LaTasha C. Watts is an award winning child welfare advocate, author and speaker. As a child LaTasha was placed in an Applewood Centers foster care home, and spent her entire childhood living in a variety of foster homes until “aging out” at the age 18. After transitioning out of foster care, LaTasha found herself struggling to survive – facing homelessness, subjecting herself to abusive relationships, becoming a single mother, and battling cancer, all by the age of 23.

As a result of her adversities, LaTasha became determined to change the negative outcomes that some children in the foster care system may have. LaTasha founded The Purple Project (www.thepurpleproject.com), a support and resource network dedicated to assisting those who are linked to foster care and adoption communities. She is also founder and CEO of Cummings Watts & Associates, LLC, a lifestyle management and child welfare consulting firm.

LaTasha has received numerous recognitions, including proclamations from Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine and former Ohio Governor Ted Strickland, all in honor of her immeasurable contributions to the foster care and adoption communities. LaTasha completed and released her first book I’m Not Broken Just A Little Twisted, a recount of her amazing and emotional journey through the child welfare system.

LaTasha is a role model who shows that foster care is not just a human services issue; it is a children’s rights cause around which to become united. LaTasha takes special care in guiding our community’s children into a better understanding of self and life as a whole. Her passion has helped many move past business-as-usual mentalities to one that sees the greater needs of children. More than an advocate for children, LaTasha is an activist for change within the lives of so many. She started with an idea to provide independent living training to youth aging out of foster care. Today, the annual Purple Project Conference has grown into an event that foster care youth are excited to attend. LaTasha’s efforts show that hard work and dedication make dreams come true.

LaTasha is not only a trailblazer within our local community, but has been recognized on the national stage as well, guest speaking at the Eighth Annual Charity Benefit for Children’s Rights, a national advocacy group working to reform failing child welfare systems. LaTasha was the keynote speaker at the 2014 Foster Family Treatment Association’s annual conference.
There’s More Than You Know

The Community Can Become Involved in Many Different Ways

Becoming a foster parent is not an easy call to answer. Every day the foster care team at Applewood Centers meets individuals who want to help children, but are not in the position or ready to commit to being a foster parent. This realization sometimes leaves them heartbroken because they truly wanted to be a part of the solution. If you or someone you know has had a similar experience, below are some suggestions of how you can help serve the foster care community.

- Sign up to be a member of our advisory board. By doing this, you help the marketing and recruitment team brainstorm ways to be more effective in finding homes and individuals who can help.
- Become a Respite Foster Parent. Did you know that you could become a part-time foster parent? Respite parents give a much needed break to current full-time foster parents. This break could be for a weekend or a week.
- Provide opportunities to identify potential foster and adoptive parents. If you are a member of an organization with people who might want to hear our story or learn more about foster care and foster-to-adopt, we want to hear about it. We can present at churches, PTA meetings, organizational meetings, etc. Call Naeome Harris at 216-696-6815 to learn more about our free informational meetings.

Show That You Care. Become Involved.

Events and News

Foster Care Pre-service

Foster Care Pre-service Training is a 12-session training for prospective foster care parents. Attendees learn skills to become an effective caregiver. The fall 2014 session begins October 20. For more information visit www.applewoodcenters.org.

Bilingual Therapists

Did you know that Applewood Centers has Spanish-speaking counselors? Available to our foster care clients, counseling and outpatient services include individual, family and group therapy by licensed social workers, counselors, psychologists and psychiatrists. For information visit our website or call 216-696-5800.

You have the Power to Make a Difference in The Life of a Child

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