



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord “Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11

What is Erin's Purpose?

On April 4th, 2018, my daughter, Erin, was 13 years old when she took her own life. When we went to the investigator's office to see what information he had found, I was shocked when he said, "After looking through her laptop, phone and social media, it appears that Erin suffered from Anxiety and Depression". I looked at the investigator and said, "That doesn't make sense, you can't see anxiety and depression". The day Erin died, we prayed that God would make something good come from this. Over the course of two months after Erin died by suicide, I had received multiple messages from kids and adults alike - they were struggling. Struggling with low self-esteem; struggling with depression, anxiety - asking me questions like "How do I get close to God?" I got messages like "I found a suicide note in my daughter's room, what do I do?" I realized why people were reaching out to me when one person said, "All I struggle with is paying bills but you have gone through hell and back and you are genuinely happy - what is it that you have that I don't have?" It was approximately 1:30am and I had spent the last hour on the phone with a mom who was driving to her son's house because he had called her and told her he was going to take his life. She was afraid to call an ambulance because she didn't want her son mad. She asked me to stay on the phone with her until she got there. I had no idea what she was going to find, and I paced back and forth through my house praying over this person who must be feeling so terribly low. Once she got there, he was ok. After some convincing, she did call the police. The next morning on my way to work, I had a talk with God. I said "Ok, I see what you're doing. We prayed for you to make something good come from Erin's death, and I see now how you are going to use me. I have no idea what your exact plan is but if this is what you're going to do then you need to help me be strong and you need to guide me because I have no idea what I'm doing." I then asked God - "If everyone has a purpose, then what was Erin's? Surely, Erin's Purpose in life wasn't to die by suicide." And God's response was this, "No, Erin's Purpose wasn't to take her own life but when she chose that path, I had to switch it up and now through you, Erin's Purpose is to save lives." And I knew right then that it wasn't just about saving lives from suicide, but also helping people to live a life that God has meant for them - a life of peace, even (especially) in hard times. I believe that the first life Erin saved was mine. I am a true testimony to what God can do in a life, if only we allow Him.

- Terri Neighbors (Founder/President)

Erin's Purpose is a faith based organization that exists to encourage and inspire youth through building up of self-esteem; providing a confidence of power, love and self discipline through the love of Jesus Christ. Erin's Purpose has a house in Bloomfield, Indiana directly across the street from the high school where we host Overflow (Bible study) on Monday nights starting at 6:00, Counseling throughout the week, special events, fundraisers and a safe place for students to do homework, get a snack and interact with their peers after school.

How to stay in-the-know!

If you would like to receive our monthly newsletter, please send an email to emma.floyd@erinspurpose.org and I will get you on our mailing list!

You can also check out our Facebook and Instagram pages by typing "Erin's Purpose" into the search bar to get any updates about anything we have going on!

If you ever see us set up at an event, feel free to stop in and say hi! By talking to one of our amazing board members, we can also get you the information you're looking for!

Ways to Donate!

If you would like to make a donation to our organization you can do so by going to our website at erinspurpose.org and clicking the "donate" button at the top of the screen. This takes you to a paypal link where you can make a one time donation, or you can choose to make a monthly donation.

Another way to donate - we have a P.O. box that we accept donations, cards, letters, etc to at **P.O. Box 555 Bloomfield, IN 47424**

Or! We also have a Cashapp using the Cashtag \$erinspurpose and we also accept donations through Facebook.

Please check out the following pages for our September Newsletter. We took the summer off, so this newsletter includes all the things we did this summer and some things we are looking forward to in the coming month. Big things are happening and we want you all to be a part of it! Thank you for reading and please reach out with any questions or to just stay connected, we would love to hear from you. God Bless!

September Newsletter

Big things have been happening at Erin's Purpose this summer, check them out!

Our Little House with a Big Purpose

Not long after we obtained the youth center, we realized a big need for the Department of Child Services in our area for children who are taken out of the home and are waiting for foster care. We opened our youth center as a place where a Caseworker could bring a child to get a shower, a snack, and toiletries of their own. We realized that in order for us to offer something more sustainable and private, we would have to provide an alternative. Our board met and prayed about it and at a board meeting back in November, one of our board members jokingly said, "We should just put a tiny house in the backyard!" and we just sat and thought, "Hey, that could work." So in a week's time, after a few phone calls, we had a gentleman from Prairie Build Barns offer us a 14x30 cabin and the owner of McHenry Homes offered to help design and facilitate donors to help get the Little House moving. Terri met with both gentlemen and a plan was made. Groundbreaking has taken place, we have men on sight building our Little House, and things are coming along smoothly. Paul McHenry of McHenry Homes is orchestrating and organizing as well as providing manpower. Tim Yoder of Prairie Build Barns has donated the home including the roof, siding, etc. As of mid-August it is looking like the house will be up within the month. This Little House will be used solely as a place for DCS workers to take children waiting for foster care to shower, get food, get toiletries, and have a warm safe bed to sleep in until a placement is found for them.

Check the next page for some progress pictures of our Little House!!



We would like to thank all of our donors and sponsors that have made this Little House possible. If you would like to donate or sponsor the Little House with a Big Purpose, please contact Terri Neighbors at terri.neighbors@erinspurpose.org Also, reach out to Terri if you have any questions regarding the Little House, what we're doing with it, the progress, etc. Check the website at erinspurpose.org for updates as well!



We would like to extend an extra thanks to The Greene County Foundation for choosing us as a grant recipient this year. Without your support the Little House and the great things happening here at Erin's Purpose would not be possible.

Summertime Streetfest!

We had such a blast at the Summertime Streetfest in Bloomfield on July 23rd! Erin's Purpose helped cover the Kid Zone where we had information, games, and a DUNKING BOOTH! We had such a great day. We want to extend a special thanks to David Dean, Lauren Bohnert, Mike Riggleman, Daniel Waggoner and Bentley Whitfield for being good sports in the dunking booth. Thank you to Dixie Hudson, Taylor Hudson and Marie Hasler for braving the heat and volunteering at the tables the whole day!



This is one of our Christian Counselors, Paul Alvey, who stopped by the Streetfest and was able to pray with Terri. You can find him on our website at erinspurpose.org/counseling-coaching

Summer Work Days

We have had tons of help this summer during our work days. Lots of days have been spent at the Erin's Purpose house painting outside, painting trim, hanging trim, installing new light fixtures, and just making overall updates to our youth center. We would like to give a shout of thanks to Leroy Barnhill, John Preston, Cameron Branstetter, Trentyn Bayse, Taylor Hudson, Dixie Hudson, Maddy Carmichael, Jaeden Meitus, Bentley Whitfield, Priya Phillips and anyone else who has donated their time, energy, or resources to make our vision a reality.



Smokin' & Jokin'

We have been chosen as the recipients of the Smokin' & Jokin' annual fundraiser event this year. The event will take place on Saturday, September 17, 2022 starting at 6:00pm. This is the 5th annual Smokin' & Jokin' event which will be hosted at the Linton Elks Lodge (9779 W State Rd 54, Linton, IN 47441). They have chosen to help us and our Little House with a Big Purpose that you read about previously. Smokin' & Jokin' will be putting on a BBQ catered dinner with live entertainment by two comedians.

“Come out and support your local community at this awesome, fun, exciting, tasty, and funny event! Food AND live comedy! What more could you ask for?”

- Smokin' & Jokin' Facebook Page

You can read about this years sponsors on the Smokin' & Jokin' Facebook page where they have been featuring daily sponsors. We are all very excited for this event.

Information and Tickets - \$30 - can be found here:

<http://www.eventbrite.com/e/smokin-jokin-tickets-399815427707>



You can find all sorts of information, ways to donate, meet our board, find counseling resources, and a calendar of our events at erinspurpose.org

I know this newsletter has been a bit lengthier than our previous newsletters, but we have so much good happening for and at Erin's Purpose and we don't want you to miss out on a single thing. I would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself!

My name is Emma Floyd. I am 20 years old and live in Bloomfield. My mom, Cris Floyd is the Treasurer and also a Founder of Erin's Purpose alongside Terri Neighbors. I am taking over as the Newsletter writer for our monthly Newsletters! I will also be the person who will send out the Newsletters each month, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at emma.floyd@erinspurpose.org. Emily Neighbors, Terri's oldest daughter and Erin's big sister, has been my very close friend since we were little and is still one of my best friends. The Neighbors family has played a huge role in my life, from countless sleepovers and adventures in elementary school to being as supportive as if they were my own family as Emily and I went through high school and now college (together)! I am currently attending Vincennes University to get my degree in Special Education with an Elementary Education concentration. You may see me at several Erin's Purpose functions as I am completely online this semester to be home with my daughter, Maevis. When I am not online, I commute so I'm still around a lot! I am very blessed to be able to be a part of Erin's Purpose and I can't wait for all of the exciting things we have going on!

