



Oesterlen Services For Youth, Inc.

FY2020 Synod Assembly Annual Report

Oesterlen Services For Youth, Inc. has a new look! Oesterlen introduced a new logo in January 2020, to better represent the work we do. In the shape of a Guiding Light, this mark radiates the potential of all people and seeks to present Oesterlen as a guiding light for individuals in need of mental, social, physical, or spiritual guidance. The many hands joined together convey the strength of Oesterlen's support system, and communicate perseverance, confidence, and guidance, which are at the heart of all that Oesterlen pursues. A cross is also visible in the design, representing the compassionate and spiritual resources that have been at the core of this Lutheran agency in Springfield, OH since 1903.

Oesterlen continues to evolve its diverse programs as it lives out its mission to address mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of nearly 1,000 children, families, and adults. This past year, Oesterlen began an outpatient program to treat a range of substance abuse history in youth. Combining peer to peer support and individualized treatment through group and individual counseling, the evidence-based program encourages motivation to change, healthy relationships with peers, and development of a healthier lifestyle. In addition, before the pandemic, Oesterlen expanded the services provided through the Life Skills Center to children in the community, through the Treatment Foster Care program and the Counseling Center. While this off-campus outreach is on hold, the Life Skills Center still assists residential youth in recovering from trauma, incorporating elements of everyday tasks, such as woodshop skills, tending plants in the greenhouse, or expressing self in art therapy. During this time of pandemic, Oesterlen's Counseling Center has been providing care through telehealth, and thanks to a grant, short-term mental health therapy is available to anyone in Ohio during the pandemic.

Oesterlen has been busy this past year with events to raise awareness of its life-giving ministries. In October 2019, Oesterlen hosted over 500 individuals for a fun community Trunk or Treat night. In May 2020, Oesterlen held its annual plant sale, adapting it for physical distance measures with online ordering and appointments to pick up the orders. In August, the residents will hold their first art show in downtown Springfield.

Oesterlen cannot exist without the support of congregations and donors, who provide much needed school and hygiene supplies, quilts, gift cards, volunteer assistance, and financial support. Congregations can also spread the word of Oesterlen's programs, and your prayers are deeply appreciated, especially as residents gather for chapel on Sunday afternoons. Though Oesterlen currently has limited visits due to COVID-19, please let us know if you would like to learn more about Oesterlen's life-giving mission by contacting Pastor Rachel Tune in Church Relations at rtune@oesterlen.org, or visit www.oesterlen.org. Be sure to follow us on social media too!

Yours in service to the Lord, **Donald L. Warner**, LISW-S, ACSW, Executive Director, Toll Free (800) 404-5437 / 937.399.6101 X 111 or Direct (937) 398-0211 or dwarner@oesterlen.org.