

Good morning, Riverside FANS!

Whew, did we have 24 days before Christmas or was it just one big blur? Either way, this December was one busy month. Despite being on break since the 19th, the Recreation Department packed their time with fun activities. Their first fundraiser dinner and dance was a huge success, with over 120 people from Miami County and the surrounding areas attending. As a result, the Miami County Aktion Club was able to raise over \$800 to use for their upcoming service projects in 2019. The basketball and cheerleading teams filled the gym as they welcomed the 2018-19 season with a kick-off event on December 10. And then there was our Secret Santa Program.

Overall, because of Troy Christian Church and our many other FANS, over 70 people we serve were blessed with Christmas gifts, meals, and support this holiday. We'll highlight these sponsorships in our upcoming Secret Santa edition of the FANS newsletter, but we'll go ahead and warn you to have a box of tissues when you open it.

Between these Christmas sponsorships and your everyday support, we're excited to tell the Miami County community about you and what you've done this past year. In fact, we want to shout it from the mountaintops. We'll start on a slightly smaller scale though, of course. We'd like to take a moment and acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for their dedication these past couple weeks. We'd like to thank:

- **David Maxson** for making our Bell Choir's 2018 season a success, including finishing the year strong with back-to-back performances at Hoffman United Methodist Church and the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center. We loved celebrating with you at our end-of-the-year party, thanks for supplying the pizza from Donatos, too! (Pictured below)
- **Hoffman United Methodist Church** for supporting our Bell Choir. We enjoyed performing for you at the beginning of the month, and your generous donation will go a long way in helping the Bell Choir purchase supplies for the new year.
- **Troy-Hayner Cultural Center** for inviting the Bell Choir to your Holiday Open House and giving us the opportunity to send our 2018 season out on a high note.
- **Tippecanoe Chapter #307 Order of the Eastern Star** for being a devoted supporter of our Miami County Magic athletes and donating to our Special Olympics program.
- Our trusty tutor trio, **Victoria Glover, Barb Minnich, & Hannah Schaffnit**, for helping a few of those we serve improve their reading and math skills.

- **Andria Kleiner** for donating a box of dishes for a man we serve to use at home.
- **Kim Meier** for purchasing some goodies for our Holiday Dinner & Dance this December—they were a perfect ending to a magical night!
- **Penny Hoekstra, Eileen Littleton, and Karen Clark**, three of our original FANS, for your constant support of our agency, those we serve, and the many activities we plan throughout the year. We appreciate you more than you'll ever know.
- **Diane Cerbus and Rob Williams** for volunteering to coach this upcoming cheerleading and basketball season. You both always bring a smile to every team you are a part of, we're excited to see what this year has in store.
- **Lindy Schaffnit** for donating a mattress, box spring, and frame to a woman we serve—she's grateful to have a comfortable place to sleep now.
- **Two anonymous FANS** who donated blankets to several people served by our agency to help keep them warm this winter.



You can see more pictures of our FANS by visiting our [Facebook](#) page. We'll also be highlighting all our 2018 secret Santas in a special holiday edition of our FANS newsletter, so make sure to keep an eye out for it in the next couple weeks.

Our FANS program has received several new opportunities for you and your friends to support the folks we serve. If you can fulfill any of these requests, please give us a call. Not able to help but know someone who can? Send them this newsletter!

If you or someone you know can help with any of these requests, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 or [brittany.ulman@riversidedd.org](mailto:brittany.ulman@riversidedd.org). Here are the details:

- **Basketball & Cheerleading Coaches, Officials, Scorekeepers, & Buddies** – The 2018-19 basketball and cheerleading seasons officially kicked off on December 10, and our athletes are scheduled to have one busy year. If you'd like to help our Recreation Department this season by being a coach, official, scorekeeper, or buddy, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for details. High school

sports teams and clubs, as well as other community organizations, are welcome to volunteer too!

- **Appliances & Furniture** – With a new year comes new goals and changes for those we serve. Many of them plan to move out on their own or are in the process of doing so, and you can help them make the transition more enjoyable. If you have a couch, washer & dryer, stove, dishwasher, window A/C, recliner, or a kitchen table and chairs you'd like to donate, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Household Goods** – Common household goods like cleaning supplies, vacuums, mops, and other housewares can seem like everyday items, but for some of those we serve, they can be hard to come by. If you'd like to donate one or more household items, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Guitar** – A young man we serve recently connected with a local guitar tutor, but now he needs a guitar of his own to use at home. If you or someone you know has a guitar to donate, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Cart** – A gentleman we serve enjoys walking to the grocery store, but the cart he currently uses to transport his purchases is a tad worse for wear. If you have a cart he could use, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for details.
- **Child's Twin Mattress & Sheets** – A child we serve currently needs a twin-size mattress and a set of sheets. If you'd like to provide him with some comfort this new year, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for more information.
- **Buddies** – Whether you need a listening ear or a buddy to see the latest blockbuster with, friends can brighten your day just by being there. However, because of limited resources and available transportation, some of those we serve don't have this crucial support system. Whether you have an evening or two every month or several afternoons a week to share, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 if you'd like to be someone's buddy.
- **Office Assistants** – Volunteering in an office setting can be a valuable experience for any high school student who wants to learn more about their neighbors, serve their community, discover potential career paths, and hear from professionals themselves. If you or someone you know would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please call Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049.
- **Full or Queen Bed Set** – For several of the folks we serve, purchasing a dependable mattress can be a challenge, especially when they can't afford the size they need. If you have a full or queen size mattress, box spring, and frame you'd like to donate, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 for details.
- **Night to Shine Volunteers** – Troy Christian Church is once again hosting Night to Shine at the Crystal Room on February 8, 2019 from 6 – 9 pm, and they'd love

to have you join them as a volunteer or buddy! Sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience for people with disabilities ages 14 and over. As a volunteer or buddy, you'll play an instrumental role in making this a night to remember for the night's guests. If you'd like to be a volunteer or buddy, please contact TCC at (937) 335-8731 or visit [troycc.org/nighttoshine](http://troycc.org/nighttoshine) for more information.

If you know someone who may be interested in joining the Riverside FANS family, please share this newsletter with them. You can also direct them to the [Volunteer](#) page on our website where they can learn more about our FANS program, sign up for the FANS email list, and download a volunteer [application](#). If you'd like more information about any volunteer opportunities available through our FANS program, please contact Brittany Ulman at (937) 440-3049 or [brittany.ulman@riversideddd.org](mailto:brittany.ulman@riversideddd.org).

For some of you, your support happens behind the scenes and you don't always get the chance to see the effect your kindness has on those we serve and their families. More times than we can count they mention how much your generosity, your time, and your companionship mean to them. These past couple of weeks have brought an overwhelming number of smiles, blessings, and joyful tears for the folks we serve, their families, and our staff—all because of **you**. Though you may not see it first-hand, your presence is always felt and appreciated by everyone at Riverside.

As we reflect on everything that happened in 2018, our hearts ache knowing it's all in the past. Yet, our hearts leap in anticipation of everything that awaits us. Within the next few days, we'll welcome a new year. A year that promises more friendships, more happiness, and more opportunities for everyone, and we can't wait. We hope you're excited too. Until then, from everyone here at Riverside, we wish you a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Brittany Ulman