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# **Springing forward after**

## Rebirth and renewal in the face of overwhelming odds

The young people we care for at Southeastern Children's Home are all too familiar with falling back. What they've endured in the course of their young lives would overwhelm many adults, yet these children, guided by us as we are guided by God, do the seemingly impossible. They spring forward.

And while their forward progress may not be continuous, it never ceases to amaze. Some days, in fact, it verges on the miraculous. Other days, it is miraculous, plain and simple.

In this issue of *Hope!*, we introduce you to one member of our family – Dawn – whose story is both unique and typical. We hope that reading Katie's story will help you understand why the work we do is so vital and why your support of that work is so deeply appreciated.

## Dawn's story

Most days, it's hard for me to hear the words, "There's always somebody who has it worse." I know that others have had it harder or are having it harder than me, but when I'm feeling selfish, I don't care about other people. I only care about myself.

When I was 18 months old, I was kidnapped by my biological father, taken to North Carolina and had a gun held to my head. My dad shot three policemen and was arrested.

I was taken home by my mom and new stepdad. My older sister didn't like our stepdad, maybe because I was always his favorite, even when he began having his own children with my mom. Whenever my mom and stepdad argued, my mom would threaten to leave, but I would beg to stay with my stepdad. My mom hated me for that.

My stepdad despised my older sister. He beat her all the time and I used to have to lie to him so he wouldn't beat me. When I stopped lying, he started physically abusing me.

He put padlocks on our doors so that we couldn't get out and he put buckets in the corners for us to use the bathroom in. One night it was really hot, so I got out of bed to put my head on the cool window. Out of nowhere, he came in and caught me jumping back into bed. He told me that when I came home from school he would throw me down the stairs.

I went to school and told the school counselor that I was too scared to go home. The police drove me home that night. They looked around but didn't have enough evidence, so

they left.

My stepdad yelled and yelled. He picked me up and threw me down on the concrete floor. Then he took my younger brothers and sister and left for the night "to cool down." That made my mom yell at me, but afterward we had family counseling every month.

After a time, though, my stepdad got tired of counseling, so we packed up our stuff and moved. He kept a close eye on us. He didn't

want to take a chance on any of us running our mouths. He even put up cameras at home.

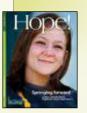
On my thirteenth birthday, he told my mom that he was going to take me to the store to buy me a new pair of shoes. My sister wanted to come with us, but he said that he wanted to spend "some alone time" with me.

After we got in the car, I felt uncomfortable. It was dark outside and he started touching me. I was confused because not even my "... He put padlocks on our doors so that we couldn't get out and he put buckets in the corners for us to use the bathroom in. One night it was really hot, so I got out of bed to put my head on the cool window ..."

boyfriend would be allowed to touch me like that. He kept asking me how much I thought I was worth. I didn't know what to say to him.

When we finally got to the store, my stepdad was angry. He stormed in and grabbed the first pair of shoes he could find. He didn't even look to see what kind of shoes they were or what

## Contact us!



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# falling back ... hard

size they were. We got back in the car and he drove around back and raped me over and over again. I was bleeding, but when we got home he made me tell my mom that I had started my period.

He raped me continuously over the next few months. He would tell my mom that I had a project to do on on the computer in his room and then he would lock the door, or he would sneak into my bedroom after everyone was asleep. He used the cameras to make

sure that I wasn't eating so that I would get so hungry that I'd agree to have sex with him. Most of the time, though, I would sneak out and get a jar of peanut butter and then take the beating.

Finally, I got to the point that I had to talk to someone. I tried to talk to my older sister, but she yelled at me. I couldn't talk to my little sister because she couldn't

Continued on page 4 ...

## House calls

## For many, the Kimberly home is an extension of Southeastern

## By Robert Kimberly

Executive Director

Several years ago my daughter came home from school and shared an event that had occurred that day. She said that as she walked down the hall transitioning from one class to the next that one of the young ladies



that lived at the children's home yelled at her from guite a distance away. She said "Katie, I am coming to your house tonight." To which Katie smiled and responded positively. One of Katie's best friends was walking with her and observed this interaction. She looked at Katie with a surprised look and asked, "First who is that girl and second is she really coming to your house tonight?" Katie responded, "If she said she is she probably is." She went on to tell her friend of our work and the work of Southeastern Children's Home. Her friend then ask, "Katie do you ever get tired of your dad bringing children home?" She responded, "No, I don't know any other way. He has brought children into our home for as long as I can remember."

I must confess that our children really do not know any other way. For almost 30 years, Kim and I have been privileged to provide love and care to many children that we have been called on to serve. By and large these are children who have never really had the opportunity to experience what normal families do. They have come from a world that many of us can only imagine, a world of abuse and dysfunction.

They have come from places that children ought not to have ever seen. It is our goal to provide each of them with the opportunity to experience a normal, happy family even if it is just for the evening. I count it a true blessing to have shared my family with them and I count

it a privilege to call them part of our family.

Today in South Carolina, over 5,000 children will experience the need to be cared for in an out-ofhome placement. Southeastern Children's Home certainly can not provide for all of these children

"... Today in South Carolina, over 5,000 children will experience the need to be cared for in an out-of-home placement ..."

but we can care for some of them. We have provided a respite for hundreds of children over the last forty plus years. Our ministry continues to provide unconditional love to children who may have never experienced appropriate love. We provide an opportunity for children to heal, grow and learn from their difficult experiences. But, as much as anything, we help the children experience family.

Yes, a group of children from Southeastern Children's Home did come to our home on that particular day as they had on many occasions. Our children don't know any different because Katie, Jeremy, Austin, Kim and I count each of these children as part of our family. What a blessing, what a privilege!



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## **Following up with Facebook**

## Case manager keeps up with "kids" on social networking site

How do you follow up when a student leaves Southeastern?

Students leave Southeastern Children's for three primary reasons; graduation, reaching eighteen and dismissal to another program. Following up on them as they return to families, get jobs, go to school or enter the military can be a challenge.

Ashley Remick, case manager, uses one of the social networking tools popular with teenagers, to maintain contact with her "kids", especially after they leave Southeastern.

Facebook, as a social networking site, has its benefits. You can catch up with old friends, share photos, and for me, I can keep up with all my "kids". I started using Facebook in college and continue to use it as a way to maintain contact with friends and family.

When I began my work at SECH as a caseworker, it seemed only natural to keep up with my "kids" using Facebook, while they are here and once they leave. Facebook gives me the opportunity to see who their friends are and what is going on in their lives. It is a great tool for encouraging and supporting them.

"... Facebook gives me the opportunity to see who their friends are and what is going on in their lives. It is a great tool for encouraging and supporting them ..."

Facebook has

become an important tool in post-care followup. I've found that most of the children who leave Southeastern; whether they are dismissed or simply age out, often think of the staff and house parents as family. In some cases, it's really their last "home" address.

Though their journeys are not always easy, they come to realize that the staff at Southeastern truly cares about them. Facebook is a way to celebrate their joys or share in their losses. I've gotten a wide range of information on previous residents from joining the coast guard to the loss of a significant other or a family member that has been ill.

Once a kid leaves, phones are not always available to them or their number changes so often that one could never keep up. However, I've found that no matter where a child ends up, they always have some computer access,

even if it is at the local public library or hotel lobby.

Facebook also makes it easy to give them a non-threatening way to ask for help if they need it and to let them know someone is still thinking about and praying for them. The kids think of us as family and most often they will say Southeastern was a great home and keeping up with them shows we care.

Ashley's use of Facebook adds an important dimension to after-care for the young people who leave SECH and move on into a new phase of their lives.

Facebook can also be used to keep up with news and events at Southeastern.
Search Facebook for Southeastern Children's Home and become a fan. Christy Nodine, Development Associate, maintains Facebook for SECH.

## Reaccreditation

On March 5, 2010 Southeastern Children's Home formally received EAGLE Reaccreditation. Every five years. every accredited organization has to go through a comprehensive assessment which includes a detailed self-study and



Executive Director Robert Kimberly with EAGLE accreditation plaque.

culminates with a peer site visit. Southeastern is proud to continue providing a high level of care to the children that we serve. We are equally proud to carry such a prestigious acknowledgment of quality.

## Wish list

We have immediate need of the following items. All donations are tax deductible, of course, and greatly appreciated!

- Dependable cars for the children
- Shark steam cleaner
- Neutral kitchen and bathroom rugs
- Liquid laundry and dishwasher detergents

spring 2010

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## **SECH receives Fujikura grant**

"... As the lack

of stability in

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AFL Network Services has announced that Southeastern Children's Home is the recipient of a \$4,750 Fujikura Foundation grant to support counseling session for families in the community in need of financial assistance. The

areas of counseling include, but are not limited to, stress management, family strengthening, parenting, anger management and mild depression.

As the lack of stability in the economy continues, more stress is placed

on the nuclear family. From past experience, we know this type of trauma can and often does lead to family dysfunction, which then leads to child abuse or neglect.

As a recipient of the Fujikura Foundation grant, SECH will be able to provide individual adult counseling, family counseling and adolescent counseling. We are grateful to the Foundation for their recognition of this need in our community, especially now, when we have seen a greater volume of inquiries for assistance with both counseling and the inability to pay for sessions.

Southeastern Children's Home and Counseling Center is a faith-based organization that provides care to needy children and families through residential group home care, foster care, adoption, maternity services and counseling.

"AFL is excited to have the opportunity to support SECH and its programs," said Kent Brown, Vice President of AFL Network Services, Enterprise Division. "We are committed to strengthening families in the communities where AFL operates and believe we will have a positive impact serving SECH's efforts."

## **SECH receives Compassion Grant**

On March 22, 2010, Southeastern was awarded a \$20,000 South Carolina Compassion Grant from Clemson University and The Spartanburg County Foundation. Southeastern will use the funds to hire a consultant to conduct board education and training.

The Compassion grant also will allow Southeastern to strengthen governance through organizing and hosting a board retreat. The retreat will focus on governance issues and developing information for a revised board manual. Board

members will do a comprehensive assessment of their legal roles to ensure that the mission of Southeastern is carried out effectively.

The board also will address new laws governing nonprofits, transparency requirements, changing economic and political climates and diversity issues for board membership. Because the board is accountable for all aspects of the organization, the effectiveness of the board has a direct impact on the services we provide to at-risk children.

## **Springing** ... continued from page 2.

keep a secret. Then God sent me an angel.

My science teacher noticed that I never ate at school and that I was dangerously underweight. We started talking about how things were at my home. We talked every day. She even brought me food and tried to get me to eat, but I wouldn't.

Right before Christmas break, my teacher got scared for me and called the police. The police took statements from my teacher and the two friends I'd told about what was going on.

I stayed in the police station all day and then went to my first placement, Pendleton Place. For the next four years I was in and out

of placements. I was scared to make friends because I knew I'd have to leave them. I didn't see the rest of my family for almost three years.

When I did finally see my family, I had a one-year-old brother I knew nothing of and my four-year-old brother didn't remember me. Then my parents gave up their rights to us. My brothers and younger sister went to new families. My older sister had a family of her own. I didn't have anybody.

That's when I came to Southeastern and my life changed totally. Southeastern has shown me the loving side of people that I didn't think I would ever see. Therapy is helping, too. I finally feel like I belong to a family and I'm thankful

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KAY YENNY
Mr. Jerry Satterfield, Sr.

### In honor of Christmas

LAURA ASHLEIGH
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey
J. C. & JANE FARLEY
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Farley
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Farley
BRUCE HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
JO HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
JO HANNAFORD
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
JERRY A. SATTERFIELD
Mr. & Mrs. Haskell Yenny
ABBI SMITH
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey
ALLI SMITH
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey
JELIZABETH SMITH
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey
JOSH SMITH
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey
JOSH SMITH
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey
CALEB WHITAKER
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Summey

### In honor of birthday

JENNIFER EBERHART
Dr. Lydia Guillot
BRUCE HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
JO HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings
BOB & GAIL MANTIE
Dr. Lydia Guillot
MARY ALICE TROTTER
Dr. Lydia Guillot

## In honor of anniversary

MR. & MRS. E. B. HOLDITCH Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

### In honor of 53rd anniversary

BILL & KAY SMITH Mrs. June Gannaway

## In honor of 67th anniversary

KIRK & CLARA COLE Ms. Donna Cole

### In-kind gifts/volunteers

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## In thanks and recognition

Southeastern Children's Home was founded over 40 years ago with a commitment to serving abused and neglected children from throughout the Carolinas. We've never lost site of that original focus, and a great many dedicated Christian people have been instrumental in helping us achieve our goals.

In this issue of *Hope!* we're honoring three individuals who have committed many years of service to Southeastern.

Herb Smith joined our board of directors soon after the facility was founded and, during one stint, served eight consecutive years as board chairman. He loves to tell stories about days gone by – both the challenges and the blessings he experienced while serving on the board. It is because of dedicated folks like Herb that Southeastern continues to care for hurting children and families.

**Beverly Kelly** joined us as an administrative assistant on August 1, 1988. Beverly had been a stay-at-home mom and, frankly, wasn't looking for a change. But Beverly was approached and personally invited to join the Southeastern Children's Home family at a time when we had many needs and very few resources. After much prayer and consultation with her family, she decided to give it a try. Today, after 22 years, Beverly continues to learn new skills that enhance her ability to serve in this ministry. Her dedication and loyalty serve as a model for all staff to follow.

**Robert Kimberly** joined Southeastern Children's Home on January 3, 1990, which also coincidentally was his birthday. He came



(from left) Robert Kimberly, Beverly Kelly and Herb Smith were honored for their many years of service to Southeastern Children's Home.

to this ministry having worked for almost ten years for a church program in Florida and has served the last 20 years as our Executive Director. During his tenure, he has served on several boards representing the Children's Home, including The Middle Tyger Community Center, South Carolina Association of Children's Homes and Family Services, Association of Licensed Adoption Agencies and the Christian Child and Family Services Association. Robert's love and commitment to both God and the children is evident in all that he does.

On November 21, 2009 the board honored Herb, Beverly and Robert for their dedication and services to this ministry with a plaque and a heartfelt "thank you".



spring 2010

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Spartan Bakery

Spartan Bakery Spartanburg Athletic Club





## In-kind gifts/volunteers

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## **Annual report**

## 2009 childcare statistics

Children served	39
Baptisms	7
Referrals	46

## 2009 counseling center statistics

Counseling center sessions	353
Contacts with previous residents	106

### Statement of financial activities

For the year ended December 31, 2009

### Income

Program support payments	\$	648,409
Contributions		372,516
Grants		34,522
Miscellaneous	\$	21,071
Total Income	\$ 1	1,076,518

## **Expenses**

Program services: children	\$ 581,046
Supporting services	171,549
Development & Management	141,771
Grant Projects	19,380
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,054
Total Expense	\$ 916,800
Transfer to Reserve	\$ 75,000
Net unrestricted revenue	\$ 84,718
(1) 1: 1: 6	

(Un-audited financial statement)

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