

A Tale of Three Seniors

Each walked in with a different story. They had different hopes, different hurts and different fears. They all faced the looming finish line of their high school years and wondered whether they would cross it.

Stephen* was told all of his life that he would never graduate from high school. One adult after another told him he wasn't smart enough, wasn't capable. He had been a student at 7 different high schools before coming to live at the Home.

Jackie* lived on and off the streets the last few years of high school. Juggling a job, schoolwork and a safe place to sleep each night made the goal of graduating high school seem impossible.

Morgan* had never attended a large public high school. She and her siblings were kept in the house and attended school online. She did not have any friends, and she rarely experienced activities outside of her home.

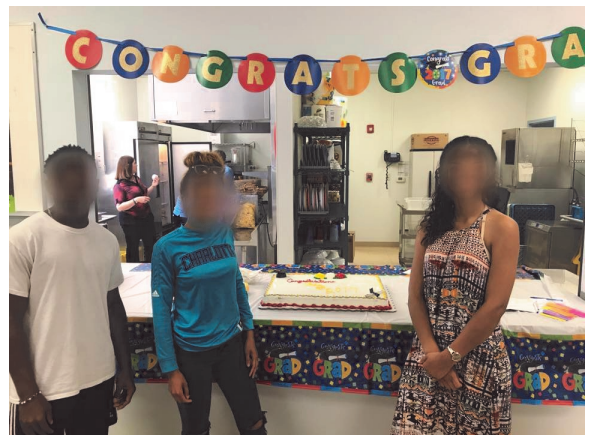
All three struggled when they first arrived. But over time, each began their journey forward. Morgan* began making friends and thrived in her academics with the help of her tutors, staff at the Home, and volunteers. Stephen* began the work he needed to do to reach the milestone he had been told he would never reach. Jackie* began trusting and accepting authority, and buckled down to get her grades where they needed to be graduate.



Due to the incredible generosity of community members, all three were able to attend their senior proms. Volunteers sponsored dresses, tuxedos, dinners, limos, corsages and so much more. Not one of them dreamed they would be able to attend this once-in-a-lifetime event. And after all was said and done, each walked across the stage and accepted their diplomas.

As they move on to their next stages in life, they each walk forward with new purpose and drive. Stephen* and Jackie* will pursue their degrees at York Technical College, and Morgan* will be pursuing her degree in occupational therapy. Each have their own hopes, their own hurts and their own fears. And now, they are not alone.

**Names and details of the story have been changed for confidentiality*



Celebrating their accomplishments during a graduation celebration at the Children's Attention Home with staff, volunteers, tutors and other children.

It's Happening Here? Homeless Youth Among Us



Across the nation, there is a rising number of unaccompanied teenage youth. Many of these homeless youth left their home or family to escape harmful and deteriorating home conditions, including suffering from abuse and neglect. These vulnerable youth are living in shelters, in cars or vacant building, “couch surfing” with friends, or out on the streets. Many of them are caught in the throes of human trafficking, trading work or sex for a place to stay or other resources.

Here in York County, we face the same problem. Teens with no stable living conditions are left to fend for themselves—find food and shelter, get to school, dodging those seeking to take advantage of their vulnerable state. Last school year, there were over 200 students identified as homeless in York County schools and over 4,000 homeless students identified in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools.

Up until this year, there were no shelters for homeless and unaccompanied youth anywhere in York County. In February 2017, the Home opened its doors to serve homeless youth ages 16-19 in **York, Lancaster, Chester, Mecklenburg counties**, and the surrounding areas. These youth can stay for as long as two years and receive the same loving care and attention as the foster children we serve. Each teen has a comprehensive care plan that focuses on their education or vocational goals and personal care and development.

It takes a village to raise these children, and they are still children. They deserve love, safety and attention. **And we are here to help.**

To learn more, visit attentionhome.org/homelessteens. To refer a teen, call (803) 328-8871.

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. Less than half of our funds are provided through state reimbursement, and our homeless teen program is funded entirely by the generous support of our community. Any size gift makes a difference in the lives of the children we serve.



Online, check or cash — Give a one-time gift, or set up a recurring gift through our giving page or through a monthly ACH payment.

Employee Match — Increase the impact of your donation through a company match! Check to see if your company has a matching gift program.

Memorial & Honor — Remember or honor the life of a loved one by giving a gift that keeps giving. Celebrate their life and legacy by investing in our children.

“Christmas in July” Collection Drive

Help us bring in Mid-Year Holiday Cheer July 1 through July 31!

It's getting warm outside, and we are halfway to the holidays. We invite individuals and groups in our community to celebrate the summer by supporting our Christmas in July campaign! By coordinating a collection drive, you can help us meet the day-to-day needs of our children and allow our staff to focus on providing summer fun for the 42 children entrusted to us who have been abused or abandoned. For more information, visit attentionhome.org/christmasinjuly.



Check out our Wish List — Browse and choose the items from our wish list online! Help supply our day to day operations with items such as emergency kits, snacks, pajama sets or sponsor a summer activity for the children in our care!

Host an Angel Tree — Collect items from our Sign-up Genius list by choosing a theme and collecting items in bulk. Coordinate with your friends, family, co-workers or neighbors, and be sure to take a picture to share on social media when you finish!

Host a “Christmas in July” gathering — Ask your party guests to bring specific items like gift cards, a monetary donation, or items from our wish list and help educate them about the work and mission of the Home.

Other Ways to Support

3rd Annual Deep in the Heart

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21 for this year's Deep in the Heart celebration! Check out the following ways to be part of helping change the life of a child through this event at attentionhome.org/deepintheheart:

- **Sponsor or Donate to the Auction or Raffle** — Connect your organization with a great cause and support our fundraising efforts
- **Volunteer** — Give your time the day of the event
- **Promote & Attend** — Buy tickets & share this event with others who may be interested in attending

Volunteer Opportunities

Office Assistant

Receptionists provide administrative and clerical support to our staff in addition to answering phones, directing calls, and greeting our guests.

Meal Time Assistant

Meal Time Assistants are responsible for setting up, serving dinner, and assisting with clean up as needed for the children in our care.

For more information about any of these opportunities, contact our volunteer coordinator, Sharada Abraham, sabraham@attentionhome.org, 803-372-6840

Over \$200,000 raised at 12th Annual Heart of the Home



On Wednesday, April 5, at Winthrop's McBryde Hall, nearly 300 supporters braved the weather to show their support at our 12th annual Heart of the Home luncheon. After the final tally, over \$200,000 was raised through the generous support of event sponsors and the individuals in attendance.

After a wonderful meal provided by Aramark catering, guests heard from Board Chair Kenny Avery, Executive Director Debra Eident and Philanthropy Committee Chair Randy Kibler. Some were attending for their 12th year, some were attending for the first time, but everyone walked away with a renewed passion for the mission and work of the Children's Attention Home.

A special thanks to the Winthrop University for their hospitality, the Plant Peddler for donating the lovely centerpieces, Timeless Arts Photography for generously photographing the event, Ribald Events for assisting with room décor, Barry Baker Designs for crafting our beautiful invitations and programs, Creative MMD for producing this year's video and our wonderful Board members, volunteers and teammates who helped make this event a success!

Thank you to Our Sponsors!

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Paige Law, Mentor

Volunteer Since October 2013

Paige works one-on-one with one of the children in our care as a Mentor. She goes above and beyond to ensure that her mentee is thriving and is very reliable, supportive, and attentive to the needs of her mentee.

“I feel I make the most difference by being a good listener and companion. Just by showing up I provide a sense of security and trust. I think this part of the volunteer program is such a blessing because one-on-one time is very important. All of the children need to know they are special in their own way.”

- Paige Law

Professor Frank Mingo, Activity Leader

Volunteer Since June 2016

Professor Frank gives of his time and talent a few times a month to share his Martial Arts expertise with the children in our care. Each week our children visit his studio and they return with bright smiles eager to tell stories of their experience and how they are looking forward to passing their skills tests.

“I have so much fun teaching and laughing with the kids! They are so enthusiastic! I highly encourage anyone contemplating donating your time and talent to the CAH to do so immediately. If you have a heart in your body, it will be filled with the joy of giving!”

- Professor Frank Mingo



From left: Suzanne Melton, Sherry Henry & Leah Clewley

Good News Club, Volunteer Group

Volunteer Since February 2012

The Good News Club serves the children by hosting a Bible study once a month and being lights to the children in our care. They always show up with a smile on their face ready to spread the love of Jesus.

“We love spending time with the children and seeing their hearts open up to God and his love. They BLESS US with their wonderful singing and eager anticipation in the stories and memory verse games. We know we are making a difference by planting seeds that God will continue to grow throughout their lives.”

- Good News Club Volunteers

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