



Sojo Celebrates Achievements

On Friday, June 26, 2009, Sojourners honored participants for their academic achievements. Nine young adults were recognized for pursuing post-secondary opportunities at Rio Grande Community College, Hocking College, and Gallipolis Career College. Two young people were honored for their graduations from public high schools. Four were honored for attaining a diploma or GED from Sojourners' Youthbuild program.

Sojourners' Executive Director Marcus Games expressed the great pride Sojourners takes in these accomplishments.

The keynote speaker at the celebration was Jody Walker, Director of Vinton Job and Family Services. He shared some of his life story and encouraged the honorees to develop

achievable goals for furthering their education.

Steve Clever, Director of Foster Care, emphasized the contrast between where Sojourners' young people started and what they have achieved. He presented certificates to public high school graduate Kayleigh Stockmaster, Kevin Tate, who is now attending Gallipolis Career College, and Daniel Rupert, who is attending Rio Grande. Mary Haggy, also a public high school graduate, was not able to attend.

According to Shelia Turn, "When I looked at the faces of the young people we honored, I was inspired and uplifted. We do make a difference."

Other speakers included Evette Bethel, David Boothe, Rich Games, Jeff Fite, and Shelly Horvath. A reception with cake and punch followed the ceremonies.



Left: Daniel Rupert (center) celebrated with Ken Murray, Jackson Co. ISS, and Sojo's David Boothe.



Right: Kevin Tate shows his pride in receiving his Age Up award.



Left: Founding board member Rev. Robert Graetz talks with board president Terri Fetherolf.



Right: Kayleigh Stockmaster (far right) was supported by her foster family, including foster parents Jim and Vesta Bailey.

 Foster Care Director Steve Clever is on vacation. His column will return in August.



Kids: Read for Pizza!

By now, your kids should have gotten a flyer about our summer reading program, which runs from July 1 thru August 15.

Foster youth who read 10 books in that time (as verified by their foster parents) will be invited to a pizza party in August to celebrate their accomplishment. Please support your youth who wish to participate. Questions? Call Joy at 591-6279.

Calendar

- *Summer Reading Program*, July 1-August 15.
- *Independence Day holiday*, Sojo offices closed Friday, July 3.
- *Foster Care Training*, "Cultural Issues in Placement," July 18, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and July 25, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Vinton County Library.
- *Food Bank*, Monday, July 13, 11:00 to 3:00.
- *Foster Care Training*: "Boundaries with Teens," August 28, 9-4 p.m., Vinton County Library. John Ward, presenter.



Caring for Kids in Care

Shelia	464-1411	General Questions
Steve	418-1072	Director, Foster Care
Lisa	357-0143	Placement/Respite
Barb	418-0250	Licensing/Training
Joy	591-6279	Recruitment
Liz	596-1117	Operations
Sojourners Fax Number: 739-4357		

All numbers are in area code 740.

Please call Joy with questions about the newsletter—or to submit news or recipes.

SHINING STARS!



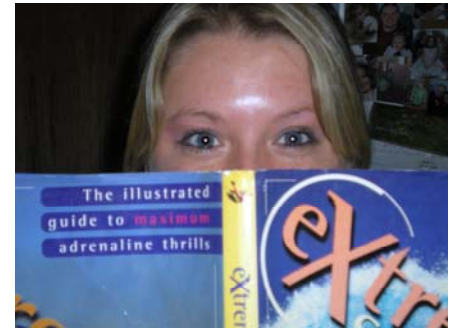
- ★ M.H. is planning for her future life and home as an independent adult. Best wishes!
- ★ T.D. passed all of the classes required to become a sophomore in high school. Way to go!
- ★ D.C. received all A's, B's, and C's on his final report card. He is looking forward to attending adventure camp. Have fun!
- ★ W.O.'s social skills continue to develop. Good effort!
- ★ C.J. made positive safety decisions during a hailstorm. Way to keep your head down.
- ★ J.F. earned all A's and B's on his final report card. Excellent job.
- ★ B.C. (Russ) made positive decisions regarding his mental health and effort in school. We're proud of you.
- ★ C.T. got a 3.0 grade average for spring semester and is on target to graduate college next year. He's also getting prepped to play football in the autumn. Go team!
- ★ E.L. is excited to be starting tennis lessons soon. What a racket!
- ★ B.C. (B.J.) is learning to swim and loves the family pool. See you in the deep end!
- ★ T.T. had four straight weeks of meeting behavior goals. Terrific!
- ★ B.C., R.C., and J.C. had a great vacation. Welcome home.
- ★ J.F. had a great visit with his family.

Call Joy (591-6279) to report good news about the young people in your care.

Books We Love

Nothing encourages reading like reading a good book. A survey of Sojo staffers reveals an amazing range of favorites. When a kid in your home says "I can't find anything to read"—take your pick!

Shelia: Fairy tales like "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "Cinderella"; loved *Highlights* magazine; enjoyed collections of Bible stories. Evette: *Saggy Baggy Elephant* (P) and the Goosebump books (M); loves all the Harry Potter books (M, YA). Marcus: Recommends all the Judy Blume books (M). Barb: Read and reread *To Kill a Mockingbird* (M, YA); loved *The Poky Little Puppy* (P); was greatly influenced (for better or worse) by *A Lantern in Her Hand* (YA). Steve: Read all the old sports books in his grandmother's basement Joy: Loves the Time Soldiers books (E) and Shel Silverstein poems (E, M); *Catch-22* (YA); *The 500 hats of Bartholomew Cubbins* (P), about the kid who every time he took off a hat another appeared. BJ: *Gone With the Wind* (YA) Russ: Swears by *Oh, the Places You'll Go* (E) and *The Monster at the End of this Book* (P); is a HUGE Hardy Boys (M) fan. Jeff: *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (YA), *The Hiding Place* (YA), everything Dr. Seuss. Liz: All the Nancy Drew books. Shelly: *The Secret Garden* (E, M) and the Ann of Green Gables series (M) and Bobbsey Twins series. Shayla: *The Giving Tree* (M), *Eye of the Needle* (YA), and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (M). Lisa: Books by John Steinbeck, especially *The Red Pony* (YA).



P = picture book
E = elementary years
M = middle school age
YA = young adult

Training News

- **July Training:** "Cultural Issues in Placement," presented by art therapist Cindy Bean, who has years of experience working with young people through Children's Services and DYS. The training will be offered twice, on these dates:
Session 1: Saturday, July 18, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Vinton County Library.
Session 2: Saturday, July 25, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., Vinton County Library.
- **John Ward Returning in August.** Popular trainer and 2009 Rising Star Award winner John Ward will do our August 28 training, "Boundaries with Teens" (9:00 to 4:00, Vinton County Library). He always provides good strategies, good sense, and a good time. Make sure to get this one on your calendar.
- **1st Friday Videoconferences at Tri-County:** Cancelled for July and August.



Shelia's Corner

Grilled Tuna Sandwich

Ingredients:

- 1 can of tuna, drained
- 1 tablespoon chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon chopped sweet pickles
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- Mozzarella cheese slices
- Whole wheat bread

Mix tuna, onion, pickles, tomato, and mayonnaise. Put a scoop on a slice of whole wheat bread and top with a slice of cheese and second piece of bread. Grill like a grilled cheese and serve with fresh fruit.

Quick Tuna Noodles for One

This recipe comes from foster youth R.R. Mix one small can of tuna (drained) with one package of cooked ramen noodles. Put a slice of cheese on top. Microwave until cheese melts. Serves one teenager or two regular people.

Strawberry Icebox Pie

Mix together 1 cup of plain yogurt, an 8-oz package of cream cheese, 3 tablespoons of sugar, and 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract. Fold in 1 cup of sliced strawberries. Spoon into a graham cracker crust. Freeze and serve. Thanks to Shelia's daughter Amy for this recipe.

