



## **Central District Conference Report for 2016**

### **Todd Hanes, President/CEO**

In recognizing many of the great things that have transpired at Adriel last year we want to also include a significant event that occurred at the beginning of this year. In February, our leadership and board made the difficult decision to close the residential program on our campus. This decision was made due to the increasingly challenging behaviors and needs of the children being referred to our program and the constant struggle in hiring qualified and dedicated staff to meet the needs of these children. We are deeply saddened by this, but know that God has a plan for Adriel to continue serving children in the spirit of Christian love.

At Adriel, we have seen God work through positive impacts and changes in the lives of children in our care. Last year saw many positive discharges of children served by Adriel who successfully moved into a less restrictive home. This can occur through reunification with their biological families, kinship placement or stepping down from residential treatment into a loving foster home. Equally as exciting, during our fiscal year 2016 Adriel facilitated 42 adoptions and licensed 36 new foster homes.

The Family Preservation program continued to offer services to biological families, an important component of Adriel's continuum of care. Through external respite, family coaching, family visitation, and enhanced visitation, Adriel offers support, stability and resources to youth and their families experiencing removal of their children, instability, or who are currently in crisis. One of the fastest growing programs has been family visitation, which has more than doubled units of service providing more opportunities for children to interact and maintain relationships with family. As the programs have continued to grow, development and structuring of the family preservation department has been a priority. Due to an increase in foster youth placements and the need for additional licensed foster care home, external respite numbers have decreased. The programs offered through Family Preservation have great potential for growth as we continue to find ways to best serve families throughout Ohio.

Local Mennonite churches and their pastors are regularly involved on campus. They consistently attend our Pastor's Breakfast every other month, and provide advice on the spiritual components of Adriel's interaction with youth. The women's groups continue to be a blessing to our mission as they provide beautiful quilts and other items for our annual auction, as well as the necessary items collected for our foster care regions such as health care items, towels and comforters.

Our campus chaplain Erin Dye has done such a wonderful job in working with the spiritual growth of the residential youth over the past six years. Erin worked with the youth in weekly bible study groups in the homes and connected with local churches through our weekly campus worship service, Adriel Live. With the closing of our residential program unfortunately came the end of our campus pastor position. We will miss Erin and her enthusiasm for sharing the message of God's love and reconciliation, but appreciate all she has done for the

children served by Adriel.

As we look forward to FY 2017, Adriel will continue to serve children by emphasizing the importance of the wonderful people and organizations that generously give so that the children we serve can experience a Christian home-like environment and loving family setting. Adriel remains a leader in service provision to youth and families in need across much of Ohio. We will continue to develop new programs to meet the changing needs of families with a focus on Foster Care and Adoption and Family Preservation. We have a strong network of donors who continue to support Adriel's mission and staff and who have a heart for the youth and families that we serve. We look forward to continue to share in God's work with you.