

Spring, 2013

Hope!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home

where the heart is



Change from within

Plus life-changing surgery, a haircut to remember, and more

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November 19, 2012 to April 1, 2013

Lather, rinse, donate

Southeastern resident sheds golden locks for good cause

Squeals combined with laughter as the buzz of the hair clippers resounded through the classroom. The dissonance of noise was more than just a product of a normal haircut; it was the sound of transformation.

A few months ago, Keri decided to cut her hair. But this was more than a trim; this was a gesture of love and kindness. She cut her hair in order to donate it to Pantene Beautiful Lengths, a charity that provides hairpieces to women who have lost their hair due to cancer treatments. In order to help, a donor must cut at least eight inches of their hair.

"My grandma had breast cancer, and so did my great-grandma," Keri said. "I remember my grandma losing all her hair, and I started to think about what it meant for others to have that feeling. I wanted to help someone who was hurting, and, at the same time, I wanted to see what it felt like to not have hair."

It wasn't an easy decision for Keri to make.

"I thought about it for three months," Keri said. "I was scared. I talked to several people because I wasn't sure how I'd handle the potential ridicule, because I'd be buzzed, and

that's not the normal look at school."

Keri did, in fact, receive a lot of strange gazes and some off-hand comments on her first day back to school.

"People said a lot of stuff at first. It hurt, but I tried to ignore it, and eventually people changed their opinions," Keri said. "Actually, everyone thinks it's cool now. One person said I looked like a rock star. Even some of the cheerleaders at school have done it now. So, since other people are doing it, it's become accepted."

Keri's decision to cut her hair has been emblematic of a long, slow transformation that has occurred during her time at Southeastern.

"... My grandma had breast cancer, and so did my great-grandma ... I remember my grandma losing all her hair, and I started to think about what it meant for others to have that feeling ..."

Hendersonville, NC satellite office

By Robert Kimberly
Executive Director



Winston Churchill once said, "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

I find myself often unwilling to change. Comfort breeds contentment while change often breeds contempt. Change tends to evoke feelings of uncertainty and insecurity. Yet, we all understand the necessity for change. In fact, both spiritual and physical growth are types of changes we all aspire to achieve.

As an organization, Southeastern Children's Home continues to develop with time. Moreover, SECH would likely not exist today if our organization hadn't implemented a number of innovations over the past 40 years.

Our mission statement is, "Southeastern Children's Home and Counseling Center is a Christian-based organization that provides care

to needy children and families through group home care, foster care, adoption, maternity care, and counseling."

In the ever-evolving world of residential care, we continue to adapt our procedures without bending our firm faith and mission. Changes will occur, but our goal to help children and families will remain steadfast.

In the upcoming months, in order to comply with new regulations, our group homes will be

Contact us!

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

We can be reached ...

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 115 Children's Way
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by phone: 864.439.0259
by fax: 864.949.0248
online: sech.org



"When Keri first arrived, she was like most of our new kids. She wasn't bad. She was just self-centered," said JD Morris, Southeastern's Campus Minister. "Over the past few years, she's changed. Somewhere along the way, a light bulb went on. She's now trying to live out her faith. She's improving her behavior. She's improving her relationships. Or, in this particular case, she's helping someone she doesn't even know."

Keri's selfless act has been an encouragement to both the residents and staff at Southeastern.

"We teach our children to love God and love others," Executive Director Robert Kimberly said. "Over time, we want children to grow from being selfish to selfless. They need to not just gain independence, but become servants. Our houseparents and staff provide an excellent model that is often replicated in the lives of the children we serve. Keri's decision was more than a haircut. It's the culmination of a transformation."



Keri's selfless act has been an encouragement to both the residents and staff at Southeastern.

opens to meet increased need

equipped with new security and monitoring equipment. We may even be required to add additional staff in order to comply with new S.C. standards.

Additionally, we have noticed an increase in the needs of families that want Christian-based counseling. While our group homes do an amazing job of helping needy children, we understand the importance of solving the problem before it begins. In response to this demand, we are counseling more families than ever in our Counseling Center.

Because of the increased counseling need, we're proud to announce that we've opened a satellite counseling office in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Karen Fitzpatrick, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, will supervise this office. We're happy to have Karen as part of our team, but more importantly, we're thrilled to be in a position to help more families in the Carolinas.

We currently have three therapists as part of our staff, and we're looking to expand. Each

day we are making a difference in the lives of children and families in the Carolinas.

We believe that Satan continues to bombard our culture through the degradation of the home and family. We see that more and more families need help in confronting the sin that invades their family unit. And we believe we can help.

Changes are inevitable. We must continue to adapt to the fluctuating cultural environment while standing firm in our beliefs and in our commitment to families and children.

Thank you for partnering with us in our efforts as we continue to adjust to our ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

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November 19, 2012 to April 1, 2013

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November 19, 2012 to April 1, 2013

Memorials used to honor others

By Philip Murphy
Development Director

None of us would be where we are without the help of someone else. We've all been helped.

Yet, how do you thank someone who has given so much? Can you ever repay them for all the sacrifices they have made for you? Of course not. It's simply not possible to repay all that you've been given.

You can, however, give a gift in memory or in honor of a special loved one, friend, or special occasion. Such a gift provides a caring message to the recipient or their family.

These gifts are a thoughtful way to pay tribute while also meeting the needs of those less fortunate in our community. An honor or memorial gift recognizes that individual's importance to your life.

A gift may be given in lieu of flowers for a deceased love one, or to honor special anniversaries, weddings, birthdays, or graduations.

When you give a gift or memorial to honor a loved one, we will send a card to the designated family or individual telling them of your gift.

Sometimes, the best way to say "thank you" is to continue exhibiting generosity towards others.



It's up to us to keep alive the memory of those who've made a difference in our lives.

More ways ...

Please consider designating your **United Way** gift to Southeastern Children's Home.



For your calendar ... SECH will hold an **auction** at noon on May 11 at the Central Church of Christ in Spartanburg. You're invited!



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)

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Phone

Email

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

"Everything has changed."

Hard-won surgery turns resident's life around

A smile is the window into the body. It tells a complete story within a second.

One of our residents, Kyle, was born with a cleft palate and cleft lip. Unfortunately, his condition worsened with time. His smile was nonexistent.

"His biological grandmother took care of him as an infant," Director of Residential Services Vicki Stidham said. "Unfortunately, he was malnourished because of his medical issues. Because of his disability, he couldn't eat normally. His family was told to feed him every two hours, but they didn't because he never cried. So, as a baby, he was never properly fed."

Kyle was removed from his home and placed in foster care with a loving mother. Years later, because of additional emotional complications stemming from his disability, Kyle was placed at Southeastern Children's Home.

"Because of my disability, it was hard to eat," Kyle said. "But, worst of all, I got picked on... a lot. People would stare because I was different. I just wanted to hit them."

Immediately upon his placement at Southeastern, the staff began working on Kyle's emotional well-being, but we also began working on resolving his disability.

"Almost two years ago, we started the process of seeing what it would take to reconstruct Kyle's lip and mouth," Vicki said. "It took a year to get the surgery approved. But, it's finally happened."

Kyle's surgery was a complete success. Not only has the surgery changed Kyle's appearance, it's changed his demeanor.

"He's suddenly much more confident," Vicki said. "Now, he's happy to smile. He's more outgoing, and he's better at making friends. His behavior has improved a lot."

Even Kyle has noticed an immediate change.

"Suddenly, my lip looks more normal," Kyle said. "Before the surgery, it looked unnatural."

"... Almost two years ago, we started the process of seeing what it would take to reconstruct Kyle's lip and mouth. It took a year to get the surgery approved ..."



Kyle is all smiles today, but it wasn't that way in the beginning.

Now, when I go out, no one stares or makes rude comments. Everything has changed."

In addition to donations that were received for Kyle's surgery, Kyle's stay at Southeastern has been made possible by donations from individuals and churches.

"Kyle isn't a state placement. He's a lost kid in the system," Vicki said. "Because of his situation, there are a limited amount of services available to him. If we didn't have donors and people helping us, we couldn't take care of Kyle."

Kyle's life story has been changed. Now, Kyle can't stop smiling. In fact, his smile is contagious.

Thank you for your help in transforming Kyle's smile, Kyle's attitude, and Kyle's life story.

Wish list

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

- Used car or minivan
- Riding lawnmower
- Weed trimmer
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper

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November 19, 2012 to April 1, 2013

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RANDALL K. COLE
Ms. Donna Cole
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Ms. Donna Cole
SARA DEXTER
Mr. & Mrs. Dunk Hale
BO EDWARDS
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
MR. & MRS. CHAD EDWARDS & FAMILY
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
DR. & MRS. JAMES B. EDWARDS
Mr. James B. Edwards, II
Mr. Lamar McEachern
J. C. & JANE FARLEY
Mr. & Mrs. John Farley
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farley
DR. GEORGE GLENN
Ms. Vicki Bagwell
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Mr. & Mrs. John McCall, Sr.
BRUCE & JO HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
MIKE & DIANA HIATT
Ms. Jolene McKenzie
FRED & GLORIA HUNT
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Brown
HANNAH JOHNSON
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson
SETH JOHNSON
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Johnson
JEREMIAH JUDD
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd
BERNARD & LORRAINE KEENE
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
OSCAR & SARA KOONTZ
Mr. Kenneth Hyder
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SAMUEL MARTIN
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JOHN MAYFIELD & GRISSOM
Ms. Donna Cole
SCOTT MAYFIELD & FAMILY
Ms. Donna Cole
JACK & ROSIE McCARTY
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Gregory
GERMAINE McDONOUGH
Ms. Suzanne Dills
JOLENE MCKENZIE
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Hiatt
Mr. Eddie Nuckols
RICK & LINDA RADEMACHER
Mr. & Mrs. Milon Campbell
JERRY & SHIRLEY SATTERFIELD
Mr. & Mrs. Haskell Yenny
JIM & DOT SMOAK
Mr. & Mrs. Kenyon Wells
MARIJANE TURNER
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd

In honor of birthday

GAIL BRIGHT
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
MR. & MRS. HAL FOWKE
Mr. & Mrs. Dorsey Brewer
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
BRUCE HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
JO HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
JUANITA HORNE
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
BAILEY JUDD
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd
BRODY JUDD
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd

BO LEATHERWOOD
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
ERIC LEATHERWOOD
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
ROBERT LEATHERWOOD
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
SUSAN MAHAFFEY
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
EMMA NODINE
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
ORA WOODLEY
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In honor of 13th birthday

MAGGIE WILLIS
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Willis

In honor of wedding anniversary

MR. & MRS. WILLIAM LEE WILSON
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In honor of 50th wedding anniversary

HUGH & PEGGY PRICE
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Audia
DON & SHELBA TAYLOR
Mr. & Mrs. Herb Smith
ROB & LINA HONEYCUTT
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Willis

In kind gifts and volunteers

Alabama Theatre at Barefoot Landing
Dr. and Mrs. Jim Alston
Apalache Baptist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Autry
Mr. and Mrs. Quinton Batson
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Beemer
Bella Latte
Bert's Automotive
Mrs. Eula Blackshear
Ms. Denise Blankenship
BMW Manufacturing Co.
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Brackin
Mrs. Sherri Brewer
Ms. Lisa Briggs
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Bright
Ms. Shirley Bright
Callaway Golf Foundation
CentraArchy Restaraunt Management Co.
Mr. and Mrs. John Chewning
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clark
Classic Carriage Works LLC
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Cobb
Ms. Julie Cobb
Colonial Life
Corinth Church of Christ
Costco
Mr. and Mrs. Walden Denton
DollyWood
Domino's Pizza
Draxlmaier Automotive of America
Drury Hotels
Easley Pest Control
El Mexicano Restaurant
Elite Car Rental
Ms. Kenna Faber
Family Kingdom Amusement Park
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fisher
Flat Rock Playhouse
Food Lion - Lyman
Fulton's Tackle Box
Furman University Golf Club
Mr. and Mrs. Jon Gaminde
Gastonia Church of Christ
Gerald's Tires and Brakes
Dr. George Glenn
Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gordon

Grace Baptist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Ashby Gray
Hair It Is Inc.
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hanson
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Henderson
Henderson Church of Christ
Hollywild Animal Park
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Huntley
Hyman's Seafood & Aaron's Deli
Mrs. Carole Jessup
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Kelly
KidSenses Children's Interactive Museum
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kinley
Lancaster Church of Christ
Ms. Kim Lanford
Links O'Tryon
Ms. Mabel Mahaffey
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Maurer
Mr. Jim Maxey
Ms. Jolene McKenzie
Middle Tyger Ruritan Club
Miyako Sushi Group
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Morton
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mull
Mr. Ken Mullis
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Murphy
Northgate Freewill Baptist
Ocean Ridge Plantation Golf Inc.
Offsides Hair Cuts
Papa John's Pizza
Ms. Angie Pearson
Publix - Duncan
Mrs. Sally Ragsdale
Mr. Jim Redding
Reidville Presbyterian Church
Ripley's Aquarium
River Falls Florist
Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens
Ms. Ruby Rookard
Mr. and Mrs. Danny Ryals
Mr. Al Saucier
Sharon United Methodist Church
Shelby Church of Christ
Sigsbee Church of Christ
Sims B B Q
Sims Tire & Service Center
Six Flags Over Georgia
Ms. Crystal Smith
Mrs. Rolanda Smith
Sonny's Camp-n-Travel
South Carolina Aquarium
South Carolina Stingrays Hockey Team
South Fork Church of Christ
South Lubes Inc.
Southern Hospitality
Spartanburg Athletic Club
Mr. and Mrs. Jim Spry
Ms. Lenesia Stradford
Taylor Auto Sales Inc.
The Children's Museum of the Upstate
The Mason Jar
The Melting Pot
The Preserve at Verdae
Mrs. Eddie Sue Thompson
Tire Pros of Lyman LLC
Unity Presbyterian Church
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie White
Ms. Ebony White
Wild Water/Water & Race Theme
Mr. and Mrs. Lance Womack
Ms. Mary Wood
Ms. Sue Wood
Zaxby's of Duncan
Dr. and Mrs. Michael Zimmerman

November 19, 2012 to April 1, 2013



nk you!



HOPE!



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