

The Owens Interlink

Volume 5, Issue 10, December 2008

Happy Holidays!

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

By Diana Owens

At the Holiday Season, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have made our progress possible. The Owens Companies have experienced many changes this past year, and with your support, we are ready to begin a new year.

As in seasons past, this year brings no greater pleasure than the opportunity to express to you Season's Greetings and Good Wishes. May your Holidays and New Year be filled with happiness! Best wishes from our door to yours. From the staffs, leaders and Directors of:

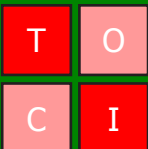
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A THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Edited by Joe Owens

It always warms the heart of those who go out of their way and time to make sure that others who would not have a happy holiday season do – even in these more difficult financial times. Our special thanks go out to:

Bethany Lutheran Church who adopted five families; Clarkson College who adopted 3; Don Smith who provided a turkey for each family; Regal Printing who assisted in locating furniture for one of our families; Connie

& Kent Justice (Diana's sister from Runnels, IA) who provided food, furniture, small appliances and home made crocheted articles for another family; and of course, the staff of Owens who assisted in providing for 3 other families. With their generosity a total of 46 children and 20 adults will share in the blessings of the holiday season. Our adoptees ranged in age from 1 week to 80 years old. Our heart felt thanks to all those who participated this year. ■

REMODELING DONE

Edited by Joe Owens

Last month we were in turmoil with constructions projects it seemed everywhere. Well it is all done and mercy does it look nice. Recipients of the new offices are Joe, Anthony, Willie and Cathy.

Joe and Willie's former offices are now visitation rooms for our families. The work area for the trackers is now located behind the new offices and what was their work area is a dining area for our families. With Cathy's move in new space, Jennifer Owens now has her own office and is out of the cube. Margaret was sad to see her move, but Margaret now has a new "cube partner" – so she is not as lonely

as she thought she was going to be.

A very special "thank you" goes to Candi Marcantel's son, Ben who by himself made all the major furniture moves. Boy can he wheel and deal that two-wheeler around corners and halls. That young man worked so hard, he fell asleep on the drive back to Blair. So if you are in our area, do stop by and see all the changes.

Another thank you also goes to Visinet, Inc. who donated some furniture for the new visitation rooms. Visinet is sharing the four visitation rooms now with Owens staff. The rooms all look so warm and "homey" now. ■

HR DEPARTMENT THRIVING but REFOCUSING

Edited by Joe Owens

For the past several years, our HR department has taken a back-seat to all the other activities of our companies. With a renewed spirit and energy to match, we are once again giving due notice and time to our employer's needs. As a quick overview of what services are available:

- Grass roots management training that far exceeds other theoretical programs;
- In depth evaluation of company policies, procedures;
- Employee feedback via employee opinion surveys or departmental upward feedback surveys;
- Assistance with organizational restructuring;
- Development of bona fide position descriptions;
- Establishment of quality and/or safety programs;
- Immediate consultation either on the phone or in person.
- Many others to numerous to list.

Diana Owens still oversees all the programs, but assisting her is Gennifer Amato, and our latest addition, Joe Owens. We also have specialists on board in the areas of safety and quality you can rely on. Give us a call to learn more. ■

UPDATE ON DAY REPORTING CENTER

Plans are still under way in finding the financial backing to open the Day Reporting Center as it use to be in days gone by. Douglas County Probation is very instrumental in not only assisting in writing for funding for the program, but in keeping

us up-to-date with the progress. Staff and vans are ready to go when the funding is secured. Good Job Courtney (Probation Officer) who has spear headed this from the start. ■

WILLIE HALE OVERSEES TRACKERS

Due to some recent restructuring, Willie Hale is now supervising the tracker, drug testing and electronic monitoring for youth portion of our Families F.I.R.S.T. contract. Willie did an outstand-

ing job as a tracker himself and was responsible for training and establishing procedures in the Lincoln tracker program as well. Good Job Willie. ■

Owens gets first in-home safety case!

By Jenni Owens



Owens received their first In-Home Safety case on Friday, November 21st. When a family is referred for

In-Home Safety services, Owens must make contact with the family within two hours of the referral. Depending on the family, safety services may be required to be provided for 24 hours per day, seven days per week until it can be established that the family is safe and until a long-term plan can be identified and implemented.

For the first two weeks, Owens provided staff to monitor the family's safety during all overnight hours. We only had a short amount of time to find

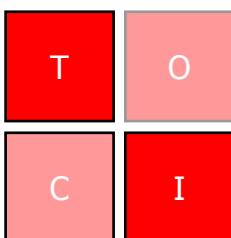
staff who were willing to work overnight hours, the Owens staff were fantastic and jumped right in to work these overnight hours!!! After two weeks of working with the family, Owens was asked to monitor safety 24 hours per day for another two weeks.

The Owens staff is truly AMAZING in their ability and willingness to work hours above and beyond their regular work week. A HUGE thank you goes out to all of the staff who took extra shifts to help ensure the safety was monitored.

The following staff are those who assisted with the In-Home Safety service... often at very short notice. We cannot thank you enough!!!!

Constance Abram
Shari Ahrendsen
Brittany Braegelmann
Natalie Bussing
Angela Campbell
Sara Hansen
Angie Hartline
Jeannie Hicks
Dena Johnson
Jackie Jones
Lorenza Moore

Kelli Morris
Tracy Morrison
Trina Reed
Alice Shaff
Karen Shirkey
Kendra Shirkey
LaDonna Smith
Angie Stock
Cynthia Stubblefield
Jackie Vasser
Catina Woodfork



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