



Family & Children's Place  
Building brighter futures.

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Children's Place thrives because of  
your dedication!*

Join us for a campus tour by contacting Micah Jorrich:  
**(502) 855-6158/ mjorrich@famchildplace.org**

## LAFTA lives its art with a giving heart

We owe so many thanks to the Louisville Area Fiber and Textile Artists. The hugely talented group partnered with us to create artwork for the Kosair Charities Child Advocacy Center.

difficult circumstances, and now, rather than be reimbursed for the supplies needed to create the work, the artists have asked the money be given to the agency to purchase art materials for the children.

The art pieces are stunning, mean so much to staff, and have been so widely welcomed and appreciated by our child and family clients. The art provides beauty and calm during

That is true artistry, and true giving – selfless and aimed at helping children and their families recover. We could not be more touched and thankful.



# Family & Children's Place

## We CAN because you ARE!

Winter 2016

### An especially generous gift

Family and Children's Place would like to offer a very special thank you to Anna Grace Gibson, who instead of asking for gifts for herself for her birthday, asked for donations so she could help children and families overcome and recover from the trauma of violence, abuse and neglect. Anna Grace's generosity is inspiring and humbling, and she reminds us that we can all help the children of our community in our own way.



### House, Senate bills key to greater protection for child

Two bills filed with the Kentucky General Assembly, House Bill 109, sponsored by Rep. Joni Jenkins, and Senate Bill 60, sponsored by Sen. Whitney Westfield, would provide greater – and much needed – protections for child victims of repeated abuse and deserve speedy passage.

require definitive information, such as a specific date, for a jury to determine guilt in at least one specific incidence of child abuse. The challenge is that while young children generally can remember acts or events, they often have trouble remembering the exact date and place the offense occurred.

cially children, to differentiate the assaults by time or place because they occur with such horrific frequency and in the same setting," said newly elected Kentucky Atty. Gen. Andy Beshear, testifying before a legislative committee about the need to close a legal loophole in abuse cases.

Currently, courts in Kentucky

"It is difficult for victims, espe-

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## Bills key to greater protection for child victims of abuse

The legislation would create “a continuous course of conduct” law allowing children (and vulnerable adults) to testify to a pattern of abuse without being penalized for not remembering the exact date and place it occurred.

The House has already approved HB 109 on a 91-0 vote and goes to the Senate for consideration. The Senate version, SB 60 awaits action in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

We join Beshear and others, includ-

ing Kentucky Youth Advocates, to encourage legislators swiftly to approve these important and necessary protections, and to enact them into applicable law as soon as possible.

## Ashlee Gray Johnson dancing to raise money for F&CP

Louisville native Ashlee Gray Johnson is competing in “Dancing With Prospect Stars,” Sunday, Feb. 21, to raise money for Family & Children’s Place. The event, in its third year, is hosted by the Prospect Area Chamber of Commerce and immediately follows the annual Taste of Prospect, which offers samples from

many of the community’s best restaurants and caterers.

Johnson is one of 10 community members donating their time and talent to help charities they each have chosen. In the event’s first two years, dancers have collected more than \$65,000 for local non-profits while also providing important exposure for all the charities.

Johnson works as director and counsel of Liability Claims for Kindred Healthcare, an agency supporter, and is a member of several bar associations.

Citing why she is dancing to raise funds for Family & Children’s Place, she said, “I have always had a special place in my heart for children.

“After having children of my own, this place is larger and deeper. It pains me to think about people abusing innocent, trusting, joyful children.

“However, if such a tragedy

does occur, I am glad to know that the Family & Children’s Place is there to help pick up the pieces.”

For the event, each “star” works with a professional dance instructor from Derby City Ballroom. During the four months that lead up

to the big night, the stars accept donations on behalf of their chosen charities, with each dollar donated counting as one vote.

The dance competition and Taste of Prospect take place from 5- 6:30 p.m., at Bill Collins Ford. Tickets are \$125 each and available on the event website (here’s the link to Johnson’s ticket page), or by calling the PACC office at 502-228-7493.

Tickets include a delicious meal catered by Ladyfinger’s Catering. There will be a cash bar available throughout the evening and a live auction is planned with a few select items.

You can keep up with the event and the stars’ progress via Facebook.

## Gary shows that with help, structure, real gain is possible

Gary is a student transfer from Indiana who enrolled at Meyzeek Middle and in the Collaborative Learning After-School Program (CLASP) in August 2014. He lives with his father, and his father’s girlfriend, who are both recovering addicts.

His transition to Meyzeek was difficult. He missed 14 school days, nine of them “unexcused.” He also received two separate suspensions from school for fighting. During one of the incidents, Gary broke the arm of another student. Juvenile court officials ordered Gary to serve 200 hours of community service for inflicting the injury.

Early on in CLASP, he had trouble following simple instructions, staying focused and controlling his impulses. He often used inappropriate language, and tended toward physical confrontation responding to even the most trivial conflict. Several times, Gary physically threatened other students enrolled in CLASP, requiring staff to intervene to calm the situations.

He refused to complete classroom assignments or homework, resulting in a 1.8 grade point average.

While much of Gary’s behavior was undesirable and disruptive, he also demonstrated positive attributes. Staff noted his curious intellect, a willingness to lead portions of the

program, and a desire to help OST staff and peers with daily responsibilities.

Staff spoke several times with Gary’s father about his son’s attendance. They informed him how much greater an impact CLASP has on behavior and academic progress when enrolled students attend consistently.



Gary began the 2015-16 school year by attending CLASP’s summer program, and his attendance continued to improve during the fall school term.

Seeing the progress, staff handed Gary more responsibility during programming, such as leading activities, helping peers with homework and other assignments he had a demonstrated ability to do.

Gary handled all of these assign-

ments with excitement and ease. He developed as a leader and showed a positive influence, particularly to younger students in the program.

During the first half of the 2015-16 school year, Gary missed only two days of school, both excused absences. Improved attendance at Meyzeek and the out-of-school time program coincided with a dramatic improvement in his academic performance.

In December 2015, Gary was named to the school’s Honor Roll, raising his cumulative GPA to an impressive 3.4. Staff received positive reports from Gary’s teachers about his academic participation, and he showed much greater focus and self-control during events.

CLASP staff can’t take all the credit for Gary’s turnaround, but there is no doubt the support and encouragement provided by his family and the OST program played a role.

On the final day of OST programming for the 2015 year, Gary’s achievements were recognized in front of the entire group, including Gary’s father, who told staff, “I don’t recognize this kid anymore. I cannot believe how proud I am of him, and I could not have done it without CLASP. You guys do amazing work.”

