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Bernie Parents as Teachers February 2020 Student of the Month

FEBRUARY 04TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie Parents as Teachers February 2020 Student of the Month

Carter McGowan is the Bernie Parents as Teachers Student of the Month for February 2020.

He is the 10 month old son of Jordan and Cendyl McGowan.

Carter is busy army crawling to get food or to play with his dogs, loves playing with his mommy and daddy, and enjoys feeding himself Cheerios.

During the family's PAT visits with Mrs. Casey.

Carter enjoys the books he receives at every visit.

The following information was taken directly from the Parent as Teachers Missouri website.

Our Vision

All children will learn, grow and develop to realize their full potential.

Our Mission

To provide the information, support and encouragement parents need to help their children develop optimally during the crucial early years of life.

Our Values

The early years of a child's life are critical for optimal development and provide the foundation for success in school and in life.

Parents are their children's first and most influential teachers.

Established and emerging research should be the foundation of parent education and family support curricula, training, materials and services.

All young children and their families deserve the same opportunities to succeed, regardless of any demographic, geographic or economic considerations.

An understanding and appreciation of the history and traditions of diverse cultures is essential in serving families.

History

In 1981, Missouri pioneered the concept of helping parents embrace their important role as their child's first and best teacher. Today, Parents as Teachers continues to equip early childhood organizations and professionals with information and tools that are relevant and widely applicable to today's parents, families and children.

The Parents as Teachers leadership team and Board of Directors is engaged in a three-year strategic plan, which positions the organization as a valued partner to support the organizations and professionals who serve families and children, especially those most vulnerable.

The concept for Parents as Teachers was developed in the 1970s when Missouri educators noted that children were beginning kindergarten with varying levels of school readiness. Research showed that greater parent involvement is a critical link in the child's development of learning skills, including reading and writing.

Early childhood professionals suggested that a program to provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues, and parent education to help parents understand their role in encouraging their child's development from the beginning could help improve school readiness and parent involvement.

With funding from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and The Danforth Foundation, Parents as Teachers began in 1981 in Missouri as a pilot project for first-time parents of newborns. Recognizing the program's benefits and cost effectiveness, the Missouri legislature provided state funding in 1985 to implement

Parents as Teachers programs in all Missouri school districts. Since 1985, Parents as Teachers has expanded to all 50 states and six other countries.

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Ozark Federal Credit Union Ribbon Cutting

JANUARY 21ST 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

[Ozark Federal Credit Union Ribbon Cutting](#)

Dexter, Missouri - Ozark Federal Credit Union recently celebrated their grand opening of their new location at 1117 West Business Highway 60 with a ribbon cutting, military flag raising ceremony and a catered meal.

US Army Private First class Les Barker and retired US Marine Corp Captain Tom Love raised the American Flag in a beautiful ceremony to honor our great country. Barker, who is also the Chaplin for Kenady-Hanks American Legion Post #59 lead everyone in

prayer after the flag was raised.

Pictured front row from left to right are: Interim Chamber Director Ed Dust, Mayor Jason Banken, Shawn Huffman, Ozark Federal Credit Union Board Member Jerry McVey, Kirk Mondy, Chairman of the Ozark Federal Credit Union Board, Ed Ervin, Ozark Federal Credit Union Board Member, Tim Darnell, First Vice Chairman of the Ozark Federal Credit Union Board, Sharron Payne, Branch Manager, Lisa Gleason, Mortgage Loan Officer Ozark Federal Credit Union, Melissa Francis, Loan Officer Federal Credit Union, Kim Crockett, Ozark Federal Credit Union, Chad Wolfram, Ozark Federal Credit Union, Katrina Hopson, Carol Mondy, Brett Dille with Dille Traxel Architects, Ronnie Monehan, Navy Veteran Earl Reed and Dale Monehan.

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Bernie Parents As Teachers January 2020 Student of the Month

JANUARY 21ST 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

Bernie Parents As Teachers January 2020 Student of the Month

Bernie, Missouri - Jaxon River Chipman is the Bernie Parents as Teachers Student of the Month for January 2020.

He is the five-year old son of Stephanie Miller and Josh Chipman.

Jaxon likes to draw and paint, play outside, and loves listening to music with his mom and brothers.

He also enjoys spending time with his older brothers, Logan and Mason and his sister-in-law Madi.

Jaxon always looks forward to his PAT visits with Mrs. Courtney and is excited to see the activities she has planned.

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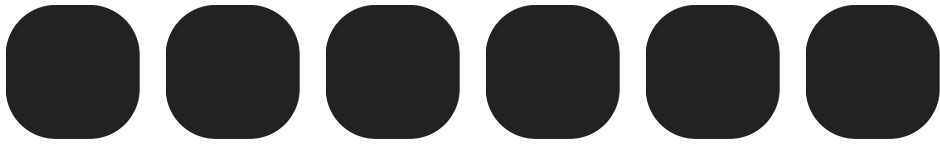
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County Wide Strengthens Partnership with Stafford and Stafford Insurance

JANUARY 20TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

County Wide Strengthens Partnership with Stafford and Stafford Insurance

Dexter, Missouri - County Wide Insurance Agency, with locations in Dexter and Advance, has grown by merging with their long-time partner, Stafford & Stafford Insurance of Harrisonville, Missouri.

Partners for the past 15-years, Alan Hedrick of County Wide and Darrin Stafford of Stafford and Stafford have operated their agencies independently and have shared ownership of Byrum Culp Davis and Dell Insurance Agency for the past 12 years.

“Darrin and I met at an insurance meeting in 1996 and became instant friends,” said Hedrick. “We’ve worked together in all areas of insurance from client policies and agency technology to service at our state association.”

As the local insurance scene continues to face challenges from national insurance companies, this trio of agencies has strengthened their position by combining their business interests. To improve service, broaden company selection, and create more efficiency, the merger of the agencies just made sense. Hedrick and Stafford were similar in many aspects of their operations, and this reorganization will streamline their business.

This merger delivers many positives to Stafford and Stafford clients at all their locations. Many clients coming from County Wide and Byrum Culp Davis and

Alan

Dell will find great service because of the multiple insurance markets that they are now able to access as part of Stafford and Stafford.

Stafford and Stafford Insurance is part of Leavitt Group, one of the largest privately-held insurance brokerages in the nation, and provides clients with greater insurance market access and a wide range of value-added services and resources. Clients receive employee benefits solutions, property and casualty insurance, risk management, and other services. Clients also benefit from the consultative approach to employee benefits and risk management found within the culture of each office and the unique flexibility that comes with local, on-the-ground agency owners. For more information about Leavitt Group, please visit www.leavitt.com.

Pictured front row from left to right are Cherie Wallace, Jennifer Laird, Kara Gibbins, Laura McClain, Stacey Smith, Sharon McCord, and Kay Davison.

Back row from left to right are Russ Lacy, David Ellinghouse, and Alan Hedrick.

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DexterFirst Extremely Successful Thanks to the Dexter Tourism Committee

JANUARY 13TH 2020 BY DEE LOFLIN

DexterFirst Extremely Successful Thanks to the Dexter Tourism Committee

It has always been a goal of the Dexter Tourism Committee to not only shop local, but to inspire people from other communities to come to Dexter. Tourism money comes from taxes and city of Dexter is committed to the Tourism Committee's ideas and supports the DexterFirst initiative.

Tourism is an important sector that has had a great impact on the development of our local economy.

The DexterFirst Great Christmas Giveaway was an idea created by Alan and Tracy Hedrick. Tracy vowed to only shop at local Dexter retail establishments during the Christmas holidays and not purchase anything online or outside of Stoddard County. She not only shopped local, but discovered what great retail shops Dexter had to offer.

The following Christmas, Alan, who was serving on the Dexter Tourism Committee, asked if they could help with funding and promotional materials to get even more people involved. DexterFirst became even more popular with the help of the tourism committee and for the past two years it has become even more successful.

Alan knew that the benefits of tourism created income and generated jobs locally and wanted to make an impact on the community.

Mary Worley who leads the Dexter Tourism Committee was instrumental in the 2019 Great Christmas Giveaway helping promote the contest by contacting numerous businesses in town and hanging posters throughout Dexter. The ShowMe Times ran tons of entries and several were from out of town guests traveling to our community who participated. Without the help of local businesses this project also would not have been successful. It truly takes everyone's involvement to promote DexterFirst.

The goal is to develop a brand for out-of-town people to know and think, "I should be shopping in Dexter and eating at their restaurants!" The idea is once they come to Dexter they will see what we have to offer and will want to return annually to shop and perhaps even come during the non-holiday season and eat at our wonderful restaurants as well.

"Tourism is the backbone of our community and brings a sizable amount of dollars every year," commented Mary Worley. "Tourism boosts our economy and enriches our businesses. The money generated pays for important public services as well such as education and law enforcement."

"We have several other projects in the works as well," Worley continues.

If you participated in the Dexter First Great Christmas Giveaway or helped by sharing on Facebook and Twitter you are a part of the tourism team! Thank you to the Tourism Committee for all the volunteer hours helping our community be successful. Also a big thank you to the city of Dexter who oversees the Tourism Committee and allows them to be successful with their projects.

[Check out the DexterFirst Facebook page and get ready for another exciting year! Click Here!](#)

Pictured from left to right are some of the Tourism Committee Members: Matt Myers, Leslie Ackman, Mary Worley, Dona West, and Ashley Miller.

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