

MH Welcome Sign Says It All!

Norwood Lodge 301 sponsors five children to Mooseheart!

In mid-December, Norwood Lodge 301 became aware of a family of five children in desperate need of a good home and a secure future:

Angelina - aged 18 mos.

Cloe - aged 6 years

Brianna - aged 9 years

Justine - aged 10 years

Candace - aged 13 years



Pictured are Brianna, Candace, and Cloe.

The obvious answer, of course, was "Mooseheart."

After several months of paperwork and "communications," all five of "Norwood's kids" have been accepted to Mooseheart.

On Friday, April 3rd, Norwood officials took three of the girls -- Brianna, Candace, and Cloe -- to Mooseheart, where they were warmly welcomed and enrolled. The other two children will be going sometime in June when there is proper space available for them.

According to Administrator Bob Wolf, "The Lodge has come together remarkably in support of 'our kids,'" but he has also reminded the membership that sponsoring these children is not a short-term commitment. Rather, according to Wolf, "Ours is a commitment that will go on until they graduate, and we are duty-bound to keep them in mind throughout the years!"

But There's More To This Story!

Montpelier Lodge 312 also sponsors a child to Mooseheart!

Joyce Schelling, PGCM, Montpelier Chapter 270, passes on this story. Evello "Love" Coker, seven years old and a first-grader, arrived on the Mooseheart campus, her new home and school, on Monday, March 30th from northwest Ohio. She is sponsored by Montpelier Lodge #312 & Chapter #270. Accompanying her to "The Child City" were her grandmother, Marsha Soule, who has custody, and great-great aunt and uncle, Charles & Joyce Schelling, all of Montpelier Lodge and Chapter.

"Love" (pronounced Luv-vay) will be residing in Georgia Hall with four other first and second grade girls and her family teachers. Prior to her Monday "intake" and orientation, "Love" and Marsha were given a tour of the campus including Mooseheart Lake and farm on Saturday. From the entrance gate and security guard's station, they could see "Love's" name in lights welcoming her to Mooseheart--a large sign directly in front of Centennial Moose Plaza. They were also tickled to see 24 deer on the campus as part of her "welcoming committee."

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Upon arriving at Mooseheart on Monday, Marsha and "Love" were directed to the Mooseheart Administration Building (formerly Health Center) and were greeted by Mooseheart Superintendent Kyle Rife and several "Easter bunnies" in the lobby. They had meetings with Mr. Rife, a supervising nurse, counselor and her



Love' and Grandmother Marsha Soule at Mooseheart.

first family teacher Jessica. At Georgia Hall, "Love" was introduced to two of her roommates, Vivian and Samantha. Twin girls also reside there but were currently off-campus, due to return on Wednesday of that week. A tour of the house was given with explanations including a large poster for all the girls called "Circle of Courage" and a job chart listing various household duties for each of the residents. "Love" was shown to her bedroom which was decorated with a large welcome poster designed by her new roommates.

Two of her roommates are also in her first grade class at Mooseheart School where she is reported to be doing very well. There are a total of 10 students in her class. This is great teacher/student ratio! "Love" is looking forward to participating in many activities at school and on campus, including basketball. "Love's" birthday is August 8th, her favorite color is purple, favorite subject is art, and she likes Cinnamon Toast Crunch and Lucky Charms cereal. She wears girls size 14 or juniors size 12/14 clothing and shoe size 3, going into size 4. She is looking forward to having her new bicycle from Christmas delivered to her new home this coming weekend. She would also appreciate cards and letters from Ohio offering encouragement and support in her new environment.

Lodges and chapters who do not have a Sunshine Child at Mooseheart can write or e-mail Mooseheart requesting a child who is always happy to receive cards and letters and be remembered on his/her birthday and holidays. Moose members will have a chance to personally meet children at Mooseheart during our upcoming International Conference in Chicago May 21-27, which includes a special day Saturday on campus for graduation, Pilgrim and College of Regents conferral ceremonies, picnic lunch and visits to the residence homes.

(Submitted by Joyce Schelling, PGCM, Montpelier Chapter #270)