



# reflections

## *Donnie makes most of opportunities at Uspiritus*

**D**onnie B., age 17, is making the most of his time at Uspiritus, and even has plans to make Uspiritus the launching pad for his future.

Although Donnie got in trouble before he came to Uspiritus a little more than a year ago, he admits he made his share of mistakes, but Uspiritus is helping him learn how to turn those mistakes into life lessons that don't bear repeating, rather than a way of life.

Donnie was a resident in Daubert Cottage upon arriving at Uspiritus, but soon moved to Wagner Cottage to be with others who were at a similar maturity level, had similar goals and were at similar places in their lives so that they can relate better. Donnie knows he has come a long way since he came to Uspiritus, but especially since moving to Wagner.

"There is great staff in my cottage," Donnie says. "That's who I owe all my success to."

Wagner Cottage Youth Care Worker Steve Cowart notes,



*Donnie B. works in the kitchen at Uspiritus-Brooklawn a few hours a week as part of the job skills training program. This is just part of Donnie's long-range plan for his future.*

"Donnie's ability to avoid negative interactions has greatly improved. He no longer engages. He stays away from it when it's going on around him and stays to himself."

Donnie is also proud of the fact that he has been a model Uspiritus resident most of the time and is one of the rare residents who does not require medication. A high school junior at the Uspiritus-Brooklawn School, he also recently attained his goal of making the honor roll.

Wagner Cottage Manager Katie Wadell says, "School is another big improvement. Girls were a big distraction."

The flirting, along with his charisma and good looks helped earn Donnie the nickname "Romeo" from musical artists Kri and Hettie when they worked with him and his fellow cottage mates during a songwriting workshop last year, one of several arts-related outings and activities that helped bring out Donnie's talent for writing. In fact, a play Donnie wrote titled "The Interview" is included in the *New Voices 2015 Anthology*, a compilation of 10-minute plays written by high school students in the Actors Theatre playwriting residency each year.

Wadell also praises Donnie for how he takes care of one of his fellow residents, who is wheelchair-bound. Whenever they are at school or on outings, Donnie is the first to volunteer to help his friend get to the restroom, go get him a drink or do anything else that is needed.

Donnie will turn 18 in July, and will "age out" of the state's care. For many, this could be a potential disaster, but not Donnie. He plans to live with his grandparents in Eastern Kentucky next year and graduate from high school with his friends. After graduation, he will recommit so that he can come back to Uspiritus and be a part of the Independent Living program, which will allow him to go to school, learn some basic life skills, and possibly get a job.

He is already working toward that end by getting some practical experience through the job skills training program at Uspiritus, working in the kitchen on the Uspiritus-Brooklawn campus a few hours one day a week. "It's fun to serve everyone," he grinned, "and the attention is nice."

When asked what he wants others to know about Uspiritus, Donnie quickly says, "It's more treatment than punishment."

# Thank you for opening new doors for our kids

By Abbreial Drane, CPA, MBA  
President/CEO

School will soon be out, but summer is still a time for fun educational activities for kids and families. You may be planning fun trips and outings for your children to augment what they learn in school and keep that momentum going. At Uspiritus, we plan enrichment activities and fun outings for our residential kids throughout the year.

Participating in these activities and outings helps round out the skilled treatment and focused education that the children receive here at Uspiritus with what I like to call “the life and the love.” Many of these kids have never gotten to go to the movies or to get an ice cream cone on a hot summer day --



simple treats many of us take for granted.

With your help, we can provide a safe, loving, fun environment that fosters healing. A place where the kids know that it's okay to just be a kid.

Each donation we receive makes such a difference in these children's lives and opens the door to new possibilities. It may only be an ice cream cone or a movie to you, but it could mean the world to that child.

Thank you for all that you do for the kids of Uspiritus.

Sincerely,

Abbreial Drane

## Tee up for kids at Links of Love Golf Scramble Monday, June 6



Tee up for kids at the Links of Love Golf Scramble on Monday, June 6 at the University of Louisville Golf Club in Simpsonville.

The practice range opens at 11:30 a.m.  
Registration and lunch are at noon.  
Welcome and rules will be at 12:45 p.m.

Shotgun start is at 1 p.m. Awards and dinner will be at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$1,000 per team or \$250 for an individual golfer. There will be a silent auction and prizes. There are sponsorship opportunities available.

To register, or for more information, contact Abby Link at [abby.link@uspiritus.org](mailto:abby.link@uspiritus.org) or 502.752.5531.



## ‘Catch the Spirit’ at a free tour on Bellewood or Brooklawn campus

Join us for one of our free monthly Catch the Spirit Tours at one of our Louisville campuses.



While you enjoy a delicious meal, find out more about Uspiritus, our mission and services, and how you can kick up your involvement. A quick tour of campus is also offered.

Upcoming tours are:

- Tuesday, May 17 from noon-1 p.m. in the Uspiritus-Brooklawn Campus Administration Building, 3121 Brooklawn Campus Drive, Louisville, KY 40218
- Tuesday, June 21 from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Uspiritus-Bellewood Campus Administration Building, 11103 Park Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

Each session is free, but registration is required by contacting Aimee Conrad-Hill at [aimee.conrad-hill@uspiritus.org](mailto:aimee.conrad-hill@uspiritus.org) or 502.753.5503.



# Massey helps children's minds 'grow' in a new direction

Horticulture Instructor Ellen Massey recently returned to Uspiritus and is re-energizing the horticulture education program that is an important part of the curriculum for middle and high school students at Uspiritus-Brooklawn School.

As part of the program, students work with plants in the on-site greenhouse, even potting some for sale. What they learn is integrated with science and math lessons.

Residents at both campuses also have the opportunity to help Massey with landscaping and groundskeeping projects to learn valuable job skills.

Brooklawn Campus residents recently observed Earth Day with a "Tree Ring" activity with Massey that not only helped



beautify the area around each cottage, but also helped the residents learn more about tree maintenance.

---

## Foster parents make a difference in lives of Kentucky children



Success can be measured in many ways, but even the smallest gains can make a huge difference in the life of a foster child. These are just a few examples of the many Uspiritus foster families who are making a big difference each and every day in the lives of children across Kentucky:

William, 11, grew up surrounded by violence. Since joining his foster family in Louisville earlier this year, he has been participating in church basketball camp. Through this experience, William has learned to be part of a team, learned social skills, and has gotten the consistency he has never had. Most importantly, he has learned to trust his foster mom, who has been at every practice and game, and is his most avid cheerleader.

The Uspiritus-Bowling Green office celebrated with the Mitchell family in early April, when young Anthony was officially adopted. His foster mother wanted to adopt him

from the very first day he was placed with her. She stayed through his struggles and his transition to feeling accepted into a family who will love him unconditionally. Markus made a lot of improvement, and is now doing well in school.

The Uspiritus-Lexington staff is especially proud of the progress made by Scott, 16, who has been with his foster family for more than 3 and a half years. He has a 3.88 cumulative GPA in high school and is taking all AP classes. He has achieved this while also working part-time at McDonald's!

These children could not have attained this stability and success without the love and support of their foster families.

If you are interested in becoming a  
**FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT**

Please call toll-free  
**1.855.460.0990**

or visit

**uspiritus.org**

and fill out our simple foster parent  
application today!



**Brooklawn Office, Louisville**  
3121 Brooklawn Campus Drive  
Louisville, KY 40218  
502.451.5177

**Bellewood Office, Anchorage**  
11103 Park Road  
Louisville, KY 40223  
502.245.4171

**Bellewood Office, Bowling Green**  
918 State Street  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
270.796.2012  
Also serving the Owensboro area

**Bellewood Office, Lexington**  
1815 Nicholasville Road  
Lexington, KY 40503  
859.294.7080



[uspíritus.org](http://uspíritus.org)

*Restoring Hope,  
Instilling Confidence,  
Furthering Education,  
Encouraging Spirituality and Faith  
through a comprehensive  
continuum of care  
for vulnerable youth and families.*



## How You Can Help

Uspiritus relies on the generosity of the community in the form of grants, in-kind and cash donations, and volunteers to ensure

that everything from basic necessities to birthday gifts are covered. We serve youth ages 6-18 on our Bellewood and Brooklawn campuses, and ages infant-20 years in our community based programs statewide. You can help out in many ways.

### Make a financial gift

To make a financial gift, call Reylene Robinson at **502-753-5509**.  
Donate online at **[uspíritus.org](http://uspíritus.org)**.

### Donate needed items

You can help the kids at Uspiritus enjoy some fun summer outings by donating gift cards to restaurants, Wal-Mart, Target and movies. Or, these any of these items are greatly appreciated. To donate, call Missy Fountain at **502.753.5508**:

Twin & full sheets	Bathroom & kitchen rugs
Twin comforters	Bicycle helmets
Wash cloths	Construction paper

Bath towels	Swim goggles
Shower curtains	XBox 360 controllers
Toilet paper	XBox 360 games (rated E or T)
Paper towels	Indoor volleyballs
Pillows	Kickballs
Shampoo	4+ player board games
Conditioner	Body wash
Deodorant	Axe body spray
CDs & DVDs	New release movies on DVD (G, PG & PG-13)

### Tutor, mentor, volunteer or make in-kind donations

Any time of year, Uspiritus needs the help of individual and group volunteers to tutor, mentor and carry out projects at our various locations. To find out more about giving to Uspiritus of your time or talents or make an in-kind donation, call: Missy Fountain (In-kind donations) **502.753.5508**; Stu Perry (Group Volunteers) **502.515.0434**; Dennis Roach (Individual Volunteers) **502.515.0446**.

### Help Uspiritus while you shop

Visit **[kroger.com/communityrewards](http://kroger.com/communityrewards)** and enter your Kroger Plus number and last name. Enter Uspiritus as the organization.

Start shopping at **[smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)**. You may use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, registries and other account settings remain the same. On your first visit, select Uspiritus to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, then Uspiritus will receive 0.5 percent of the price of each eligible purchase.

NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
LOUISVILLE, KY  
PERMIT 320