



Saving Children's Lives in Christian Homes

601 North Center Street
Shelbina, Missouri 63468

How do you prepare for the most monstrous role of...your life?

September 7, 2023

Dear FOX CREEK CHRISTIAN CHURCH,

You're suddenly a high school student standing in an agonizingly quiet room. Two somber-faced men sit across from you at a table, ready to judge you.

"Okay, here we go...Sing." The spotlight is on you, figuratively, and... gulp!

Stage fright is real. It is scary. Real. Scary.

It's not the first time auditioning for most of our young, but trembling hopefuls. Keidryn, Abigail, Titus, Ashley, and Heaven were in "High School Musical" last year. Grace is the only freshman. It is amazing how many famous celebrities and public speakers routinely have to fight the fright.

***"Courage is being
scared to death
and saddling
up anyway."
John Wayne***

The good news is they survived, and rehearsals start tonight. Some of Shiloh's kids landed nice roles in "Beauty and the Beast". Abigail, a senior, is Mrs. Potts with Grace portraying young Chip. Titus, a lanky junior, is Gaston the hunter. Ashley, a junior, is one of the Silly Girls and Heaven will be in the chorus of townspeople. And Keidryn, also a senior is...?

In the past three years, he's played men's parts, even older gentlemen. I wondered if he would be Belle's inventive father, Maurice...? His mother, Danielle VanDyke commented, "He practiced his audition song a lot this year. Usually, he walks in and sings whatever, but this year he chose the song I told him he should sing. A song from 'Aida'." But there's a catch, she adds, "He really wanted the lead part, but was also very nervous about having to learn all the lines."

When the theatrical fog lifted, we discovered Keidryn is The Beast! Coincidentally, he's now preparing for the biggest, most monstrous role...of his life! Oh, not with a script on a stage with choreographed music, but his actual LIFE!

For a young man like Keidryn to move from the boy dealing with issues that brought him to Shiloh to capturing a leading part in a school musical and soon transitioning into new opportunities and adulthood, Your support and prayers are a critical reason for that transformation! Please take a moment now and consider Your gift to help the next "Keidryn" that will be placed in a Shiloh home. Your past support made such a difference for a young Keidryn!

Keidryn has enough credits to graduate in December. So mere weeks after the musical is finished, he will be playing the part of an actual, functioning adult. William Shakespeare conjectured, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." Perhaps the past three years at Shiloh have been a dress rehearsal of sorts for this upcoming, improvisation of his next role as a grownup.

"After Shiloh I will be going to Job Corps. I will be at the campus in Ottumwa, where I will get certified in general maintenance," he explains, adding another option, "I may just go straight into welding." So, this kid who excels in singing and theater wants to do maintenance and welding? Plot twist?

When you share with Shiloh something marvelous happens. You offer a youngster the chance to rewrite their life's story and to change their character. Keidryn has developed his spiritual life, his education, and also explored vocational fulfillment.

Months ago, this distractible teenager worked alongside John Farris, a skilled craftsman from a perennial work group. He diligently and meticulously assisted in creating oak cabinets for the Penfields Relief Home. He discovered he also enjoys working with his hands.



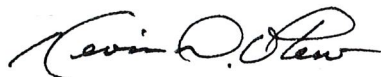
**“And whatever you
do, whether in word
or deed, do it all in
the name of Jesus
Christ...”
Colossians 3:17**

Your prayers and gifts for Shiloh go beyond a youth's time in our homes. In his role as a Grownup, Keidryn will make mistakes. We all still do. But, in those times of “stage fright” or other miscues, he will be able to “look off-stage”. He can count on a loving prompt from Caleb and Danielle, or other Homeparents, or from a trusted friend at church, or folks like John from a work group. He will have people to console him at those times, and to also cheer his successes. With your investment of prayers and financial support, you become more than spectators and an audience. You are part of the great cloud of witnesses (Hebrews 12:1) in the here and now.

Your next gift will make a difference in our current as well as future Shiloh young people. Gifts like Yours were the reason why Keidryn was able to grow in a Christian home and see a life of new opportunities.

Please pray for all our kids to find their role in the Kingdom of Christ. Not a life of acting faithful, but a life of faithful action.

You are Cherished,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin D. Blew". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'K' and a stylized 'B'.

Kevin D. Blew

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