



On the Home Front

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REFLECT: CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

We know through our work here at the Children's Attention Home that not every child is so fortunate to have a happy childhood. Every child that comes through our doors has been taken from their home, not because of anything they have done, but because of what has been done to them.

During the month of April, communities across the nation gather to acknowledge the importance of working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. In York County, the Home partnered with other local agencies to raise awareness and honor those affected by child abuse through this year's Child Abuse Awareness Ceremony and Pinwheel Coloring Contest.

It's only through a community effort that we can combat child abuse. We invite you to be a voice for the voiceless, and be part of the solution.

\$1 BILLION

Child abuse and neglect costs South Carolina approximately \$1 billion annually in direct and indirect expenses

18,848

FOUNDED CASES

Of children involved in child abuse and neglect in 2015

54%

were neglect

39%

were physical abuse

5%

were sexual abuse

*Source: sccchildrenstrust.org



LEARNING TO LOVE LEARNING

A teenage girl came to the Home at the beginning of February. School records were sent over from her previous school and showed that she had missed several days, and the number of days was well over the allowable amount each year. As to be expected, the grades she had on record were very poor due to the missed class time.

After she arrived at the Children's Attention Home, she was enrolled in school and was evaluated to determine her grade level and assess her needs. She tested more than four grade levels below where she should have been, based on her age. She had never been to school on a consistent basis, and therefore never had the chance to succeed academically. She explained that she had been surrounded by people who thought that school was a waste of time.

Quickly, plans were made for her to begin intensive tutoring and structured educational programs outside of

regular school hours. Initially, we were unsure how she would receive the idea of spending five or more extra hours a week studying. Contrary to expectation, she has loved it. She is working on math and reading and is already beginning to make progress.

Even more exciting than her growing academic progress is the change we see in her attitude towards learning. She looks forward to it each day, has already built a positive relationship with her tutor, and has encouraged other children to participate as well.

She has a long way to go. She may not reach her grade level by the start of the next school year, but she is trying. She is working hard and she is very proud of herself for taking the steps. Seeing her motivation has inspired all of us!

**Names and details of the story have been altered to protect the identity of the resident*



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: JAMES BERTHA



Position: Residential Counselor

What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

Spend time with his mother and father, and enjoy that time with them, and also going fishing!

What's the funniest thing a child has said to you?

We used to have a toddler that referred to the younger toddlers as a "widdle" baby. It used to make my day! I really enjoy watching them go through their stages of growth. We also had a child

that was from Folly Beach, and every time you would ask her where she was from, she would say "I'm from Folly Beach, I say!"

What do you wish other people knew about the Home?

While we can't really put ourselves in their shoes, it's important that we understand the burden that these children carry. Despite being taken from their families for reasons that we know are not good, they carry on. They find time to grow, ways to laugh and play and be a child. That's important.

When talking about why he loves his job, James said:

"When I was small, I couldn't imagine being taken away from my family, and have the spirit our kids have. They find time to laugh, time to grow, and find a way to cope with all of it - that's a hard thing to do in their situations. I respect these children in ways that I don't think they begin to understand.

There are many times at the Home where I'm weighing all of these thoughts. At the same time, I'm trying to help them feel as comfortable as I can and win their trust. That trust goes a long way."

DIRECTOR'S DESK: HEART OF THE HOME



I'm finishing up my first year as a member of the team here at the Home, and I have been privileged to see the amazing work that is done every day to love and care for the children we serve.

I've participated in birthday celebrations, sat to blow bubbles, pushed our toddlers in the swings, enjoyed meals and Panther parties with our children, and gotten a few hugs along the way. I've watched our residential team teach our children how to check out at a store, dry tears when they are in pain, endure unexplainable tantrums and patiently help them learn everything they should have been taught by a parent.

I've seen volunteers give incredible amounts of time and unbelievable talent to provide for our children. I've witnessed lessons in gardening, hot meals delivered, birthday presents appear and a kind word from our volunteer receptionist turn around a child's day. I've watched people selflessly and joyfully give out of what they have been blessed with to help provide for our children's needs.

Every March, we hold our annual benefit luncheon. Previously named Under the Rainbow, the event is designed to connect our community with the children we serve. This year, we focused on the heart of what we do and how our impact in the lives of our children is only made possible by the generous hearts of the community that surrounds us. To better reflect this purpose, we renamed this event to *Heart of the Home*.

As it was made clear to all who attended the luncheon that day, our mission would not be possible without the generosity of others. During the program, we honored one of the men who stepped up from the community to create the Home for children nearly 50 years ago. Although I never got the opportunity to meet him, Reverend Bob Porterfield's legacy lives through so many that care for our children. Reverend Porterfield and the Porterfield family's heart for the children from the very beginning remains the foundation of the work we do and has shaped the way we continue to care for our children.

On the next page, you will see a list of all who helped make this event possible and help make our mission come to life every day. Thank you to each of you, and thank you to our community and your heart for our children.

- *Katy Motsinger*, Community Resource Director



HEART OF THE HOME: THANK YOU!

This event would not have been possible without the help of our supporters and sponsors! Whether it was helping prepare or executing the day of the event, we want to give a big thank you to...

Children's Attention Home Board, volunteers & staff
 First Baptist Church Rock Hill
 Five & Dine Catering
 Ribald Party Rentals
 Creative MMD & Brand Spells

Barry Baker Designs
 Angel Eye Photography
 Alex Jordan Photography
 Boingo Graphics
 The Herald

2016 "HEART OF THE HOME" SPONSORS



Carolinah HealthCare System



Marshall Air Systems
 Advent International Corporation
 Falfurrias Management Partners
 Comporium

Springs Creative Group
 The Law Office of James Fletcher
 Thompson, LLC
 Spencer & Spencer, PA

Duke Energy
 US Foods
 Good Sheperd UMC
 Boone Oakley

SHOW YOUR HEART FOR THE HOME

We rely heavily on the generosity of our community to help us provide the best care for our children. With lengths of stay increasing, we are consistently evaluating the resources each individual child needs to be successful in life beyond their time with us.

Show your heart for the Home through a financial donation. We have many ways you can participate in supporting our mission, and we would love to have you join us in serving our children!



ONLINE, CHECK OR CASH

Give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift through our PayPal account online or through a monthly ACH payment.



EMPLOYEE MATCH

You could double your donation through a company match! Check to see if your company has a matching gift program.



MEMORIAL & HONOR GIFT

Honor the life of a loved one by giving a gift that keeps on giving. Celebrate their life and legacy by investing in our children.



LEGACY GIVING

Establish long-term support for the mission of the Home through estate planning. If interested, contact Debra Eident at deident@attentionhome.org

Want more information? Email kmotsinger@attentionhome.org or call 803-372-6841

\$30,000 GRANT FROM WALMART FOR HEALTHY EATING



Last month, the Children’s Attention Home received a generous grant of \$30,000 from Walmart that will help fund our children’s Healthy Eating and Nutrition Education Program.

Through this grant, the Home will be able to purchase additional kitchen supplies, off-set some cost for food, pay fees for registered dietician, incorporate cooking classes

for the children and purchase additional instructional materials.

Many children come to the Home with poor eating habits, and the Home is their first experience eating healthy options on a regular basis. The Healthy Eating and Nutrition Program is one way the Home works to develop every child that comes to the Home. Through the work of our wonderful kitchen team, **Sara and Maria**, our children enjoy healthy, delicious well-balanced meals and are exposed to new foods that they may never have tried before.

Thank you, Walmart, for investing in our children!

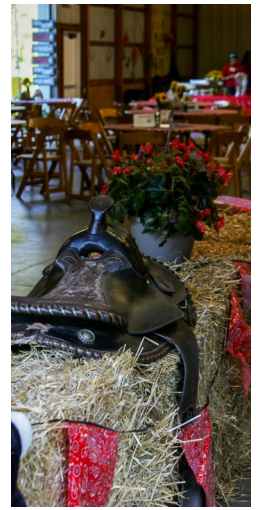
JOIN US FOR OUR SECOND ANNUAL DEEP IN THE HEART



Bring your partner and join us for our second annual Deep in the Heart this September!

Slide on your boots n’ best western dress for a night of good food & good times for a great cause, featuring music and line dancing, a delicious BBQ dinner, a raffle and silent auction and touching stories from representatives of the Children’s Attention Home.

Don’t miss out on the fun! Tickets, sponsorship opportunities and auction item information will be available later this month on our website at attentionhome.org/deepintheheart!









2015 “DEEP IN THE HEART” SPONSORS

Interested in sponsoring this year’s event or donating an item to the auction?
 Contact Email kmotsinger@attentionhome.org or call 803-372-6841

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

April is not only Child Abuse Prevention Month, but it is also *VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH!* We couldn't do what we do without the unwavering support of the many different individuals, groups, and businesses who have chosen to invest in the Home in time and talent. We celebrate our volunteers all year round with lots of love, laughter, hugs, and high fives, and we want to thank the many helping hands and feet that give of their time to selflessly serve and promote our mission!

VOLUNTEER FUN FACTS

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|---|---|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Volunteers | 212 |  |  | 31 | Birthdays Celebrated |
| Volunteer Groups | 97 |  |  | 72 | Collection Drives |
| Donated Hours | 10,518 |  |  | 63 | Meals Provided |

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BRIGHT BLESSINGS

Every child is a shining star, regardless of circumstance. To honor their unique personalities and share their special days, our birthday program in partnership with Bright Blessings and many helping hands and feet from the community seeks to uplift and celebrate each one of our shining stars.

Bright Blessings bring joy and positive recognition to our children through a birthday celebration held each month. They bring all the traditional birthday fun, plus educational and enrichment activities. The parties include cupcakes, treat bags and lots of love and attention for the kids!

Many of our children have never experienced a birthday party or received new presents. While parties and presents mean so much, oftentimes being in the spotlight and feeling a positive sense of self are the gifts that mean the most.

Tammy Thompson and Dana Burgess are two of the group leaders that oversee our monthly birthday celebrations. Tammy has been with us for 4.5 years and Dana has been with us for 2.5 years. We really appreciate the gift of time they share with us organizing and making an effort to ensure that each child is given the special attention they deserve.

A special note from Tammy & Dana:

I love seeing the kids being given special attention for their birthdays. I love seeing the surprised looks when they open their presents and get something they will really love. It means a lot to help CAH. It is an awesome organization and what I really love is seeing how happy the kids are that stay there. You can tell when they first get there and are apprehensive, but they quickly adjust and are very happy. I know that CAH has changed the lives of many children!

- Dana Burgess

Every month when we visit the Home, I leave feeling like I was the one blessed! The children are fun to be around; they enjoy the simple things like playing a game of bingo and winning a box of candy. Sometimes one of them will make a point to tell us when their upcoming birthday is. This always makes me smile knowing that they had a positive experience and are looking forward to their own celebration. I think what I enjoy the most about CAH is just spending time with the children, seeing them smile and also seeing how they interact with each other and the staff. It is obvious to me that in spite of their situation, they are in a loving and positive environment.

- Tammy Thompson



THANK YOU!

Thank you to the many individuals, groups, schools, businesses, and faith based organizations who share their time, talents, and resources to brighten spirits here at the Home. From handmade goods to sponsored parties and outings, the children in our care are so blessed by the outpouring of support from our generous community.

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| ADP | Imaginon Children's Theater | Southeastern Freight Lines |
| Bright Blessings | Junior Civitans | Springfield Bible Study Group |
| Catawba Baptist Women of Faith | Junior Welfare League | St. Philip Neri Church |
| Eta Sigma Alpha Honor Society | Knights of Columbus | St. John's UMC Rock Hill |
| F3 Fort Mill | Nation Ford High School FCCLA | Sunbelt Rentals |
| Family Trust FCU | New Kirk Baptist Church | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints |
| Fellowship Circle of Aldersgate UMC | Northwestern Girls Soccer Team | The Malison Financial Group |
| First Baptist Church of Charlotte | Our Lady of Grace | Title One Boxing Club |
| First Baptist Church Fort Mill | Refuge Church | Trips for Kids |
| Food Recovery Group | Ride Ability | Wells Fargo Home Mortgage |
| Forest Hill Church | Rogers Memorial Church | Wesley Foundation at Winthrop University |
| Fort Mill Middle School | Rose's Kitchen | Westminster Catawba Christian School |
| Good News Club | Saint Vincent de Paul | Westminster Presbyterian Church |
| Good Samaritan Church | Salon Collage | Winthrop PEK |
| Good Shepherd United Methodist Church | Siemen's Energy | Zion Presbyterian Church |
| Grace Academy | Slot Car Cave | |
| | South Point High School | |

GET CONNECTED WITH THE HOME

NEEDS LIST

- Bottled Water
- Juice Boxes
- Soap Boxes
- Hair Brushes
- Fresh Fruit

If you have other items you would like to donate, please call us at (803) 328-8871 to discuss.

***Please note:** Due to limited storage, the Children's Attention Home cannot accept unsolicited donations of used clothing, toys, stuffed animals, car seats, cribs or crib mattresses, beds or bed mattresses. Also, due to regulatory and other considerations, we can only accept new "in the box" items. Thank you for understanding.*

FEATURED WAYS TO SUPPORT

Birthday Buddy

Everyone likes to feel special on their birthday, and the children in our care are no exception. You can help by sponsoring a child and making their Birthday Wishes come true. Volunteers that serve in this capacity provide gifts and decorate our children's bedrooms on their birthday. We take care of the cake, ice cream, and paper products.

Fundraising Team

Are you looking for a meaningful and flexible volunteer opportunity that makes use of your management, leadership and team-building skills? If so, we can use your help on our volunteer fundraising team! We have teams for Sponsorship, Marketing and Promotions, Logistics, Raffle & Auction, Food Service, Bar Attendant and Event Parking!

For more information and to get involved, contact our volunteer coordinator:

Sharada Abraham , sabraham@attentionhome.org, 803-372-6840

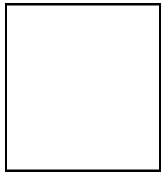


P.O. BOX 2912
ROCK HILL, SC 29732
(803) 328-8871

WWW.ATTENTIONHOME.ORG
INFO@ATTENTIONHOME.ORG



*Providing a safe and nurturing home
for abused and neglected children*



WAYS TO HELP

- **Give financially.** See all of the ways you can invest in the Home at attentionhome.org/give
- **Volunteer your time.** Invest your time in our children. See all of our volunteer opportunities at attentionhome.org/volunteer
- **Be a voice.** Schedule a visit or invite a speaker to educate your group and raise support. Learn more at attentionhome.org/tour

SAVE THE DATE

DEFEND Conference

Sunday, May 15
2:30-6:30 p.m.

Baxter Hood Center
375 South Anderson Road
Rock Hill, SC 29730

Want to make a difference in the life of a child in foster care, but don't know where to start? Find your next step at the Defend Conference. Learn more about what volunteer opportunities are available to serve children in foster care, what adoption looks like, and how you can be a voice to "defend the cause of the fatherless" in your community.



Deep in the Heart

Saturday, Sept 24
5:30-9:00 p.m.

Adventure Center at Anne Springs
Close Greenway
104 Adventure Road
Fort Mill, SC 29715

Bring your partner and join us for our second annual Deep in the Heart this September. Slide on your boots n' best western dress for a night of good food & good times for a great cause! Check out all the fun from last year's inaugural event on our website, and check back in later this month for tickets and more information about Deep in the Heart 2016 at attentionhome.org/deepintheheart!



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