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Your connection to Grant County, Indiana

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LETTERS

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Thank you ... for helping CSA

The Mission of CASA of Grant County, Inc. is to advocate for the best interests of abused, neglected, or delinquent children involved in judicial proceedings, including custody disputes, through the use of specifically trained community volunteers. In order to serve this crucial mission, CASA of Grant County relies upon grants, volunteers and community donations.

On behalf of CASA, I would like to publicly thank Harvey Barnes and Round Robins for the generous support that they have provided. Writer Frederick Buechner once said, "The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what far place my touch will be felt." Through their support of CASA and other community agencies, Harvey Barnes and the folks at Round Robins leave a legacy not only to the children served by CASA, but also to their children and the many generations to follow. For this we are grateful.

Dana Kenworthy, CASA Board President, Marion

... for helping kids

"Adore Me,' Don't Ignore Me." "Hug me" don't "Hurt Me"

These statements were written by children connected to the Flannery-Keal Home, a place where children and victims of domestic violence can go for safety. Each statement is written on a construction paper hand traced by the children and placed on the wall in the Children's Group Room.

Also on that wall are messages for the children about respect and love, along with a large multi-colored construction paper heart.

The programming offered at the Flannery-Keal Home for children recently received a boost thanks to a grant from the Community Foundation of Grant County, Indiana, Inc. made possible by generous donors since 1984. The Flannery-Keal Home is a program of Hands of Hope, a division of Family Service Society, Inc.

As we enter April, which nationally is Child Abuse Prevention Month, these statements and others are a good reminder for us as parents. It is important that we make sure we are communicating verbally and physically, positive statements and actions with our children.

But it is important we don't just think about toddlers and pre-adolescents when we talk about children.

Here are a couple comments from teens and tweens who also adorn the Children's Room wall.

"I am a Teenager. I think I know it all. Correct me, don't 'Humiliate' me."

"Talk to me I'm your son/daughter. I'm not a stranger."

As part of the weekly, Hands of Hope adult support and educational groups, Flannery-Keal Home staff work with parents' children teaching them non-violent activities and messages. The grant received from the Community Foundation of Grant County will allow the programming to be expanded and enhanced,

ensuring that the children learn how to be valued and show value. In addition the children are given an opportunity to make crafts for their mother or other adult as part of the group.

We are thankful for the gift we have been given and encourage community members to consider donating to the Community Foundation of Grant County, to ensure that this generation continues to receive the much needed positive messaging and empowerment they so desperately need.

Linda S. Wilk, Hands of Hope director, and Connie M. Rose, Family Service Society

executive director, Marion

... for Meals on Wheels

I saw the article in the paper the other morning about Meals on Wheels. We have had meals delivered to our home for about four years.

I cannot say enough for these people, Mrs. Shinn and Mr. Totten. They work very hard to see that the meals are delivered to your door. Several of the volunteers I have met have been superb.

We moved to Gas City several months ago, and the Twin City route guys are very faithful. Three of them attend the same church. One of them is a former Gas City High School basketball player who wears a Tiger cap just to remind me, a 1946 Jonesboro graduate, about our rivalry.

In my book, Mr. Totten deserves a lot of praise. We saw him walking around here a few months ago, wearing a foot cast resulting from an auto wreck. I don't think he missed the route. Once again, thanks for the work, and volunteers are still needed.

James Southerland, Gas City

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