

Hey everyone! First, I want to apologize for not getting newsletters out like I had hoped. Life got busy, fast. All wonderful things - but wowza! Second, I want to say a huge Thank You to everyone who has continued supporting us financially and also through prayers. I will be sending out our 2021 annual financial statements next month. We still have a mortgage we are paying on and we still have construction as well as utilities - this on top of the things we are trying to do in the community and for the kids at Overflow - so everything you send in helps. Since I had not sent out a newsletter in quite some time, I wanted to catch y'all up to speed on some of the things we have going on!

1. We now have a volunteer coordinator! Jessica Lindsey has joined our team and will be heading up our volunteer opportunities. So, in the future, you will be hearing from Jessica from time to time. Some of the things we NEED volunteers for is dinner for Overflow. Overflow is our community group that meets on Monday nights. It has grown from a handful of people to around 25 people ranging from all ages. We meet at 6:00 for dinner and then we do various activities/study. You can follow our Erin's Purpose page to see what we plan for each week and how you can help. Helping provide dinner seems like such a little thing, but it is huge. I get texts during the day from the kids asking "What's for dinner?!" This is important because it has become our "family time". We sit around the table, talk about our day, laugh, tell jokes...it's easily a favorite time of mine during the evening.
2. Overflow is in full swing. We started overflow as a way for kids (and adults) to build a community of people who are there for each other, can learn from each other and where we can grow. We have also gotten into community service. There are so many wonderful things about this group. The ages in this group range from 6th grade up to age 84. Any adult that attends this group and is involved, we do require background checks. What I love about this is for example, last night I got a text from one of the kids who is 16 - he asked "Where's _____ been?" (He was referring to our 84 year old - wanting to know why he hadn't been to overflow the last couple weeks. When I told him that I had talked to him over Christmas but wasn't sure why he hadn't been to overflow the last couple weeks, the young man asked for his phone number and plans to call him today and check on him. This is what I love about our group. We support each other, we are there for each other. We also pick on each other and lift each other up. It's just wonderful. If you're interested in joining us, we meet on Monday nights from 6pm-8-ish.
3. Public Speaking: I have been invited to do some public speaking engagements. Most recently, I, Emily (my daughter) and Bentley (one of our students that attends overflow) went to North Daviess School to speak to their 5th and 6th grade about mental health and suicide prevention. I believe it was a great two days and I know it opened up opportunity for these kids to talk about some things and ask some questions.
4. I received my certification to teach Youth Mental Health First Aid - think of it like being certified to teach CPR. Erin's Purpose will be scheduling these trainings so be on the lookout!
5. Things Dads Teach: When we asked our Overflow group to anonymously write down some of the things that they want to learn at Overflow - a few of the things written stated "Things Dads Teach". So, that's what we are doing. During the month of January, Kids who have their permit or people with their licenses will have the opportunity to learn to drive a stick shift, Overflow will also be going to Bill's Auto to learn how to change a tire, change oil etc. After the car segment, we plan to learn about finances, insurance, resume writing, how to tie tie, trades like plumbing and welding, cooking and some kids want to learn how to sharpen knives, fish and hunt. These are all ideas given to us by the kids - with parent/guardian approval, of course.
6. Outreach Programs: Overflow on Monday nights - Took the kids to a Michael Cochren Concert, Took the kids to Bloomington for dinner and watched The Chosen Movie as well as our weekly lessons, etc. Provided 20 Recorders to the North Knox Band Director for the elementary, provided 10 yoga mats for Eastern Greene 6th grade Self Care class, provided 20 hula hoops for Eastern Greene Physical Education

Department, helped get 50 sponsors for DCS to provide Christmas to kids in foster care, helped sponsor Kindergarten and Pre-K T-shirts for incoming students for Bloomfield Elementary, helped cover cost of funeral arrangements, public speaking at Bloomfield School for Suicide Prevention and Awareness walk, provided stress balls for Bloomfield School during Suicide Prevention Week, Public Speaking at various events to bring awareness to mental health and suicide prevention, meeting with the youth group at One80 at Tulip Church as well as the Jr/Sr youth groups at Odon Christian Church, we spoke to the kids at the Baptist Church and also at Bloomfield First Christian Church during their summer programs. Erin's Purpose is now in the rotation for Soup On Saturday in Bloomfield at the Methodist Church. And I know there are so many other things that I am missing. 7. Counseling, DCS etc. Our referrals to our counselor have continued. I myself have met with a couple youth at the house to talk about "stuff" - life, as well as John Preston - one of our board members and Christian Life Coach. Life can be so hard sometimes - but thankfully we are helping people learn to navigate life and offering them hope. We have also utilized the house as a place for our local DCS office to use as a place for kids being transitioned to foster care as a shower facility..which brings me to: 8. Little House, Big Purpose: Be in prayer over this. That's all I can give right now as far as details go. Just know that we at Erin's Purpose have hearts to help others and I believe that God is using us (and you) in a big way. 9. Our Erin's Purpose Board Members: Terri Neighbors, Cris Floyd, John Preston, Vickie Vermillion, Leroy Barnhill and Darci Wonder. I think Erin's Purpose has the most wonderful board ever. We don't always agree on everything - we bounce ideas off of each other, keep each other in check and support one another. You can always feel free to reach out to any one of the board members if you have questions or want to know more about Erin's Purpose. There are so many wonderful things happening - God is so good. I know this email does not do it justice, and I'll be honest - I have beat myself up for not getting newsletters out like I wanted. With the help of Jessica and others, I will be able to do that more frequently. And my hope is to get them out by mail. So be on the lookout! As always, you can check our facebook page for updates to all things Erin's Purpose! If you would like more information on Volunteering and how you can help, please let me know! If you would like to donate to Erin's Purpose, the following are ways you can do that: By Mail: Checks made to Erin's Purpose and mailed to PO Box 555 Bloomfield, IN 47424 By Cashapp: Using the Cashtag \$erinspurpose By Paypal: Send to cahfloyd@hotmail.com as a "friend" otherwise there is a charge. Thank you all so much for all that you do through your financial help, through prayers and for just being you! Have a blessed week, Terri