



Family & Children's Place

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Happy, healthy children and families start with YOU!

Join us for a campus tour by contacting Micah Jorrisch at
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Family & Children's Place

We CAN because you ARE!

Boy who has suffered too much still shares love

John Taylor, director of our Indiana based Child & Family Services program, is working with an eight-year-old child whose young life has sadly been filled with incredible pain and heartache.

The boy has been in foster care for two years, and his mother was locked up in jail for the third time for drug use and abuse.

The boy's older brother sexually abused him, and he has been neglected throughout his childhood.

His father has had issues, too, but is working very hard to get his life back together, with the hope that he and his young son can live together again as a family.

This is a letter that John helped the boy to write as part of his therapy, a letter that John says, "almost brought me to tears."

Stories such as this happen every day at Family & Children's Place.

Children and families are having their lives saved and changed for the

Dear Mommy,

How are you doing? I really miss you and hope you are doing good. I heard you were in jail and hope you get out soon. School is going great and I am doing good with my grades. I am still living at Millie and Bob's (foster home), but Daddy got a new house.

Mom! You have got to watch the "Secret Life of Pets!" I went and saw it and it was really good. I got to take a picture with Daddy at the movie theater! It was fun and it is a really good picture of us.

So! I need to go and I hope I can see you again soon. When I see you, I will show you the picture.



Join the campaign to give every baby a Day 366

Infant mortality – the death of a baby before his or her first birthday – is a serious issue in the United States. How serious?

According to the Centers for Disease Control, close to 25,000 infants die each year before their birthday.

Thankfully, most newborns grow and thrive; however, **for every 1,000 babies born, six die during their first year** and most die from:

- Birth defects
- Preterm birth (birth before 37 weeks of pregnancy) and low birthweight
- Maternal complications of pregnancy
- Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
- Injuries

Together, these causal factors accounted for nearly 60 percent of all infant deaths in the last year.

Clearly, it's an issue that warrants rigorous attention, because even in 2016, the loss of a baby remains a sad reality for many parents and takes a serious



toll on the physical and emotional health and well-being of families.

The National Healthy Start Association (NHSA) has developed a campaign, Celebrate Day 366 ... Every Baby Deserves a Chance, to celebrate babies living beyond the first year of life.

The celebration recognizes the significance of U.S. infants living beyond their first birthdays and promotes the effectiveness of ongoing programs and efforts aimed at reducing infant deaths, low-birth weight, pre-term births and

disparities in perinatal outcomes.

The goal is to ensure every child has the chance:

- To take their first step.
- To say their first word.
- To graduate from college.
- To become President.
- To Celebrate

Day 366.

There are many things we can do to support this goal, including encouraging lawmakers, policymakers and influencers to support their local infant mortality awareness project, program or coalition – programs such as the Family & Children's Place HANDS program.

HANDS couples Family Support Workers with new parents to provide tools and techniques they can use before and after their child's birth to help manage stress and demands, and activities and resources to

New PAL Center at Lynnhurst United Church of Christ gives young people hand up with homework, life

The PAL Coalition, with your support, has opened a center at Lynnhurst United Church of Christ offering students evidenced-based curriculum and homework help, advocacy training (led by Kentucky state Rep. Joni Jenkins and PAL Board members) and an open gym.

The center which opened Monday, Sept. 12, welcomes students from 2:30 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and by its third day had seen **60 young participants!** Among them were a number of English as a Second Language (ESL) students, a goal established in the original PAL grant eight years ago.

On a recent day, 16 students attended – it was a homework and open gym day. Staff gave the students' time to unwind, eat a

snack and then group up and check in.

Following one hour of homework help and then open gym, 12 very high-energy male students played a game of Life and put together a Snow White puzzle.

One youth, who had been suspended from school for that week, attends the program every day.

PAL also has two new volunteers – Keith Auspland, a Masters of Social Work Practicum student, and Kiara James, a senior Public Health student. Both attend the University of Louisville and are lifesavers!

