

White's

eternal impact.



Why do we do what we do?

Every child has inherent worth

Everyone knows someone who is dealing with addiction, trauma, or mental health concerns

Everyone deserves healthy second chances



Josiah White's foster parents Rich and Michelle McNeil displayed persevering hope in pursuit of their soon-to-be adopted daughter.

When Covid hit in spring of 2020, Rich and Michelle were pre-adoptive foster parents with a placement of two siblings. They both worked in the medical field, with him working on the helicopter and her working in the ER. The unpredictability of both their jobs during that season forced them to reevaluate being foster parents and ultimately, they made the decision to take a step back from foster care, with the reassurance that another pre-adoptive couple would step in and take in the two siblings.

During the next few months, the younger child of the two siblings was adopted in their placement following the McNeils, but the older child was removed from that home. Upon their decision to resume fostering in the summer of 2020, the McNeils reached out

to DCS to inquire about the older child, but DCS could not disclose information about her. With the help of Josiah White's, the McNeils got access to the Indiana Adoption Program's website and began looking for the older child. After looking a couple of times a week for over a year, Rich and Michelle started to give up hope, assuming the child had been moved out of state. In the meantime, the McNeils got another foster-to-adopt sibling group of a baby and a young boy. Yet, they continued checking the website until...

"We were looking in early fall of 2021, and her picture was on there, and we just dropped," Rich said, tears coming to his eyes.

They called the Indiana Adoption Program (IAP) to inquire about her and ran into another obstacle. The IAP informed the McNeils that she was adoptable, but there were other people that were inquiring. Josiah White's called

and put in a good word for them. The IAP called back and said they had a meeting and they were going to go ahead and keep her with a different placement. Rich and Michelle knew the situation was out of their control. However, a little less than a month later, the IAP called back and asked if the McNeils were still interested. The McNeils responded with an enthusiastic "Absolutely! We still want to adopt her."

She moved back in with the McNeils on November 20th, 2021 and has been in their care ever since. They are in the process of adopting her with a hopeful adoption date of either May or June of 2022.

The McNeils have been fostering for four years now and have even built another bedroom onto their home to make more room for their foster children. They want to encourage other foster parents to keep going, even when it is uncertain what lies ahead.



FAITHFUL PURSUIT

Meet Ethan.

Ethan arrived at Josiah White's a brand new Christian, with the Word of God on his heart and his lips, but with no experience of Christian community. However, his time at Josiah White's changed that.

"I remember the moment that I stepped foot on White's campus," said Ethan. "I was in shackles and one of the staff said to the officer dropping me off, 'Please take those off of him, we really don't like to have kids shackled like that on our campus. We hate that.' And I remember how loved that made me feel. I knew I'd arrived at a totally different place than the detention center I had just spent 3 months in. I wasn't an inmate anymore. I was a human. And I felt defended and protected."*

While at the detention center, Ethan wasn't allowed to talk to any of the other inmates. All he could do was read, and he just happened to pick up the Bible. Having no former bias about God or the Bible, Ethan was captivated by what he read, and the Holy Spirit began revealing the truth of Scripture to him. He was eager to deepen his newfound beliefs with like-minded people, which he found while at Josiah White's.

"The love and the nurture I experienced from my house parents was unlike anything I'd experienced before," said Ethan "I could tell that they actually cared about the kids. I remember Mr. Bowyer just going to play basketball with the kids at the gym just to be present and to hang out. He didn't have to be there, but he wanted to. And I remember always being able to come sit and talk to Mrs. Lauer in the evenings in the cottage. She always made herself available to listen and to talk to her boys. I don't think I'd ever experienced that type of intentionality on that level before, and I know it's affected who I am today in ways I'm probably not even aware of."*

After graduating from Josiah White's residential program, Ethan went back and forth between loving Jesus and loving the world. Ethan described himself in terms of the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. In the detention center, the seed of the Word fell on the rocky soil of Ethan's heart, and he received it with joy, but after leaving Josiah White's, his lack of roots caused him to fall away when faced with the temptations of his past. But, God never stopped pursuing him. Ethan reunited with God at an addiction recovery center years later. After finishing his time there, Ethan spent five months participating in a Christian training and missions program, which involved two months of outreach in Turkey. It was through this program that God restored Ethan's identity and reaffirmed him as His son.

"God really does redeem and he doesn't leave us where we are when we leave him," said Ethan. "His faithfulness is astounding. And that's why I'm standing here today, because He is faithful, not because I've always been."*



In the past couple years, Josiah White's has experienced a significant increase in requests from parents who have a child struggling with a substance use disorder. Parkview Health also approached Josiah White's about their need for a residential recovery program for youth to come to following medical detox. With Parkview's support, Josiah White's began taking active steps to make such a program a reality.

On March 28th, Josiah White's launched the new Recovery Services program which specifically serves adolescents and their families who are being impacted by a substance use disorder.

"Josiah White's is honored and humbled to serve the needs of young people whose lives are being impacted by addiction." said Matt Riggle, VP and Executive Director of Recovery Services. "It will be our privilege to partner with other providers throughout Indiana as well as those who have courageously worked their own recovery to walk beside these young people as they begin their journey toward physical, emotional, and spiritual healing."

Josiah White's Recovery Services will help guide these young people and their families to begin or resume recovery while offering healthy second chances and persevering hope. The team at Josiah White's will provide extraordinary care and competence by utilizing evidenced-based treatment models focused on beginning the process of healing during early recovery, but most importantly, preparing young people to return home.

Youth placed in the Recovery Services program will receive a minimum of 20 clinical hours of treatment per week focusing on 12 step facilitation, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavioral Therapy, and relapse prevention. Clinicians within the program are trained to also provide Eye–Movement Desensitization–Reprocessing (EMDR) to assist in healing from trauma. Social skills will be taught through Teaching Family Model, which is an evidence-based and trauma–informed model of care.

The Recovery Services team's desire is to meet young people where they are, help them recognize their inherent worth, and enable them to discover the new possibilities that come from the courage to choose recovery.



Every aspect of the new Compass Rose Academy (CRA) campus was thought out with extreme intention, including the furniture found in each student home. The dining tables specifically have great meaning, in that they were designed and built by Jerry Garner, a longtime employee and supporter of Josiah White's and CRA.

Jerry and his wife, Barbara, began working at Josiah White's in 1969. He was originally hired to make and repair furniture, but ended up being a farm manager for the majority of his career until his retirement.

Jerry has been interested in woodworking since he was in 3rd grade and has used his God-given gift to make furniture for many people, including his grandkids. Knowing he was a woodworker, CRA asked Jerry if he would be willing to make the tables for the new homes when construction began on the new campus. He happily agreed, noting that "White's is still home. It will probably always be our home. We both wholeheartedly believe in what White's goal is and what they're doing."

The tables have become a prominent fixture in the CRA homes. Every night, the students and Family Teachers gather around the table for dinner and share the positive, the hard, and the silly moments of their days.

"It creates a sense of community, of being together," said a current CRA student.
"It makes it feel like we're a family."

Jerry recently completed the tables and benches for the three newest homes that will be ready for students in 2022. The tables were intentionally designed to reflect the people that gather around them — imperfect, but uniquely made. All three of these new sets of tables and benches are made from wood from trees around Josiah White's acreage, including one that was struck by lightning.

When Jerry talks about his handiwork, he is sure to add that God is the true designer and master craftsman. Jerry is just glad to be His hands, especially on projects so close to his heart.



5233 South 50 East Wabash, Indiana 46992 260-563-1158 www.josiahwhites.org www.compassroseacademy.org NON-PROFIT ORG
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Upcoming Events

I Walk with Fosters (South Bend, IN) May 21, 2022 at 10AM

Annual "Teeing Up for Teens" Golf Outing June 13, 2022 at 7:30AM

14th Annual Spiritual Life Benefit Dinner October 8, 2022 at 6PM

Please join us!

Learn more and RSVP at josiahwhites.org/events.