle Prussner  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Fields on their 50th  
Wedding Anniversary  
Norma Lightle  
David Finet  
Brian Finet

## G

Barbara & David Gaffron  
Stephanie B. Lyng  
Judy Gamble  
Christina Nelson  
Lola Gehle  
Debbie Durbin  
Good Hope United Methodist Women  
Good Hope UMC  
Katrina Gordon  
Krista Borbely

Kendall Gill  
Nancy & Ronald Mitchell  
Earl Grater  
Cheryl Bielema

## H

Anita Hamburg  
Penelope Soskin  
Rev. John Hamilton  
Louise & Joe Bringuent  
Ruth Ann Hamilton  
Steven & Robin Read  
Sara Grace Hancock  
Carol Bush  
Dee Hanner  
Randall Farris  
Pastor Lyren Haney  
The Good Hope UMW  
Ralph & Phyllis Haas  
Tom, Diane & Kristen Twork  
Jack, Gail, Ashley &  
Karina Morrison  
Heather Hartman  
Krista Borbely  
Richard & Barb Hein  
Ed & Kate Hein  
Cathy Henschen  
Russ & Rose Albert  
Vera Henschen  
Jim & Marilyn Logan  
Lou Henson  
Edward & Brenda Manzke  
Jerry & Dot Heuman  
Bob & Pat Gruen  
Max & Ruby Grandchildren  
Johnnie Heuermann  
Bill & Rosie Hire  
David Hire  
Ethel Hoffman  
Don & Liz Greeley  
Deb Honegger  
Don & Jan Wills  
Ruth Hopping  
Don & Liz Greeley  
Kristen Grooms Hubble  
David & Colleen VanDeursen  
Teedra Hudson  
Forrest UMW  
Geoffrey Hughes  
Judith Hughes  
Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hull  
Margaret Roberts

## J

Annie Johnson  
Linda & Jim Johnson  
Children of Irene Johnson  
Irene Johnson  
Jolee Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald L. Banks  
Caroline Jones  
Good Hope UMW  
Georgeann Jones  
Benjamin Jones  
Jo Jordan  
Ed, Cindy & Jodi Warns  
Lila Judkins on her 95th Birthday  
Tom & Jane McCabe  
Erin, Brian & Quinn Stratton  
Tim, Heidi & Graham McCabe

## K

Rod & Sarah Kelley  
Russ & Mary Jeckel  
Catherine Kellogg  
Virgil & Joan Miller  
Craig & Diane Kiddoo  
Ruth R. Kiddoo  
PJ & Liz Kiely  
Russ & Mary Jeckel

Revs. Kent & Kathy King-Nobles  
 Carl & Lori Holman  
 Carrie Knoch & Tom Grady & Boys  
 Betty & Ed Knoch  
 Karen Knight  
 Marilyn de Jong  
 Howard & Carol Koester  
 Nancy Compton

**L**  
 Helen Lackey  
 Carrie Finkbiner  
 Joan Lawrence  
 Sugar Creek UMW  
 Mr. & Mrs. John J. Lawrence  
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Lawrence  
 Carolyn Leach  
 Jan Jones  
 Jim & Marilyn Logan  
 Merwyn & Barbara Nelson  
 Robert & Carlina Lewis  
 Mary & Walter Lewis  
 Maude Lindsey  
 Sue Lindsey  
 My Children & Grandchildren  
 Elva W. Little  
 Casey Lorenzen  
 Rachel Francis  
 Our Grandchildren  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Lovdahl  
 Rev. Lee Lovett  
 Nonie & George Bolinger  
 James & Juliette Lyngre  
 Stephanie B. Lyngre  
 Jimm & Jen Lyngre  
 Stephanie B. Lyngre  
 Stephanie L. Lyngre  
 Stephanie B. Lyngre

**M**  
 Kristine Malloy  
 Krista Borbely  
 Joan Mankin  
 Virgil & Joan Miller  
 Pam Maurer  
 Barb Wachter  
 Mrs. Virginia McQuiston  
 Ruth Cortright  
 M.G. & Nina Mecum  
 Kip & Karen Mecum  
 Sandy Messick  
 Stephanie B. Lyngre  
 Joan Miller  
 Helen M. Redmon  
 Joan & Virgil Miller  
 Nonie & George Bolinger  
 Brad, Jan & Melanie Mills  
 Amy Mills  
 Marlene Mitchell  
 Linda Cotner

Mark Murphy & Mary Beth Norris  
 on their 25th Anniversary  
 Nyle & Evelyn Norris  
 John & Jeanie Murray  
 Drew, Brenda, Anna &  
 Luke Livingston

**N**  
 Neoga Disciples of Grace SS Class  
 Rhonda Whitaker  
 Rev. Sondra Newman  
 Y.E.S. SS Class  
 Brooke Newsome  
 Camden UMW  
 Stephanie B. Lyngre  
 Mike Niebur  
 Lillian McAllister  
 Nyle & Evelyn Norris 60th Anniversary  
 Mark, Mary Beth, Brian &  
 Kevin Murphy

**O**  
 Alan Oathout  
 Krista Borbely  
 Cathy & Joe O'Brien & Girls  
 Betty & Ed Knoch

**P**  
 Ivy Patti  
 Martha Olsen  
 Ann Pershing  
 Kimberly Cortez  
 St. Sgt. Nathan Peters  
 Ron & Linda Peters  
 Angela Bertauski-Pierce  
 Dad  
 Mary Frances Fruin  
 Ellen Poulter  
 Judy Worman  
 Myrtle Prussner  
 C. Ray Prussner

**R**  
 Gene & Norma Rankin  
 Russ & Mary Jeckel  
 Mary Renfro  
 Casey Andrew  
 Michael Ross  
 Social Science Club of  
 Champaign-Urbana  
 Rosalie Rippey  
 Rosemary Reed  
 Margaret Roberts on her birthday  
 Dick & Shirley Hull  
 Margaret Roberts  
 Anonymous  
 Karen Beilstein  
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Hull  
 Andrea Ruedi  
 Carle Foundation Hospital

**S**  
 Helen Simpkins  
 Joy & Jeff Ferry  
 Sharon Sims  
 Alice Pearson  
 Bessie Slifer  
 Judy Morr  
 Don & Marilyn Smith 50th Anniversary  
 Jean Barnes  
 Mariam Winans  
 Marilyn Smith  
 Susan Smith  
 Marya Sosulski  
 Brian Finet  
 Spires Family  
 Pontiac UMW  
 Jolece Sprout  
 Annie Johnson  
 Dr. & Mrs. Jerry Stanley  
 David Stanley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Nolan Stanley  
 David Stanley  
 Margaret Sawyer Stanton  
 Anonymous  
 Family Members  
 Lucille Stewart-Meyer  
 Judy Stoll  
 Marlow D. Thorne  
 John & Anne Storsved  
 Ruth R. Kiddow  
 Marge Stout  
 Carolyn Leach  
 James K. Waddell  
 Jim & Sue Waddell  
 Gabriel Weiss Sutter  
 Randi Sutter  
 Jean Sutter  
 Robert Ficklin  
 John R. Swearingen  
 Sandra Swearingen

**T**  
 Janice Taylor  
 Stephanie B. Lyngre  
 Nelle Taylor  
 Irene Taylor  
 Frances Temma on her 99th Birthday  
 Mary V. Samuels  
 Orlando Thomas  
 David Hire  
 Betty Thompson  
 Myrtle Prussner  
 Kathy Torrence  
 Roseville UMW  
 Lynn Travis  
 Brenda Pacey  
 Trinity UMW (Mt. Carmel)  
 Linda Y. Trent  
 Jack & Suzanne Troxell  
 Jeff & Judy Troxell

## BEST WISHES VERN AND GAIL



*Vern and Gail taught each other a thing or two during their time at Gerber School.*

Teachers are professional givers of inspiration and hope. At the end of this school year, two of our masters of motivation retired from Gerber School.

**Vern Fein** could be referred to as a “one-man United Way.” In addition to being an exceptional teacher for the students at Gerber School for 35 years, Vern has also been a soldier for humanity, promoting social justice within our community.

A patient and understanding role model who leads by example, **Gail Block’s** 21 years at Gerber School was more than a job, it was her mission. Rooted in her strong commitment to family and faith, Gail saw the potential in all children and guided them to success.

Jeff & Judy Troxell  
Jack & Suzanne Troxell

**U**  
Barbara Unger  
Paul & Judith Unger  
US Cellular Employees  
Jan Miller

**V**  
Beth & Ron Vyuerberg  
Mr. & Mrs. Van Anderson

**W**  
Waggoner Sis #5  
Sis #8  
Bobby Walker  
Roberta Sterrenberg  
Hannah & Will Warnick  
Bill & Sharon Nunn  
Ed & Cindy Worns  
Jo Jordan

Pastor Terry Westerfield  
Mary Rohlfing  
Suzanne Wicks  
Casey Andrew  
Phyllis Williams  
Barbara Gaffron  
Jennifer, Bryan & Andrew Windland  
Grandma & Grandpa Coons  
Bruce & Alicia Winter  
Jane Clark  
Jill Gengler  
Janet & Walter Wolfe  
Harry & Marilyn Query

**Y**  
Carolyn Yockey  
Aimee Kandrac, Brett, Claire &  
Elliott Yockey  
Duane Yockey  
Gloria Blacklock  
Jack & Virgie Young  
Roscoe & Annette Pershing

**Z**  
Margaret Ziegenhorn  
Roberta Sterrenberg  
Wally & Geri Ziembra  
Bob & Ann Slesinski  
Don & Martha Zimmerman on their  
50th Anniversary  
John & Joan Lawrence  
Brenda Zook  
Krista Borbely  
John & Tina Zook  
Aaron, Brenda & Kennedy Zook

*In spite of our best efforts to avoid errors and omissions on this list, mistakes can occur. Please notify Cloydia Hill Larimore at (217) 367-3728 if you believe we have made an error or have any other questions.*

## IN MEMORY OF...

*The following memorial gifts were made between  
July 1, 2009 and June 30, 2010*

**A**  
Woodie Acord  
Mary Acord  
Katie Miller Aime  
Adelaide Aime  
Audrey Alford  
Anonymous  
Caterpillar, Dyersburg, TN  
Rhita Brniak  
Marjorie Allen  
Carol Lee Newlin  
Jack Anderson  
Jacqueline Anderson  
Marlys Anderson  
Elnathan Anderson  
Joyce Angell  
Jill Adams

**B**  
Mildred Ballerina  
Helen VanLerberghe  
Warren E. Bane  
Lorena M. Bane  
Keegan Bannon  
Alice Ann Pickett & Laura Curtis  
Winifred Baum  
Carolyn & Bob Ottum  
Hope Benson  
Mary Jane Stephens  
Norma Jean Bergman  
Morris & Doris Bell  
Dru & Vanessa Bergman  
Sharon Smith Rahe  
Pat Smith  
Springfield Northside UMW  
Ardith Berry  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Buzicky  
Family Members  
Marjorie Berry  
Elizabeth & Gerald Bethmann  
The Bethmann Family  
Larry G. Bierwirth  
Jim & Marlene Eeten  
Larry P. Bissey  
Gary, Angela & Anthony  
Steve & Mark Blackburn  
Jim & Sally Jo Blackburn  
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Erin Block  
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Marge Stout  
Helen L. Bowles  
Virginia Kider  
Mary Ann Mann  
Harold & Jean Morgan  
Bill & Rosella Ray  
Rossville UMC  
Shirley Bowman  
Oquawka UMW  
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Ed & Eileen Altman  
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A Friend  
George & Audra Brunner  
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Dorothy Caldwell  
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Amy Oye  
Nancy Cameron  
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Melvin & Linda Clauser  
Elsa Cline  
Faith Circle of Emmanuel  
Methodist Church, Marshall, IL  
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Jean Corty Veatch & Children  
Ray (Ben) Chambliss & son Bobby  
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Ethel Cox  
Bushnell UMW  
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Lyle Dahlenburg  
Jeanine Dallas  
Shirley Harder  
Lois Davis  
Carolyn Houser  
Robert C. De Long  
Betty M. De Long  
Janine Denomme  
Jim & Arlene Borbely  
Bessie DeSutter  
Elsie Willett  
Kay Dickey  
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Joan Hammond  
Eola Dodson  
Billie Laumbattus  
John Doyle  
Wilma Doyle  
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Merida L. Drake  
Chad Duncan  
Shirley Duncan  
Kenneth Dunkirk  
Brian & Carolyn Abshire  
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Jack & Cheri Carlson  
Pat Dyer  
Roscoe & Annette Pershing

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Paul Ege  
Dorothy T. Ege  
Francis J. & Frances R. Ege  
Pat Ege  
Amber Ehler  
David & Julie Ehler

George & Mary Emmett  
 Dottie Kissick  
 Juanita Endicott  
 Janice Tay  
 June England  
 Janice Tay  
 Paul Erdley  
 Central Illinois Vintage Car Club  
 Judy Evans  
 Bushnell UMW

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 Tom & Sandy Fairchild  
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 Sharon I. Maggert  
 Betty Ficklin  
 Helen Woods  
 Garnet Formhals  
 Bushnell UMW  
 Mary K. Fulk  
 Donna & Gary Storm

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 Margaret & Bob Brunskill  
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 Roy & Joan Gerling  
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 Maxine Swails  
 Josephine Gibson  
 Judith Chase  
 George Ghere  
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 Camden UMW  
 Carle Physicians Group  
 Geneva Chew  
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 Marcile Clayton  
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 Louise Gale  
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 Gene & Joyia Greuel  
 Hiroko Greuel  
 Joe & Annette Greuel  
 Maxine Greuel  
 Kevin & Krista Groenewold  
 Verla Hamm  
 Mike & Ina Hammond  
 Phillip & Barbara Haney  
 Harvestland Emmaus  
 John & Judith Hauck  
 Charolette Hughes  
 Verle Janes  
 Karen Larson  
 Janet Lippold  
 Kendell & Suzanne Litchfield  
 Maurice & Georgia Litchfield  
 Betty McCarty  
 Matthew & Tracy Meredith  
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 Paloma UMW  
 Allan & Pauletta Patch  
 Jerry & Wilma Payne  
 Eleanor & Don Pershing  
 Roscoe & Ann Pershing  
 Jeff, Danette & Joshua Phelps  
 Elizabeth Provine  
 Quincy Union UMW  
 David & Elizabeth Reynolds  
 Nancy Reynolds  
 Maureen Richey

# FAITHFUL SERVANT, SUE GREENE



Sue Greene, 1949-2010

*Matthew 25:23 Well done, good and faithful servant!*

Sue Ellen Biggs Greene was a great friend to Cunningham youth. Sue believed in Cunningham's mission and ministry, and she believed in the kids.

In her role as a United Methodist Women's District Representative for the former Little

Wabash District and as a current representative for the LaMoine River District, Sue worked tirelessly for Cunningham youth. She shared the Cunningham story with United Methodist Women, churches, service groups, and everyone! Sue trekked across the conference many times to deliver love gifts for the kids and she volunteered for Cunningham wherever help was needed.

Years from now, some of the youth who live at Cunningham today will return with memories that Sue helped them create. Her love and care has made a lasting difference in so many kids' lives.

Thank you, Sue.

Rev. Randall & Laura Robinson  
 Curtis & Pam Rush  
 Richard & Jane Russell  
 Max & Barbara Sayers  
 Pam Schwartz  
 Karen Severs  
 Wandalee Shields  
 Kenny & Sue Standard  
 Martha Standard  
 Mark & Janet Sullivan  
 Michael Sutter  
 Collen & Ruth Tatham  
 Kathleen Taylor  
 Herb & Ellen Theesfeld  
 Revs. Joe & Stacy Tomich  
 Louis & Martha Vache  
 Wendell & Brenda Weaver  
 The John Wesley Fellowship  
 of Illinois  
 Dennis & Michelle Wherley  
 Don & Shirley White  
 Tom & Edwina Wilber  
 Sally Willey  
 Lois Winger  
 Rita & Norman Wise  
 Carolyn L. Yockey  
 Glenn Grever  
 Jean Grever  
 Ruth Gwinn  
 Rev. Nathaniel Gwinn

**H**  
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 Phyllis M. Hale  
 L.E. Hansberger  
 Alice Hansberger  
 Alice G. Haren  
 Tom & Marilyn Edwards  
 Marilyn Harrison  
 Deborah Young  
 Paul C. Hartwick  
 Jeanette Hartwick  
 Mark David Haworth  
 Don & Norma Haworth  
 Martha Z. Hecker  
 John & Barbara Hecker  
 Clark, Ruth & Andrew Henson  
 Rich Henson  
 Maizie Herakovich  
 Victor Fein  
 Alice & Wilmer Hieser  
 Sharon Hieser  
 Barbara Hill  
 William E. Hill

Jordon Hill  
 Marilyn Faulkner  
 Melvin & Frances Hill  
 Bill Hill  
 Judy & Glen Miller  
 Julie Hillebrand  
 Laura Enger  
 Merida Drake  
 Barb Hinkle  
 Janet Lippold  
 Art Hinton  
 Carol Quill  
 David Hocker  
 Ronald L. & Jeanne K. Vance  
 Dorothy Hohenstein  
 Mariam Winans  
 James Sr. & James Jr. Holley  
 Mrs. J.R. Holley  
 Jim Holley, Jr. & Lib  
 Mrs. J.R. Holley  
 Lou Holmer  
 Kent & Teresa Schurg  
 Lou & Nellie Mae Holmer  
 Dan & Pam Holmer  
 Lois Horner  
 Bob & Maxine Umbarger  
 Walter M. Houck  
 Norma J. Houck  
 Jim Houston  
 Al & Carol Lee Newlin  
 A.O. Hungerford  
 A.O. Hungerford Family

**I**  
 Timmy & Jon Ihlenfeld  
 Tom Ihlenfeld  
 Orville Briggs Ioder  
 Iris Bates Ioder  
 Robert & Rachel Isham  
 Susan Roush and Nancy Cole

**J**  
 James P. (Mick) Johnson  
 Judy Baker  
 Larry & Marji Cox  
 Bill & Carol Cupples  
 Gray Hunter Stenn, LLP  
 Patricia Green  
 Donna Hills  
 Denise & Steven Hoffman  
 Joyce Hollenberg  
 Illinois Division of Child  
 Support Enforcement  
 Avis & Joseph Johnson

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 Joseph Meyer  
 Frances Newbury  
 Susan Robinson  
 Irvin & Jolece Sprout  
 Chester & Lynn Travis  
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 Ussery's Trucking  
 Carolyn Yockey  
 Margaret Johnson  
 Matthew & Janna Zachary  
 Robert & Wilma Johnson  
 Pauline Johnson  
 Ada Joplin  
 The Lunch Bunch  
 Shirley McKinney  
 Paul Jordan  
 Joan Jordan

## K

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 Mr. & Mrs. James Holloway  
 Marian Kettelkamp  
 Lloyd & Virginia Best  
 William & Dolores Best  
 Marjorie Brockman  
 Shelley Halleman  
 Shirley Harder  
 Eeva Higgins  
 James Kettelkamp  
 John Kettelkamp  
 Patricia Mathewson  
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 Sutton Memorial Homes  
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 Charles F. King  
 Norma Jean King  
 Sandra Koerner  
 Robert & Kay Rinkenberger  
 Roger E. Kreiser  
 Pete & Marcia Kreiser  
 Clara Kurtenbach  
 Gerald Kurtenbach

## L

Betty Lamb  
 Marge Stout  
 Dr. Burt Lancaster  
 William & Beverly White  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Anning  
 Lester Liechty  
 Ronald L. & Jeanne K. Vance  
 Eugene Paul Lierman  
 Brenda Zook  
 Kay Lippincott  
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 Howard & Barbara Breece  
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 Cloydia Hill Larimore  
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 Jennifer & Justin Moffitt  
 David Miner  
 Carol Lee Newlin  
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 Roscoe & Ann Pershing  
 Jennifer & Ryon Plate  
 Dick & Sue Rehg

Randall & Beth Rodriguez  
 Rollin & Sybil Roselle  
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 Stacy & Douglas Schroeder  
 Barbara Setterdahl  
 Bernard & Donna Shawgo  
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 Romona Stickell  
 Catherine Stinson  
 Mike & Linda Tarochione  
 U of I College of Agricultural,  
 Consumer & Environmental Sciences  
 Wild Rose Farm  
 Gary & Edna Winans  
 Barbara Young  
 Chad Lobdell  
 Lanny & Annette Lobdell  
 Ralph Glen Lockwood  
 Jerry & Dianne Wells

## M

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 Beth & Steven Macke  
 Mr. John Marquis  
 Mary Thompson  
 Joaquin Martinez  
 Goldhammer Family  
 Arvin Family  
 James Glass  
 Lucille Massock  
 Marjorie Malaise  
 James McAtee  
 Marge Stout  
 Duane McCall  
 Dorothy Kipling  
 Della McCown  
 Maralyn Laudon  
 Zelma McDonald  
 Marge Stout  
 Mae Meredith  
 Tom & Sandy Fairchild  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Rob Beldon  
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 Eileen Feeney  
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 Bloomington, IL  
 M.L. Hecker, Jr.  
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 Todd & Sally Tucker  
 Andrew & Cecilia Yeo  
 Justin Melzer  
 Jim & Judy Bilyeu  
 Russell Meyer  
 Linda Meyer  
 Todd Meyer  
 Linda Meyer  
 J. Ellen Mills  
 James L. Mills  
 Mary Helen Myers  
 Stacy Womack

## N

M. Elizabeth Natelborg  
 Pamela Moore  
 Rev. Sondra Newman  
 Marilyn Edwards  
 Kathryn & Leonard Jarrett

## O

Fred H. Oberlag  
 Dorothy Buescher  
 Bob O'Bryan  
 Tom Gordon  
 Toy Mae Odom  
 Cheryl Walters  
 Ed Odom  
 Gabriel Omo-Osagie  
 Joe Omo-Osagie  
 Kenneth Ornellas  
 Jim, Carole & Josh Finchum

## P

Frank Parrish  
 Mt. Gilead UMC

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 Bobbie Paustian  
 Ernest Peterek  
 Barbara Peterek  
 Cindy Petre  
 Vickie & Russell Hughes  
 Loyd & Margaret Petre  
 Vickie & Russell Hughes  
 Maxine Poff  
 Weldon UMW Martha Circle  
 Pery & Edna Price  
 Joan Jordan  
 Thomas Prickett  
 Alice Prickett  
 Jewell Pride  
 Gene & Brenda Pride  
 Ruth Pritchett  
 Marge Stout

## R

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 Larry & Margie Jobe  
 Pat Reinholdt  
 Jack & Jo Moore  
 Mr. Richards  
 Beth & Steven Macke  
 Mabel Riegel  
 Catherine & John Frothingham  
 Imogene Rinehart  
 Ralph Rinehart  
 Loved Ones  
 Rock Island First UMW  
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 Belinda Porter  
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 Dottie Kissick  
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 Vern Russell  
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## S

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 Bushnell UMW  
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 Roger & Marcia Scherr  
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 Janis B. Schultz  
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 John & Carla Fulton  
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 Jane Bunker  
 Thelma Smith  
 Marge Stout  
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 Sherrilyn Ganske  
 Marshall Stahl  
 Marge Stout  
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 Carolyn Leach  
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Sherry & Dennis Ramsey  
Marge Stout  
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Neva Summers  
Dale E. Swanson  
Rich & Linda Hollenberg

**T**  
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Irma of "The 10 Sisters"  
Mary Ellen Thorp  
Ernest N. Thorp

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Mrs. Elsie Utterback

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Linda Vanasdale  
Barbara Vance  
Ronald L. & Jeanne K. Vance

Gloria Van Etters  
Dorothy Myers  
Dr. & Mrs. Willard L. Veirs  
Dr. & Mrs. John W. Veirs

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June & Jon Ware  
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Debra Lueck  
Carmen Emory Weatherup  
Dorothy Emory  
Bethel Weber  
James & Katharine Weber  
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Marge Stout  
William & Susie Woods  
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Leigh Ann Wilson  
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Ann Workman  
Laurel United Methodist Church  
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Neva Summers  
Vern & Sally Wright  
Judith Landeck

**Y**  
Bobby & Greg Yaw  
Betty Yaw

*In spite of our best efforts to avoid errors and omissions on this list, mistakes can occur. Please notify Cloydia Hill Larimore at (217) 367-3728 if you believe we have made an error or have any other questions.*

## I'M STUCK

*written by a youth at Cunningham Children's Home,  
spring 2010, used with permission*

Sweet sensitive smiles they wear on their faces.  
Greeting you with handshakes, smiles and hellos.  
What's on their minds?  
The questions they are going to ask.  
But how will they put it? Nobody knows.  
Suitable for a child you would suppose.  
But for the mother, vigorous blows of words she can't handle,  
And now tears of sadness, cries start to flow.  
Mom's having urges, drugs, she can't take it.  
They see it in her eyes, it's brutal, the secrets.  
They already know though, the secret,  
That's why they're here.  
Mom's shaking her leg, pulling her hair.  
The children, in the room, they've been there before.  
They're scared as ever, they don't want this anymore.  
Everyday is the same; they go on with their lives.  
But today is different, and there's something about to rise.  
The people in the house, they have asked their questions,  
Now to see the children,  
Their bruises with no mention of anything that happened of the  
abuse they've been through.  
But the people know, they're experts too.  
They grab the kids hands, guide them to the door.  
Say we are going, mom's crying more on the floor,  
Begging them to stay, it won't happen again.  
But they all know the truth when she brings home the men,  
When she's high or drunk or beating them to junk.  
They tell her they'll see her in court, feeling no remorse.  
This is how it goes, how it went, how it shouldn't be or been.  
But I don't want to dwell.  
I just want to let all bend, deep down inside my mind,  
And let it go from me.  
Everything that happened before this day,  
I want to talk about it but it's not coming out.  
I'm stuck!

*I'm Stuck* was one of the winning poems in this year's Gerber School poetry contest written by a young girl who experienced being removed from her home by the State of Illinois. Her feelings of helplessness and hopelessness are a poignant example of the very real challenges our youth have faced during their young lives.

# HEALING AND HOPE AROUND THE WORLD

*Message from Chaplain Gay King Crede*



*Chaplain Gay shares a story.*

**D**ifferent countries. Different challenges. But the same God who provides love, strength, and care connects our youth across the continents.

A former Cunningham Board member from Peoria, Dru Smith, was back from Zambia where she is a missionary at Lifesong School. She stopped by for a visit at Cunningham and was invited to stay for Wednesday evening Chapel Service.

Dru shared that the youth she serves in Zambia face great challenges in their young lives; they suffer from severe poverty, Malaria is common, and many of them have been orphaned by the AIDS epidemic.

Dru asked the Cunningham youth to guess what African children do during their free time. They responded, “Play video games.” “Nope. No electronics and no batteries.”

“Play basketball.” “No basketballs and no hoops.” Dru shared that the children in Zambia take plastic grocery bags and wad them together into “soccer balls.”

The next week the youth at Cunningham decided to pitch in with their allowances to buy soccer balls for the youth at Lifesong School. Just before Christmas 2009 nine soccer balls were purchased and blessed during a Chapel Service. A group from Illinois happened to be traveling to Lifesong for a mission trip in early January and personally delivered the soccer balls, along with forty handwritten notes.

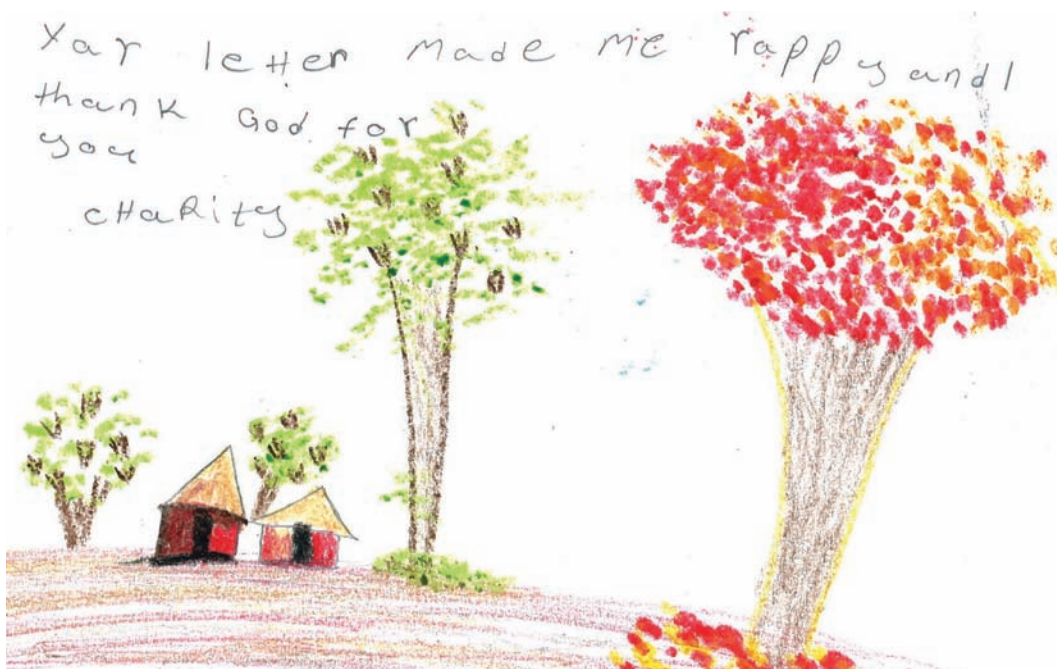
Not long after, the youth at Cunningham received pictures of the Lifesong youth playing soccer together. They also received photos, drawings, and letters from students in the Lifesong School.



*Lifesong students receive the soccer balls donated by Cunningham kids.*



*Showing off some skills.*



*Thank you letter received from a student in Zambia.*

Here are a few samples of messages sent by Cunningham youth:

*Don't think that nobody cares about you because I found out that God cares and people I don't even know care about me.*

*To get me through times of trouble I turn to God and pray for his love and light to guide me through everything.*

*Even though I don't know you I really care about you all a lot.*

Here are a few samples of return messages sent by Lifesong youth:

*Your letter made me very happy. I will also be praying for you.*

*I have seen God's love in people that support us and our school.*

*It is encouraging how God works in his children. Your letter made my day.*

Different countries. Different challenges.  
But the same God provides healing around  
the world.



*Lifesong students wave "thanks" to Cunningham youth.*



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE 2011 FESTIVAL OF QUILTS

The seventh annual Festival of Quilts will bring together sponsors, quilters, volunteers, and guests to celebrate the tradition of welcoming every youth at Cunningham with a handmade quilt that is theirs to keep forever. The 2010 Festival was one of our most successful events yet, generating \$27,000 in proceeds to directly support our programs and services!

**2011 Festival of Quilts**  
**April 8 & 9, 2011**



Cunningham Children's Home  
1301 North Cunningham Avenue  
Urbana, IL 61802

[www.cunninghamhome.org](http://www.cunninghamhome.org)

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