



OhioGuidestone
SOLUTIONS FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES
& COMMUNITIES

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For Immediate Release: OhioGuidestone's YouthBuild Client is Writing Contest Winner!

(May 2014) We are pleased to announce that one of OhioGuidestone's YouthBuild clients, Anthony Heard, has been selected as the winner of Kent State University's Ohio Literacy Resource Center's writing contest! Anthony's piece of writing will be published in a softbound book, *Beginnings*, and he has received a special invitation to attend the day-long Ohio Writers' Conference held in Columbus, Ohio TODAY, May 9, 2014.

When Anthony came to OhioGuidestone's YouthBuild program in January 2014, he had no money and struggled to find a GED program or employment. He wanted to complete his education and learn about construction so he could become gainfully employed and financially stable. After seeing a flyer for OhioGuidestone's YouthBuild program, Anthony attended an orientation and then began the program shortly after. Despite the many barriers and obstacles he has faced throughout the program, he has persevered and has not been late for or missed one class during the entire program. "Anthony has dealt with insurmountable difficulties in his life," says Tom Siloy, *YouthBuild Program Manager*. "He is a remarkable person and always has a smile no matter what difficulties he faces each day."

YouthBuild, a part of our Workforce 360° Program, offers entry level construction training, paid work experience, GED preparation services, internship, employment, and post-secondary education opportunities to help our participants meet their employment goals. This full-spectrum approach also allows our participants to receive guidance and coaching to achieve long-term success in the areas of personal growth, practical life skills, work readiness training, and post-graduation support. Participants must be 18-24 years old and committed to a one year program.

About OhioGuidestone

OhioGuidestone provides solutions for children, families and communities

At OhioGuidestone, we provide pathways for growth, achievement and lifelong success. We have been inspiring families for almost 150 years through programs like counseling, literacy, workforce development, education, foster care, and our residential treatment and group homes.

Our approach is comprehensive, integrated and aimed at creating long-term solutions. It is based on the belief that strong communities have members that are educated, self-reliant and fulfilled and that it is our job to equip children and families to reach their potential and become contributing members of a strong community. Because we believe that every individual is unique, we've created a continuum of flexible, customized programs developed to build upon one another so they address every aspect of a person's needs. We were one of the first non-profit organizations to have in-home family treatment and home-based counseling. Today, our experience and expertise in finding complete solutions for families have helped us evolve into the leading organization dedicated to preserving family relationships.

We strive to develop our staff members into leaders, and deliver unparalleled customer service. Our passionate people are committed to our values, and they understand that smart thinking, responsiveness, accountability and flexibility are valued at OhioGuidestone and that their talents will be developed and nurtured. We leverage our people and programs to be responsive to the evolving needs of the children and families we serve and providing help for the whole person that is sustainable for the future. But no matter how individualized our programs are, one thing about them remains the same: they're always focused on making a positive, lasting, measurable difference in the lives and communities we serve.

For more information about OhioGuidestone, please contact Alyssa Evanoff, *Director of Communications*, at 440.260.8392 or alyssa.evanoff@OhioGuidestone.org.