



Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives
Filling The Void

2014 Annual Report
Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives,
Napoleon, Ohio

Together We Can Make A Difference Initiatives is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in Napoleon serving all of northwestern Ohio. We opened our doors on November 1, 2010, and as of the end of 2014, we have helped over 3,000 different households, averaging 300 families each month who are assisted with personal care and toiletry items--from shampoo and deodorant, toothpaste and brushes to laundry soap, toilet paper, and dish soap, as well as diapers and baby wipes--none of which can be purchased with food stamps or any government program. As a society, we expect people to be clean, and our goal is to enable kids to go to school and people to go to work clean and to maintain proper personal and household hygiene. Underlying all that we do is the determination to treat each person as an individual and to let them know that they matter. The relationships of trust that have been built are a testimony to the compassion of our staff and volunteers.

In January of 2012, we initiated an after-school tutoring program for 4th through 6th graders. Meeting on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons in our back room and staffed by retired teachers, we had one student. In the fall of 2012, we started the school year with 36 kids and more on a waiting list. In the fall of 2013, we had expanded enough that we were able to rent the adjacent building, which is now known as the Henry County Learning Center. As important to these kids as the homework help is the one-on-one attention and the listening and caring ear that they are each given through this program.

We also provide GED classes one evening each week and have, since 2010, helped 25 people achieve their GED, the first basic step to their finding employment.

Kids of all ages are a component of our volunteer base. Helping with seemingly menial tasks such as counting products to assisting clients with bagging their items, we utilize kids who are willing to donate their time in such service to others. It is our hope that, from their experience here, these kids learn about compassion, caring, interpersonal relationships, and giving back to their community.