

# O'Connell Children's Shelter

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November 2022

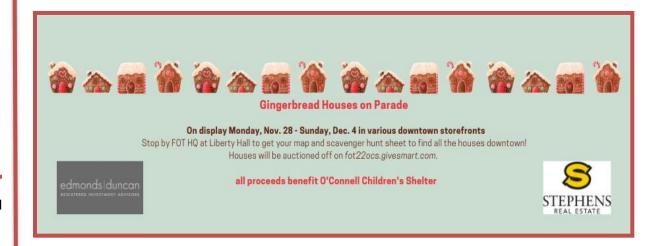
## From our Executive Director, Gina Meier-Hummel

Hello Friends, we hope this letter finds you and your loved ones well and getting ready for the holidays. It was a very active summer and fall for all of us. Our youth in the residential program were offered many opportunities this summer. We offered art classes with visiting artists. We had a couple of youth who worked regularly in our garden under our Master Gardener Volunteer Susan Anderson. The youth enjoyed horse riding, music lessons, fishing, and bible study and participated regularly in physical fitness programing with most of this programing being run by our fantastic volunteers.

We also continued the work with our bridging program which assists youth aging out of the foster care system in developing a support network. This year alone we have 8 more youth aging out of our system, and we would love to have you join our coaching/volunteer team; if you are interested, contact Jim at jimclark5959@aol.com.

Other ways you can help us: Come to the **Festival of Trees** Auction Party on Wednesday, November 30 to buy a tree, wreath, or new this year, gingerbread houses; ride the **Pulling for a Change** carriage rides though beautiful downtown Lawrence over the holiday season; or get a mitten from the **Mitten Tree** at the Festival of Trees for one of our prevention families. You can buy youth a gift from their **Amazon Wish List** on our website or support the **St. Patrick's Day Committee** activities (OCS is a beneficiary this year). Check out our fundraising website <a href="fot22ocs.givesmart.com">for more details.</a>

I am so very proud of the transformative work that occurs every day by our staff at OCS. We are keeping kids in schools, supporting foster families, offering emergency placement services for our community, and supporting vulnerable families so they do not have to be separated and enter the foster care system; but none of this happens without you. You are the most important partner we have in changing lives. God bless you and your loved ones this holiday season.



#### FESTIVAL OF TREES BENEFITTING O'CONNELL CHILDREN'S SHELTER















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