



# On the Home Front

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## SAVE THE DATE



### York County Child Abuse Awareness Ceremony

Tuesday, April 26  
York County Museum  
6:30-7:30pm



GUIDESTAR



amazon smile



add to your givolio



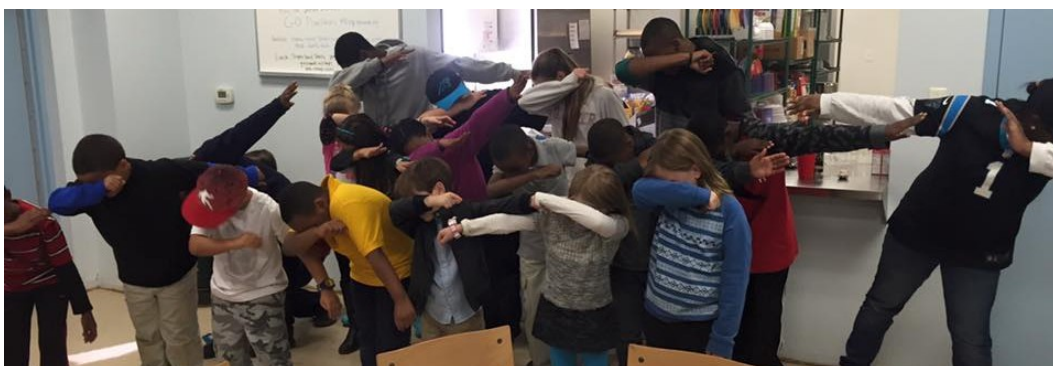
GIVE ONLINE AT

[attentionhome.org](http://attentionhome.org)

## SUPER PUMPED FOR SUPER BOWL

It was a special season for the Carolina Panthers! Many of our children carefully followed the Panthers throughout the season, watching every game with anticipation. We have a few non-fans, but most of the children got into the team spirit throughout the season on game days.

While we didn't attend the send off in downtown Charlotte, we joined the many other Charlotte area businesses and organizations with our own Panther Pride Day. Each cottage donned decorations, and Chef Sara prepared a special Super Bowl lunch. We rooted for them all the way to Super Bowl 50! While they didn't win it all, it certainly gave our children something to look forward to every week. Thank you, Carolina Panthers, for helping inspire our children and #keeppounding!



## A NEW PAIR OF SHOES

Shortly following Christmas, a teenage resident came to live at the Home named Ben\*. As is typical with many children we serve, he arrived with nothing besides the clothes on his back. Because of this, all children receive a welcome basket uniquely put together for them. Ben's welcome basket included various treats and comfort items along with pajamas, a change of clothes and toiletries that he needed.

Ben showed great appreciation for each item in his basket, and he proudly displayed the basket on his bedside table in his new room. He shared that Christmas had been slim for him with very few gifts, making these items all the more meaningful to him.

Ben was scheduled to begin school later in that week, so our staff took him shopping to make sure he had everything he needed for his first day in his new school. Throughout the trip, he thanked the staff again and again as they found a coat, several outfits and school supplies for him.

Towards the end of the outing, Ben made a very soft spoken request for a particular pair of shoes. He'd wanted the shoes for a long time and had not had the opportunity to get them. They'd even been an item on his Christmas list, but it hadn't worked out.

Expecting his request to be one for an expensive pair of shoes, the staff member patiently explained the Home's resources to provide for every child are budgeted and stressed the importance of stewarding these resources to make sure each child receives the items they need. Ben

nodded with understanding and said he would be willing to work to pay the difference if needed. Determined to figure out a solution, the staff member went with Ben to look at the shoes.

They arrived at the store and Ben found the shoes immediately. The staff member looked at the price - **\$10**. Again, Ben offered to pay for the shoes once he earned some money, but the staff member assured him they were well within the budget.

He left the store, thrilled, with the shoes on his feet. He told everyone how comfortable they were and how much he liked them. He has since received an additional pair of shoes, but he still wears his favorite pair often and talks about how much they mean to him.



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

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW EDUCATION COORDINATOR

The Children's Attention Home has been seeking to fill a new position for the role of Education Coordinator. We are excited to announce that **Teri Wyman** will fulfill this role to serve our children!

Teri has been involved with the Home since 2012 when she began volunteering, first as a tutor, then in the kitchen, leading to assisting with special projects like Christmas wrapping, activities with the residents and community events.

She worked as the Home's Administrative Assistant in 2014 and spent time as a substitute teacher for the Palmetto School from 2011-2015. Her background includes years of experience in teaching math and English, as well as substituting in various subjects and coaching volleyball.

We are so glad to have her, and we look forward to all she will bring to the Home as a whole and to our children's lives.!

### MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

- Liaison between schools, CAH staff team & residents
- Assist with developing the children's educational goals
- Secure necessary resources to help children achieve their goals



## DIRECTOR'S DESK

The next time you visit the Children's Attention Home, you will likely notice a big difference in the look of things! We recently repainted the dining hall and common areas of the administrative building and cottages. The mix of blues makes the entire place appear brighter, and of course fresh paint just makes everything seem new again. It was quite a big project coordinated by our Operations Director, Richard Huitt, who did a great job organizing the work around the activities of the staff team and children. Can you imagine trying to keep approximately 35 children from running their fingers through wet paint on walls and doors for two – three weeks? That in itself was a huge accomplishment!

Being surrounded by the light and fresh new color is a great way to begin this year; a fresh start in a fresh year. It also provides the perfect context for the children we serve because the Children's Attention Home is about providing fresh starts. Sometimes that fresh start is for the parents who need to focus on getting back on their feet in order to best care for their children. Sometimes it is for the healing that needs to happen so the children can return to a safer, more secure environment. And sometimes the fresh start is with a new family to love and care for a

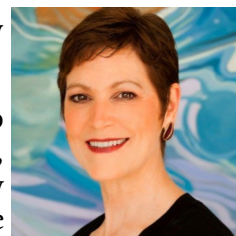
child in a nurturing, healthy environment.

For those of us who are privileged to serve these children on a daily basis, we get to see fresh starts almost every day. We see them experience activities they've never experienced before, grow developmentally,

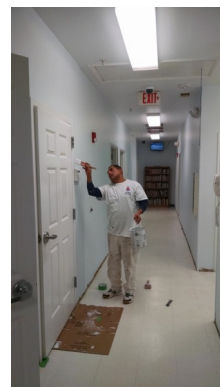
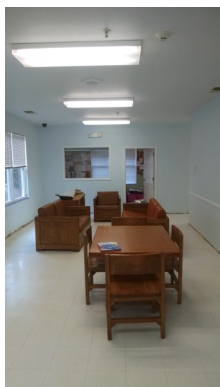
advance in school, and learn to interact with adults and their peers in new, healthy ways. Every day we are reminded of the importance of the work we do because everyone needs a new start at some point in life, and there is none more critical than the kind allowed through the work of the Children's Attention Home.

Obviously the work we do would not be possible without your support. You allow us to continue caring for our precious children and we are very grateful for all you do. We can never say "thank you" enough, and those words are not adequate to express our gratitude, but please know we never take you for granted. Thank you again for the fresh starts you make possible.

- *Debra Eident*, Executive Director



**Debra Eident**



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



### NAKITA WADSWORTH

Position: Supervisor

Department: Residential Programs

#### What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?

I like to travel when I can.

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

My "go to" phrase is JESUS - a teen informed me that I call on him too much and that Jesus can't help me all the time.

#### What do you wish other people knew about the Home?

That the Home is really like their homes. We are invested in the residents like they are invested in their children.

When talking about why she loves this job, Nakita said:

*Ever since I was in the 6th grade I wanted to teach children, because I saw how my teachers cared for me by choice. You know, your family has to love you! I wanted to care and love kids not because I had to, but because of the feeling instilled in me when I was a child when a teacher did the same for me. I'm so grateful for the opportunity I have to pour into all of these children on a daily basis. These children will never get this time back with their families, but I'm so glad they are able to spend that time here with people who make the choice to care.*

## STAFF TEAM RECOGNITION PROGRAM

**Did you notice a member of our team go above and beyond today?**

**Did they make you say...**



**Let them know!**

Starting this year, the Children's Attention Home implemented a staff team rewards program to catch people doing great things! If you see one of our staff team members going above and beyond to serve, we encourage you to let them know. Pick up a WOW card anywhere on campus when you visit to share your positive experience.

Thank you for helping us model positive feedback behavior for our children!



## WHEN WE WERE MOVIE STARS

While working on our new video for the Children's Attention Home, some of our staff team got in on the action! **A big thank you goes to Jeff Williams with Brand Spells and Eric Williams with Creative MMD** who made this project possible!

Cathy Bolduc, our social worker, conducted the majority of the interviews that featured several members

of our team that serve and care for our children every day as well as members of the community that serve with us or on the frontlines to combat child abuse and neglect.

We're excited for you to see it, and we hope it gives you a bigger picture of the impact you can make when you support the Children's Attention Home!



## CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS CEREMONY



### York County Child Abuse Awareness Ceremony

Tuesday, April 26 from 6:30-7:30pm

Museum of York County, 4621 Mt Gallant Rd, Rock Hill, SC 29732

It is estimated that child abuse and neglect costs South Carolina approximately \$1 billion dollars annually, in direct and indirect expenses. At the Children's Attention Home, we also know the devastating, long-term negative effects of child abuse can have on individuals. We see it every day in the children we serve.

In collaboration with other local agencies, the Children's Attention Home is participating in the annual ceremony to bring awareness to child abuse and neglect in York County. We invite you to join our effort to:

- Engage our community in conversation
- Honor those affected by this tragedy in our society
- Educate yourself 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: scchildrenstrust.org*

## 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**



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: F3 FORT MILL

The Children's Attention Home partners with a variety of clubs, groups, churches, and businesses that provide ongoing support for our Recreation Program. F3 is one of those groups and we are happy to be approaching our two year anniversary!

F3 is a group of men that come together regularly to participate in fitness related activities like running, boot camps and kettle bell work outs. F3 stands for Fitness, Fellowship and Faith. The 3rd F is heavily emphasized where the group focuses on others in need and these three Fs come together with the purpose of invigorating male leadership in local communities.

F3 has been involved with the Home since April of 2014. Their first mission was a cereal drive in which the group collected over 370 boxes of cereal! The group hosted two other family friendly events and this past year decided to further their commitment and host a variety of activities every other week that has included bike rides, kick ball, capture the flag and a variety of other games.

The following is a note from the group leader, Brian Brenner...

*Each time we visit the home we have a routine that starts with a circle where we warm up with 3-5 exercises, then we do our main event like kick-ball or other games then we always finish with the circle of trust that includes a prayer. One of my favorite moments which was the 2nd or 3rd time we volunteered was when one of the children offered to take us out in prayer and she prayed over all the men and their families as well as for the children of the home. It was amazing and something I will never forget; such an honor it was to be prayed for by her.*

*I enjoy the opportunity to see the children engaging, gaining confidence and being a part of a healing process in their lives even if it is just for a short time every other week. I also see these children impacting the men that participate as well as their broader families as we learn to serve those in need in our community. I also believe that F3, since we are a group of men, are helping these children create a level of trust and give them a sense of confidence with a male figure where that trust may have otherwise been damaged in their lives. They truly give me so much more than I give them and I'm grateful for being a part of such a special group.*



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
**Our children will eat 40 lbs of bananas in 3 days.**  
**That's 82 bananas!**

## 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.

Aldersgate UMC Fellowship Circle  
Bright Blessings  
Catawba Baptist Women of Faith  
F3 Fort Mill  
First Baptist Church Fort Mill  
Good News Club

Life Point Christian Youth  
NAFO FCCLA  
Our Lady of Grace  
RMC Ministries  
Springfield Ladies Bible Study Group  
St. Paul United Methodist

St. Vincent de Paul  
Wells Fargo  
Westminster Catawba Christian  
School  
Winthrop PEK

## GET CONNECTED WITH THE HOME

### NEEDS LIST

Juice boxes  
Bottled water  
Bleach  
Travel soap containers  
Children & adult allergy medication  
Bar soap containers  
Hair grease (new grow)  
Hair picks  
African American hairbrushes  
Oil sheen  
Black gel  
Face wash  
Vaseline  
Feminine hygiene products (thin, regular, super absorbency with wings)

**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.

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

**Sharada Abraham**  
**[sabraham@attentionhome.org](mailto:sabraham@attentionhome.org)**  
**803-372-6840**

### FEATURED WAYS TO SUPPORT

#### Sunday's Best Meal Team

A warm, home cooked meal can often be the highlight of a family's day and our children love to reminisce about Grandma's Sunday afternoon meals, their favorite Aunt's desserts, as well as their Mom and Dad's favorite comfort foods. Wouldn't you like to put your Sunday's best to the test?

#### Heart of the Home Volunteer Team

Join our team of dedicated staff and volunteers to deliver a wonderful experience for our guests at our Annual Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, March 17, 2016. This event is our opportunity to invite the community to learn more about who we are, what we do, and why we need support. Volunteers are needed to support serve on our décor committee, set up team, event team, food service team, as well as break down.

#### Friends of the Home

With 42 children we often go through the following items, and we would love it if you would consider making a monthly, quarterly, or annual donation of the following items.

- **Paper Products** - Towels, Paper Napkins, Paper Plates, Plastic Wrap, Plastic Cutlery, & Aluminum Foil
- **Individually Wrapped Snacks** - cheez-its, goldfish, granola bars, cereal bars, rice krispy treats, fruit snacks, chex mix, pop tarts, animal crackers, potato chips
- **Cereal** - Frosted Flakes, Fruit Loops, Lucky Charms, Cocoa Puffs, Honey Nut Cheerios, Apple Jacks, Cinnamon Toast Crunch, Honey Bunches of Oats, Cookie Crisp

This opportunity is also great for Sunday School Classes, Bible Study Groups, Boy/Girl Scouts, businesses, schools, clubs, and organizations.



## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

**Kenneth Avery**  
York County

**Suzanne Harnois**  
York County

**Kim Lovsin**  
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**Nicki Nash**  
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