



Our Heritage

*For people who favor rebuilding relationships
and restoring hope for our youth.*

SPRING 2020



Dear Friends and Partners,

Not in our lifetime have we seen such extraordinary measures being taken to fight a pandemic such as the Coronavirus (COVID 19), within the United States. Schools are closed, businesses are drastically impacted, and many of us are being asked to remain in our homes. I join with you in hope and prayer that you and your families are safe and well, and that this will be an abbreviated time with limited impact.

You have been an important part of our work at Wernle, so I wanted to connect with you and share what we are doing in response to the COVID-19. The safety and health of our staff and residents is of the utmost importance. Wernle is working with local, state, and national health agencies on prevention and management in the event of an outbreak on our campus. With this in mind, we have canceled weekly campus outings, home visits, visitations, and external appointments. We have implemented a daily employee screening program, and we are encouraging all our staff and residents to follow the recommended methods from the Center for Disease Control and the Indiana Department of Child Services for reducing the chance of infection.

We recognize that several of you are in tight spots yourselves, due to jobs being suspended or hours being cut back during this unprecedented time. We are asking you to please do what you can to **continue** to provide support to our youth & families. We are currently providing care for more than 250 young people and their families. Their daily needs must be met, medical and therapeutic care must continue, and of course the basics of running a residential campus need to be considered. We are still providing a comfortable living environment for the youth through basic utilities and food services, but our reserves are limited and without your support what would we do? I truly believe that with our prayers and with all of us pulling together in these difficult times, we will survive this crisis, but we must work together.

While some of our youth may be claiming “cabin fever,” our staff are amazing in keeping them occupied via board games, puzzles, outdoor activities, and approved videos, all with appropriate social distancing of course. Please continue to visit our website for further updates, www.wernle.org, and may peace and health be yours during these challenging times.

Finally, I ask that we all continue in prayer that God will see us safely through these stormy times in the life of our nation and the world.

In Christ,

Darrell R. Gordon, MSA, JD, CFRM
President/CEO



Coaches4Kids Golf Outing Temporarily Postponed

PLEASE BE ON THE LOOK OUT FOR A NEW DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED!



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NEW RECREATION/WORK-OUT AREAS



In 2019 Wernle received a grant from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Foundation. This grant was written specifically so we could upgrade, enhance, and add to our recreational items and activities here on our campus. Our Recreation Coordinator, Benjamin Hogan as well as all of our staff were thrilled. Recreation is so important to our youth. It helps us keep them active, learning, and provides distractions from depression and other past traumas. Our Clinical Director Sharon Mibey, and her team, use recreation as a form of therapy as well. And let's not forget, being outside on a beautiful day playing with others is always fun.

We immediately began to devise a plan. This past year we renovated two of our outdoor basketball courts to give our kids somewhere else to play and be proud of. Additionally, we identified the need for a specific area inside that would be focused strictly on recreation. This will be a space for our residents to work out and come together in a fun safe environment. It will include home gyms, exercise bikes, and an area for the kids to watch movies and sporting events. Also, this past year we started "Fun Day." This is an event each week where, with good behavior, kids get to earn snacks and a chance to play video games and watch movies. We've already begun to see results of improved team skills, improved attitudes, and our youth expressing a greater desire to be involved.

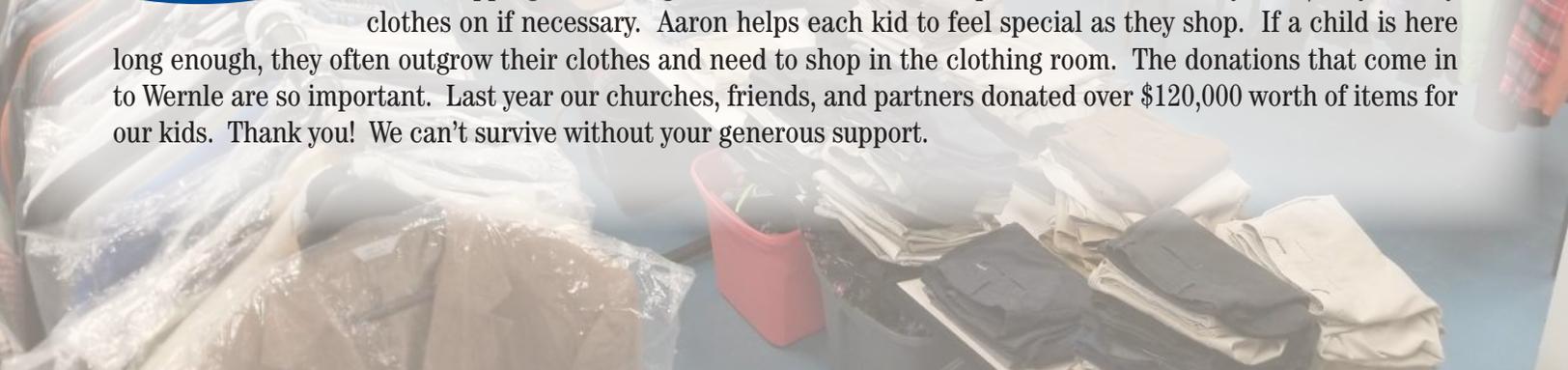


WHERE OUR KIDS SHOP

Aaron heads up our housekeeping department. He started at Wernle about five months ago. He has a great eye for detail and loves to help our kids get what they need from our clothing room. Aaron receives the many donations that come in almost daily to Wernle. We receive everything from bodywash and shampoo to clothes, to games and puzzles. Each of these items are so important to our kids and to our budget. Every donation that comes in is inspected by Aaron. The clothing is laundered and neatly put into our stock.

The hygiene products are sorted, shelved, and stand ready for when the kids need them. When new kids come to Wernle they often don't have a lot of clothing.

One of their first stops is to our clothing room where they meet Aaron and get to go shopping. Aaron is great with the kids. He helps them find what they need, they can try clothes on if necessary. Aaron helps each kid to feel special as they shop. If a child is here long enough, they often outgrow their clothes and need to shop in the clothing room. The donations that come in to Wernle are so important. Last year our churches, friends, and partners donated over \$120,000 worth of items for our kids. Thank you! We can't survive without your generous support.



WERNLE PARTNERSHIP RECAP



Doing great things together

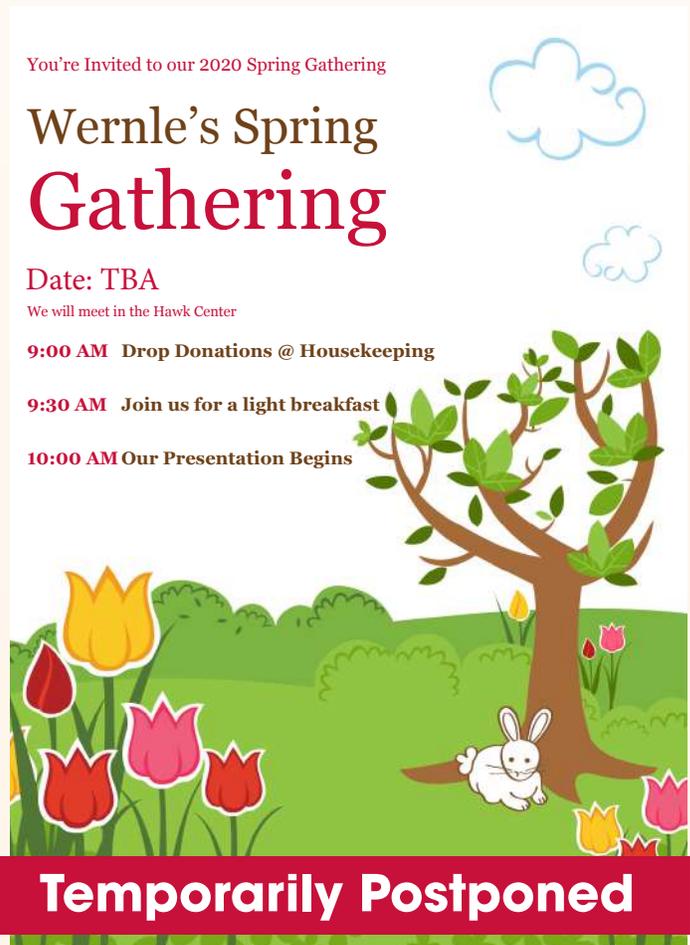
First Bank Richmond is committed to being an integral partner to the communities in which we serve. Since 1887, not only have we provided our community with sound financial products and services, we have also fostered a philanthropic commitment that has made a significant impact through the dedication of our organization's resources, talents and time. This commitment is facilitated through the following channels:

- Financial support pledged through contributions and event sponsorships. In 2019, we proudly donated more than \$400,000 to local not-for-profit organizations.
- Board/employee leadership and participation with local not-for-profit organizations. Last year, 65% of our staff served on a board or a committee and collectively volunteered over 3,000 service hours to local not-for-profit organizations.
- Donations (in-kind) and fundraising efforts to promote local initiatives.

Over the years, First Bank Richmond has been a proud community partner of Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center. We acknowledge and recognize Wernle's unwavering commitment to providing growth and development opportunities for troubled children and their families by facilitating nurturing programs and healing fractured relationships. Key areas we have participated in over the years to promote advocacy and awareness for Wernle include but are not limited to:

- We pledged \$100,000 over five years for a facilities expansion project.
- We pledged an additional \$150,000 over five years through the Community of Hope initiative.
- We are the annual title sponsor of the Wernle Golf Outing as well as their Catalyst for Change signature event.
- We have collaborated with Wernle CEO/President, Darrell Gordon and his leadership team on strategic planning and events.

We were honored to be recognized and presented the Lifetime Giving and the Catalyst for Change awards for our contributions. First Bank Richmond looks forward to a continued partnership with Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center to assist in providing essential services that promote a stronger, healthier community in which we share.



Wernle wants to continue to acknowledge our many 2019 Catalyst4Change Sponsors who made our event so successful:



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Ex Officio

Darrell Gordon, CEO/President

MISSION

Wernle is a family-focused, child-centered agency providing opportunities for the growth and development of troubled children and their families—individually, interpersonally, and socially—through caring programs and healing relationships which are reflective of God's love revealed through Jesus Christ.



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ALLOWANCE FUND

The kids at Wernle receive \$5.00 per week allowance. What they don't spend during outing goes into their own private account. This is a big drain on Wernle's budget, totaling more than \$14,000 annually.

Please consider sponsoring a child's allowance.

1 Month \$20.00

6 Months \$120.00

One Year \$240.00

Please determine how many months you would like to sponsor and note this with your donation.

For questions or more information please contact:

Chris Parker 765-993-4598
cparker@wernle.org

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