



# Great Circle™

Where futures take shape

FALL 2010

## Great Circle participates in residential treatment pilot project

### Results could improve the futures of children and their families

Great Circle agencies, including Boys & Girls Town of Missouri and Edgewood Children's Center, are partnering with Missouri Children's Division on a pilot project that could increase the success of children returning home after living in residential care.

Children in residential care typically are removed from their homes due to unsafe situations and become custody of the courts or state. The children may suffer from emotional and behavioral problems as a result of their environment or from other factors. Treatment enables the child to learn how to handle and overcome individual issues and then return home – preferably permanently with family. Depending on the child's treatment needs, a child can live in residential treatment for six months or longer.

The pilot project brings together the entire treatment team – including family – as soon as the child enters residential care. Families participate in developing the treatment plan the child will receive while in residential care as well as the treatment and support services that will be provided when the child returns home.

As a result, families have become increasingly involved in treatment planning and are engaging with therapists – they are seeing progress in their children and are becoming even more committed to their children being successful upon returning home.

Additionally, the child and family will receive up to three months of support services when the child returns home. The support services might include individual and family therapy, parenting skills education, connection with community resources, crisis intervention, respite care and ongoing follow up.

"It can be hard for a child to be away from family and we also realize that when a child returns home, it can be a nervous, stressful situation for both child and family," said Vince Hillyer, president and CEO of Great Circle. "By providing support services we could vastly improve how well children do when they return to family life."



## Be an Elf! Bring joy to a child this holiday season

This year, the economy is straining family budgets and agency funds dedicated to holiday gifts for our children. Each year, we strive to provide the children and families we serve with a warm holiday season. By donating new toys and gifts, volunteering on campus, or making a donation, you can help us brighten this special time of year for our kids.



Activity Books  
Art Supplies, markers, crayons, colored pencils, poster paper  
Backpacks, duffel bags  
Beanbag chairs  
Blankets, fleece throws, pillows  
Board games, puzzles  
Books  
Booster Seats, car seats

Coloring books, sketch books  
Computers, computer paper  
Craft kits  
CD player with radio  
DVDs (Rated G or PG)  
Electronic and handheld games  
Gift cards – Wal-Mart, Old Navy, McDonalds  
LEGO® kits, Lincoln Logs™

Purses, Wallets  
Radios  
Scrapbooking kits  
Sports equipment – baseballs, bats, gloves, basketballs, soccer balls, volleyballs, wiffle balls and bats, footballs, bicycles, inline skates  
Sports team jerseys  
Tickets to sporting events

Video systems and electronic games – Play Station 2, Wii, Nintendo DS  
Watches  
Clothes – (adult sizes S, M, L & XL) t-shirts, jeans, socks, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, sweatpants, pajamas, slippers, coats, jackets, underwear

To donate items, please call your local campus or donate online at [www.great-circle.org](http://www.great-circle.org)  
Columbia (573) 874-8686 • Springfield (417) 865-1646 • St. James (573) 265-3251 • St. Louis (314) 968-2060

The mission of Great Circle is to reshape vulnerable lives through a community of partners, teachers, and leaders, giving children and families the confidence to create bright futures.

Founding agencies: Boys & Girls Town of Missouri • Edgewood Children's Center



## From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

Great Circle celebrated its first birthday on October 1 and we are very excited to bring to you our first newsletter. We will continue to update you on programs and developments at each of the agencies in our circle. We also will be sharing with you great accomplishments for children and families throughout the entire agency.

Though Great Circle is only a year old, we have experienced fantastic developments as an agency – offering new, exciting programs and expanding extremely effective, proven programs. Some of them we have already reported on in previous issues such as the recent addition of Parenting Life Skills Center in Springfield. This gives us an even greater opportunity to positively influence current and future parents.

In St. Louis, we are partnering with S.A.F.E. ALTERNATIVES®, an internationally recognized provider of care, and have opened the first residential treatment program in the country for youth who self harm. We proudly opened a residential treatment for children with autism – bringing to the region much-needed services for families who have children with diagnoses on the autism spectrum.

Last November, St. Louis County voters passed a ¼ cent sales tax measure, also known as Proposition 1 and Putting Kids First, which created a fund to provide mental health and substance abuse services for children and youth ages 19 and under in St. Louis County. We received a grant from the fund that will enable us to expand our respite program to clients with a diagnosis on the autism spectrum as well as expand our successful Fostering Futures program to children and families in St. Louis County.

Throughout fall our campuses have held several celebrations and open houses. It is heartwarming to visit each campus, to meet the different staff and listen to them describe what they do, to see the kids on our campuses and in our programs and to experience some of what they experience. It is exciting to see so many good things happening all over the state. I am gratified when I step back to comprehend the good work, the good people, good staff, good kids and good services that are provided. I know that we consistently push the envelope and ask that the best opportunities be offered to our kids and families.

We could not provide these opportunities without your help. The approach of the holidays more deeply reminds us of the gift of family. Our programs help children establish caring, trusting relationships and to transfer this trust to other relationships – with the goal of restoring families and creating hope in each child for a positive, meaningful future.

Because we are all one, joined together, to reshape vulnerable lives and creating bright futures, I thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Vince Hillyer  
President and CEO  
Great Circle



## Upcoming Events

### November 20

**6th Annual Young Friends Trivia Night-** The Heights in Richmond Heights, MO, 6:00 p.m.

Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? Find out how “smart” you are at our annual fun-filled trivia night. For information call (314) 256-4903.

### February 19, 2011

**Diamond Night-** Highland Springs Country Club, Springfield, MO, 6:00 p.m.

An elegant evening of dinner, dancing, and diamonds. Local jewelers donate jewelry for the silent auction and extravagant diamond giveaway. For more information call (417) 865-1646, ext. 673.

For information about upcoming events, contact your local Advancement Office.

- Columbia (573) 874-8686
- Springfield (417) 865-1646
- St. James (573) 265-3251
- St. Louis (314) 968-2060

## Future is bright for high school graduates

Whether the future includes enrolling in college, attending vocational school or learning other trades, the end of the spring semester was an encouraging sign that the future is bright for children in our care. More than 50 youth graduated and received their high school diplomas. The students were from a wide variety of our treatment programs – residential care, foster care, independent living or other community services programs.

Jennifer, a single mother of a 2-year-old, who participates in Fostering Futures in St. Louis, has been hired as an industrial aide.

Heather, who resides in Springfield's Scattered Sites program, is enrolled in Ozarks Technical College and plans to be an EMT.

Two of our youth in the Transitional Living Program based out of Columbia, Stephen and Mary, are attending college in Rolla.

These are just some of the young adults who are beginning to travel the road to independence, new relationships and setting goals for their futures.



## Alumnus looks back

Former Boys & Girls Town resident James Reppy recently got in touch with us to let us know how he is doing. He and his wife own a trucking company. They have five children and live in Kansas City.

### What do you remember as significant while you lived at Boys & Girls Town?

The way staff stressed accountability for your actions and their encouragement to set goals.

### What did you learn at Boys & Girls Town?

Setting goals and striving to meet them – as long as the goals set in life are realistic, they can be met.

## The Joint Commission reaccredits agency

Great Circle has been granted continued accreditation by The Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations for all services. The Joint Commission accreditation process is thorough and is designed to help agencies continuously provide safe, high-quality care, treatment and services.

A survey team from The Joint Commission visited campuses in April. The survey includes thorough site inspections to see if clearly identified safety requirements are being followed. Children, families and staff members are interviewed. Extensive reviews of case files

ensure that appropriate procedures are being followed and that proper documentation is in place.

Joint Commission accreditation is designed to help organizations that serve children and youth build a culture of excellence based on standards that focus on provision of care, integrating data into daily operations and providing a safe environment for those served.

The reaccreditation is effective through April 2013.





## Tribute & Memorial Gifts (January 1, 2010 – July 31, 2010)

Thank you for supporting children and families by honoring others through tribute and memorial gifts to Great Circle agencies.

### In Honor Of

**Ted and Kathryn Armstrong**  
Anonymous

**Rosa Bergmann**  
Mr. Howard H. Witsma

**Mr. and Mrs. Dan Richard Beto**  
Mr. Howard H. Witsma

**Joshua Burnett's Bar Mitzvah**  
Dr. and Mrs. Stephen Kamenetzky  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Marglous

**Nathan Findlay's MBA Graduation**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wuertenberg

**Stella E. Goltzman's Third Birthday**  
Mr. and Ms. Paul R. Swier

**Holly and David Gulick**  
Anonymous

**Thomas Hebson**  
W.R. Berkley Corporation Charitable Foundation

**Eutoala Heisner's 90th Birthday**  
Mrs. Leona M. Bochantin

**Ellia S. Herholz's Birth**  
Mr. and Mrs. James Wuertenberg

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**Marjorie Sheldon**  
Mr. Howard H. Witsma

**Springfield Design Association**  
417 Magazine

### In Memory Of

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## Ranch provides adventures of a lifetime



Every summer, the kids living on the campuses of Great Circle agencies venture into the great outdoors of Missouri for a week of adventure. The Meramec Adventure Learning Ranch, nearing its 10th year of operation, provides the perfect location for our kids to experience summer camp at its finest. Complete with camping, water sports, hiking, rock climbing, and even a high ropes course, the ranch is the ultimate outdoor experience. But beyond the activities of a summer camp, the ranch affords our kids something far more valuable: a place to heal and grow.

The ranch offers the children in our care outdoor activities which serve as the catalyst for providing treatment and opportunities to build relationships, self-confidence and trust. Blending high adventure and outdoor activities with the chance to have fun and be a kid in a safe supportive environment, kids can take experiences from the ranch and relate them to real life situations, helping them find their way, not just

in the woods, but in life. Teamwork and relationship building are central to all of the ranch's activities, and the kids grow and build trust through experiential learning in ways that may have never before been possible.

These wonderful opportunities are thanks to the care and compassion of our donors. All programs at the ranch are funded by private donations.

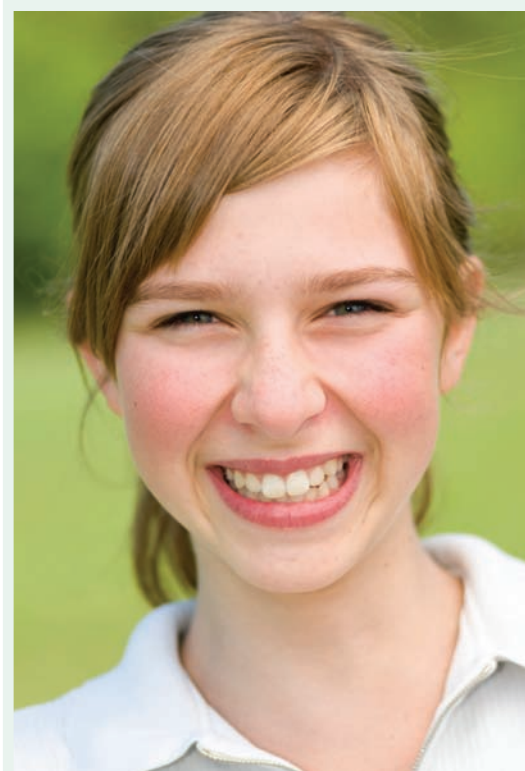
"Kids that you would never expect to be the cheerleading type immediately come to the rescue of the children who are struggling," noted Amber Hays, director of nursing at Boys & Girls Town in Columbia, who accompanied her campus kids to the ranch.

"They learn to work as a group and move as a group, nobody gets left out or feels like their struggles are the focus. At the end of the week they have all achieved something new and have something that they can be very proud of."

## Role model

Brianna, 13, recently moved from residential care into a foster home in a very small town. Since moving into the foster home she has really turned her life around. She is interested in politics and loves to debate. She is a straight-A student and was named student of the month three times this school year. She even organized a fundraiser to help victims of a local fire.

As a result of her hard work, Brianna received The Glory of Missouri Award from the Missouri House of Representatives honoring students who represent one of the virtues engraved on the wall of the House Chamber. Brianna was honored for "greatness." The virtues include knowledge, liberty, equity, law, justice, fraternity, education, progress, honor, truth, virtue, temperance, enterprise and charity. Students were nominated for the honor by their principals and counselors. Each student was presented with a House Courtesy Resolution which is a formal document designed to recognize an outstanding person or achievement.





## Golf tournaments tee off to support kids

Golf tournament season was in full swing this year, bringing friendly competition and fun to our four regions. The tournaments raised funds to benefit children served by Boys & Girls Town and Edgewood Children's Center.



Columbia winners (from left): Rich Poe, Drew Smith, Jake Poe and Bob Pugh.



Springfield's winning team (from left): Chip Cook, Patrick Connor, Reece Tarwater and Kip Cunningham.



St. James tournament's top team (from left): Dick Jones, Jimmy Williams, Lennox Jones and Dave Watkins.



St. Louis winners (from left): Zsolt Rummy, George Husman, Bill Cady and Andy Whipple.

## Changing Prisms changes lives

Life-changing experiences don't come around often. Changing Prisms helps young women from our campuses across the state confront traumatic pasts and face the future with a renewed sense of self-confidence and hope. Pairing the girls with volunteer mentors who are successful women from all different walks of life, the program allows participants to directly connect with positive role models.



Changing Prisms is supported fully by donors including a \$15,000 grant from Norman J. Stupp, Commerce Bank trustee.

This year's theme was "Superwomen" and messages of strength and determination permeated all aspects of the weekend, from the songs to group activities to arts and crafts. Girls embraced the empowering message that they could change their lives and let go of fears and barriers created by their pasts. Surrounded by strong, kind and determined women, the girls could see they were not all alone in this world and could realize their dreams.

"This was the best Changing Prisms I have been to yet," said Amanda S., one of the returning alumnae. "This campus is the only actual home I've ever had, and I really am very grateful for the opportunities they have given me. Changing Prisms always brings the most wonderful experiences."

## Reving up for a good time — families enjoy a day at the races

More than 200 kids and family members, volunteers and employees of Great Circle were the special guests at the Hardee's Gateway Drags III at Gateway International Raceway in Madison, Ill., on August 7. The group was given VIP access to behind-the-scenes activities, including meeting drivers and pit crew members, close up views of the cars, and top-notch seats for watching the races. The group gathered on the track for the pre-event ceremonies while children from St. James sang the national anthem. The fun afternoon was courtesy of Tim McAmis, a member of the South Central regional advisory board, who coordinated the event with the American Drag Racing League. McAmis owns Tim McAmis Race Cars, Inc.



## Soccer fan spreads soccer fever for children



When deciding what to do for his bar mitzvah project, 13-year-old Josh Burnett, an eighth grader at Parkway Central Middle School in St. Louis, told his mother Robyn he wanted to collect soccer equipment for kids less fortunate than him. An avid soccer fan, Josh decided to share the experience of the sport with children living in residential care at the agencies of Great Circle, including Edgewood Children's Center and Boys & Girls Town of Missouri.

"I wanted to help the less fortunate and I love soccer," said Josh when asked about his motivation for taking on the project.

"Doing this project made me appreciative of what I have in my own life."

Josh's job was to organize the donations. He and his mom hosted a "drop-off-donations" party and advertised the event through word of mouth, networking and a mass e-mail. Supporters stopped by their house to drop off new soccer equipment and enjoy refreshments.

He collected 32 soccer balls, 18 sets of shin guards and socks, four pairs of soccer cleats, four sets of cones, two equipment bags, soccer shirts, jerseys and shorts.



# Great Circle™

4485 Westminister Place  
St. Louis, MO 63108-1812

Founding agencies:  
Boys & Girls Town of Missouri  
Edgewood Children's Center



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## Charitable gift annuities provide guaranteed, fixed income

Charitable gift annuities have been offered to benefit non-profits since the early 1900's. They are a wonderful way contributors to Boys & Girls Town and Edgewood Children's Center can provide for the children in our care, while receiving fixed, guaranteed for life income. Boys & Girls Town has offered charitable gift annuities for almost 20 years. Now, as Great Circle, we are pleased to provide this opportunity to our growing circle of friends.

Sam is just one of countless supporters who have created gift annuities to benefit the children in our care. Sam had been contributing annually for more than 10 years. He also had included Great Circle in his will to continue helping children in need. When Sam discovered the high rate of return offered by the gift annuity program, he decided to establish a gift annuity as the next step in his estate plan.

It's a "win-win" as Sam put it. "In comparison to my certificate of deposit or dividends from my stock, I get much more—not only more income but more joy knowing it will help children long after I am gone."

Sam's rate of return—7.5%—is guaranteed and fixed income for life. His payments will never decrease even as interest rates and the stock market fluctuate. Part of his income is even tax free.

A gift annuity is part gift and all income. In exchange for your gift of \$1,000 or greater you receive lifetime, fixed, guaranteed income. Just as important, a portion of your income is non-taxable for lifetime, based upon actuarial tables.

Contact Bill Muehlman, director of gift planning, at 314-256-4911 to answer questions or provide a personalized proposal for those who wish to increase their income while helping children.

