

NEWSLETTER

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INSPIRED

by Leland Ulrich, Board Chairman

In last month's editorial we talked about operational maturity in organizations and the need for continuous improvement. We have completed the first step of that process, which has energized the Shining Light staff and given us all a clearer vision and understanding of how to achieve our goals.

As part of the new operating plan, we introduced Trust-Based Relationship Intervention (TBRI) training for staff and leadership. Phase one of this training took place during the last week of September.

A certified TBRI practitioner took our staff and leadership through the training program. Herb Miller and I from the board were there to take the organization through this part of the transition. The training was especially impactful and helpful for the staff members working directly with children, although all of us found the training refreshing and impactful.

I'll share a few things from the training that deeply impacted me.

Trust can be transferred. One of the theories TBRI debunks is that trust cannot be transferred. God created humans to live in communities with shared trust. As adults we understand this. If a trusted friend refers to another person and says, "You can trust this person completely," I will likely trust this person through transferred trust until proven otherwise. But we tend not to believe this in working with trauma children. TBRI training took us step by step through the process

of transferring trust from one caregiver to another.

This concept is crucial in addressing a recurring problem at SLCH—staff creating connections with children only to leave in a couple years. In the past we assumed that each caregiver must start from zero trust with the child and build from there.

As it turns out, this is not true. There are many tools to create a healthy transfer of trust. In the past, transferring children from one caregiver to another has been a real challenge, but we already are seeing some very good effects from our mindset shift.

Much of the training needed to work with trauma children is about preparing our own emotional health for meeting the child's needs. TBRI trainers have correctly noted that many caregivers are motivated to work with children for the unconditional love they receive from the child. Sometimes it is not clear who needs the most healing. But before you judge these caregivers, let me add that this is true even of emotionally healthy people.

Emotional and spiritual health is a prerequisite for meeting the needs of a trauma child. A healthy organization will invest much into the lives of its staff members at every level. Please pray for us as we endeavor to nurture each team member of the organization.

"You won't have healthy children without healthy staff." - Anonymous



MEET LOYDA, STAFF COOK

by Loyda Irene Lopez Perez

I arrived at Shining light when I was 10 years old, and when I turned 18 I stayed on as a staff member. I really enjoy the work here. This is my family, and I appreciate the relationships I have here. I loved being a caretaker! Though this included some very tough experiences, God always came through and carried me forward. Now I work as a cook. Mornings are filled with cooking and deep or general cleaning and in the afternoons I'm the kitchen supervisor while others cook.

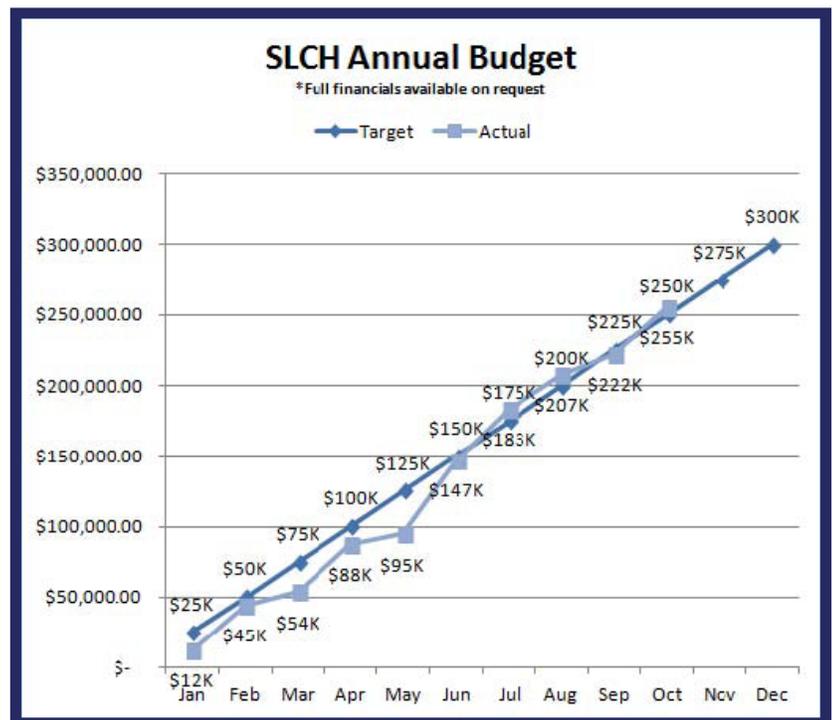
God has blessed me abundantly in my life. My greatest blessing is to be engaged to a man of God named Eldon Peight. I'm thankful for what God has done in my life and for the people who have helped me become who I am.

MEET VERONICA, SLCH CHILD

Hello! I am Veronica. I am almost 15 years old and have a baby who is almost 2 months old. His name is Derreck. Some days he cries a lot, and other times he doesn't cry at all. Sometimes he sleeps a lot, and some days he is awake much of the day.



When I came here, it was strange to see everyone wearing dresses. I wondered, "What's with these people?" but I soon discovered they were Christians. I liked knowing they worshipped God and this motivated me to come closer to Him. Right now I would like to be with my family like before and share the joy of my son with my family. I dream of being an architect and making lots of money so I can have a nice house for my son and spend lots of time with him.



STAFF TRAINING

In accordance with new procedures being incorporated and pressing toward the goal of a higher quality service as mentioned in the last newsletter, we begin training current staff. A licensed TBRI practitioner from San Diego spent two days teaching, sharing, and demonstrating helpful techniques for working with Level 4 Trauma children. The staff thoroughly enjoyed this chance to learn about something they all struggle with daily. You will now here phrases like, "Use your words!" "Can I see eyes?" You will see staff kneeling on the child's level and using a low and slow tone of voice, doing their best to connect with the child. Staff members aim to provide the children with a sense of safety and trust by being more proactive and aware of how actions, tone of voice, and many other things impact the children. They are inspired to do their best and give these dear souls the best they possibly can.



PARAGUAYAN DINNER

Kristy Gingerich and Sole Alarcon, a native of Paraguay, both grew up in Paraguay. One evening they sweetly cooked up a large supper of a typical Paraguayan meal. Several guys helped with grilling the meat, since grilled meat is a common specialty for them. With the help of friends, they whipped up empanadas de carne, chipa-guazu, rice salad, clerico and homemade flan.

The empanadas are made with a flour-based dough and filled with cooked hamburger and eggs. Chipa-guazu is a moist cornbread-type dish made with field corn and aged cheese. Rice salad is similar to potato or macaroni salad, just with rice instead of potatoes. Clerico contains small diced grapes, apples, pineapple and other fruits mixed with Coca-Cola, Sprite, and sparkling grape juice. It is a typical drink that goes for dessert as well. Flan combines the best of the Jello and pudding worlds into one delicious dish with an amazing caramel syrup. Full tummies and widened taste buds happily sighed as dinner came to an end.

FAREWELL KRISTY



Kristy served 6 months. She always had a smile for everyone and loved baking. The children and staff beamed when they saw her afternoons baking a delicious dessert for supper. She definitely leaves a big hole here in Mexico.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!

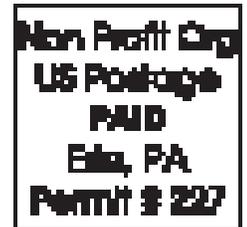


JUDY EICHER
Judy Eicher from Alaska brings joy and energy as she comes for a short term of service.



MELINDA BIRKY
Melinda Birky from Oregon integrates into a pod to help care and nurture children.

Shining Light
Children's Home
PO Box 164
Grandview, Texas 76050
817-231-0475



SHINING LIGHT 2019 STAFF NEEDS

Leland Ulrich - Board Chairman
Corey Yoder - Treasurer
Lorne Hershberger - Secretary
Herb Miller - Board Member/
PR Coordinator
Myron Bontrager - Board Member
Mike Yoder - Board Member

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Please join us in praying for volunteers to meet our staffing needs for the coming year. We have a number of staff who will be finishing their term throughout the year. If you have an interest in serving as a volunteer at Shining Light please contact us for more information.

Staffing needs:

- 2 childcare practitioners (moms)
- 2 childcare practitioners (dads)
- 1 childcare practitioner couple
- 1 general maintenance assistant
- 1 Spanish school teacher for next term
- 1 chauffeur

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