

C4 Update May 2011



Above: Dustin, an AmeriCorps VISTA member, serving at The Oaks Care Strategy's Annual Spring Clean Up.

Spring Clean Up

By: Dustin Wells, AmeriCorps VISTA, Red Oak, TX

On Saturday, May 7th, The Oaks Care Strategy hosted their third annual Spring Clean Up event throughout Ellis County, near Dallas, TX. This is an annual service weekend where we hold several projects throughout the city in which people can become involved. This year we served at four locations: a local residence, distressed neighborhood, city park, and a women's shelter. Projects included painting, landscaping, home repairs, park beautification, construction, and maintenance of properties. Throughout the four sites, there were over 150 people serving and becoming involved in their community. Several doors were opened for individuals to continue their service in these locations after the weekend is over. As a result of this event, several organizations donated tools, equipment, and finances to make this weekend happen. We are always excited to partner with the city to further open these doors of compassion.

Meet Kim, the Newest Addition to C4's

Caring 4 Foster Youth Team!

Highlighting: Kim Vinson, Caring 4 Foster Youth

How did you become involved with Caring 4 Foster Youth?



the C4 group

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Importance of Collaboration

By: Monty Hipp, President

I am encouraged about the articles in this email update. We are building a great team and you will be challenged and encouraged to read about what The C4 Group is doing to impact the lives of people. Your support of our ministry is allowing us to place people in key roles that are touching people in powerful ways. As you read the stories from Ashley, Dustin, and Kim, you can see that The C4 Group is mobilizing a force of skilled individuals to help us touch thousands more that deserve our very

Over four years ago, Monty came and spoke to my church in North Carolina, and shared with us about The C4 Group and highlighted the Caring 4 Foster Youth (C4FY) initiative. His words captivated our entire group; when he was speaking of C4FY, my husband and I were immediately moved and spoke with Monty about becoming involved. My husband and I have both worked with teenagers and have a passion to speak into the lives of young adults. Fast forward to last fall, and we were visiting a church that had a similar program focusing on bringing orphans from overseas into your home for the holiday season. Immediately, I felt compelled to contact Monty to see how the C4FY initiative was progressing. At that point, The C4 Group was looking for someone to become a leader for the C4FY program. After many conversations, and much prayer, I felt compelled to take on this task. I was very excited to get on board with the great staff of The C4 Group and to start reaching out towards youth in need.

Why are you excited about working with the C4FY initiative?

There are over 27,000 youth that are "aged-out," or emancipated, from the foster care system each year. These young adults deserve to know they are valuable to our society, to be loved unconditionally, and that they are important enough to be a part of a family to share life experiences with. C4FY will not only change the path of former foster youths' life, but also impact the lives of those that are opening their hearts and homes. I simply cannot wait to see lives being changed and impacted!

What caught your attention about this initiative?

I feel disheartened when I think of individuals who do not have a family to wake up to on Christmas morning, do not have anyone to wish them "Happy Birthday," or those that don't have anyone in the stands at graduation. God did not intend for us to be alone; He wants us to be united with others. It's so important to celebrate life with others. I see that C4FY can help bring people together in order to live in community and to enjoy some of life's greatest moments!

What do you see for the future of this initiative?

I see C4FY as a catalyst for positive change and influence. Starting in the church, the body of believers can work together to take care of God's children. I'm confident that as this initiative expands, churches and organizations will be eager to join our efforts. It is important to educate society on foster care and to embrace those that experience it first hand. The more people that become involved, the more lives that will be changed!

best. Be sure to contact us and let me know your thoughts and input about

what encourages you about
The C4 Group. We would
love to hear from you!

Meet Ashley Lampher, the Newest

Addition to the C4 Team!

Highlighting: Ashley Lampher, Executive Assistant

Why are you excited to join the C4 team as an executive assistant?

I am excited to join the C4 team for many reasons. First, the mission statement and goals behind C4 inspire me, and I truly believe in it. I heard about C4 two years ago, and I was hooked when I heard about The Care Strategy and the involvement in foster care. Many of the problems and issues in our nation can be improved by community involvement. I think that putting in the time and care for others can go a long way, and have lasting results, which I saw in C4. Second, I wanted to be a part of a place where my co-workers had a huge passion for what they do. Being able to sacrifice for something that they believe wholeheartedly, where it is not just a "job", but a part of who they are. When I started talking to Monty about The C4 Group, it was really refreshing to hear the stories and contributions to community that the C4 team is involved in.

Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born and raised in central Minnesota, about an hour north of the Twin Cities, in St. Cloud. After I graduated from high school, I was involved for one year at Rockford Master's Commission, which is a discipleship program. While I was there I did a lot of community outreaches, including after school care, and working with youth and the homeless. It is where I became compassionate for those living on the streets as well as human trafficking. Afterwards, I moved back to Minnesota, and went to school for Political Science and Global Studies, with an emphasis in Social Work. I really want to be able to help people in many areas, and work with businesses and areas of government to better individuals' lives.

As for me, I love traveling, and seeing different cultures. I am definitely a people person, so just hanging out with people and being real with them is so refreshing and exciting for me. My second home could be the airport, and I would be happy. I have been to Israel, India, Germany, Jamaica, Mexico, and Egypt. My goal is to go to every continent before I die.

After I started helping out with the victims of human trafficking in Minnesota, some of my friends and I started making organic beauty products, and jewelry to sell. We partnered with over 20 coffee shops in the cities to sell the items, and held events focused towards human trafficking. It has been such a fun project and one that I never would have seen myself doing before, but I love it!

I am an adventure-seeker. I love skydiving, rafting, mountain climbing. I have a long list of different things I would like to try, such as base-jumping. Even though I am out of school, I love learning and challenging myself. There are many things I want to study like languages, history, and art. I am not going to lie, sometimes I feel sort of nerdy with how much I read, but I am what you call a proud nerd, haha!

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