Horse therapy gives new meaning to “stable” relationship

Buddy was abused and neglected at a young age. He couldn’t walk. He wasn’t fed properly. Buddy was close to death. Just before it was too late, Buddy’s life took a strange turn. He was purchased and brought to the Southeastern Children’s Home. That’s right; he was purchased… because Buddy is a horse, of course.

Each Tuesday, several of our children participate in our on-campus Equine Therapy Program. The Southeastern Children’s Home campus is blessed to have plenty of space for three beautiful horses: Buddy, Zane and Rocket.

“Children receive several benefits when they interact with animals,” Vicki Stidham, Southeastern’s Director of Residential Services, said. “Being around the horses improves their social behavior, helps decrease stress levels, reduces feelings of anger, hostility and anxiety, and it helps them learn about trust and patience. The program utilizes a one thousand pound animal so that kids realize that they can master something greater than themselves.”

Young people who ordinarily shun physical and emotional closeness with other people often can accept such contact from a horse. The child-horse bond can create mutual trust, respect, affection, confidence, and unconditional acceptance.

“...Young people who ordinarily shun physical and emotional closeness with other people often can accept such contact from a horse...”

Weathering the economic storm

An active year marred by misguided State budget cuts

By Robert Kimberly

This has been an exciting and interesting year for Southeastern Children’s Home.

Several of our children graduated high school this summer. We’ve had 8 baptisms. We’ve had two new sets of houseparents join us. It’s been an incredibly active year as we continue to serve children who have been abused and neglected.

This is my 21st year serving as Executive Director. During my tenure, I cannot recall a more eventful twelve months.

In addition to a busy year on-campus, we’ve been busy adapting to a number of changes that have occurred behind the scenes. As supporters of Southeastern Children’s Home, you may find it helpful to be apprised of our current situation.

Due to the economic climate, state funds used to support children’s homes have reduced dramatically. We’ve seen a 12% reduction in the
from interaction

“Some of the kids have become good enough to go fox hunting, participate in a 4-H event, or compete in the Hunters Pace 8-mile fundraiser,” Scott said. “I’ve seen dozens of children benefit from this program over the years I’ve been involved.”

For many of the children, it’s the highlight of their week.

“I always loved working with the horses,” a former resident said. “It made my week. I loved it so much that after graduation I decided to work at a local animal shelter.”

Buddy, the horse, has blossomed since coming to our campus. He’s gained weight. His feet and hooves have been corrected. He’s a handsome animal who looks nothing like the neglected creature brought to our campus years ago.

There’s no horsing around on Tuesdays, because Buddy has work to do. Buddy is busy building friendships with our kids.

Unbeknownst to him, he’s teaching and providing life lessons for abused and neglected children.

We can only hope that our children will continue to emerge from their troubled pasts and become as healthy and happy as their friend Buddy.

Buddy was abused when he was young, but he’s found good friends, better prospects and much greener pastures at Southeastern Children’s Home. A former resident said, “I always loved working with the horses. I loved it so much that after graduation, I decided to work in an animal shelter.”

daily rate we have been paid by the state of South Carolina.

Moreover, the new S.C. Director of Social Services (“DSS”) has implemented several “wildly important goals” which will have a drastic effect on child care. Some of the new goals are admirable and will benefit child care in our state. However, I’m afraid some of the new cost-cutting measures will prove detrimental to children and families over the course of time.

Most troubling is that the new administration is very focused on reducing the amount of money spent on abused and neglected children. In addition to making sweeping, across-the-board financial cuts for services provided to needy children, DSS is resolved to have less children in their custody.

A reduction in placements increases our fear that child safety is more at risk every day.

See KIMBERLY on page 4

State cutbacks mean fewer children will be removed from potentially harmful situations.
Giving is similar to cornbread

There’s no wrong way to give

By Philip Murphy
Development Director

My mother never added sugar to her cornbread. For me, sweetened cornbread wasn’t “real” cornbread. At least, that was my sentiment until I met my wife.

My wife’s cornbread is sweet. Is her family recipe wrong? Nope. And you’ll never hear me say otherwise. Obviously, there’s more than one recipe for “real” cornbread.

Giving is somewhat similar to cornbread. There’s not just one “real” way to give.

Sometimes, organizations, and our supporters, get too focused on one particular aspect of giving. We tend to get tunnel vision.

I just wanted to remind you that there are a number of ways you can help Southeastern Children’s Home such as:

1. Set up a direct monthly payment from your checking account by completing the ACH form below and sending it to us;
2. Gift stocks or other securities directly to SECH;
3. Name SECH as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA, or 401(k) plan;
4. Have your congregation or civic group take a special collection; or
5. Leave a bequest through your will or living trust.

Remember, there’s no wrong way to give.

Please contact us if you have questions regarding tax implications regarding these gifts.

Your generosity makes it possible for children to find new and better directions in life.

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My gift to help children in need

Yes, I want to make a gift of $________ each month to the children at Southeastern Children’s Home.

As a duly authorized check signer for my bank account, I hereby authorize Southeastern Children’s Home to perform scheduled electronic funds transfers in the aforementioned amount from my bank account on the (circle one) 3rd or 15th day each month.

Authorizing Signature __________ Date __________

Name(s) __________________________

Address __________________________

City __________________ State ______ Zip Code ______

Phone __________________ Email __________________

Please include a personalized check marked “VOID” so we can identify your account. Return completed form to: Southeastern Children’s Home • P.O. Box 339 • Duncan, SC 29334

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Georgetown Church of Christ
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Grace Baptist Church
Grace United Methodist Church
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Lake Coole Baptist Church
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Lakeside Drive Church of Christ
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Giving is similar to cornbread center, and provide preventative counseling to place a greater emphasis on our Counseling begun the implementation of new programs for shorter terms, and be paid less for assisting Children's Home will likely have fewer residents, may guess, this concerns me very much. repercussions of this new philosophy. As you likely end up paying more for the long-term in the short-term, but, we the taxpayers will

Southeastern, may be reunited with families in safe, out-of-home environments, such as situations, but also children currently living fewer children from potentially harmful abuse occurred.

Such actions may save DSS some money in the short-term, but, we the taxpayers will likely end up paying more for the long-term repercussions of this new philosophy. As you may guess, this concerns me very much.

This means, for the time being, Southeastern Children's Home will likely have fewer residents, for shorter terms, and be paid less for assisting them. As such, our Board of Directors has begun the implementation of new programs to assist families in our region. Namely, we'll place a greater emphasis on our Counseling Center, and provide preventative counseling to children and families. Hopefully, by providing these services, we can assist families and stop abuse before it ever occurs in the household.

Also, because of the decreased revenue from the state, we will need your financial support more than ever.

Please understand, despite the changes, Southeastern will continue to provide residential and therapeutic services for abused and neglected children. We're committed to helping children, despite the economic uncertainty!

I ask that you continue to pray for the children in our state and our organization as we deal with the implementation of the new measures.

Sincerely,

Jesse in quotes...

- “The thing I like most about Southeastern is that I get to live in a big house, with a big yard and go to a good school.
- I want to be either an Auto Mechanic or a Video Game Developer.

Meet Jesse, our resident of the quarter

**Age, year in school:** 15, sophomore
**Favorite Sport:** Skateboarding
**Favorite Food:** Pizza
**Favorite Movie:** Fast and Furious
**Favorite subjects:** Math and History
**Favorite Music:** Eminem and Evanescence.

*Kimberly continued from page 2*

This means that not only will DSS remove fewer children from potentially harmful situations, but also children currently living in safe, out-of-home environments, such as Southeastern, may be reunited with families and placed into homes in which the original abuse occurred.

This means, for the time being, Southeastern Children's Home will likely have fewer residents, for shorter terms, and be paid less for assisting them. As such, our Board of Directors has begun the implementation of new programs to assist families in our region. Namely, we'll place a greater emphasis on our Counseling Center, and provide preventative counseling to
Working (and saving!) for a future

Southeastern residents join ranks of the gainfully employed and learn a few life lessons.

Be careful if you come to the Southeastern Children’s Home campus this fall. There’s something contagious in the air… WORK.

Several of our residents have begun working at local restaurants. First, Joy was employed at McDonalds. Soon thereafter, Ronald was hired at a local Zaxby’s.

“One of our goals is to prepare our kids for adulthood,” Brad Brooks, Southeastern Children’s Home Case Manager said. “What better way for kids to be prepared for adulthood than to have the responsibilities that come with employment.”

Both residents hope that their jobs are merely starting points for their careers.

“I hope that working at McDonalds is just a first step,” Joy said. “I want to find a job in culinary arts and this type of job will hopefully give me some useful experience.”

Teaching the children to save is an important part of the program. “It’s our policy that the children are required to save at least half of their paycheck,” Brooks said. “Inherently that creates a nice foundation for them when they transition to independence.”

Ronald, who recently obtained his driver’s permit, hopes to save enough money to purchase his first car.

“I still have a long ways to go,” Ronald said. “But, I’m trying to save a little from each paycheck. Hopefully, I’ll eventually have enough to buy a car. Right now, I’d like to buy an old Tahoe or some other cheap car. At this point, any car that runs seems like a good option.”

Cottages’ wish list

Our resident cottages have immediate need of the following items. If you have any of these items, or know someone who does, please let us know!

- Used dependable cars
- Movie Passes
- Riding Lawnmower
- Small toolbox with basic tools
- Blender
- Carousel Microwave
- Wii games (list available upon request)
- Vacuum Cleaner
- Blender
- Small toolbox with basic tools
- Riding Lawnmower
- Movie Passes
- Used dependable cars

As fall colors and cooler weather arrive, our family is reminded once again of how blessed we are to live in South Carolina’s beautiful Upstate.
Southeastern residents join ranks of the gainfully employed and learn a few life lessons

Working (and saving!) for a living

End notes ...

If you do meet one of them, you might just catch their contagious working spirit.

They have not been collected.

It takes a lot of hard work, even if they’re rude and disrespectful,” Joy said. “You don’t get to choose your customers, right… even if they’re rude and disrespectful,”

Joy said. “You don’t get to choose your customers, right… even if they’re rude and disrespectful,”

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In honor of birthday

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Hancock Fabric

Harbuck Park Church of Christ

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Lancaster Church of Christ

Martins’ Haircuts

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Mount Pleasant Church of Christ

Mount Pleasant Christian Church

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