



THE CENTER FOR
YOUTH & FAMILY
SOLUTIONS
cyfsolutions.org

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Hog Trof Brings Christmas Cheer to Guardian Angel Residents

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PEORIA, Ill- The holiday spirit is alive and well at The Hog Trof of Hanna City. Owner Hannah Callahan and her mother, Peggy, bustle about the restaurant, preparing for the arrival of more than twenty residents and staff from The Center for Youth & Family Solutions' Guardian Angel Home. As the boys squeeze into the booths, dressed in their Sunday best, Peggy Callahan mobilizes her family members, who have all volunteered to spend the evening cooking and serving the boys a Christmas dinner.

The sight is a familiar one. Every December for over fifteen years, Callahan and her family have hosted a private, catered dinner for the Guardian Angel residents.

The children were able to choose selections from a specially-prepared, child-friendly buffet, complete with fried chicken, pork roast, salad, mashed potatoes, french fries, corn, followed by delicious ice cream and homemade cookies.

In the months leading up to the dinner, the Callahans set donation cans around the restaurant and at every table, and patrons donated spare change and cash. Peggy and Hannah then used the donations to purchase each one of the residents special Christmas presents.

"The Callahans could have very easily gone out and bought twenty generic boy gifts and had that be the end of it," said Duane McKillip, Clinical Director of Guardian Angel. "But that's not what they did. They asked for specific and detailed wish lists from each one of the boys, and then went out and found just the right gifts to make each young man's Christmas special. It made a huge difference to the boys; you could see the joy on each one of their faces as they opened up the presents."

"Peggy Callahan has supported Guardian Angel for years and years, and it's been wonderful for the children," said James Kleine, Residential Program Coordinator at CYFS. "They've gotten great emotional support and wonderful gifts, and we couldn't be more thankful for what this experience gives to them."

The Guardian Angel Residential Services Program for Youth is a comprehensive 24-hour treatment facility for adolescent boys age 6-18 years who have experienced significant trauma.

The Center for Youth & Family Solutions is a not-for-profit social service agency providing strength-based, family-centered social services to youth and families in need throughout Central Illinois. These services include foster care services, child abuse prevention, crisis response for runaways and their families, adoption services, intervention and education with at-risk youth, counseling services for individuals and families, mental health crisis response and community advocacy programs. CYFS has eleven offices across the state of Illinois and serves 37 counties. For more information, please visit cyfsolutions.org.