

# Hope!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home

where the heart is

southeastern  
children's  
home

## Families are fundamental

Six bubbas and a baby, House mother Tabitha Ball's column ... and more!

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April 2, 2013 to November 12, 2013

# Six bubbas and a baby:

## Smith Cottage boys surround baby girl

Savannah Ball has but three important words in her entire vocabulary: Momma, Dadda, and Bubba. For 10-month old Savannah, there is only one Momma, and one Dadda. Yet, there are a whopping six Bubba's that watch out for her.

Savannah, daughter of house parents Clay and Tabitha Ball, may be the most protected member of the Southeastern Children's Home family, if not the most protected daughter in Spartanburg County.

"Savannah loves each and every one of the boys," Clay said. "She tends to gravitate towards the boys that have been with us the longest. It takes time, but the longer the boys are with us, the more comfortable they get around Savannah."

Savannah's inclusion into the Ball household has altered life in the Smith Cottage.

"Before Savannah came we were rough housing and using bad language," Smith Cottage resident Billy said. "Now, we go outside to wrestle because Savannah is always crawling around. And we've tried to cut down on the bad words and the yelling."

Of course, Savannah's presence during the last year has made a dramatic effect on the teenaged boys in the Smith Cottage.

"Day by day, they're assuming a greater role as big brothers," Clay said. "The more Savannah grows, the more the boys seem to grow as well. When we brought her home, our boys didn't know what to do. It's been a process that's slowly evolved. They see us do things with her, and they learn how to handle certain situations. For instance, one boy knew a violent part was

coming in a movie, so he put his hands over her eyes. They're learning how to protect her. And often, they'll change the way they talk when she's in the room."

Each of the Smith Cottage residents has, without prompting, begun to take on new chores.

"They're sort of spontaneous babysitters. They hold her. They feed her," Clay said. "Sometimes the boys watch over her while we're busy with the other residents. They even help put her to sleep."

Over time, the boys have become quite protective of Savannah.

"There's rarely a time Savannah is ever alone," Clay said. "They're extremely protective. I'm certain, if there was ever a problem, there would certainly be a 6-man pileup."

The boys' assumption of responsibility is an important stepping stone in their development.

"Many of our kids have never had a traditional family experience," Director of Residential Services Vicki Stidham said. "Most of our kids don't know what it means to have a younger sibling, because they've never lived

**"... They're sort of spontaneous babysitters. They hold her. They feed her. They even put her to sleep ... Many of our kids have never had a traditional family experience ..."**

## Families are fundamental

**By Robert Kimberly**

*Executive Director*

Families are vital for children. The family unit isn't superfluous; it isn't just a decorative structure that provides a means to an end. Families are created by God. They provide the necessary support and structure that each child desperately needs.

Southeastern Children's Home is committed to providing families for children in need.

*Continued on page 4 ...*



### Contact us!

Hope! is a publication of Southeastern Children's Home, **Robert Kimberly**, Exec. Director.

We can be reached ...

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# lessons in life and love



10-month-old Savannah enjoys the fall weather with three of her six Smith Cottage bubbas.

with a traditional family. Savannah's inclusion into the Smith Cottage has been an incredible experience. It's taught the boys the importance of family, and specifically, what it means to care for someone weak, and frail."

Yet, there are some things the boys won't do.

"I'm not about to change a diaper," Billy said. "I'll do just about anything else. I don't do diaper duty."

Being "Bubba" has been a healthy role for our boys in the Smith Cottage. Indirectly, our boys are learning how to talk, how to act, and how to be a responsible family member. Even the Smith Cottage halls are a little quieter at night because no one wants Bubba to be responsible for waking up their precious little sister.

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April 2, 2013 to November 12, 2013

# Thoughts from the Home

**By Tabitha Ball**

*House mother for Smith Cottage*

On Halloween, I had the privilege of taking two of our SECH teenagers trick-or-treating.

On that night, the boys forgot about the struggles they have been through and the challenges they now face as they put the pieces of their lives back in place. For a moment they were just some big kids out having a blast collecting candy.

Yet, several times, I heard people ask, "Aren't you a little old to be trick-or-treating?"

All children grow up way too fast. Children that grow up in negative circumstances grow up even faster. That's why it's wonderful that our children at Southeastern Children's Home have the opportunity to embrace the innocence of being a kid.

Once a child's innocence is gone, it becomes a challenge to get them to want to live out the rest of their childhood. Instead, they want to focus on being an adult. They want to focus on being out on their own. They tend to embrace the world views of experimenting with drugs, sleeping with partners, etc.

There is nothing wrong with preparing our children to be mature and responsible adults,

*Continued on page 6*



*Smith Cottage residents during a recent outing to the Middle Tyger River Library Park*



## My gift to help children in need

Yes, I want to make a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ each month to the children at Southeastern Children's Home.

As a duly authorized check signer for my bank account, I hereby authorize Southeastern Children's Home to perform scheduled electronic funds transfers in the aforementioned amount from my bank account on the (circle one) 3rd or 15th day each month.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Authorizing Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please include **a personalized check marked "VOID"** so we can identify your account. Return completed form to: Southeastern Children's Home • P.O. Box 339 • Duncan, SC 29334

# Legacies don't just happen

By Philip Murphy  
Development Director

Legacies don't just happen. They're built intentionally, with purpose and structure. Laura Powell, and James and Virginia McCoy both understood this.

Thirty years ago, a couple sat around their kitchen table in Dacusville, SC, and created a legacy.

James and Virginia McCoy knew they wouldn't live forever. They wanted to allow their love for the children at Southeastern Children's Home to carry over beyond their lives. So, the couple agreed to bequeath their home to the Southeastern Children's Home upon their death.

"James and Virginia always loved the work at Southeastern," Dorothy Pierce said. "Long ago, they determined that the children at Southeastern deserved more. Giving was just a way of life for the family. And her gift was just a way for her to continue to serve."

Similarly, Laura Powell wanted to create a legacy that would extend beyond her lifetime.

"Laura started by helping us organize birth-

day parties for the boys, and, eventually she just fell in love with all the children at Southeastern," long-time friend, Terry Osgood said. "The [Southeastern] children reminded Laura of the way that some people just fall through the cracks of our society. She understood that all of us, especially churches, needed to be involved in taking care of the kids."

Both the McCoy's and Laura understood the need to establish a legacy that would carry on for generations to come.

At Southeastern Children's Home, we want future generations to inherit and enjoy the protections that we can provide abused and neglected children. Financial support from individuals, churches and business organizations is vital to this hope.

Still, each of us must find our own way to make this hope a reality, balancing our own financial needs with our desire to give.

Please consider establishing a legacy gift. With some forethought and a little bit of structure, your gift, just like the gifts from Laura Powell and James and Virginia McCoy, can help future generations.

## Families are fundamental

Continued from page 1

Most other similarly situated children's homes in our state hire shift workers to care for children. In other facilities, children see a different set of employees every eight hours.

Yet, we at Southeastern, have opted to hire couples to live with our children 24 hours a day.

Our board of directors has chosen to make the decision to use the "house-parent model" because they understand the need for children to have a Mom and a Dad. We understand that children need to be loved, not just cared for. We know that children need the nurture and support that only a parent can provide.

Your financial support allows us to continue providing families for needy children. Without your help, each year, dozens of children would not know what it's like to have loving parents.

On behalf of our children, thank you for all that you do to provide for them. Thank you for helping to create families.

Sincerely,



Executive Director Robert Kimberly with some of our Southeastern family.

## Wish list

We are seeking donations of the following items. Please help if you can!

- used, dependable cars
- twin bed sheet sets
- gas weed trimmers
- riding lawn mowers

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April 2, 2013 to November 12, 2013

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BUD WRIGHT  
Ms. Myrtle Wright

April 2, 2013 to November 12, 2013

**In honor of**

AMY JUDD  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd  
JOYE LEOPARD  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd

# Sisters still together thanks

## Other residents provided love and support when separation



Anna (left) is protective of her younger sister, Stevi (right). "We thought we might be split up," Anna said.

Southeastern Children's Home is committed to creating families for children, and we strive to keep families intact as much as possible.

Two of our recent residents, Anna and Stevi are sisters.

"DSS was threatening to put us in different places," Stevi, a 13-year old resident in the Senn Cottage said. "I was nervous. Other than an occasional sleepover, I've never been away from my older sister."

Similarly, 15-year old Anna, was initially worried that she and Stevi would have to live apart from each other.

"We thought we might be split up," Anna said. "It was hard because they were tearing us away from our family. And, I didn't want to be apart from my baby sister. I love her so much."

Anna, as the big sister, is incredibly protective of Stevi.

"Stevi is more important than me," Anna said. "Family is everything. And it's my job to look out for her. As an older sister, I'm kind of like the second mother. I feel like I raised her. I've taught her how to cook. I never taught her how to clean, but that's because she didn't want to learn."

**"... Family is everything. And it's my job to look out for her. I'm kind of like the second mother ... like I raised her. ..."**

During their time at Southeastern, both of the sisters have enjoyed spending time with other residents and their house-parents.

"I've really grown close to the other girls in the house, especially Denise," Anna said. "She knew exactly what I was going through. She's

# to your help seemed imminent

like my new twin. And Mrs. Kelly has gone out of her way to be nice to me. She's cried with us. She prays with us. She even spent her own money on me and bought me something for my birthday. I know she didn't have to do that, but I really appreciate her being so nice to us."

Your assistance has allowed Southeastern to help keep siblings together during their difficult times. Thank you for your help in keeping sibling groups like Anna and Stevi together.

## Thoughts from the Home

*Continued from page 3*

but we also need to step back and allow them opportunities to embrace the last precious few years to finish drinking from the glass of childhood before it is gone.

Research indicates that three in ten teenage girls will have at least one child by the age of twenty. One in four American high school students will drop out.

My challenge for you is this: Look for,

and even create opportunities to encourage teenagers to let their hair down and be the big kids that they are. Everyone only has one childhood, and then it is gone.

If you rush a caterpillar from its cocoon too soon then it will not mature properly. This could lead to the caterpillar's death. There is a natural process of coming to maturity. It can't be rushed...no matter how much we want our children to be ready for adulthood.

So, use the time in the cocoon for the full development of the person. Don't open the cocoon before it is ready. Don't urge the caterpillar to come out when it could risk not developing as it should.

My hope and prayer is that our kids, given the opportunity and time, will develop into the beautiful butterflies that God designed them to be.

Next Halloween, if, by chance, a 6'3" somewhat-awkward teenaged boy with acne knocks on your door; don't be upset. Rather, be happy that this teenager is still willing to be a child.

**"... the last  
precious few  
years to finish  
drinking from  
the glass of  
childhood before  
it is gone. ..."**

### In honor of

TRISH PEARSON  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd  
BETH PEEK  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Martin  
GLORIA SWEAT  
Mr. Ray Dicks  
CAROLINE TURBEVILLE  
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards  
CLAIR TURBEVILLE  
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

### In honor of birthday

BETTY BEASLEY  
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards  
MIKE COLLINS  
Dr. Lydia Guillot  
SUSAN HARMON  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Krantz  
BRENDA HUGHES  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Krantz  
BAILEY JUDD  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd  
BRODY JUDD  
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Mrs. Carole Jessup  
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Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine  
Tyler & Ryan Nodine  
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Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine  
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TIM LEATHERWOOD  
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Tyler & Ryan Nodine  
PEGGY LIDDLE  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Krantz  
MELISSA MARSHBURN  
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JOSIAH MARTIN  
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JERRY SATTERFIELD  
Mrs. Sarah Cole  
MARK TESNER  
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine  
Tyler & Ryan Nodine  
LEE WILSON  
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

### In honor of 90<sup>th</sup> birthday

GERRY FITZPATRICK  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fitzpatrick

### In kind gifts, auctions, golf tournament

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Adams  
Mr. Chuck Allsbrook  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Axson  
Mr. & Mrs. Clayton Ball  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Barber  
Ms. Denise Blankenship  
Mr. James Bookless  
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Apalache Baptist Church  
Archdale Church of Christ  
AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-AM  
Auto Zone  
Beech Island Church of Christ  
Bert's Automotive  
Bill's Place  
BI-LO of Lyman, Store #446  
Bluff View Inn  
BMW Manufacturing Co.  
Body Bliss Massage & Day Spa  
Carolina Hurricanes Hockey Club  
Carolyn's Florals and Baskets  
Centre Stage  
Chimney Rock State Park  
CJ's on Main  
Country Boy's Garden Center  
Courtyard Marriott  
Cracker Barrel  
Custom Automotive  
Drury Hotels  
Duncan United Methodist Church  
Elite Car Rental  
El Matador Restaurant  
Espresso Cafe  
Evergreen Marriott Conference Resort  
Fire House Subs  
Flat Rock Playhouse  
Four Season Hotel Atlanta  
Frame Warehouse  
Fulton's Tackle Box  
Furman University Golf Club  
Gastonia Church of Christ  
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Greenville Drive  
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Heritage Chapel Baptist Church  
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Little River Roasting  
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Obsessions Salon & Day Spa  
Ocean Ridge Plantation Golf, Inc.  
Palace Theatre  
Palmetto Bank  
Palmetto Ministry Center  
Papa John's Pizza  
Peach Bowl Lanes  
Pete's of Simpsonville  
Pizza Inn of Duncan  
Poplar Springs Baptist Church  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Reflections  
Reidville Road United Methodist Church  
River Falls Florist  
River Falls Plantation  
River Hills Baptist Church  
Rug & Home  
Santorini Greek-Italian Restaurant & Pizza  
Sharon United Methodist Church  
Shelby Church of Christ  
Sigsbee Church of Christ  
Sims B B Q  
Six Flags Over Georgia  
Sonny's Camp-n-Travel  
South Carolina Stingrays Hockey Team  
Southern Hills Church of Christ  
Spartanburg Athletic Club  
Stone Mountain Park

Tadpole  
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TaylorMade-Adidas Golf  
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The Pepperoni Express  
The Preserve at Verdade  
The Waynesville Inn Golf Resort & Spa  
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Tonya Ferguson  
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Glenn's Life Group - Central Church of Christ  
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Tony Greene  
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Mary Haywood  
Bob & Mary Henderson  
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Kim Jackson  
Nikki Jackson  
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Ann Johnson  
Angie Jones  
Journie Jones  
Gerald & Beverly Kelly  
Johnnie Key  
Ray & Tiny Kinley  
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McCall Life Group - Central Church of Christ  
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April 2, 2013 to November 12, 2013

# HOPE!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home • p.o. box 339 • 115 children's way • duncan, sc 29334



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