



JANUARY 2016

# On the Home Front

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## THE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



It has been a season of giving and celebrating here at the Home. Leading up to Christmas, the children had the opportunity to enjoy many holiday parties and events thanks to our generous supporters. They have enjoyed viewing the Christmas lights, attending wonderful meals, and spending time with volunteers, visitors, and even Santa Claus himself!

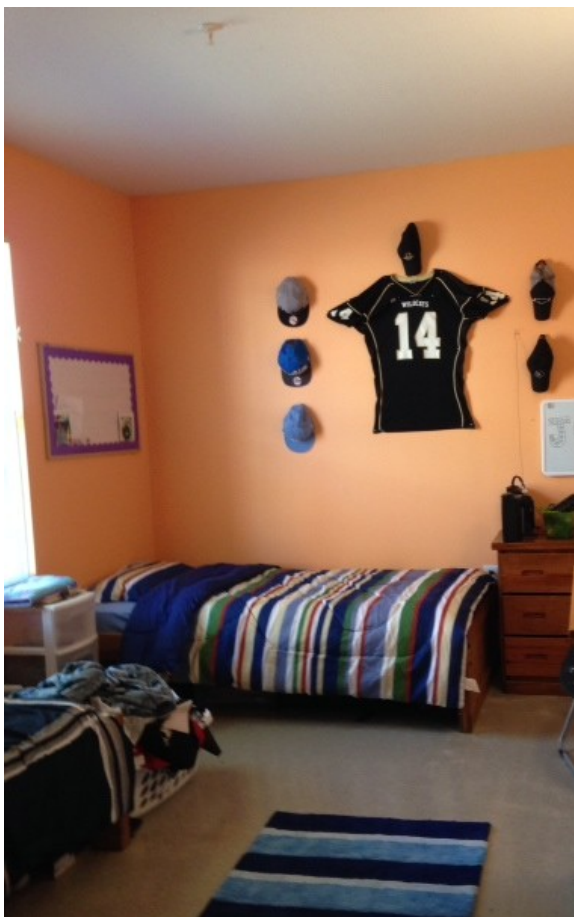
Our children have also been celebrating their own personal achievements. Throughout the year, our staff make every effort to help the children experience joy, love, and success, and every accomplishment of the residents is celebrated:

- One of our little ones, a three-year-old, recently became “officially” potty trained after months of working towards this goal.
- One of our middle school residents performed in the play Summer Camp, and she had her own section of the audience to support and encourage her.
- Our elementary school students visited various assisted living facilities to help spread holiday cheer. They loved taking treats and singing carols!
- Our preschoolers and Head Start students performed in their schools’ holiday productions. They were so proud of themselves for learning the words to the songs and practiced all week for the staff.
- One of our teenage residents earned a GPA of 4.60 in school. She achieved this GPA while also participating in her school’s band ensemble, as well as the social and vocational activities on campus.

We are so proud of all of our residents and all they have achieved. As we begin another year, we are looking forward to more great things from our residents, staff team and the Home.



## TIME FOR A BED



Around Thanksgiving, two new children arrived on our doorstep carrying only their backpacks and a few personal belongings. When children arrive, they are usually scared, upset and angry.

However, instead of anger, fear and tears, they were full of gladness and excitement.

The children excitedly talked about the Happy Meal their caseworkers had given them, and they could not wait to see the playground and meet their new roommates.

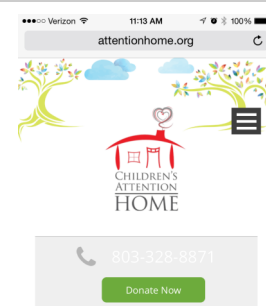
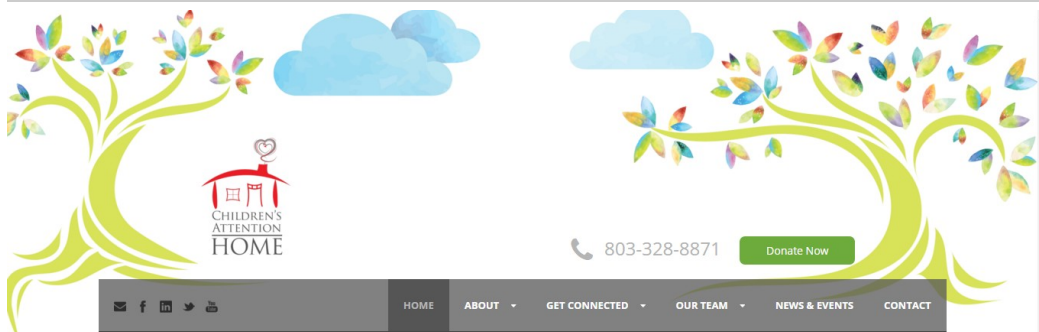
Each child received a welcome kit, including some personal items, clothes and hygiene supplies. They had also brought a small pillow with them for comfort. The staff member expressed to the children how nice the pillows would look on their beds, and they looked at the staff member with confused expressions on their faces.

"We don't have beds," they explained

After talking with the children a little further, they explained that a series of events had left them with no consistent place to sleep each night. They often shared a couch or a makeshift mattress.

So excited to show the children their new beds, the staff member took them to the cottages to see their new bedroom. Their beds were made up with matching comforters and sheet sets. The children were so excited to place their pillows on their new beds, and sure enough they matched perfectly.

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED, MORE CHANGES COMING



The Children's Attention Home launched its new website in November in partnership with **Bravo Marketing Agency**. The new site features a variety of content to give visitors a closer look into the heart of the Home.

Additionally, Apparo recently selected the Home to receive a \$10,000 grant to further assist with website development. Apparo's mission is to transform local nonprofits through technology and services that enhance their missions. You can read more at [www.apparo.org](http://www.apparo.org).

### UPDATED FEATURES

- Mobile optimization for easy reading on phones and tablets
- Improved online donation process
- Expanded & updated information

Have feedback on the website? Email [kmotsinger@attentionhome.org](mailto:kmotsinger@attentionhome.org)

## DIRECTOR'S DESK

**Happy 2016 to you all!** Entering a new year always causes me to reflect on the past year as much as I anticipate the year ahead. Looking back on 2015, I am most amazed that my first year at the Children's Attention Home is already complete; it certainly went by quickly! It was a year of much change as we restructured our leadership team and updated a number of the Home's policies and processes. Most important things, however, stayed the same:

1. **The support of an incredible Board** of dedicated community members who continued their active involvement in accomplishing our goals and guiding our future direction.
2. **The involvement of over 200 individual volunteers and multiple groups** without whom we could not provide all the children's activities, celebrate their special days, maintain our campus, greet visitors, or even answer our phones as efficiently and effectively as we do.
3. **The commitment of our staff team** to provide for our children in the most caring and supportive way possible to promote their healing and positive development.

**As we begin 2016, I am happy to introduce our new Operations Director, Richard Huitt**, who started with us on November 23, 2015. Richard has extensive experience in the operations area, having owned and operated an area business for over 20 years and having conducted church mission trips targeted at building housing for poverty

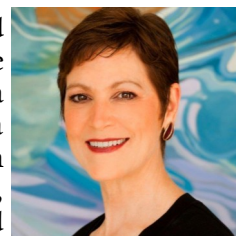
stricken areas in both Guatemala and Africa for more than 15 years. He comes to us most recently from a successful sales position with a commercial roofing company based in Statesville, NC. In his operations role, Richard will maintain oversight and responsibility for facility maintenance and upkeep, food services, human resources, and financial services. We are fortunate to have someone with Richard's experience join our team.

**We are also excited about a new position of Education Coordinator we are adding to our staff team this year.**

Many of our children come to us with significant learning needs, and because more of our children are staying with us for longer periods of time it is critical that we give them every opportunity to succeed educationally. The person hired to fill this role will monitor the ongoing progress of every school-aged child in our care, serve as liaison to school counselors and teachers on behalf of the Home, and will also work with the rest of our staff and volunteer teams to identify and implement additional supportive measures targeted to maximize each child's educational development.

2016 is already shaping up to be an exciting year of opportunity at the Children's Attention Home. We are grateful you are on this journey with us, and we look forward to continuing our partnership with you. Many blessings in your New Year!

- Debra Eident, Executive Director



Debra Eident

## 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](mailto:deident@attentionhome.org) 803-372-6839

**Want more information? Email [kmotsinger@attentionhome.org](mailto:kmotsinger@attentionhome.org) or call 803-372-6841**



## THE HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS (CONT.)

Before coming to the Children's Attention Home, many of our children missed out on family traditions such as family dinners, decorating trees, and gift giving. They had never created home-made ornaments, hung a stocking, sang Christmas Carols with family, wrote a letter to Santa, or opened a new gift. They also missed out on learning about the real Christmas story and Jesus' birth.

While at the Home, we are thankful that our team of staff and volunteers ensure that our children know more than Santa and his reindeer. The love, care, and attention they receive is REAL and that's what's most important.

But because special gift giving and characters like Santa Claus are part of what makes Christmas special for children everywhere, we ensure that each child has a memorable Christmas at the Home. The children in our care participate in a variety of holiday activities and there is so much for them to enjoy as our volunteers, supporters, and donors ensure that our children have an awesome experience at their home away from home.



### THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

- 46 groups collected items to sponsor our children's Christmas gifts
- 41 individuals collected items to sponsor our children's Christmas gifts
- 21 Individuals & Groups sponsored holiday activities, events, outings, or meals for our children



We would like to thank the many individuals, groups, schools, businesses, and faith based organizations who shared their time, talents, and resources, to brighten spirits here at the Home. From handmade blankets and pillowcases, and personalized and embroidered toboggans, to sponsored parties and outings, the children in our care were so blessed by the outpouring of support from our generous community.

**Their holiday season at the Home was made a little brighter because of YOU!**

**Because of YOU, we were able to provide a total of 57 children with new toys and clothing from their wish lists.**

**Because of YOU, our children were shown the love and care that the community has for vulnerable children.**

**Because of YOU, our children were shown that they will not be forgotten.**

**Thank you for your investment in the lives of our children .**

# THANK YOU!



## **Thank You's**

Aldersgate UMC Fellowship Circle  
 Boy Scout Troop 250  
 Calvary Baptist Church  
 Carolina's Miata Club  
 Catawba Baptist Women of Faith  
 Close Scholars of Winthrop  
 Eastview Baptist Church  
 Episcopal Church of Our Savior  
 First Baptist Church Charlotte  
 First Baptist Church Fort Mill  
 First Baptist Church of Richburg Youth  
 Food Recovery Group  
 Fort Mill National Guard  
 Goddard School  
 Good Samaritan United Methodist Church  
 Good Shepherd United Methodist Church  
 Grace Presbyterian Preschool  
 Happy Hookers  
 Harmony Baptist Church  
 Junior Woman's Club  
 Lake Wylie Lutheran Church  
 Lifepoint Christian Church  
 Manchester Creek Community Church  
 Mary Kay Excellence Unit  
 McClancy Seasoning  
 Miller Street Dance Academy  
 New Kirk Baptist Church "Love in Action"  
 Noosa Pest Management  
 Northgate Baptist Church  
 Oakland Ave Presbyterian Church  
 Pack 31  
 Park Baptist Church  
 Philadelphia UMC  
 Providence Baptist Church  
 Roar Sports  
 Rock Hill Lions Club  
 Rogers Memorial ARP Church  
 Sam Bates General Management Sanctuary  
 Charlotte Church  
 Samuel Strapping Systems  
 Siemen's  
 Spirit of Liberty Deliverance Church  
 St John's UMC  
 St. Phillip Neri  
 SVDP St. Anne Church  
 Transformation Church Rock Hill  
 Trips for Kids  
 Victory Sports Outreach  
 Westminster Presbyterian Church



## **Holiday Activity/Event/Outing Sponsors**

Andy & Jen Ramieri  
 Beef O Brady's Fort Mill  
 Charlotte Motor Speedway  
 Chronotek  
 Comporium  
 David Lyon  
 First Baptist Fort Mill Life Group  
 Friends of Lake Wylie  
 Jim Tripplett  
 John C & Susan Y Cameron  
 John Williams Electric  
 Lake Wylie Lutheran Church  
 Mark Boldouc  
 Nancy Greene  
 Narroway Productions  
 Preferred Electric  
 Sheila E  
 Shield of Faith  
 Temple Solel  
 The Well--Extreme Youth Group  
 Winthrop Basketball  
 Winthrop Softball  
 York County Sheriff's Foundation  
 YOU Lead

## **Wish List & Giving Tree Sponsors**

Alex Jordan  
 Alicia Muldrow  
 Anna Jew  
 AXA Advisors  
 Camso USA  
 Carolina Kids  
 Chronotek  
 CHS Cardiac Nursing Services  
 CMC Observation Unit  
 Dawn Wright  
 Debbie Whitesell  
 Domtar  
 Emily Jaeckli  
 F3 Men of Fort Mill  
 Glenrock Baptist Church  
 Joan Cormier  
 Linda Funderburk  
 Lisa Shook  
 Mary Beth Taylor  
 McCorckle Family  
 Mt. Calvary AME Zion Church  
 Our Lady of Grace  
 Pineville Falcons Hockey Team  
 Plato's Closet  
 Reid Pointe Community



Riley Johnson  
 Sandy Solomon  
 SCCL Day Trippers Club  
 Shannon & Jeff Matthews  
 St. John's UMC  
 SPN Women's Emmaus Group  
 Stephen Cooley Team  
 Terri Hayes  
 Tribute Homes

## **Children's Wish List Sponsors**

Ace Elastomer  
 Amy Gamble  
 Andrea McConaughy  
 Anna Jew  
 Barrie Lewis  
 Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
 Bojangle's Restaurants, Inc  
 Bridget Dover  
 Catherine Woodward  
 Christy Scruers  
 CHS Cardiac Nursing Services  
 Cindy Cahaly  
 Color Solutions  
 Dian McDermott  
 Donna Johnson  
 Erica Black  
 Forest Hill Altman Life Group  
 Gregg & Connie Campbell  
 Jodi Holean  
 Kristin Flowers  
 Laura Everall  
 Lash Group  
 Lauren Butler  
 Marilyn Isaacs  
 Meagan Blake  
 Neely's Creek ARP Church  
 Norelle Baker  
 Paul Davis Restoration  
 Randy Saverance Small Group  
 Rebekah Loftis  
 Renee Starceovich  
 Schaeffler Group  
 Sew Much Fun Club  
 Stephanie Sabato  
 Tara Monk  
 TD Bank  
 Terex USA  
 Trisha Clinton  
 Wendy Schonfeld  
 Wells Fargo

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season, we are blessed with outpouring support from our community. In-kind donations help us meet the needs of the children in our care and we receive a generous amount of clothing, toys, hygiene items, welcome kits, snacks, cereals, and cleaning products to help us keep our cottages fully stocked for the upcoming year. But where does it all go?

**Enter Beth Smith & Barbara Powell. These two volunteers are dear to our hearts as they keep our donations closet clean, neat, and well organized.** They both enjoy giving their time to make a difference because they know that they have a hand in ensuring that the donations are easily accessible to our staff. This means the world to us when we receive a call for admission of a family of five, and we have easy access to all of their basic needs such as undergarments, socks, shoes, and hygiene items. Having these items easily accessible in our time of need is such a time saver, and our staff and supervisors really appreciate the hard work and efforts of Beth & Barb.

### Notes from Beth & Barb:

I have served at the Children's Attention Home since March of 2015. I thoroughly enjoy working with Barb Powell, another volunteer and new

friend. Barbara and I both know that we are making a difference at the CAH because the wonderful donations are now more easily accessible. New shoes and new clothes are always a hit with the children. I love their smiles and excitement!

As a retired RHSD teacher, I enjoy vacationing with my husband, spoiling my grandchildren, attending Oakland Baptist Church, exercising, and reading. Life is good!

*Beth Smith, Friend of the Home*

I've been with the home for about three years and I primarily serve with the Palmetto School. I enjoy helping the teachers assess student needs and reading levels. For the past 10 months, I have volunteered to help organize the donations closet. It is very rewarding to see how generous people are and help sort items for easy access at appropriate times. It has been an extra pleasure to meet such a wonderful group of people....both volunteers and staff! Working with them on common goals to help kids is a highlight of my week.

Flexibility of scheduling allows me to contribute while still spending time with family and traveling.

*Barb Powell, Friend of the Home*

## GET CONNECTED WITH THE HOME

### NEEDS LIST

Paper Towels  
Napkins  
Teen Boys Boxer Shorts (S, M, L, XL)  
Toilet Paper

**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.

### Looking to get connected?

Check out our website for current volunteer needs, or email [sabraham@attentionhome.org](mailto:sabraham@attentionhome.org)

### FEATURED WAYS TO SUPPORT

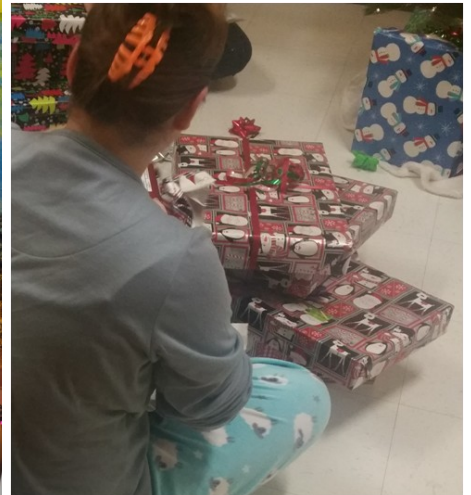
#### Volunteer Administrative Assistant

We have an immediate need for a volunteer to assist our Administrative Assistant with a variety of administrative tasks in our front office. Responsibilities include:

- Answering phones
- Data entry
- Maintaining office supplies
- Copying
- Document preparation
- Mail distribution
- General office support.

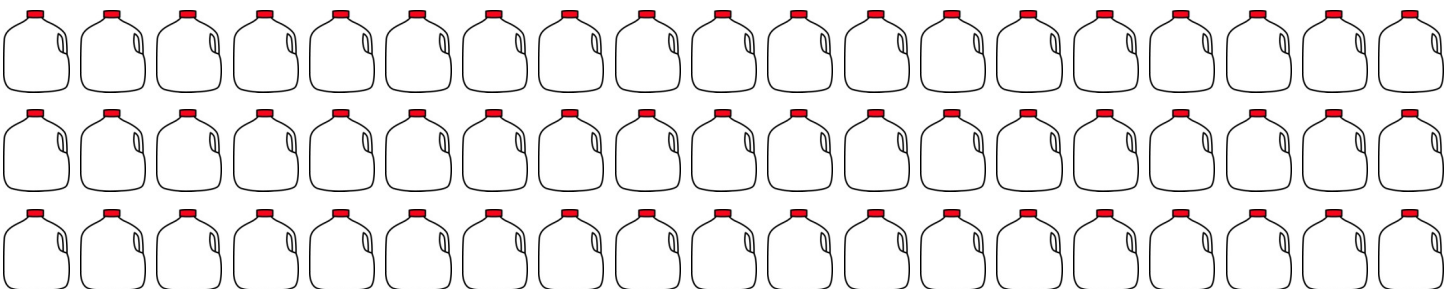
This opportunity requires a weekly commitment of 2-3 hours. Basic knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel is beneficial. To get connected with this opportunity to serve the community, contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Sharada Abraham at (803) 328-8871 or [sabraham@attentionhome.org](mailto:sabraham@attentionhome.org).





## DID YOU KNOW?

**On average, our children drink 54 gallons of milk PER WEEK!**



## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Cheryl Fortner-Wood, Ph.D.**  
York County

**Kenneth Avery**  
York County

**Suzanne Harnois**  
York County

**Kim Lovsin**  
York County

**Nicki Nash**  
Lancaster County

**Dr. Laurie Milatz-Atkinson**  
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**Randy Kibler**  
Spartanburg County

**Julie Watts**  
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**Ralph Norman**  
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**Scott Motsinger, PE**  
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