

OUR LITTLE NEWS

SPRING 2020

WHEN THOMAS MET TONYA

A STORY OF TWO
SUPERHEROES

SUPER GALA

WE HAVE A NEW DATE!



our little haven

CARING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES. MIND. BODY. SOUL.®



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On the Cover

Thomas and Tonya, his mom, on his adoption day! Read more about their journey on page 6.

KIDS, COOKIES, & COMMUNITY



Our Little Haven believes that when we're born, God gives us a Cookie Jar. With each positive experience – every hug, each high-five, every success – we get a cookie in our Cookie Jar.

At about ten years old (the ending of our formative years) our Cookie Jar gets sealed up. And, what we have in our Jar is what nurtures us for the rest of our lives. Now, most of our Cookie Jars are pretty full. The Haven kids do not have any cookies in their jars and it's our honor to invite the community to fill them.

That's what YOU do - YOU help fill Cookie Jars!

OUR LEADERSHIP

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- Kathleen Hummel, MSW, PhD (hon), Therapeutic Director**
- Michael P. Bahlinger, Director of Finance & Operations**
- Dr. Lizette Smith, PhD, Director of Clinical Programs**
- Chris Muñoz, CFRE, Development Director**



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OUR LITTLE HAVEN MISSION

Our Little Haven is relentlessly committed to providing early intervention services for children and families. Our community of professional caregivers create a safe, secure, and healing environment for those impacted by abuse, neglect, and mental or behavioral health needs. We make the hurting stop, the healing begin, and the love last, one family at a time.

CALLING ALL SUPERHEROES, WE HAVE A NEW DATE!

SUNDAY, JULY 19, 2020



Our Little Haven's focus will always be to care for children and families: mind, body, & soul. With that said, because of the accelerating impact of the Coronavirus and health agency recommendations for community events, we have decided to postpone our Super Gala to **Sunday, July 19, 2020 at The Chase Park Plaza**. Nothing is more important to Our Little Haven than the safety and well-being of our children, families, staff, supporters, and our entire community.

Mark your calendars! Let's celebrate our Superheroes **Sunday, July 19, 2020 at The Chase Park Plaza!** We invite you to join us! Although the circumstances have changed, the need remains.

During this extraordinary time we are seeing Superheroes pop up everywhere. Superheroes are our friends, families, and neighbors. Superheroes are known for their extra-ordinary abilities, powers, and courage. The ability to lend a helping hand. The power to change the life of a child. The courage to step up and make a difference. YOU are our Superhero.

We invite you, our Superhero, to support the children and families at Our Little Haven!

For registration and event details please visit ourlittlehaven.org. For questions, please contact Chris Muñoz at cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org or 314-669-9386.

MEET SOME OF OUR SUPERHEROES



Meet Dr. Timika – Licensed Psychologist at Our Little Haven's Keystone Mental Health Services. What's her *Superpower*? To assess, diagnose, and treat children and parents who deal with emotional, mental, and/or behavioral health issues. Dr. Timika helps kids and their families to be happy and successful in their day-to-day lives – all while helping them reach mental and behavioral health treatment goals.

Meet Conner – Co-leader of The Haven Club, Our Little Haven's young professional group. What's his *Superpower*? Spreading Our Little Haven's mission and supporting the children and families who walk through our door! Our Haven Club host events and spend countless hours volunteering their time and talents to help kids suffering from mental and behavioral health issues.



Meet Megan – An Our Little Haven Board of Trustee Member. What's her *Superpower*? Advise our leadership and advocate for our children, families, and employees. She brings her expertise as Cigna's Diversity & Inclusion Programs Director. Megan is pictured with her superhero sidekick, Mick.

Meet Len – Our Little Haven's Maintenance Technician. What's his *Superpower*? Len keeps our campus up and running. Not only does Len keep our four buildings in tip top shape, he always goes the extra mile to make sure our campus looks beautiful! Whether it's cleaning our foster care minivan, changing a light bulb, or mowing the lawn; Len is on the job.



WHEN THOMA

Thomas has some pretty special superpowers. What are they? He adapts, he overcomes, and the moment you meet him, he will fill your heart with love. Thomas is three years old. He is full of life, ready to learn, and his love for Superman is unmatched.

Thomas's life did not start off as you might expect. He was born addicted to drugs. Two days after being born, Thomas was released from the hospital and into the care of the Taylor Family Care Center, Our Little Haven's foster care program.

When a foster child, like Thomas, comes into Our Little Haven's care, our Case Managers work tirelessly to find the best foster family for them; whether that is a relative or one of our amazing foster parents.

That was when our Case Managers contacted Tonya, a distant relative.

Tonya, a young single woman, only had an

hour notice that she would be taking in an infant with higher medical needs. But Thomas was not your "typical" baby, he had superpowers. And Tonya was not alone, she had her family and Our Little Haven.

During times of uncertainty within the fostering process, Tonya never felt lost. Our Case Managers were only

Families are formed in different ways, but their foundations are always made of love – the greatest superpower of all.

a call away to offer guidance and advocate for Thomas and Tonya.

When Thomas's medical needs felt overwhelming or confusing, Nurse Shari, our Coordinator of Medical Services, was there to offer expert advice and assistance.



Thomas with two of his Case Managers from Our Little Haven



AS MET TONYA

A Letter from Tonya:

I do not know where to begin but I wanted to personally thank you. From every ounce in my heart I hope all of you know that we appreciated your hard work, dedication, knowledge, and compassion. Going through this process definitely opened my eyes to what you go through daily. I realize I have only seen a tiny spec and our situation was unique and essentially a smooth process, but all of you have made me want to encourage others to consider fostering & adoption. My entire family feels blessed that we had such a great team throughout this entire process. Thank you for everything.

Tonya, Thomas's Mom

After being a foster parent for a few months, Tonya was ready to take the next step towards adopting Thomas. The process was not easy, but she knew she could rely on Our Little Haven to help her.

A year later the day had arrived for Tonya to officially adopt Thomas. Family, friends, neighbors, and Our Little Haven staff were there to show off their greatest superpower: their love and support for both Thomas and his mom, Tonya.

Families are formed in different ways, but their foundations are always made of love – the greatest superpower of all.

**IF YOU ARE INTERESTED
IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT
BECOMING A FOSTER/
ADOPTIVE PARENT, PLEASE
CONTACT NICOLE AT
NPASHIA@OURLITTLEHAVEN.ORG.**

Our Little Haven works to protect the privacy and rights of the children and families we serve. Thomas and Tonya are no longer receiving our services and are proud to share their story with the community.



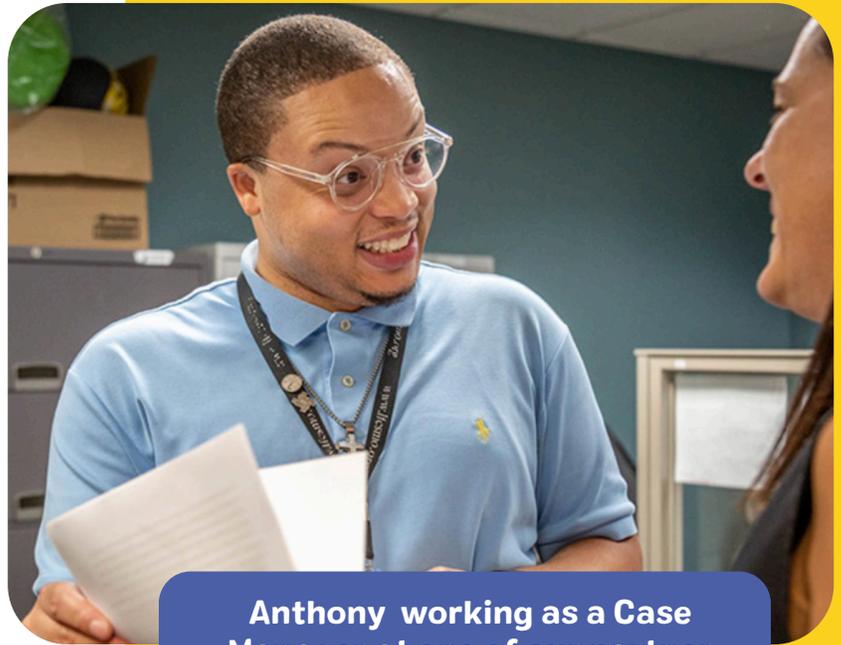
Nurse Shari, Coordinator of Medical Services, showing off her support for Thomas and his mom, Tonya

FROM CLIENT TO SUPERHERO

ANTHONY ADVISES LEADERSHIP AS A BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER

Anthony was one of the first children we welcomed into our care. Together, we watched him grow into a teenager, graduate from high school, continue onto college, and now, start his career.

Anthony's beginning started off a lot like Thomas's (Read Thomas's Story on page 6 & 7). Anthony was born addicted to drugs. Medical professionals believed his chances of living a "normal" life were slim. Just like Thomas, Anthony has superpowers and was not alone. He had Our Little Haven and his adoptive mom, Alma.



Anthony working as a Case Manager at one of our partner agencies, Lutheran Family & Children Services



Anthony (age 3) at Our Little Haven

To this day Anthony continues to defy the odds, using his empathetic superpowers as a case manager to help kids in foster care. His story comes full circle as he becomes the Superhero he needed as a child. But, Anthony's story does not stop there. He is on his way to obtaining his Masters degree. With everything he does, Anthony aims to help the children and families who need it most.

Anthony recently stepped into a new role at Our Little Haven as a member of the Board of Trustees. He uses his superpowers to advise our leadership and serves as a representative for the children in our foster care program. Anthony's perspective helps us continue to put our children and families in the forefront: mind, body, and soul.

Anthony has always been apart of Our Little Haven and we are thrilled to have him join us as a Trustee. Thank you, Anthony!

A LEGACY GIFT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

Since first opening our doors over 27 years ago, Our Little Haven has impacted over 20,000 children and families in the St. Louis Community. This is a direct result of your willingness to support the work and mission of Our Little Haven.

You can have a lasting impact on the next 20,000 children and families who walk through our door. Leave a legacy for future generations by considering a planned gift to Our Little Haven.

By identifying Our Little Haven as a beneficiary of your will or trust, IRA contribution, or estate, your support will impact children in need of our services for years to come.

**Interested in taking the next step?
Here are some options...**

Wills & Trusts: Both are easy and flexible ways to solidify your support for Our Little Haven by stating your request in one or two sentences.

Beneficiary Designations: Contact your benefits administrator about designating Our Little Haven as a recipient of your IRA or life insurance policy.

Income Gifts: Charitable Gift Annuity or Charitable Remainder Trusts can provide a dependable income stream through your retirement and reduce your tax liability, adding a little financial security for you.

If you have already designated Our Little Haven as a part of your giving legacy, we would be honored to share our gratitude. Just let us know.



Interested in learning more about the ways you can impact the future of Our Little Haven?

Give Chris a call at (314) 669-9386 or email him at cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org.

DEVELOPMENT SUMMER INTERN OPPORTUNITY

Our Little Haven Development office is accepting resumes and inquiries for the Summer 2020 Development Intern Program at Our Little Haven. College students interested in learning about fundraising, marketing, communication, and nonprofit administration are encouraged to apply. This is an unpaid internship program where the following will be part of the experience:

- Annual and quarterly development and marketing plan implementation
- Organizational leadership and Board stewardship
- Marketing and communication strategies
- Nonprofit management and administration
- Grant research and writing
- Special event planning, promotion, and management
- Basic fundraising strategies

Intern position is available for a 2-3 day a week schedule at Our Little Haven. College credit is at the discretion of the students' school. To apply please send a writing sample and resume to: Chris Munoz cmunoz@ourlittlehaven.org.

STEPS WE ARE TAKING DURING THIS EXTRAORDINARY TIME

Over the last 27 years, Our Little Haven has learned to adapt to the needs of our staff, leadership, supporters, and, most importantly, the children and families in need of our services. Our focus will always be to care for children and families: mind, body, and soul. With that being said, because of the accelerating impact of the Coronavirus and health agency recommendations for community needs, Our Little Haven is limiting possible exposures.

Under the guidance of local and national health professionals, Our Little Haven will remain closed to unauthorized visitors during this time. Our leadership meets frequently via conference calls to review and update our procedures.

For up-to-date information on the evolving steps we are taking, please visit ourlittlehaven.org.



Thanks Customer Direct for helping with our Adopt-A-Families during the holiday season.



A wonderful group of volunteers helps to stuff our Super Gala invites.



Assistance League of St. Louis donated over 75 books to help our kids better understand mental health. Thanks Assistance League for adding some great books to our library!

**KIDS.
FAMILIES.
COMMUNITY.**



Check out Girl Scout Troop 1961! Each Build-A-Bear was made with love for our kids in foster care.



Tracey & David Ounanian along with their friends helped make sure all of our families received presents on Christmas morning.



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subscribe to our e-newsletter
to receive the latest news.

Upcoming Our Little Haven Events

TBD

Annual Card Party

OCT
2

Clay Day
St. Louis Skeet & Trap

JULY
19

Super Gala
The Chase Park Plaza

NOV
14

Chic Boutique
St. Nicholas Family Life Center

SEPT
21

Golf Tournament
Sunset Country Club

JAN
30

Trivia Night
NEW LOCATION
St. Nicholas Family Life Center



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