It took him almost two months to apply, but Charles Childs II will be taking recording engineering classes at Full Sail University in Winter Park, FL this year. Though Charles already holds a culinary degree, his passion has always been making and recording music. A few months ago, he learned about the university from a friend who was taking their online classes. At the time, Charles says that he was struggling with finding a career path that was right for him: “I wasn’t caring about my life…I wasn’t planning on going to college, but I love music. This is something I’ve always wanted to do.” With a fire ignited inside him, Charles spent weeks at the STAR House researching grants and financial aid opportunities that he was eligible for. Eventually, he learned that he qualified for money from FASFA and an educational grant from the military because his father was a retired marine. After he sent the paperwork to Full Sail, he started to worry: “I didn’t think I would be accepted. All I have is a GED, but I just did everything (the application) required and I got in!” A few days after he was accepted, his free apple computer and recording equipment arrived in the mail. Charles’ flight is only a few days away and he says that he is more excited than nervous to start school and move to a new city. Even though his endeavors take him far from he will take the support he gained at the STAR House with him to Florida: “There have been times when I didn’t have anything. All the resources (the STAR House) had, I used…They helped me get into school. They helped me apply and fax over my paperwork.” We are proud of Charles for taking the courage to move out of state on his own and follow his dreams. He has a lot of studying and hard work ahead of him, but we trust his determination will take him far.

“I wasn’t caring about my life…I wasn’t planning on going to college, but I love music. This is something I’ve always wanted to do.”

- Charles
People Like You

Janet Ciccione– Donated her time to help re-format our newsletter.

Chris Krall and the Nurses of James Cancer Hospital– Purchased sorting materials and organized our supply closets.

Matt Bertram from Starbucks Store #2434 at the Ohio State University– Coordinated volunteer efforts with his colleagues.

Gina Freeman and the Columbus Jewish Day School– Continues to support our youth and raise awareness about us.

Amy and Tracey from the Columbus Food league– organized the Community Partner Day at Tip Top for the STAR House on January 30th.

Volunteer Shelly Quick Pays it Forward

Shelly Quick knows what it is like to struggle financially. There was a time in her life when she was a single mom, providing for her two children and barely making ends meet. Fortunately, she was able to find the strength to get through this experience and now lives comfortably with her husband and children. However, when Shelly heard about the STAR House from a fellow Xenos member, she knew she could relate to what the youth are experiencing and immediately wanted to help. Six years ago, Shelly’s husband, Gary, was in a motorcycle accident and was no longer able to run his business. Rather than sell her husband’s business attire, she wanted to give them to someone in need: “We had so many clothes and, I thought, ‘These kids could really use them.’ I didn’t want anyone to have to pay for them or put them on ebay...I wanted to donate them.” So, she brought racks of suits and coats to the STAR House. However, after visiting the house and learning that many of our youth sleep outside and are in need of hygiene items, Shelly went shopping: “I thought, ‘We have money and we can help.’. How are these kids going to stay warm? They at least need some shelter from the elements.” Shelly generously bought toiletries, underwear, bras, tents, and blankets for our youth. Since her initial visit, Shelly has certainly given our youth a lot of much-needed items, but she also donates her time and engages with the youth weekly. Along with her daughter Dakota, 19, Shelly offers everything from job advice to relationship tips and is someone the youth feel understand them: “I haven’t been homeless, but I’ve been close. It feels amazing to help. I just pray I help inspire them to find a better life.”

“It feels amazing to help. I just pray I help inspire them to find a better life.” -Shelly Quick (volunteer)
You’re Invited

- **Community Partner Day at Tip Top**— January 30th from 11:30– 8:30 Tip Top will donate a portion of its proceeds from the day to the STAR House.

- **Caring Hearts Dinner to Benefit Homeless Youth**— Saturday, February 25th from 6:30-9pm at the Westin Hotel, 310 S. High Street. Benefiting the STAR House, Youth Empowerment Program, and Columbus Public Schools. Come Enjoy a Cash Bar, Dinner, Silent Auction, Entertainment and Guest Speakers throughout the evening the evening. Tickets are $50 each. For more information and to purchase your ticket, contact Angela Lariviere at angela.yepdirector@gmail.com

From Your Support

- We served at least 416 unduplicated youth in 2011
- We introduced 225 new youth to the STAR House in 2011
- In January, we served 30 new youth to the house

Gina Freeman and the Columbus Jewish Day School ‘s 6th grade service learning class

Nurses from the James Cancer Hospital after organizing our supply room