

Hope!

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

Three high school graduations you made possible

A good education increases each child's chances of success in life

Three different students took three very different paths to their high school graduation this year. Each one was successful. Congratulations to Katie, Chris and Chris for the hard work and persistence in attaining this goal.

Southeastern Children's Home believes that a student who leaves without earning a high school diploma, high school certificate or GED, stands a good chance of losing much of what they gained the time they were at SECH.

Children placed with SECH, on the average, have been in eight or nine different out of home placements. Eighty percent are from broken homes and one hundred percent experience abuse and/or neglect. That is not a recipe for success in school.

Two teachers with MA degrees conduct an on-campus education program involving every student living at Southeastern. Monday through Thursday, immediately after school, students go to the well-equipped classroom in the Family Life Center, where they receive help with their studies. This emphasis on doing their best in school is reinforced by houseparents, caseworkers and counselors.

Students who are able to rise above these kinds of circumstances and complete their high school education deserve congratulations on their accomplishment.

Katie Lindsey

Katherine (Katie) Lindsey graduated from Byrnes High School in Duncan, SC with her High School Diploma.

Katie's graduation story is unusual. She arrived at Southeastern in December 2009, having lived in foster care since she was thirteen. That was not the unusual part. The unusual part was her senior year was the only year she spent in a public high school.

Katie, energetic and outgoing, arrived at Southeastern with goals in mind for her education. She says that life was different at the Home because people believed in her and helped her to go further in reaching her goals.

She has a brother and sister in foster care and she keeps in contact with them, but there is no other family for her to rely on for encouragement and support. Katie credits Robert Kimberly, Executive Director with encouraging her during tough times. She said he helped her keep her goals on track, reminding her that there were people there to help.

Katie plans to enter Greenville Tech, Greenville, SC, in August. She will be doing leveling courses in English and math and begin taking courses in criminal justice and psychology. After two years she plans to transfer to Coastal Carolina College in Myrtle Beach, SC.

Katie's ultimate educational goal is to earn a degree that will qualify her to work with the Department of Social Services, serving children in need.

When asked how graduating make her feel about herself, Katie responded, "I feel like I have come a long ways, I feel happy and proud."

"... She says that life was different at the Home because people believed in her and helped her to go further in reaching goals..."



Katie Lindsey (right) with Linda Graham on graduation night at Byrnes High School in Duncan, SC

Chris Messer

Christopher (Chris) Messer graduated from Gaffney High School with a High School Certificate and Employability Diploma. Chris attended Byrnes High School in Duncan, SC during the three years he lived at Southeastern.

When asked how it felt to graduate from high school, Chris replied, "It was all over TV and the *Spartanburg Herald Journal* got the whole nine yards in a news article. It was great!"

During his time at SECH, Chris credits his houseparents for their encouragement.

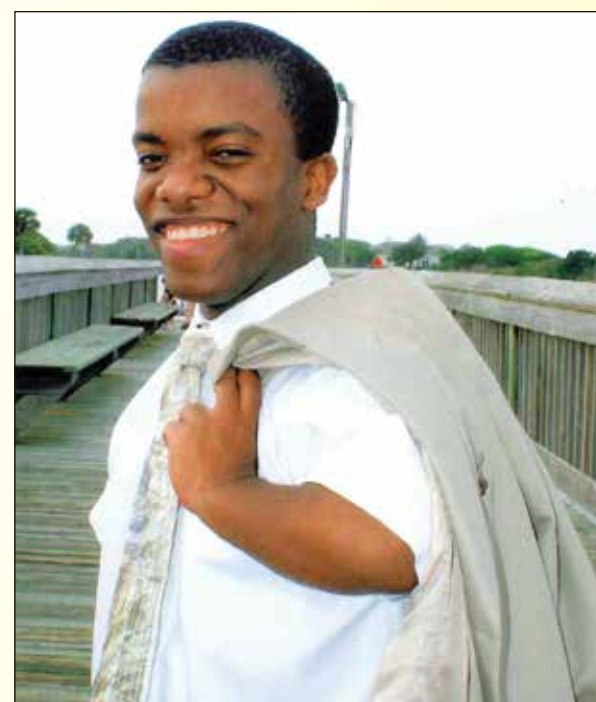
Chris was a member of the Air Force ROTC as a student at Byrnes, achieving the rank of Colonel. He is proud of the certificates recognizing his years in the ROTC and plans to enlist in the military where he would like to specialize in firefighting.

Chris lives with his grandmother in Gaffney, SC. During his last year of high school, he worked with the local fire department and played football.

Never meeting a stranger, Chris plans to be involved in a ministry work project in the Gaffney community this summer.

When asked about future plans, Chris said, "I always wanted to be a firefighter. I want to have a good stable job and get married. Maybe I can help out at the Children's Home."

"... When asked how it felt to graduate from high school, Chris replied, 'It was all over TV and the *Spartanburg Herald Journal*. It was great! ...'"



Chris Stidham will begin college next spring.

Chris Stidham

Christopher (Chris) Stidham graduated from Flagler Palm Coast High School in Palm Coast, FL with a High School Diploma. Chris, who lives with his parents, has a much different story in terms of his connection to Southeastern Children's Home.

Adoption assistance has been a part of the program of services offered by SECH for many years. Robert Kimberly assisted in the adoption of Chris by Bill and Lenora Stidham in 1990. The Stidham's were houseparents at the time, remaining at SECH until 1999.

Chris lived with his family at the Children's Home until he was eight years old. Chris commented on his time at the Home, saying "I thought it was pretty much fun. I became close to another boy whose mom and dad were houseparents and we had a good time together."

Chris favored science and language arts as subjects in high school and played football his freshman year.

An interest in playing video games has led Chris to pursue studies in video game design in college. He will attend Daytona State College for a two-year program and transfer to a four-year college from DSC.

This fall, Chris will go to England with his brother David on a mission trip for two weeks. David Stidham is the minister and an elder with the Central Church of Christ in Bunnell, FL. Chris will remain in England where he will continue working in missions until December. Chris will begin college in the spring of 2011.



Chris Messer graduated from Gaffney High School with a High School Certificate and Employability Diploma.

Contact us!

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

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Memorials for March 11 - June 8, 2010

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NANCY WOODLEY
Mr. & Mrs. Carol Woodley
BUD WRIGHT
Ms. Myrtle Wright

In honor of

DALTON & HELEN GOODWIN
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Goodwin

In honor of 64th anniversary

JIM & JANE FARLEY, SR.
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Farley, Jr.

In honor of birth of twins

MR. & MRS. CHRIS STEVENS
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In honor of birthday

BRENT SELBY
Dr. Lydia Guillot
CLAIR TURBEVILLE
Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

In honor of 95th birthday

LOVIE YORK
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Cole

In honor of Father's Day

KIRK COLE
Ms. Donna Cole
BRUCE HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings

In honor of Mother's Day

JANE FARLEY
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Farley, Jr.
JO HANNAFORD
Dr. & Mrs. Mike Billings

summer 2010

where the heart is

Special summer graduation edition

Lives changed through your support ...

2010 Byrnes High School graduate Katie Lindsey



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