



“It takes a whole village to help raise a child”

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Village House of Northwest Ohio, Inc. Supervised Visitation and Exchanges Facility

Village House is a non-profit 501c3 organization that provides court ordered and other referred supervised visitation or exchanges services for a child (children) and their non-residential parent in a safe, family friendly, non-judgmental environment. These visits are typically 1 or 2 times weekly and are designed for the parent and the child (children) to have an opportunity to spend quality time together to rebuild, reconnect or preserve the parent/child bond that is crucial to the healthy mental development of a child (children).

We operate out of an older beautiful brick home located on the campus of St. Ann’s Church and offers private rooms for individual visitation each filled with age appropriate toys and games, a craft room with weekly activities for all ages, a kitchen for family meal time and a reading library room for parents to read to or with their child (children). All activities and visitation are monitored and recorded on film to ensure the safety, complicity of court orders and house regulations are being followed by all parties concerned. We are here to truly make this place a “home away from home” in the hopes we can make a difference and have a positive impact in the lives of children who are forced to deal and function amidst adult issues by no fault of their own.

Our main objectivity is to ensure the mental and physical safety of the child (children) during their visits at the Village House. We strive to accomplish this by maintaining a completely neutral and welcoming environment for both the child (children) and the visiting parent. We want all the parties that utilize our supervised visitation and exchange service to have a positive and heartwarming experience amidst all of the potential powerful emotions that are often associated with separation/divorce and other traumatic family situations. Each situation that comes into Village House is unique and treated on an individual basis with respect, professionalism and confidentiality. We are a non-judgmental organization that does not investigate, evaluate or counsel the custodial parent or guardian, the non-custodial visiting parent or the child (children).

Village House has been in existence since 1995 as a result of the late Gary Ruggerio’s continued passion and desire to make a difference in the lives of children. Over 3800 families in and around Sandusky County have benefitted from the services provided and more families continue benefit annually. Supervised visitation and exchanges are available for children age 18 years and younger. As the divorce rate and other complicated adult “issues” effecting children are significantly increasing, the need for our service has become more crucial than ever and is growing at an alarming rate. Our ability to operate and keep the doors open is primarily dependent upon grants and donations from gracious individuals, community groups and corporations that are willing and able to align themselves with our mission. The longevity and health of any community truly lies within the investment of its children which supports our mantra “It takes a whole village to raise a child”.

Village House Programs

Supervised Parent /Child “Bonding and Building”

Visits are typically scheduled 1 or 2 times weekly for an hour or two and are designed for the parent and the child (children) to have an opportunity to spend quality time together to rebuild, reconnect or preserve the parent/child bond. All visitation, associated activities and exchanges are digitally recorded and stored in individual digital client files for future reference.

Supervised Exchange Program

Exchanges occur as a child (children) transitions between the residential and non-residential parents for standard parenting time as established in a memorandum agreement, court order or mutual agreement between the parties.

Supervised “Craft and Create” Program

Parents and children can reserve time in the “fox” room during their scheduled visit in order to bond and connect creatively by making a specific pre-packaged craft, painting, coloring or just getting clever with the craft supplies that are available.

Supervised “Meals and Me” Program

Parents and children can reserve time in the kitchen (aka) “piggy” room during their scheduled visit to sit around the kitchen table and bond over a meal that was brought in ready to eat or prepared on site together. Our kitchen is complete with a stove, bakeware, cookware, 2 refrigerators, a microwave, a toaster, a coffee maker and all the table service needed.

Supervised “Read and Relax” Program

Parents and children can search through numerous books of various reading levels to read together or encourage a child’s reading skill.

Supervised “Smiles, Styles and Grins” Program

All children clients of Village House that loose a baby tooth during a visit here or at home are given a toothbrush, tooth paste, “Tooth Fairy” box and letter. Gives the visiting parent and opportunity to experience part of an American cultural event that they otherwise would not be able to share with their child.

Supervised “Games and Giggles”

Parents and children have access to a variety of family board games and other activities that foster a direct enrichment opportunity for all involved.

Supervised “Trip to the Birthday Box”

Anytime during the month of their birth, the visiting child or children get to visit the designated “birthday box” and choose a new unwrapped gift in celebration of their birthday. They also receive a birthday card from the staff at Village House.

Barter Program

Clients unable to pay the income based visitation fee are given the opportunity to exchange 1 unit of service (30 minutes) or 1 unit of a goods (example: dollar store items such as...roll of paper towels, bottle of hand soap, toilet paper etc...) to the Village House per visit. This program is available and offered strictly on a case by case basis in accordance with the situation.

Volunteer Program

All interested volunteers are required to fill out an application, complete an orientation and submit to a background check if interested in monitoring. Duties include, but are not limited to, escorting clients to and from rooms, cleaning, assisting with Village House sponsored events, assisting with craft projects, cooking projects and any other projects as they become available.

Internship Program

Offering college students internship opportunities in the following disciplines:Marketing, Business Finance, Art Administration, Criminal Justice and Business Administration.