

Hope!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home • special summer edition



Houseparents Bryan and Kelly Conway began impacting residents' lives immediately upon their arrival.

New houseparents at Senn Cottage

Bryan and Kelly Conway making immediate impact with kids

After over ten years of remarkable service, houseparents Tony and Janice Axsom recently announced their "retirement" from house-parenting.

In their place, we have hired Bryan and Kelly Conway. Bryan and Kelly relocated from Arlington, Texas and will be the house-parents at the Senn Cottage.

Bryan previously was employed for twenty five years as a high school English teacher and coach. Kelly, an accountant by trade, and their daughter Kara have been

quickly welcomed by the girls in the Senn Cottage.

"We're absolutely thrilled to have the Conway's," Vicki Stidham, Southeastern's Director of Residential Services said. "They've already begun to make an immediate impact with our kids. Bryan is teaching a weekly devotion-al to the girls based upon what fatherhood is supposed to look like. And, Kelly has been busy teaching our girls about how to can jelly and salsa."

Four residents baptized in Christ

"I feel like God is guiding me now. I still make mistakes, but I know my sins are forgiven."

We're extremely excited to announce that over the past three months four of our residents have put on Christ in baptism.

Raven, a 17-year old resident who was recently baptized, seemingly sparked a spiritual renewal in the Senn Cottage.

"When I got baptized, there seemed to be a sudden change in the home," Raven said. "Everyone was suddenly nicer to each other. I began reading the Bible with Dee. And Kelsey and I began talking about what it meant to be a Christian."

Raven's decision clearly has affected others that live with her.

"When Raven came home after her baptism, she started acting like a new person. After seeing her, I felt I needed to change, too, in order to become a better person," Kelsey, a 14-year old resident said. "I feel like God is guiding me now. I still make mistakes, but I know my sins are forgiven."

Since their baptisms, Raven and Kelsey have attempted to make some subtle changes to the way they act around others.

"I want to go out and meet new people instead of staying close in the little box I was in," Raven said. "I suddenly want to reach out and tell people that aren't in my close circle of friends about Jesus."

Two of our children, Dee and Billy, were baptized while attending a week of Palmetto Bible Camp.

"I had been thinking about the decision for about a year," Billy said. "During the week of bible camp, I was surrounded by a Christian family. It was just a spiritual place to be. It seemed like the right time to make such a big decision. Now, I don't have the weight of sin on me. And, it seems like I have more people to help me. Mr. Clay and Mrs. Tabitha have been really helpful with everything."



Southeastern resident Kelsey preparing for baptism with Executive Director Robert Kimberly

Clay Ball, Billy's house-father in the Smith Cottage, believes that Billy's decision was driven in large part because of the relationships Billy had formed during his time at Southeastern.

"He made the decision to be baptized because he felt empty and wanted to be part of a family," Clay said. "The atmosphere at camp is different than his day-to-day life. This was his second year at camp, and the relationships he made last year spilled over to this year. A lot of people have been trying to help Billy over the past year and a half. We're just incredibly proud of him, and we're extremely glad that he's part of our Christian family as well as our house family."

"... When Raven came home after her baptism, she started acting like a new person ..."

Your gifts to us

April 2 - July 25, 2013

Memorials

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Ms. Myrtle Wright
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JAY COCKRELL
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PAUL COCKRELL
Ms. Myrtle Wright
TENNA FOX COCKRELL
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Mrs. Millie Glover
PATTON COOPER
Ms. Elmira Swofford
PHILLIP "MAC" COOPER
Mrs. Jeanie Cooper
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Burnsville Church of Christ
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Mr. & Mrs. Joe Henderson
Mr. Ken Hyder
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Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Riley
St. George Church of Christ
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Mr. & Mrs. Davis Johnson
JOHN WILLMOTT
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ERIC PATRICK WILSON
Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Wilson
BUD WRIGHT
Ms. Myrtle Wright

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JANE K. FARLEY
Ms. Mary Nevins
LINDA KRANTZ
Mr. Bernard Krantz
LEAH MARTIN
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Judd
GRACE C. PALMER
Mr. & Mrs. Greg Palmer
RICK & KRISTY PATTERSON
Cornerstone Church
CLAIR TURBEVILLE
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In Honor of birthday

BO EDWARDS
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
COURTNEY LEATHERWOOD
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
JACKIE LEATHERWOOD
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
TREVOR LEATHERWOOD
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TIM LEVERIDGE
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KELSEY MILLER
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Tyler & Ryan Nodine
MICHAEL MILLER
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
CHARLOTTE LOVE MORRIS
Mr. & Mrs. Clay Ball
BENNY NODINE
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
RYAN NODINE
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine & Tyler
TRAVIS NODINE
Mrs. Chrisy Nodine
Tyler & Ryan Nodine
TYLER NODINE
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine & Ryan
ANGIE TESNER
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine
BROOKE TESNER
Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine

In Honor of 99th birthday

IOLA TRIPP
Ms. Gloria Baker

In Honor of Graduation

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HAYLEY JENSEN
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
WAYLON THOMAS
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards
CORINA SAMUEL
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In Honor Of Father's Day

BRUCE HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings

In Honor Of Mother's Day

JO HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings

In Honor of Wedding Anniversary

ED & JOANN EDWARDS
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In Honor of 50th Wedding Anniversary

HOSIE & ANNIE BYRD
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Satterfield
JACK & MARY JO COMBS
Mr. & Mrs. Melvin Rogers

Contact us!

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

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Two Southeastern ladies college-bound

During the past few months, several of our residents at our Pre-Independent Living Home in Lyman have completed their high school careers.

Both Keri and Kayla graduated from Byrnes High School and will enroll in local colleges in the fall. Kayla plans to major in Nursing, while Keri plans on majoring in Business Administration.

"I have always wanted to be in a job where I can help others," Kayla said. "It's just my nature. I can't stand to see someone hurt or sad. If there's something wrong, I want to figure out what's causing the problem so that I can help."

Kayla will transition to the on-campus housing at a local college in Spartanburg.

"I came to Southeastern Children's Home skeptical and broken," Kayla said. "But, now, I'm a changed person."

Though Kayla is leaving the Children's Home, she is incredibly thankful for the opportunity she was given.

"I'm so grateful for all the help everyone gave me. I don't know where I would have been without the help of Southeastern Children's Home," Kayla said. "The houseparents and staff encouraged me to keep my

grades up. They always helped when I had questions. They were encouraging. And, most importantly, they made sure I was on the right path, even when I occasionally wanted to turn the wrong way."

Kayla additionally credits her success to her friends, members of her church, and her sponsoring congregation which sent cards and letters to her.

"There aren't big enough words that express how thankful I am for those that helped me while I was at Southeastern," Kayla said. "I felt loved. Every card, letter, or message I received let me know that somebody out there really cared. There's just not a big enough way to express my thanks. I left Southeastern Children's Home feeling so much better about myself because of the love that everyone gave to me."

Keri will enroll at Spartanburg Community College in the fall and will major in Business Administration. She will continue to stay in our Pre-Independent Living Home and will commute to school.

"I, eventually, want to run my own business," Keri said. "My dream is to create a furniture store that not only re-sells furniture, but actually builds and fixes furniture.



Keri and Kayla on graduation day at Byrnes High School. Both will attend college in the fall.

I like the idea of taking something broken and making it new again."

Like most freshmen, Keri looks forward to the opportunity that college brings.

"I love the idea of a fresh start," Keri said. "It's a rare opportunity. Within a few months you get to leave behind the bad influences of high school, and then decide what type of person you want to be. I look forward to changing for the better."

summer 2013

where the heart is

southeastern children's home



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