

# Hope!

the newsletter of southeastern children's home

where the heart is

## Life worth living

A poetic plea, thoughts on being a new papa, letters and more ...





# Something which has Reflections on the importance of serving with passion

By Billy Mize

Robert Kimberly, Executive Director of SECH, suggested that I write an article about my experience with nonprofit organizations and particularly working for the good of children.

The day after Robert made the suggestion, I sat at the kitchen table after supper and for some reason I glanced at the door of the refrigerator with its assortment of magnets, calendars, notes and photos.

A photo caught my eye and on closer look, it was a snapshot of two of our children and other children celebrating a birthday at Cornhusker Christian Children's Home in Culbertson, Nebraska. The other children were children of houseparents and children in care.

Cornhusker was my first experience in Christian childcare, having moved there from Anchorage, Alaska in the fall of 1972. However, this was not my first experience working on behalf of children.

Entering the preaching ministry in 1956, while still a student at Abilene Christian College, I served churches in Texas and Alaska until 1972. During those years, a part of my ministry was with children as a Bible teacher, education director and Bible camp teacher and director.

During the seven years as Superintendent of Cornhusker, my wife Lesley and I were foster parents and house parents for about two years.

In the fall of 1978, we moved to Denver, Colorado where I was president of Rocky Mountain Christian Schools for four years. RMCS was a private Christian elementary school located in the facilities of the University Church of Christ. In 1980, I began work as administrator for the University church and served as education director for several years.

During our time in Denver, Lesley served as a caseworker and later as Director of Development for Colorado Christian Services, a Christian adoption agency. I served on the Board of Directors for a time. We opened our home to girls receiving maternity services from CCS.

In the fall of 1991, (we made most of our moves in the fall) we moved to Lubbock, Texas, serving as Vice-President for Development eleven years for Children's Home of Lubbock.

In the fall of 2002, we moved to Lexington, South Carolina where I would be Director of Development for seven years.

My service for the good of children spanned fifty-two years with congregations and nonprofit childcare agencies of the churches of Christ.

Robert suggested the article would tell about my passion for serving



## Contributors

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September 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009

## Contact us!

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# made life worth living

children. Perhaps I have approached this article as a review of my work history, most of which has involved serving children in one way or another, to prove to myself that I had a passion for serving children.

The words of Friedrich Nietzsche may best characterize my more than fifty years of service to children, with the help of my wife, Lesley.

"The essential thing 'in heaven and earth' is ... that there should be a long obedience in the same direction; there thereby results, and has always resulted in the long run, something which has made life worth living."

If those words can define passion, then I admit to having a passion for serving children.

It has made life worth living and more.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: Billy Mize resigned as Director of Development for Southeastern Children's Home-SECH, September 30, 2009, after serving seven years. He continues to do contract work for SECH and is developing a business consulting for small nonprofits.*



## Being a "papa" the best

### Renewed appreciation for home, family and unconditional love

**By Robert Kimberly**  
*Executive Director*

I had always been told that being a grandfather is among the greatest joys one can experience. Although I understood it intellectually until 23 months ago, I never completely understood that perspective. My grandson entered the world on December 3, 2007 and has since become one of the great joys of my life.



I suppose you're wondering why I'm babbling endlessly over what many of you have experienced many times over. Well, it's because, since becoming a "papa," I think I have begun to look at the children served by this ministry in a little different light. Sure, I've always loved each of them, making every effort to accept them for just who they are. But I think that, over these last 23 months, my level of compassion and, yes, my hurt for their losses have grown, too. These are kids who may not have parents who care, even less a special "papa" and/or "grammy".

Imagine for a moment being abused, neglected or even rejected at an early age,

only to find yourself moving from one home to another, one group home to another, putting roots down nowhere. Many of the children that we are called to serve have experienced circumstance just like that and even worse. These are children who may have never gotten a chance to bond to their biological families.

This is where we come in. Every day, we strive to provide unconditional love to children who may have never had love or at least appropriate love. No, we can't be their "papa" or "grammy" but we can provide them with a place to call home. We can provide the type of care that every child needs and deserves.

In this issue of *Hope!* you'll find a letter from one of our children who did have the opportunity to return home. She's one of the lucky ones whose family did what it took to be given a second chance.

Yes, being a "papa" is wonderful. However, I am very thankful that we are given a chance to provide this type of very special love that all children want and need.

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- Long Creek Church of Christ

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# In their own words ... letters from



## Using lessons learned

I came to Southeastern Children's home when I was barely 12 years old, which meant I was pretty much the baby out of all the girls at the time. I was taken away from my family when I was seven years old because of disturbing

circumstances. I stayed in DSS until I turned 17. I have been in almost all the foster homes and group homes that anyone could go into, which was partly my fault. Needless to say, I was a very difficult child to handle. I had never had a group home make me feel like a family that actually cared until I came to Southeastern Children's Home. Still, even though I felt that I had a family, I also felt the need to reject it because doing so was much more comfortable for me at the time.

But I found that the parents and staff at Southeastern are sincerely there to help the young adults thrive and grow into wonderful people. Even though I rejected that support and love at first, some was instilled in me because of the wonderful help they gave me. I truly believe that they shaped me into the woman I am now. Today I am a wonderful mother to four wonderful kids and I'm raising them according to the guidelines that I used to think were just horrible, but now know are there for a reason. I know that all kids that come to this home have the best chances in life because of the wonderful support and compassion that is shown on a daily basis to these kids. I know most of the kids that come here act so tough and like they don't want any help, but they truly did. I just wanted someone to prove it after being let down so much. I want to thank all of you personally for shaping me into who I am today.

— Allison Cox

## A better place

Seven years ago, I was a resident at Southeastern Children's Home. My time there was a great learning experience. I learned skills that still help me in my day-to-day life. I was not an angel, I must say, because I didn't always do the right thing. But in the end, things turned out well.

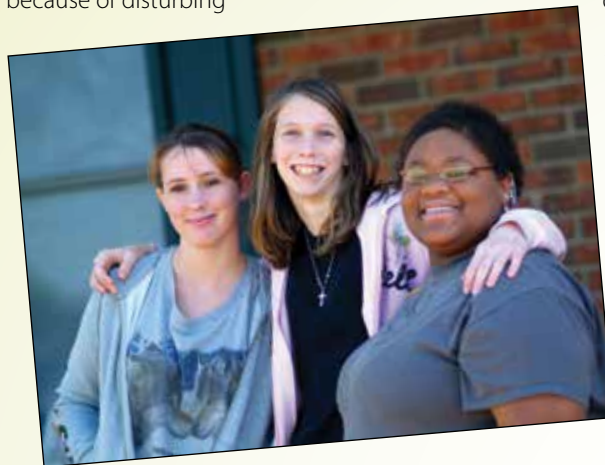
During my time at Southeastern, I learned patience, time and money management, and how to care for myself on my own. The people at Southeastern are kind and understanding and showed me a love that I had never

known. I instantly fell in love with the horse program there and I spent the majority of my time with the horses.

Southeastern taught me the true meaning of caring and compassion, both of which I now show my children. In the beginning, I thought I was in the worst place ever because I wasn't with my family, but it turns out that I was in a better place than where I started. I want to thank Dean and Lori Tripp,

**" ... I thought I was in the worst place ever because I wasn't with my family, but it turns out that I was in a better place than where I started ..."**

along with Janice and Tony Axsom, for helping me to realize this.



## Contributors

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 WAYNE BUSEY

September 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009







# homes away from Home ... and a song

Dean and Lori taught me what a real family is and treated me as if I was their own, and Janice and Tony greatedened my passion for photography. I'm so very thankful to all of the people at Southeastern for what they did for me. They've made such an impact on my life that it's unreal. If you'd asked me seven years ago whether I thought I'd be sitting here telling you my story, I'd have said, "No."

I only hope that my story becomes an inspiration to others and helps them learn to understand and embrace the things that Southeastern has to offer.

– Kimberly Lurty

## One-of-a-kind

Southeastern Children's Home is really one-of-a-kind. If there is a child that needs help, you better believe the staff here will do all that they can to help. Robert Kimberly, the director, has done everything possible to make it a home-away-from-home.

And he truly has accomplished his goal. He also did an absolutely wonderful job in picking loving and caring staff to work here.

They really look at you as their own. The love they show for us is indescribable. Each and every part of them is a little part of Southeastern and, without them, we wouldn't be the great family we are now. They have a place in their hearts for children that is so powerful that we usually forget that this is a children's home.

We look at it as an oversized family, and I know they wouldn't have it any other way. When I first got here, I was shocked by how much they cared. It was my first time away from home and I was horribly homesick. I cried every day. But someone

**" ... The love they show for us is indescribable ... without them, we wouldn't be the great family we are now ..."**

each tear I cried. I will never forget the wonderful times I've had here.

– Jenna Carver

## Jasmine's Song: World upside down

Right now my world is upside down  
Can't see when the light is gonna come  
Seems like no one knows I'm here  
Why don't I just disappear or get outta here

### Refrain

Help me be seen or come alive  
Please teach me how to survive  
That's all I ask of you  
Make this wish come true

Every now and then, people notice me  
They ask why I look the way I do  
I walk away without answering  
Now I ask you.

(Refrain)

Now my world is rightside up  
And I can't help remembering it's  
Because of your love  
I've been seen and I thank you  
For making my wish come true

(Refrain)

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A special studio recording of Jasmine's song, sung by Jasmine herself, will be posted soon to our redesigned web site (under construction) at sech.org.*



A new volleyball court was made possible by BI-LO Charities and BI-LO of Lyman (store 446) through a grant received in 2008. Special thanks for making a positive impact on our children and visitors to our campus.

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September 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009



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Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey  
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Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey  
LEE WILSON

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# When want is keenly felt,

**"... a few of us are endeavouring to raise a fund ... We choose this time, because it is a time, of all others, when Want is keenly felt, and Abundance rejoices. What shall I put you down for? ..."**

Charles Dickens – *A Christmas Carol*

## Change for Children

A story from a supporting congregation illustrates benefits of the Change for Children campaign not often thought about.

"A grandmother took two of her granddaughters to the Vacation Bible School last year. While there, she heard about Southeastern's Change for Children campaign.

They returned this year to attend Vacation Bible



School and brought with them a can filled with change, and a check for some change that they had already taken to the bank.

The grandmother explained that the girls asked relatives for change, picked up loose coins on the ground and in other ways had collected coins to help the children at SECH."

The 2009 Change for Children campaign is off to a good success this year with about \$10,000 contributed from members of 21 congregations. Most people are surprised to learn that the annual drive averages nearly \$500 per church.

The use of coin banks distributed to church families as a method of generating funds to be used in the care of children has been used for a number of years by SECH. It has several benefits beyond the funds raised.

- It can be used by any size congregation and doesn't detract from the weekly offering.
- Individuals and families can participate by saving their change for a portion of the year.
- It can be a discussion starter to tell others about the mission of SECH to serve children in need.

Change for Children is an effective way to teach children the Christian value of giving to help others. Each congregation can use its imagination to make it an enjoyable and successful effort.

We hope you'll plan now to participate in the 2010 Change for Children campaign.

## Your year-end gifts help change lives

A recent report by the Every Child Matters Education Fund, a non-partisan advocacy group, underscores the urgent and critical importance of SECH's ministry to abused and neglected adolescents. Each year, SECH serves an average of thirty-five children, with eighteen or more residing in three group homes at any one time.

The 2009 report, titled *Homeland Insecurity*, is based on data from the Department of Health and Human Services. It points out that

more than 10,000 children died from abuse or neglect in the United States from 2001 to 2007. The number of deaths could be twice as large because many deaths from abuse or neglect may be attributed to other causes.

The introduction to the report made several points worth noting:

- An already challenging situation for children is compounded by state budgets staggering under the recession and the cuts in social spending which follow.





# and abundance rejoices

## How you can make a difference

- **Feed one child** for \$137.50 per month, or \$1,255 per year
- **Provide electricity** for a group home for \$377.70 per month, or \$4,532.40 per year
- **Provide therapy** for a child for \$160 per month or \$1,920 per year
- **Provide a week at Bible Camp** for four children for \$1,000

**Immediate needs:** large Ziploc bags, paper towels, toilet tissue, laundry detergent, fabric softener, shampoo/conditioner, body wash, feminine hygiene products, body lotion, dental floss, plastic reusable storage containers for food, aluminum foil/saran wrap, general household cleaning supplies, etc.

### Senn Cottage wish list

- Someone to tune piano
- Silicone tongs
- Bath towels/wash cloths
- Large electric roaster
- Small trash cans

### Lyman House wish list

- Kitchen and bathroom rugs (neutral colors/washable)
- Vacuum cleaner
- Toaster

### Smith Cottage wish list

- Bath towels/wash cloths
- Someone to tune piano
- Silicone tongs
- Metal colander
- Guitar for wii Guitar Hero
- Extra wii controllers
- Toaster



- The life chances of children are vastly improved when they are the top priorities of families, communities—and governments.
- We can all agree: families are the best place for children, but often families need a little help.

Southeastern Children's Home is making a difference in the lives of children each year with the help of individuals and churches throughout the Southeast. It's facilities, program and staff are uniquely suited to bringing hope to abused and neglected adolescents who must be placed out of their homes for their well-

being and protection.

Your gifts at year-end are critically important. They help ensure that SECH can provide all the services that these deserving young people require and that the year can end financially strong.

We know that these are financially challenging time for individuals, churches and businesses. Please be as generous as you can—changed lives for the children will be your blessing!

Mr. & Mrs. James B. Edwards

### In honor of 9<sup>th</sup> birthday

DYLAN PHILLIPS  
Mr. & Mrs. James Gosnell  
Mr. & Mrs. John Lanford

### In honor of 84<sup>th</sup> birthday

JANE FARLEY  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Farley

### In honor of 89<sup>th</sup> birthday

CLARA COLE  
Ms. Donna Cole

### In honor of 91<sup>st</sup> birthday

KIRK COLE  
Ms. Donna Cole

### In honor of 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

MR. & MRS. JOHN HARRELL  
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

### In-kind gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Blackshear  
Mr. & Mrs. Kent Brown & Children  
Mr. Darryl Burnett  
Ms. Wendy Chandler  
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Etheridge  
Dr. & Mrs. George Glenn  
Ms. Mattie Gregory  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hamblin  
Mr. & Mrs. John Harrelson  
Mr. Andrew Jackson  
Ms. Nancy Janich  
Mr. Doug Jarvis  
Mr. Gerald Kelly  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Mayfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Melton  
Mr. Tyler Nodine  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Nutt  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Page  
Dylan Phillips – 9 years old  
Mrs. Connie Scharff  
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Taunton  
Ms. Doris Willions  
A Classic Salon  
Airport Baptist Church  
Beginner Class of Temple Independent Methodist Church  
Campobello United Methodist Church  
Covenant United Methodist Church  
Food Lion – Lyman, SC  
Good Soil Ministry of Temple Independent Methodist Church  
Hendersonville Art Council  
Middle Tyger Area Lions Club  
Publix – Duncan, SC  
Spartan Bakery  
Southern Hospitality

### 2009 Golf Tournament Supporters

Mrs. Judy Peterson  
Ms. Joyce Henderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Lockskin  
Ms. Claudia Sullens  
Mrs. Cindy Yeargin  
Ms. Carole Jessup  
Mrs. Shirley Duke  
Ms. Eddie SueThompson  
Mrs. Bridget Daly Musteata  
Mrs. Louise Connell  
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Fogel  
Mr. Ernie Thigpen  
Mrs. Patricia Williams  
BoJangles of Duncan  
Bondtex, Inc.  
Edwin Watts Golf  
Proforma Gilpak Enterprises  
Greenville Zoo  
Golf Etc.  
Brusters Ice Cream  
USC  
Tmax Gear  
Mr. & Mrs. Toby McCall  
Mr. & Mrs. Stan Fields  
TaylorMade  
Tire Kingdom  
Charlotte Bobcats  
Furman University  
Coca Cola  
Wofford College  
Harley Davidson of Greenville  
Marriott Evergreen Resort  
Stone Mountain Park  
The Grove Park Inn  
Farmlinks  
Chop House '47  
Zaxby's of Duncan  
Dolce  
Nonesuch  
PGA National Resort & Spa  
Tracy Nutt  
Mr. & Mrs. David Scharff  
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Scharff  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ray  
Mrs. Jessi Jung  
Ms. Linda Graham

September 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009

# HOPE!

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