

the small island of Grenada from the authoritarian government that, under the direction of Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, had overtaken that nation.

During the time the Castro regime manipulated the government of the island in an attempt to expand communism in the Americas, the people of Grenada lost all semblance of civil liberties and human rights that was then returned to them.

Unfortunately, it seems that the present Grenadian government has forgotten the repression brought upon their country by the Castro regime and it has invited the dictator to visit the island this week.

The visit comes as the nations members of the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM) continue to flirt with the Cuban tyrant, who desperately wants to enter the organization to obtain economic benefits that will strengthen his oppressive regime.

How sad that after 19 American soldiers died to liberate Grenada, that island's government now receives, with open arms, the dictator who orchestrated the repression of that island's citizens.

Shame on the government of Grenada!

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY CALDWELL
BEESON

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Peggy Caldwell Beeson, who passed away this month. I, along with many other Northern Californians, cherished the friendship of Peggy who, with her husband Phillip, contributed greatly to our community.

Peggy had a special talent for sharing her visions with others and making them want to be a part of her ideas. This talent for consensus building and motivating others allowed her to accomplish things that most people would never attempt.

Over the years, Peggy was involved with a number of community action committees, including the Parent Teacher Association, the Lake Elephants Club, and the Konocti Lioness Club. She also served as Executive Director for Californians for a Drug Free Youth, President of the Conejo Republican Action Committee, and Director of the Riviera Yacht and Golf Club.

Peggy and Phillip raised four daughters: Karen, Lindsay, Cynthia, and Heidi. She also is survived by 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Peggy Beeson's dedication to community and family should be held as a model for others. I have personally seen the results of Peggy's efforts and was impressed time and again with her hard work and determination. Her vision, innovation and accomplishments will benefit the people of Lake County for a long time.

CELEBRATING THE 175TH ANNI-
VERSARY OF THE GREAT
GEAUGA COUNTY FAIR

HON. SHERROD BROWN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate the people of Geauga County on the 175th anniversary of the Great Geauga County Fair. This special gathering has always been a time for people and families throughout Ohio to come together. It's also a wonderful way to celebrate community and the values we hold dear.

The Great Geauga County Fair brings to mind homemade pies, baking contests, 4-H club activities, the annual petting zoo, music, and pony rides for children. The Fair is also about celebrating the locally produced maple syrup, used in nearly every home throughout the region. Finally, the Fair provides a special moment for the community to honor area veterans and their service to Ohio and the nation.

The history of the Great Geauga County Fair is as rich as the Fair itself. In 1823, a group of pioneers, some of whom were among the first settlers in Ohio's Western Reserve, formed one of our state's first trade societies—called the Geauga County Agricultural and Manufacturing Society. The society was formed to promote the region's growing farming and manufacturing industries. To display and share the bounty from their farms, society members organized an annual county-wide fair. While the early Fairs alternated between the towns of Burton and Chardon, the Fair has been held in Burton at the County Fairgrounds since the mid-1800s.

This year's Fair also celebrates another birthday. Known as the oldest and only all-volunteer band in the Buckeye State, the Great Geauga County Fair Band turns 60 this year. To most people who go to the Fair today, the Band is a major presence. In a fitting tribute to this milestone, the band this year will play with three of the original "charter" band members.

Labor Day is always a bittersweet time. For kids, the holiday means back to school; for parents, it means a welcome day off to enjoy the good weather. Labor Day also means Fairtime—the "grand finale" to summertime in Geauga County. Without doubt, the Fair is one of our region's most important annual community events—for families and all residents of northeast Ohio. In fact, the "Great" in the Fair's name was officially added early this century to signify the Fair's senior standing as the "Great Granddaddy" of Ohio's county fairs.

The Great Geauga County Fair's motto says it all, "Something for Everyone Since 1823." On the 175th anniversary of the Great Geauga County Fair, I'm proud to represent the people of Geauga County, and proud to be a part of this community.

THE ORPHAN FOUNDATION: MAK-
ING A DIFFERENCE IN THE
LIVES OF YOUTH

HON. J.C. WATTS, JR.

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 29, 1998

Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, in the Tuesday, July 21, 1998 copy of the Washington Post, there is a front page story about how difficult it is to survive in society when you're an orphan and you turn 18. I would like to insert this article in the record, Mr. Speaker, without objection. According to this article, in many states, when orphans turn 18 years of age, they are dropped from the state's child protection system. This means they have to pay their own rent, buy their own groceries and manage their own budget. Without parents to teach these orphans the importance of fiscal responsibility, and to provide for their needs when they do run out of money, it should not be a surprise that 4 out of 10 of the nation's homeless are orphans.

There is one statement in the Post article that sticks out in my mind. That statement reads, " * * * there is little public attention focused on how to keep foster children from migrating from their bureaucratic family to the streets." I agree that the public could be better informed about the problems many orphans face, but I wish the article had listed a group I work with called the Orphan Foundation of America as part of the solution. OFA has worked hard over the last two decades to provide financial assistance and counseling to orphans, help which has made a tangible difference in the lives of many.

Founded in 1981, the Orphan Foundation has awarded over \$500,000 in scholarships to orphans in 44 states through its OLIVER Project, with the help of generous private and corporate donors such as: American Airlines; Gateway Computers; Kraft Foods, Inc.; General Electric; Prudential Securities; AT&T; J.C. Penney Company; Bristol Myers-Squibb Company; Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue; Lockheed Martin; Fannie Mae; Lucent Technologies, Northrop Grumman; Time Warner, Inc.; The Limited, Inc.; Williams & Jensen; ESOP; and Kerr-McGee Corporation. OFA also teaches orphans how to successfully manage their money and other basic life skills they will need to know to survive in an unforgiving world, and does this through volunteers in their communities.

Most of all, OFA and its tireless director, Eileen McCaffrey, provides orphans with something they receive all too little—an ear to talk to when they need encouragement, and a little love and understanding. Most of the staff is all volunteer, a true sign of their dedication. I have had the pleasure of meeting and talking with several orphans whose lives have been impacted by OFA, and these youth are quick to point to the organization as one big reason why they have a job and a good education, as opposed to being locked up in jail, or being forced to sleep in their car.

The Orphan Foundation receives no state or federal funding, and yet it has managed to improve the lives of orphans across America. To learn more about OFA, you can visit their web page at www.orphan.org. The Orphan Foundation of America is a great cause well worth assisting, and a testimony of the power of Americans who care.

[From the Washington Post, July 21, 1998]
 AT 18, IT'S SINK OR SWIM—FOR EX-FOSTER
 CHILDREN TRANSITION IS DIFFICULT
 (By Barbara Vobejda)

CINCINNATI—Seventeen-year-old Carrie Lucas has spent the past two years in the embrace of the state. Her mother was mentally ill, her father in jail, and Ohio's child protection officials considered it their business to place Carrie in a safe foster home.

Now she's about to be dropped. At the toll of her 18th birthday next spring, Carrie will be released from the state's child protection system. The federal and state bureaucracies that fashioned themselves into a substitute family will declare themselves done. And like 20,000 other young people across the country each year, Carrie will be left to pay her own rent, fill her own refrigerator, manage her own budget. In essence, she will be expected to become her own parent.

"It's sort of scary to think I have to do this on my own," Carrie said. "I don't want to think about it too much."

If ever there was proof that, for many children, the foster care system does not offer a stable, surrogate family, it comes at the point they turn 18. The day the money stops, the care stops too.

While a minority of teenagers stay on for some time with their foster families, most grow up knowing exactly when their funding will end. They accept that they will be forced to leave on or near that birthday, knowing they'll be replaced by a younger child, who comes with money attached. If the foster families had wanted to make a permanent commitment to one child, experts say, they would have adopted. Most don't.

"We can't dump them fast enough at 18," said Robin Nixon, director of youth services at the Child Welfare League of America, referring to the federal-state system that has responsibility for more than 500,000 children, most of them abused or neglected by their parents. "But kids in the average community are 25 and 26 years old before they're expected to live alone."

It is this large but mostly forgotten population of America's disadvantaged that social researchers now believe makes up a significant component of the nation's homeless population: One study found four of 10 of the nation's homeless are former foster children. Experts on homelessness say it is predictable—that young people isolated from their families often suffering from emotional problems, many of them former runaways, would end up in an emergency shelter. While some of these teenagers can go to grandparents or siblings for help, most are on their own.

The most recent study on the fate of foster children, conducted by University of Wisconsin researcher Mark Courtney, found that 12 to 18 months after they left foster care, just half were employed, one-third were receiving public assistance, one-fifth of the girls had given birth and more than one-quarter of the boys had been incarcerated.

Most of the teenagers had less than \$250 in savings when they went out on their own.

Yet while other subgroups among the disenfranchised—the mentally ill, victims of domestic violence, welfare workers—have their vocal advocates in policy debates, there is little public attention focused on how to keep foster children from migrating from their bureaucratic family to the streets.

For Carrie Lucas, the journey to independence has already begun. It is both tangible and psychological. She is a 17-year-old constantly aware of a clock ticking. Nine more months of financial help. That's it. One minute she's sure she can handle it. The next, she's in a panic about what lies ahead.

The state will keep paying an agency more than \$1,000 a month to help her until her 18th

birthday. But after that, she can make no mistakes. Blow her rent money on a car, she may be sleeping in that car. Anger her landlord, she could be looking for a place to sleep. The same mistakes other kids make, but nobody to bail her out.

A month ago, she moved into a tiny attic apartment by herself. It is stifling, with no air conditioner, and the stairway leading up smells of cat urine. But she chose it because she loved the bathtub—an antique with claw feet and flowers painted on the side.

Carrie had trouble sleeping when she first moved in, frightened of the nighttime sounds echoing around her old building. But now she's more relaxed, cuddled on the living room carpet beside her worn, thrift store couch, or in her narrow bedroom, surrounded by stuffed toys.

When Carrie was 4, her grandmother took her in because Carrie's mother would stay away from home for long periods of time, leaving Carrie and her three siblings to care for themselves. Carrie grew up cooking for herself, washing her own clothes.

"I think my mother is mentally insane," Carrie said. "She was never reliable, always working, or out with whomever."

But Carrie's grandmother died of cancer two years ago, and the child protection system took over. Carrie moved in with a foster mother, a woman in her late sixties who had raised 10 children of her own. "Her message was, 'I'm here for you,'" Carrie said, "but there was distance between us."

Under the state's policy, her foster mother received more than \$400 a month to keep Carrie, but that ended when Carrie asked to move out. She had heard of a program that would help her move into her own apartment, and her foster care money would go toward rent and utilities. So she left her foster mother's home and moved into her apartment. And since then, neither has picked up the phone to stay in touch.

In fact, Carrie says she's lucky. She lives in one of the few places around the country—Hamilton County, Ohio—where the child protection system places people as young as 16 in apartments to prepare them to live on their own. The program pays rent and sets up a savings account with a \$60 weekly stipend—until she's 18.

Carrie likes living by herself. But already, her days play out with the rhythms of an adult, not a girl of 17.

This summer, she gets herself up at 6 each morning, eats a bowl of cereal and leaves her apartment by 7, catching a bus to work as an intern at a downtown bank, where she spends her days checking account numbers and ATM receipts. At 5 p.m., she heads home and fixes her own dinner. She is in bed by 9 p.m. On the weekends, she works a second job at a restaurant.

For now, she has \$594 in savings, and in the fall, she'll return to finish her senior year in high school. The county and the judge overseeing her case could extend her funding long enough to help her get her high school diploma. But even if that happens, she'll be cut loose in less than a year.

She worries most about how she will pay her \$240 monthly rent, or if she'll be able to afford college.

"I pray I can go to college," she said. "I'm going to try everything in my power to get a scholarship."

Some of the half-million children in the child protection system are allowed to stay with their biological families. But for those who are taken out of their homes, a combination of federal and state funds provides payments—averaging \$431 a month for 16-year-olds—to foster families. The government may pay much more for group homes or residential treatment facilities, where many foster teens reside.

In 1986, after researchers began to notice the link between foster care and homelessness, Congress reacted by establishing an "independent living program" for states to help prepare foster children for life after 18. States can extend the program to older teens, which is common for those with disabilities.

While states have established these programs, many are cursory—occasional weekend seminars on housekeeping and budgeting, for example. And Courtney's study in Wisconsin found that one out of four teenagers had received no help in preparing for independence before they left the system.

In a handful of jurisdictions, however, welfare offices have gone to great lengths to ease this passage.

Los Angeles County, where about 800 young people leave foster care each year, has pulled together a package of subsidized housing, job training and some entry-level employment to help those moving out of the system.

And in Hamilton County, Ohio, where Carrie lives, dozens of teenagers, some as young as 16, are living in apartments as a transition to independence.

"Independent living without housing experience is like driver's education without the car," said Mark Kroner, who runs an independent living program for Lighthouse Youth Services, a nonprofit agency contracted by Hamilton County to put young people in apartments.

"You learn to budget food money when you go a day without food. You learn to budget utilities when you come home to a dark apartment," he said.

When young people come into his program, having been referred by county social workers or juvenile judges, they are matched with an adult on Kroner's staff who helps them find an apartment, shops with them for furniture and helps them move. The social worker stops by weekly, and the agency becomes the newest surrogate family.

But this family is dedicated to a daunting goal: sending a child, often one with emotional difficulties, out into the world.

It is not uncommon for Kroner to get a call saying one of his teenagers has been arrested. He has had kids knocking on a landlord's door asking for money just a week after moving in. Some have been kicked out of the program for failing to follow the rules.

Despite the problems, studies have found that placing kids in their own apartments is probably the most effective way to help them become independent.

One of Kroner's newest "clients," as the former foster children are called, is 16-year-old Ricky Bryant, who has dropped out of high school.

He lives in a second-floor, two-room apartment, where he sleeps on the living room floor. The dishes are carefully soaking in soapy water, and the refrigerator is virtually empty.

In just over a month of living on his own, it has become clear to Ricky that some things are beyond him: "My laundry. I cannot afford to do it. And keeping groceries in my house," he said. "I buy it and it's gone."

He says this on a Wednesday, five days until he gets his paycheck from Wendy's where he works nights. He has cereal in the cupboard, but no milk to pour on it. A loaf of bread, but nothing to put between the slices. He has, literally, one penny in cash.

When Kroner hears this, he gives Ricky a dollar and tells him to take the bus to the agency office and someone there will give him an advance on his weekly \$60 stipend.

"I was afraid to ask," Ricky said. "I don't want to aggravate nobody."

Ricky landed here after years in the child welfare system, where he lived in 12 to 15 places, he estimates.

"My mom is the type who is a bar hopper," he said. "She was never home. She left us kids wherever." He was often home alone when he was just 7 and 8 years old. When his mother brought home a new boyfriend, and Ricky saw him abusing her, he left to live with his dad.

But that didn't work out either, "because I was a 'hood rat.'" And child protection workers moved Ricky to his first foster home. That began a long and sad list of fighting, running away, ending up in juvenile detention, until he was finally allowed this spring to return to his father.

That was the home Ricky had wished for all the years he was in foster care, he said. But three months later, in May, his father died of pulmonary disease.

Once again, a caseworker was ready to put him with a foster family, but Ricky wanted no more.

"I've never had a mother-father type deal in my life, so I wouldn't be ready for it," he said.

The next step for Ricky was his own apartment.

Last week, he sat huddled over a spiral notebook, the kind most kids his age would use for geography or math. He is no longer in any math classes, but the notebook is perfect for managing his money.

He budgets \$144 for two weeks of groceries, \$6 for "hygiene," \$50 for "recreation," \$20 for miscellaneous and \$20 to pay back a debt. But when he totals up his expenses, he compares it with the paycheck he expects to get and realizes he's \$3 short. He decides he will take it out of groceries.

He has written all this out carefully, underscoring the totals in pink highlighter.

Ricky has two years before his safety net is folded up.

He hopes he'll get a high school equivalency degree and a better job. In the meantime, he is learning to navigate the adult world. He lost his electricity in the middle of the night recently when he plugged in an old air conditioner he had found in the basement. But when he called the power company and heard they weren't going to send over any help right away, he told them he was blind. That got them over.

But for every victory, he discovers another trap. He is out of money because he blew a bundle on a Fourth of July cookout. He and his friends bought food and cases of soda pop and cigarettes, and that sent him way over budget.

"It was the first night of really enjoying myself," he said. It was Independence Day.

Struggling in the Adult World

Children leaving foster care at age 18, when federal and state funding ends, face a difficult future. Many suffer from emotional problems and are without financial help from relatives, making them vulnerable to homelessness and other problems. One study found that nearly four in 10 of the homeless population are former foster children.

12 to 8 months after leaving foster care system:

AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE

\$210 for males
\$157 for females

PHYSICAL INJURY

26% of the males had been beaten or otherwise seriously injured.
15% of the females had been beaten.
10% of the females had been raped.

INCARCERATION

27% of the males had been incarcerated.
10% of the females had been incarcerated.

OTHER

33% were receiving some public assistance.
19% of the females had given birth to children.

37% had not finished high school.
50% were unemployed.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT

Before leaving foster care: 47 percent were receiving some kind of counseling or medication for mental health problems.

After leaving foster care: 21 percent were receiving treatment, although there was no reduction in mental problems.

IN TRIBUTE

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 1998

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I want to place in the RECORD further tributes to the police officers who died protecting the United States Capitol last Friday.

SUSAN HIRSCHMAN, CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE MAJORITY WHIP

John Gibson made the ultimate sacrifice last Friday defending us. John's professional skills saved each of us. We will always remember John's sacrifice. But we will also remember the many other contributions John made to our lives. John's official duty was protecting Tom, the role that ultimately cost him his life. However, I will also remember that John had a quiet way of helping each of us do our job better. For example, as the person who spent more time with Tom than any of us, he was usually the first person to see when things weren't working right. Often, as I walked into the office passing his desk at the back door, he would look at me and simply say "Have you talked with the boss yet?"—gently letting me know that something was on Tom's mind. As we have gathered over the past few days to discuss how much we will miss John, I was not surprised that he had a similar way of helping each and every person in the office. John was a friend to each of us and he made our entire team work more effectively.

MONICA VEGAS KLADAKIS, MAJORITY WHIP STAFF

I got to know John Gibson better during the Republican Convention in 1996. I remember squeezing into a cab with him and a bunch of other staff people as we drove from place to place, and I thought, "He must really hate this." I had thought he was reserved and maybe even a little distant, but after that week I not only realized that he had a lot of patience to deal with all of us raucous staff people, I also discovered what a great sense of humor he had, how kind he was, and how much fun he was to be with.

And now he has saved my life. I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude toward him, from a depth which I don't know if I've ever reached before. We can never thank him properly for what he did for us, but I hope he knows that we will never forget it.
I'll miss him.

SPECIAL AGENT BOB GLYNN AND DETECTIVE DOUG SHUGARS

Detective John M. Gibson and Officer Jacob J. Chestnut are American heroes. Their heroic actions and personal sacrifice was responsible for saving numerous lives and ensuring the freedoms which all American enjoy continue.

Officer Jacob J. Chestnut was a very professional member of the United States Capitol Police. The polite and friendly manner in which he did his job will always be remembered. Every evening as Congressman

DeLay and his security would leave the U.S. Capitol, Officer Chestnut would always extend a friendly, "Have a good evening sir." This remark always made for a nice ending to a very long day.

Detective John M. Gibson was a cop's cop. Anytime John was working and there was some police action happening on Capitol Hill, John would be there. It might be standing in an intersection wearing a suit and directing traffic, assisting with the evacuation of a Congressional building that was on fire, or providing a backup for a fellow officer. John was always there. It was no surprise that John was involved in this kind of heroism. He would have had it no other way. John loved working the security detail for Congressman DeLay and took great pride in the assignment. John was considered to be a part of Congressman DeLay's staff and a very close friend to the DeLay family. John's unselfish actions and personal sacrifice ensured the safety and the lives of Congressman DeLay, his staff, and the public. John was an excellent police officer, a great partner and a wonderful friend. You will be missed.

There is an inscription on the National Police Memorial in Washington, D.C. by Vivian Eney, another survivor of a fallen Capitol Police Officer. This inscription is a fitting tribute to both Officer Chestnut and Detective Gibson: "It's not how these Officers died that made them heroes. It's how they lived."

KELLY POTTER, A TRUSTEE FOR THE D.C. LODGE OF THE FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE

I keep this poem on my refrigerator at home, which I thought was appropriate:

A PART OF AMERICA DIED

Somebody killed a policeman today, and
A part of America died.
A piece of our country he swore to protect
Will be buried with him at his side.
The suspect who shot him will stand up in
court,

With counsel demanding his rights,
While a young widowed mother must
Work for her kids
And spend alone many nights.
The best that he walked was a battlefield,
too,

Just as if he'd gone off to war.
Though the flag of our nation won't fly at
half mast,

To his name, they will add a gold star.
Yes, somebody killed a policeman today.
It happened in your town or mine.
While we slept in comfort behind our locked
doors,

A cop put his life on the line.
Now his ghost walks a beat on a dark city
street,

And he stands at each new rookie's side.
He answered the call and gave us his all,
And a part of America died.

SHAWNNA BARNETT, FORMER DELAY STAFFER

May John's kind nature and selfless acts remind us always of our fallen hero. He is out of our grasp but so very close to our hearts.

TOM VINCENT, DE LAY STAFFER

The biggest thing I remember was his sense of humor. I keep thinking of John taking a special effort to joke and tease Shawna Barnett and keep a smile on her face when she was down. It wasn't just Shawna he kept smiling, he made us all smile.

WILLY IMBODEN, DE LAY STAFFER

When I reflect on John Gibson, I remember a man of quiet dignity, integrity, and resolve. He possessed a calming presence about him, his steady bearing lending a tranquil air to the constant chaos of Capitol Hill. In many ways, his 18 years of patient service to Congress and to the American people culminated finally in the greatest and noblest