



reflections

Uspiritus gives Lewis tools to 'mine' a new future

When Jon Lewis got off the school bus one afternoon in January 2010 and saw police cars outside his home, he didn't know what fate held in store for him and his two older brothers. Jon and his brothers were removed from their home after drugs were found in his father's car during a New Year's Eve search. Jon was 12 at the time. His brothers were 15 and 16. The Uspiritus-Bowling Green (then Bellewood Home for Children) staff found the boys a foster family that they remained with until each graduated to the Uspiritus Independent Living program.

Now 18, Jon has been in the Independent Living program through Uspiritus-Lexington since January, after early graduation from high school last December. "I was always a little bit of an advanced student," Jon said, "but not at the top of my class. I found out I had topped out on my required credits (for graduation), but you're required to get credits in math and English in your senior year. So, I took courses online so I could finish in December."

Jon is now attending the University of Kentucky, majoring in

mining engineering. "My biggest philosophy was, my foster dad used to say, when you go to college or even a technical school, you don't go for the experience, you go to get a job," Jon said. "I have all this money afforded to me to go to college, I have an apartment, I have food. To go and just get a bogus degree and play games all day would just be a waste. That's what got me interested in engineering."

Jon explained that he learned on a college visit to the University of Kentucky College of Engineering Mining Department that mining engineers are highly sought after. In fact, he already has job interviews scheduled.

But, there have been setbacks. Jon's biological father passed away on Aug. 29 of this year, followed by his foster father on Sept. 1.

Jon credits Uspiritus with helping him get where he is today. "Uspiritus provided me with all the tools and allowed me to grow," he said. "It's a learning experience and it's hard at first. Having the support of friends and family really helped me resolve some things that would have never been resolved."



Jon Lewis is shown on the back row, far left, with his extended foster family before his foster father passed away. His foster parents, Bob and Linda Holthaus, are in the center holding the "M" and "I" in the word "Family." They are surrounded by their four children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Uspiritus to benefit from Jan. 9 Cabo Wabo party

Mark your calendar for the 23rd Annual Cabo Wabo Winter Coat Party on Saturday, Jan. 9 at Mellwood Arts Center, 1860 Mellwood Avenue. Doors open at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15.

Cabo Wabo is a charitable organization that coordinates two events each year in which a selected charity receives the net

proceeds from the event. This winter event's charity is Uspiritus.



New and gently used coats will be collected at the door for St. Vincent de Paul.

Musical guests for the event will be The Crashers.



Kosair Charities hosts Uspiritus at Zoo Halloween party

Each year, Kosair Charities invites Uspiritus to attend the annual "Kosair Kids Halloween Party at the Zoo." The kids always look forward to this special night of dressing up and trick-or-treating. On Oct. 21, 100 kids, staff and foster families made their way through the Louisville Zoo. Even Uspiritus President/CEO Abby Drane donned a mask and joined in the fun. In addition to trick-or-treating, they got the chance to see some magic shows, ride the carousel and hear the story of the headless horseman. This is just one of the many ways Kosair Charities supports our mission throughout the year.

Uspiritus programs are making a difference for Kentucky youth

Uspiritus has seen some significant improvements in outcomes over last year:

- The percentage of positive discharges in the Private Residential Treatment Facility increased from 88.65 percent in 2014 to 91.43 percent in 2015.
- The percentage of positive discharges in the Private Child Care program increased from 75 percent in 2014 to 85.47 percent in 2015.
- In 2015, the number of case management clients remaining in the community increased to 77.3 percent, compared to 63.9 percent in 2014.
- The number of outpatient clients remaining in the community in 2015 increased to 75 percent, compared to 58.9 percent in 2014.
- In Warren and surrounding counties, the Family Preservation Program (FPP) serves approximately 200 families annually, helping them keep their children in the home or aiding when foster children return to their biological family. Last year, 89 percent of families successfully completed treatment.
- Ninety-eight percent of the children remained in their home upon completing the program, and 82 percent a year later.
- There has been a substantial decrease – nearly 12 percent – in the number of youth who disrupt from foster care and return to the hospital in the Uspiritus-Bowling Green service area.



Campuses feature Little Free Libraries

The Uspiritus-Bellewood and Uspiritus-Brooklawn campuses in Louisville now feature Little Free Libraries near the campus entrances. The projects were sponsored by the Kentucky Foundation for Women and were painted by residents on each campus with the help of local artists. Anyone in the community may take a book to read free of charge or donate a book at any time.

To learn more about Uspiritus services, visit uspíritus.org.

The most giving season of the year is upon us



By Abbreial Drane, CPA, MBA
President/CEO

I would like to wish everyone a very blessed season filled with time with families and sharing of gifts and holiday traditions. The holidays are a time for reflection and coming together. It's a time to lift people up, to care a little more, smile a little more, do a little more and appreciate

things we typically take for granted. As CEO, I have no trouble finding my motivation for all of this through visiting children during their lunch breaks, admiring their accomplishments and watching broken souls find reasons to smile once again.

Children give us hope for things to come, they symbolize all that is right with the world and they give us a common bond to rally around. The work we do at Uspiritus that focuses on holding families together when all seems lost, bringing families back together by healing broken relationships or finding new homes for children who may have lost all hope of family is the reason for the season.

Did you know that Uspiritus will provide Thanksgiving meals to more than 150 children who call our facilities here in Louisville home? In Bowling Green, Lexington, Owensboro and Louisville we provide an additional 80 children and their foster families an opportunity to come together as family around a

meal together. We will worship together along with children, their families when possible, and staff in an effort to remind each of us that there is much for which to be thankful.

Did you know that Uspiritus does not do this work alone? Our numerous volunteers, generous donors, community partners and board of directors open their hearts to provide time, talent and tithes that bring the holidays to our children.

If you or your group would like to sponsor one of our children for Christmas or donate items for gifts, your donations will help our kids have a magical Christmas morning. While monetary gifts and in-kind donations are important in helping us realize our mission, the gift of your time and talents can also mean the world to a child who needs a tutor or mentor. Becoming a foster or adoptive parent is another vital way to help so many of the children we serve, and thousands of others across Kentucky.

Whatever you choose to do, giving of yourself to others is the best gift you can give yourself.

So, at a time when we traditionally give thanks, allow me—on behalf of our children and staff—to thank you for love and support and to extend best wishes for a wonderful holiday season.

Note: For information on how to help, see back page.

New website launched with help of Louisville Geek, Lawrence Foundation

Uspiritus recently launched a new website, designed by Louisville Geek and funded by The Lawrence Foundation.

“The site is not only more aesthetically pleasing,” said Uspiritus President/CEO Abby Drane, “but it is much easier to navigate and more functional. Users won’t have to dig as deeply to find what they’re looking for. We can’t thank Louisville Geek and The Lawrence Foundation enough for making this possible.”

For more information, visit uspiritus.org.



Sponsors, table hosts sought for March 16 Renew the Spirit breakfast

Sponsors and table hosts are being sought for the Uspiritus Renew the Spirit Breakfast, which will be from 8-9 a.m. Wednesday, March 16 in the Uspiritus-Brooklawn campus gymnasium, 3121 Brooklawn Campus Drive, Louisville, KY 40218.

For more information on becoming a table host or sponsorship opportunities, call Reylene Robinson at **502.753.5509**.





Brooklawn Office, Louisville
 3121 Brooklawn Campus Drive
 Louisville, KY 40218
 502.451.5177

Bellewood Office, Anchorage
 11103 Park Road
 Louisville, KY 40223
 502.245.4171

Bellewood Office, Bowling Green
 918 State Street
 Bowling Green, KY 42101
 270.796.2012
 Also serving the Owensboro area

Bellewood Office, Lexington
 1815 Nicholasville Road
 Lexington, KY 40503
 859.294.7080

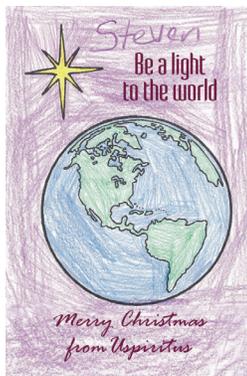


uspiritus.org

*Restoring Hope,
 Instilling Confidence,
 Furthering Education,
 Encouraging Spirituality and Faith
 through a comprehensive
 continuum of care
 for vulnerable youth and families.*



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How You Can Help

Uspiritus relies on the generosity of the community in the form of grants, in-kind and cash donations, and volunteers to ensure that everything from basic necessities to Christmas gifts are covered. We serve youth ages 6-18 on our Bellewood and Brooklawn campuses, and ages infant-20 years in our community based programs statewide. You can help out in many ways.

Make a financial gift

To make a financial gift, call Reylene Robinson at **502-753-5509**.
 Donate online at **uspiritus.org**.

Donate needed items for Christmas

To donate, call Missy Fountain at **502.753.5508**:

Children's Christmas Needs

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Action figures, dolls & Barbie items | Board games |
| Remote control cars and trucks | Legos |
| Hot Wheels & accessories | Art supplies/craft kits |
| Footballs, kick balls, basketballs, etc. | Radios/CD players |
| Skateboards, scooters, bike helmets | Purses and wallets |
| CDs & DVDs | Stuffed animals |
| Posters | Sleeping bags |

Apartment/Cottage Needs

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kitchen utensils | Kitchen appliances |
| Towels and washcloths | Pillows |
| Twin & full size sheets | Bathroom & kitchen rugs |
| Twin & full size comforter sets | Shower curtains |

Tutor, mentor, volunteer or make in-kind donations

Any time of year, Uspiritus needs the help of individual and group volunteers to tutor, mentor and carry out projects at our various locations. To find out more about giving to Uspiritus of your time or talents or make an in-kind donation, call: Missy Fountain (In-kind donations) **502.753.5508**; Stu Perry (Group Volunteers) **502.515.0434**; Dennis Roach (Individual Volunteers) **502.515.0446**.

Help Uspiritus while you shop

Visit **kroger.com/communityrewards** and enter your Kroger Plus number and last name. Enter Uspiritus as the organization.

Start shopping at **smile.amazon.com**. You may use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, registries and other account settings remain the same. On your first visit, you need to select Uspiritus to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, then every eligible purchase you make on Amazon Smile will result in a donation of 0.5 percent of the price.