

SEPTEMBER 2016



# On the Home Front

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**Katy Motsinger**  
Community Resource Director

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attentionhome.org



Bring a friend & join us on Saturday,  
September 24, 2016 from 5:30-9:00 p.m.  
at the Anne Springs Close Greenway

PRESENTED **Pulcra**  
BY *The solution specialist*

for a fun night of good food & good times for a great cause! Deep in the Heart features music & dancing, a down home BBQ dinner & drinks, a riveting raffle & silent auction and touching stories from representatives of the Children's Attention Home. You may even be the lucky winner of our door prize, a YETI® Hopper cooler, donated by Rosendin Electric!

Save a few bucks, and get your  
ticket early!

Tickets \$45 through September 10,  
\$55 after September 10



## BE A SPONSOR

From our Right-hand Sponsor at \$250 to our \$5,000 Lone Star Presenting Sponsor, feature your company or organization while supporting a community partner!

Get your tickets before they're gone!

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

## THANK YOU TO OUR DEEP IN THE HEART SPONSORS

This event would not be possible without the generous support of our wonderful sponsors and donors. We encourage you to look through this list and see which of these businesses in the community support our children and our mission.

### Raffle & Auction Sponsors

Diamonds Direct Charlotte	Lilly Pulitzer (South Park)
Rose & Mike Finch	Elyse Ryan
Emily Curiak	SouthLake Dentistry
Burntshirt Vineyards	Springfield Golf Club
Chimney Rock	eSale Rugs
Todd Baxter	Kendra Scott South Park
Douglas R Harris Jeweler	Barrie Lewis
Vintage Daisy Photography	Jewelry Stop
Britax	Fast growing trees
Wild Dunes	Carolina Panthers
Bedside Manner	Anders Ruff
Cross Connect Technology	Colsen Keane Leather
Total Wine & More	Heather Stanley
Valencia Luxury Jewelers	Walt Disney World

Check out some of the items in this year's auction on our Facebook page!

[facebook.com/childrensattentionhome](https://www.facebook.com/childrensattentionhome)

Duke Energy  
Clear Springs Development  
Bernard N. Ackerman, CPA, PA  
Kim & Mike Hughes

### LoneStar Presenting Sponsor

**Pulcra**  
*The solution specialist*

### Cowboy Sponsors

Ralph & Elaine Norman

### Mustang Sponsors

Family Trust Federal Credit Union  
South State Bank  
Take 5 Oil Change  
Harbor Chase  
PepsiCo  
PerioCare

### Silver Spur Sponsors

Coca-Cola  
Daimler Trucks  
Cheerwine

### Right-Hand Sponsors

Avanti Tile & Stone, LLC  
State Farm Agency: Dawn Johnson  
Eta Alpha Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha  
Brightstar Care

## TEAMMATE SPOTLIGHT: NAKIA PRESSLEY

**Position:** Residential Counselor

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

Spend time at the park and any type of recreation activities with my son – movies, park, church, Lazy Five Ranch – he loves animals.

**What's a fond memory from working with the children?**

Taking the kids shopping is wonderful opportunity. Some of them have never had the opportunity to go shopping to pick out what they want. One of our newest residents was very nervous about going, but he was so excited when he was finished because it was the first time he ever had new clothes.

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

I feel like kids are truly getting help here. We're not just babysitting. I've worked in a lot of residential facilities, and we offer so much to children in terms of opportunities to participate in activities they enjoy or need, such as tutoring, mentors, softball, music lessons. It's a giving place, it's a caring place; I try to give 110% because I believe in what we do.

**When talking about why she loves her job, Nakia said:**

*"I love kids. I love helping kids. I love that even though they come here broken, we have an opportunity to fix them. It may not be someone else's*



*idea of fixed, but it's better than what they came from. If I can make them smile, and they have that smile if only for a moment, then they're living in the moment and not remembering the pain of what they came from. I really think this is the best place for healing kids."*



## ALL ABOUT THE KIDS

Summer brings a wealth of time and opportunity to invest in the children, and our team has been intentional about making the most of that time. Check out what's been happening in our social work groups and how the children have been preparing for school over the summer.

### SOCIAL WORK CORNER



The last couple of months have been awesome in the social work program. It takes teamwork and intentionality from many people to shape young lives into the people they can be. It is certainly true for us here at the Home.

The younger children focused on the importance of good nutrition with guest speaker Chef Sara. They also focused on learning anger management through a game called Mad Dragon, which focuses on identifying feelings and communicating them in a healthy way.

The teen group continued to work through the Home's Independent Living Program called "A Future Near Me," where they covered topics such as banking, nutrition and self-awareness. In the fall, the teens will revisit nutrition through cooking classes that Chef Sara will be hosting for them at the Home.

This month we also held hygiene classes with the teens with the help of Residential Counselor Devonte Walker (boys) and Child Service Coordinator Alicia Scott (girls). With the girls, we were able to present makeup bags and face soap to practice what was taught, thanks to a generous donor who provided the kits.

### UP TO SPEED & BACK TO SCHOOL

Education is almost always an area of deficiency when children arrive at the Home. It's common for a child in the 8th grade to be on a 4-5th grade work level, and about 95% of our children come to the Home below grade level.

This past spring, we began a partnership with the Tutoring Center in Rock Hill and made it a policy to have every child evaluated when they arrive at the Home. Reading and math levels are measured, giving us an approximate grade level of the child's "working" ability. The evaluations have been a great tool in identifying the educational needs of our children, and we've had almost 50 children evaluated since the program began.

Tory\* arrived at age 13 reading on a 4rd grade reading level. In four months of tutoring, her reading level has jumped to a 7th grade reading level, and she will be able to start high school and continue catching up to her peers.

Chase\* arrived at the Home enrolled in 6th grade, yet tested at a Kindergarten level in reading and math. Because of the evaluations, our team of residential counselors has been able to work with him more effectively in every day living through activities and games that encourage his learning and achievement.

Some of our children arrive with exceptional academics and work ethic in the classroom, and tutoring has been a



way for them to get ahead in their studies.

George\* was able to begin preparing for the ACT test that he will be taking in the fall, and will continue this preparation up until the test. Another student, Virginia\*, knew she would have a challenging year with Geometry and began studying in advance to prepare for the class with some of our study buddy volunteers. Volunteers are in place to help our kids with homework in study hall and in the evenings with individual tutoring.

With all of this preparation, we are excited to see what is in store for our children this school year. Thank you to the community's teachers, volunteers and donors—because of you, we can continue to set our children up for success.

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

## DIRECTOR'S DESK: ACCREDITATION

It is hard to believe Summer is already over and Fall has arrived, but the activity around the Children's Attention Home certainly reflects it! The children have returned to school and Fall activities are in full swing.

The Board of Directors, staff team, and the Home as a whole also have a new initiative underway that I am excited to tell you about. After 46 years of operation, the Children's Attention Home is undertaking a national accreditation process with the Council on Accreditation. The Council on Accreditation is an international, nonprofit, human service accrediting organization that was founded in 1977. Since that time, they have accredited more than 2,200 public and private organizations. Their mission is to help organizations improve service delivery outcomes through the application of standards based on established best practices.

Why accreditation and why now? There are a number of reasons why the Children's Attention Home is beginning this process at this time. For over a year, we have been discussing our desire to be, consistently and above all, a "Level One Shelter of Excellence." Achieving COA Accreditation will objectively establish the Home as that center of excellence. In order for us, and you, to KNOW your support is going to an organization that consistently provides the best care possible for the children we serve,



we realize the importance of excellence based on objective fact and not just opinion or assumption. That assurance also becomes more evident to external grantors, which makes them more confident about investing in the Children's Attention Home. In addition, basing service delivery on externally established standards which must be maintained over time protects the Home from significant variations occurring based primarily on changing leadership and leadership preferences.

The process should take approximately 18 months to complete and we have already begun. Once we receive accreditation, it will be in place for four years with annual spot checks to ensure continued standard compliance. This process will involve participation from all teammates and volunteers, so if you notice changes in processes and practices in the coming months, you will understand why. It is all in an effort to provide the best for our precious children and to be the best steward of the dollars we receive from you and others. If you have any questions or would like to know more, feel free to email me at [deident@attentionhome.org](mailto:deident@attentionhome.org).

- *Debra Eident*, **Executive Director**

**FUN FACT!** This summer, the Home took children to tutoring on 48 days, totaling 84 trips and logging 414 hours.

## A SHOPPING TRIP TO REMEMBER



A few weeks ago, one of our teammates was taking Stefanie\*, one of our newest children, on a shopping trip to purchase clothing for herself and her siblings. After Stefanie finished trying on her first outfit, the teammate began talking to Stefanie about what kind of clothes and shoes her brother would like to have so that she could begin looking for the items.

Shortly after their conversation, a woman approached the teammate to comment on the work of the Home and thanked the teammate for her care of the children. They parted ways, yet as fate would have it, they met again in the line to check out. The woman explained that she is a supporter of the Home and asked if she could pay for sibling's clothes and shoes. Our teammate graciously thanked the woman as they went their separate ways.

**Thank you to the angels in our community who provide for our children on a daily basis. Your generous hearts truly change the lives of our children.**

## TAKING IT TO THE BEACH 2016



Many of the children that come to live at the Home have never had the experience of taking a family trip or vacation. They have never had the opportunity to travel and see new things or experience new places.

Because of this, the Home focuses a lot of time on providing those experiences to the children. From day trips to the Riverbanks Zoo, Carowinds and Discovery Place to seasonal opportunities to explore their interests, such as guitar, piano, horseback riding and soccer.

Every year, the Home sends a group of children to Myrtle Beach for four days, a trip that these children will cherish for the rest of their young lives.



This year's trip was a great success, with the group arriving in Myrtle Beach with 19 children ranging in age from three to 16. Many of the children experienced the beach for the first time on this trip. The group visited various attractions, including Myrtle Waves, Ripley's Aquarium, and Family Kingdom.

The first day, the children enjoyed time lounging at the hotel pool and surfing the waves down on the beach. Of all the options, the lazy river at the hotel water park seemed to be the favorite.



The second day, the group spent the better part of their day at Myrtle Waves water park enjoying the many attractions. Many of the children mustered the courage to ride a new attraction called the Sting Ray. Our youngest traveler was fearless with any new opportunity and was able to ride many of the water slides at the park.

The next day, the group visited Ripley's Aquarium, where one of our residents was given the opportunity to meet a mermaid! She was amazed by her glittery tail.

The last night of the trip was filled with laughter and screams as the group tackled Family Kingdom. The children rode the Ferris Wheel, the pirate ship, the Swamp Fox wooden rollercoaster and the log flume. To top off the night, the group stayed to watch the fireworks show.

At the end of the trip, everyone was tired, but brimming with excitement to tell all of their friends at school the stories about their trip to the beach.

## THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS!

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. We are grateful to our generous grantors who provide valuable support in areas from education and food services to special projects and general operations. Recently, we have been blessed with the following grants:

### GRANTOR

River Hills/Lake Wylie Lions Charities, Inc.  
Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation  
York Electric Cooperative

### FUNDING AREA OR PROJECT

General Operations  
Second Shift Supervisor's Salary and Benefits  
Children's Services Support Program



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: THE ELDERS

The Volunteer Spotlight honors those who go above and beyond in serving the mission of the Children’s Attention Home! This month, we’d like to shine a special light of thanks on Elder Reynolds, Elder Smith, Elder Bishop and Elder Everett.

The Elders began serving at the Home over the summer, helping with various tasks and projects in the area of Operations with Mr. Richard and Mr. John. They chose to serve at the Home as a part of their mission work with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

They have truly been an instrumental part of the Operations team, helping with everything from keeping the grass mowed and trees trimmed at the back of the recreation area and emptying outdoor trash cans to moving, assembling and breaking down furniture. Their work has truly made a difference in creating a well-operating environment for our children and our team.

When asked about their service, they said:

*“You can feel the love that everyone has for the kids. We come and cut the grass and move the furniture, but it’s all about the kids. You can feel the love everyone has for them. The workers, the kids – everyone’s looking out for each other and having fun doing it. The workers don’t know us, but they always thank us for coming and helping.”*

*-Elder Reynolds & Elder Smith*

*“The Home is very well organized, which makes it easy to come and serve, and we love working with Richard and John. The kids come from such hard places, and it’s great seeing the difference we can make in their lives.” - Elder Bishop & Elder Everett*



## SHOW YOUR HEART FOR THE HOME

**Show your heart for the Home through a financial donation.** 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. 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)

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

## 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.

F3 Fort Mill  
 First Baptist Fort Mill  
 Trips for Kids  
 RideAbility Therapeutic Riding Center  
 Good Shepherd UMC  
 Bright Blessings  
 Rose's Kitchen  
 YMCA  
 Good News Club

Rogers Memorial  
 Zion Presbyterian  
 Seimen's Energy  
 Mingo Martial Arts Academy  
 ROAR  
 Pet Smart  
 Ace Elastomer  
 Doby's Bridge Presbyterian  
 Bowen Family

Bojangles  
 Cub Scout Pack 108  
 Aldersgate UMC Fellowship Circle  
 Springfield Ladies Bible Study  
 Transformation Church  
 York Preparatory Academy PTO  
 Refuge Church  
 Mt. Calvary AME Zion Church  
 LDS Church

## 2016 "HEART OF THE HOME" SPONSORS



Carolinans HealthCare System



## GET CONNECTED WITH THE HOME

### CURRENT NEEDS LIST

- Women's underwear
- Boy's & men's boxer shorts
- Flannel pajama pants
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Ear buds
- Men's socks

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.

### FEATURED WAYS TO SUPPORT

We are excited that you would like to be part of serving our children. At this time, we are postponing any applications and processing of new on-site volunteers until October 2016.

#### Care Kit Drive

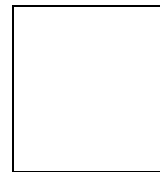
Help us welcome our children to their new home by collecting care kits! Each child is given a unique care kit with items that are specific to their age and their needs.

#### Fundraising Team

Looking for a meaningful and flexible volunteer opportunity that makes use of your management, leadership and team-building skills? If so, we can use your help on our fundraising team! We have teams for Sponsorship, Marketing and Promotions, Logistics, Raffle & Auction, Food Service, Bar Attendant and Event Parking!

For more information, contact our Community Resource Director Katy Motsinger, [kmotsinger@attentionhome.org](mailto:kmotsinger@attentionhome.org), 803-372-6841

# Providing a safe and nurturing home for abused and neglected children



P.O. Box 2912, Rock Hill, SC 29732 • [attentionhome.org](http://attentionhome.org) • (803) 328-8871

## WAYS TO HELP...

- **Give financially.** See all of the ways you can invest in the Home at [attentionhome.org/give](http://attentionhome.org/give)
- **Volunteer your time.** Invest your time in our children. See all of our volunteer opportunities at [attentionhome.org/volunteer](http://attentionhome.org/volunteer)
- **Be a voice.** Schedule a visit or invite a speaker to educate your group and raise support. Learn more at [attentionhome.org/tour](http://attentionhome.org/tour)



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Magic for Miracles

**Saturday, Sept 10**

**8:00-10:00 p.m.**

[sleightclubpresents.com](http://sleightclubpresents.com)

Sleight Club is the Carolinas' premiere group of magic thinkers, creators, and performers focusing on magic as a performance art. The members of Sleight Club aspire to advance the art of magic, deliver exceptional magic performances, and make an impact on our community.

**Get your tickets for \$25 today!**



### Teddy Bear Trot

**Saturday, Sept 10**

**8:00-9:00 a.m.**

[www.yorkelectric.net/2016-teddy-bear-trot/](http://www.yorkelectric.net/2016-teddy-bear-trot/)

We hope to see you at this year's Teddy Bear Trot, a mile-long fun run, on Saturday, September 10th. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM in the YEC parking lot, 1385 E. Alexander Love Hwy., followed by the race at 8:30 AM

**Register for \$20 adult, \$10 child & \$60 for the family!**



### Deep in the Heart

**Saturday, Sept 24**

**5:30-9:00 p.m.**

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

Bring your partner and join us for our second annual Deep in the Heart this September. Slide on your boots n' best western dress for a night of good food & good times for a great cause!

**Get your tickets before 9/10 for the early bird price!**



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