

## *It's been a while...by Jared Marcus*

As I was thinking and praying about what to write, every idea I had seemed to be about what 'I' thought was exciting or about what 'I' wanted to share. So after some more prayer and thought and the realization that it's been almost five months since our last newsletter, maybe just a simple update is in order.

Our volunteer team continues to grow in size as well as influence. God has brought some powerful individuals to the team, which has allowed us to better impact the youth of Goshen and Elkhart County. Leaders who are dedicated and passionate about the youth they serve and willing to go to any lengths to see lives changed.

We are in the middle of our 'Capacity Building' grant that we received from Indiana Youth Institute in the fall of 2009. The first part that started immediately was 150 hours of consultation from an IYI trained professional. We are currently going through the sub award process (money) of purchasing items that will better help us serve the youth of this area in a greater capacity. It is a very exciting time as we watch God use this grant to help us begin putting all the right pieces into place and building a sustainable program.

Our partnership with The Samaritan Center is also growing at a high rate of speed, which allows us to treat more kids in a professional setting. More often than I would like to mention, we'll have a student come in that has been deeply hurt and in need of intensive treatment. The sources range from abuse to abandonment to anger to suicide or self-esteem so low that they have lost touch with who they are or Who made them. Please see inserted pledge card to see how you can join the fight.

And finally the update I am most excited about is the addition of Londa Kauffman, our new Program Coordinator. Londa joins our team with three and half years experience at Bashor Children's Home, working with at risk youth, as well as actively pursuing her Master's in Experiential Learning. A learning style that I believe God is calling The Post to, something different and unique that gets our kids up and actively involved in the process of growth.

*Susan Yoder with a few of our youth*



## *Perseverance by Emilee Burnett*

When Jared asked me to write an article for The Post newsletter, I didn't have to think twice about doing it. I wanted to make sure I let everyone know the amazing effect The Post and the kids at The Post have had on my life. So, I won't take much of your time, but I want you to know that without a shadow of doubt that whatever time or resources you contribute to The Post, it is not in vain and that the reward is greater than you will ever be able to see or imagine in this lifetime.

I started volunteering at The Post in October of 2009. It took me probably 3 years of thinking about doing it before I actually made the call and sat down with Jared to talk about the possibility, and I have to say that the decision has already changed my life significantly. When I first began going to The Post I had no problem relating to the guys there, because I am a sports fanatic and have always been able to relate to guys a lot better than I have with girls. However, I know that I have a calling on my life to work with young girls who have had to endure and experience some of the great trials I myself have had to experience. Because of this I tried hard to relate to and engage the girls, but there was no fruit from my effort. After speaking with Erica, another worker at The Post, I realized that I just needed to keep trying and pursuing these girls and not give up on them. So, I kept pressing through and just kept engaging them in conversation til one day something clicked. I spent a full 4 hours one night talking to one of the girls and just getting to know her and letting her in on the person that I am today. We didn't talk about anything too deep, but we did talk. After that day everything changed. I have formed relationships with these girls and watched them grow not only in their personal lives but in their spiritual lives as well. They go to church with me now and have been saved and baptized. It's easy to say that since that day everything has been great and the girls have never made any mistakes or haven't had a bad attitude, but that's just not the

# Collaboration Strategy

by John Regan, Board Member

As board members of The Post we have long realized the value of the organization that we are entrusted with, and the importance it has in the lives of the youth that come through our doors. We have also realized that although we are successful in some areas of youth outreach, we are also non-equipped in others. This self realization eagerly guided us toward collaborative relationships with other organizations that have strengths where we do not. Although we have budding alliances with Bashor Home, The Goshen Boys and Girls Club, RETA, and CAPS, our longest running effort has been with The Samaritan Center.

Although our staff and volunteers are outstanding mentors to our kids, we realize that many of our youth need psychological counseling beyond our expertise. All of our compassion towards the kids sometimes falls short when dealing with issues of suicide/depression, sexual abuse, abandonment, and anger management. The collaborative effort with The Samaritan Center has been a true God send for our need with kids, as well as the Center's desire to expand their ministry beyond adults. This joint effort is changing the lives of a number of youth at The Post, but needs community financial support to help pay for professional sessions. The Samaritan Center and the Post split the \$75 per session cost, leaving the Post with \$37.50 to cover. We currently have 4 students in the program, and many more in need. **Would you please consider changing the life of a local youth that had nothing to do with the situation in which they currently live?**

The Post's mission of bringing every kid to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ solves the eternal issue, but in some cases we need additional help to clear the slate of everyday issues that are huge obstacles to a viable life on earth. Please consider providing the means to change the life of one of our youth just as Jesus instructed in Matthew 25:40, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Please send financial contributions to:

**The Post  
PO Box 124  
Goshen, IN 46527**

For more information, please call:  
**574-534-7678**

Jared Marcus, Executive Director  
jared@the-post.org

# Perseverance (cont.)

case. Something people have to realize is that even when these kids have had a change of heart or make a significant change in their life, it doesn't always change their circumstances or their surroundings. Some kids still have to go home to a rough home life and that makes it hard to stay dedicated to positive change. I am confident though that a seed has been planted and God is going to allow that seed to grow and blossom into something greater than any of us can imagine. I spend a lot of time with these girls now and I am amazed at the constant changes I see in them. It may not be evident to many people around them, but I see it, because I want to see it and I believe in them. I believe that the choice they made to give their hearts to God, will and has forever changed who they are and God truly does have GREAT things for them to do. If nothing else, the impact they have made in my life, has changed my life forever. For that I am eternally grateful!

I want to encourage you again that whether you choose to give your time, money or resources, it will not go to waste and it will not be in vain. God has a great work for The Post to do in our community and it is our job and our responsibility as members of this community to do all we can to mold and help form our future, our kids and to make a difference. I will leave you with one of my favorite sayings and I pray it ignites the type of fire within you that was ignited within me last October: "We will remain the same until the pain of remaining the same becomes greater than the pain of change". Things will never change unless we answer the call to do our part and make a difference! God bless!

*Staff and youth posing for the camera*



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