



# HARMONY HERALD

## Harmony House Setting Records

Harmony House/CASA  
Program of LaPorte  
County, Ind

Volume 9, Issue 2

Summer Edition

### Harmony House Statistics

#### DCS Cases

April 2008—41

April 2009—145

May 2008—28

May 2009—110

June 2008—59

June 2009— 150

#### Court Cases

April 2008—20

April 2009— 65

May 2008—19

May 2009—70

June 2008—25

June 2009— 70

"From the first call that is placed to protective services to the completion of a long-term therapeutic program, families involved in child abuse and neglect require considerable care and attention. Many very difficult decisions must be made and carried out. No one group or discipline can carry the load alone; it clearly is too

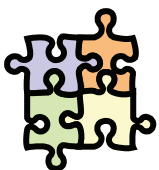
heavy a burden. All of the professionals and agencies involved in a community's efforts to deal with the problem of abuse must be tied together in a coordinated effort.

Collectively, there is some hope for success; individually, the struggle goes on."

*Author Unknown*

Unfortunately this is true with our program too. The number of families Harmony House is serving at this time is more than we have seen in many years. Both of our offices are extremely busy. Due to the large volume of visits and exchanges in Michigan City we have added an additional visit facilitator (Sara) at that location. Please remember when calling to speak to me I will more than likely be supervising visits; therefore please leave a message with the staff member and I will return your call at my earliest convenience. Thank you for your understanding.

*~Cheryl~*



## THANK YOU

"I just wanted to say thank you for everything that you did and do for me and my son. I feel like I am around family when I am there visiting my son."

Email received from a visiting mother at Harmony House.



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## Harmony House Playground Gets a Facelift

### "THE BACKYARD CREW"



We would like to take this time to thank Joe, John and Dan for volunteering to take time out of their summer vacation to help rehab our backyard playground. The three young men, ages 15 and 16, dug out the area, placed plastic and landscaping border and mulch around the perimeter of the yard. They also rearranged the outdoor toys to give the kids a new playground look. THANKS!!



## THE EFFECTS OF POVERTY ON CHILDREN

Poverty is defined as "Anyone with an income insufficient to meet basic needs (food, shelter, clothing, other essential goods and services) is considered poor." The 2007 poverty line for a single adult under age 65 is \$10,210. For a family with two adults and three children it is \$24,130.

Family structure has a significant impact on poverty. The highest poverty rates are found among rural, female-headed families.

Nationally, poverty affects a larger percentage of households in rural areas than in urban ones. Of the 50 U.S. counties with the highest child poverty rates, 48 are located in rural America. Rural coun-

ties also account for 95% of counties in "persistent poverty." A county is considered persistently poor if its poverty rate has been 20% or higher in each decennial census since 1960.

In most states the poverty rate for children is higher than for the general population.

When children live in poverty—especially long-term poverty—the effects are far-reaching and can include: **poor health, inadequate health care, economic hardships, negative educational outcomes, personal challenges, negative mental states and behaviors, risky behaviors, employment difficulties, and long-term poverty.**

The correlation between child neglect with poverty is a strong one. "The poorest of the poor" have the highest rates of children who are neglected.

Yet poverty itself does not cause neglect. Just because one is poor does not mean he/she will neglect their children. However, poverty can be a significant factor when neglect occurs, since poverty is generally tied to decrease in risk factors. Many studies have correlated poverty with risks such as high infant mortality, substance abuse, criminal behavior and higher levels of child maltreatment.

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"Training Matters." NC DSS Family Support and Child Welfare Services State-wide Training Partnership, vol. 8, No. 3; June 2007.

### Adoptive Parents Needed for Study

Foster Parent College needs participants for a 3-week study of a new FPC workshop. Participants will take a pre-test, participate in a workshop on anger or lying, and then take a post-test. The participants will be paid \$40 each and will be given a certificate for 8 hours in-service training. Email [research@northwestmedia.com](mailto:research@northwestmedia.com) if you are interested.