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# Where the rubber meets

### Donated bicycles provide fun, exercise, sense of normalcy

A childhood without a bicycle is like a library without books.

Southeastern Children's Home was blessed with a donation of fifteen bicycles from Waste Connections, Inc., this past Christmas.

Now, each afternoon at SECH, the campus is filled with young men and women riding their bicycles up and down the paved roads.

"We ride the bikes every time it's sunny." Smith cottage resident, Michael said. "The bikes give us something to do, outdoors, instead of being inside all the time. It gives me a chance to exercise and a chance to show that I'm responsible by taking good care of the bike."

In addition to providing excitement for the children, the bicycles provide an excellent physical benefit.

"Since we received the bicycles, our children have been actively using them," Boys Case Manager, John McLain said. "Though our kids often exercise at school or at the local YMCA, the time spent on their bicycles in the afternoon has provided a tremendous opportunity for them to exercise."

The children's exercise not only helps their physical condition, but also aids in their emotional rehabilitation.

"The simple aspect of aerobic exercise makes a major difference with young people who have difficulty focusing," McLain said. "Studies have shown that average normal exercise helps these kids focus and function. Exercise allows them to perform better at school and in the homes." McLain said.

Even the children acknowledge their increased physical activity since the presents arrived.

"... Many of our kids don't get a lot of normal things that the average kids get at home. One of our objectives is to provide as normal of a life as possible within the children's home setting. A bicycle provides an occasion where our children think, 'I'm just like everyone else' ..."

"Riding a bike feels like a major workout, sometimes," Michael said. "I was surprised how

### Relationships fundamental to what we do

### Teaching, ministry, development opportunities are friendship-driven

#### By Robert Kimberly

Executive Director

It's all about relationships. Everything we do at Southeastern Children's Home involves relationships in one way or another.

The children at Southeastern are desperately seeking

love and acceptance in their relationships. They come to us as broken, lonely individuals, and by the time they leave, they are part of our long-standing family.

Relationships allow us to mold and retrain the children. Time and time again, studies have shown that in order to make a meaningful impact on someone's life, you must first establish

a relationship with them.

Our success is contingent upon the depth of the relationships we foster with children in our care.

This week, my daughter and son-in-law are in Peru working with a medical missions team.

### Contact us!

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

We can be reached ...

Post Office Box 339 by mail:

115 Children's Way Duncan, SC 29334

children's

by phone: 864.439.0259 by fax: 864.949.0248 online: sech.org

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## the road to wellness



Dakota, a 13-year-old at the Smith Cottage, enjoys his new bicycle.

sore my legs were after the first day of riding. Of course, riding up the big hill from the softball field is no piece of cake."

The newly donated bicycles have resulted in a number of children spending more time outside.

"Before we received the bicycles, the children were more likely to spend time inside the homes watching television," Smith cottage house parent Clay Ball said. "But, now, if the weather is good, the kids spend a lot of time outside of the house on their bicycles."

The new bicycles have allowed the children to experience a sense of normalcy that has often evaded them in their troubled pasts.

"Many of our kids don't get a lot of normal things that the average kids get at home," McLain said. "One of our objectives is to provide as normal of a life as possible within the children's home setting. A bicycle provides an occasion where our children think, 'I'm just like everyone else."

Though, certainly, they will make an immediate impact on those whom they help, they will have an even greater impact upon those individuals with whom they develop long-term relationships.

Relationships are the key to each and every ministry. They are the vital cogs that turn the wheels of our organization.

Of course, the children develop other meaningful relationships in addition to those bonds with house parents. Our children grow close to members of their church, fellow Southeastern children, and our other staff and volunteers

they see on campus each day. Generally, a child is more likely to follow, obey, and imitate someone with whom they have an established relationship.

Yet, building relationships is no simple task. Creating such a connection requires mutual intent, honest communication, and a shared value. Healthy relationships don't just happen; they're built over time. The familial bonds are strengthened with the increased time a child spends with us.

See KIMBERLY on page 6

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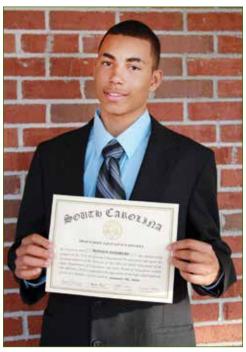
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## Off to a running start

### Southeastern resident hopes to be first in his family to attend college



Ronald with his General Education Development diploma. He plans to become a therapist.

Ronald recently received his General Education Development degree after successfully completing his coursework at a local school. This is a huge accomplishment for him that will allow him to enroll at a local college.

"I hope to attend Spartanburg Community College in August," Ronald said. "I want to start out taking some of my basic courses, and then, maybe, take some courses in Psychology."

Ronald wants to use his experience and his education to assist others.

"Being a therapist sounds like a good job," Ronald said. "I want to help others with their difficulties in life. Therapists can help people get through their problems and control their anger. Perhaps I could help kids like me since I've struggled with the same issues."

Ronald would be the first in his family to attend college.

"Going to college is the right thing to do," Ronald said. "To my knowledge, no one in my "... I could help kids like me since I've struggled with the same issues ..."

Ronald

family ever has gone to a university. But, these days, you need to have the college degree on your resume. I've got dreams to do something with my life. And I'm just thankful to have the opportunity to take the next step."

Due to a number of factors, many of the children at Southeastern are often 1-2 years behind in school. In order to assist Ronald and other similarly situated children, Southeastern employs tutors to work with each child afterschool.

We are thrilled that Ronald has achieved this milestone in his education career.

### United Way making it easy to give at work

#### **By Philip Murphy**

Development Director

Giving through the United Way has proved to be an increasingly popular trend for many contributors. For several years now, Southeastern Children's Home has been designated an official Charity of Choice by the United Way.

United Way has changed drastically in the past several years. Many of you might remember the criticism that United Way once endured because of the fraud and financial mismanagement issues that plagued the organization in the early 90s. However, things seem to have changed within the organization.

While we don't whole-heartedly support all the organizations supported through United

Way, we certainly can acknowledge the benefit that United Way provides to charities such as Southeastern Children's Home.

Namely, United Way allows you to designate your gift directly to Southeastern. Doing so often serves two purposes: (1) It allows employees to assist employers in their United Way giving campaigns; and (2) The proceeds of your gift flow directly to Southeastern.

If you are giving through United Way, please designate Southeastern Children's Home as your charity of choice. This helps us immensely!

It rarely takes much more effort than filling out a small form with your Human Resources office. Also, when possible, please encourage

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## resident of the quarter



"I've never had a father, so it's cool to finally have Mr. Don as a dad. He treats me like I'm his kid. If this is what having a father is like, I wish I would have had one a long time ago." - Raquel

### Meet Raquel, our resident of the quarter

Age, year in school: 15, Freshman at Byrnes High School

Favorite Sport: Track & field, specifically

the 500 meter race

Favorite Food: Mozzarella sticks **Favorite Movie:** Last Holiday

Best Memory at Southeastern: Attending

the Gaffney High Military Ball

Highlight of the week: "I love to come home and see Mrs. Pam each day. She's awesome."

Favorite hobby: Chinese yoyo

Future occupation: "I want to fly Air Force One. You get to travel and get to know about the president. It seems like the military has some awesome opportunities to succeed."

### Raquel in quotes...

- "If I was given a million dollars, the first thing I would do is give 10% to a church, and I'd donate most of the remaining money to charities, because no one needs that much money."
- "I can't wait till the next opportunity to visit my hometown of Gaffney."
- "I listen to all sorts of music. My iPod has every kind of music known to man."
- "I can't wait to get a job."
- "Living with a bunch of girls can be stressful, but we treat each other like sisters."

### Little things that make a big difference

Do you have a garage full of working, but seldom or never used items? Do you have a little extra money to spend this month, but no pressing needs of your own?

Please consider helping Southeastern by donating or sponsoring the purchase of ...

- · Lawnmowers/weed trimmers
- Movie Passes
- Personal Care Products
- Volunteers to assist with landscaping
- Used dependable cars

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2011 annual report	
2011 Childcare Statistics	
Children Served	
Baptisms	
Referrals	45
Counseling Center Statist	ics
Counseling Sessions	504
Contacts with previous residents	204
Statement of Financial Ac	tivitios
Statement of Financial Ac Income	civicies
Program Support Payments	\$ 481,526
Contributions	
Grants	\$ 39,427
Interest	\$ 77,843
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,933
Total Income	\$ 975,501
Expense	
Development	\$ 34,031
Management Expenses	\$ 136,928
Program Services Expenses	
Supplies	
Capital Expenditures	
Investment Losses	\$ 54,367
Total Expenses	\$ 962,572
Net Income	\$ 12,929
	_
	children's

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#### KIMBERLY continued from page 2

Not only are relationships vital to the growth of our children, they're integral to our operations as an organization. Our relationship to you is important to us. We could not exist without the help of those who have made a financial commitment to help children in need. We are grateful for each and every one of you who have, and who continue to partner with Southeastern to better the lives of those who are less fortunate.

Please pray for us as we continue to cultivate relationships with young people.

Sincerely,

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your co-workers and friends to designate Southeastern.

Similarly, if your place of business has any charitable campaigns, matching gifts, or grant opportunities which we can be a part of, please let us know by calling me at 864.439.0259.

Thank you so much for your help this year.

### Jesse's poem

i lift my head, i see only what i choose to see. i look around but only see this little thread, bought to break free

oh i think it's me.

my heart used to be a wall of stone, not allowing anyone to try an break it down.

my mind was only thinking of being alone, but now its my chance to turn it around.

my wings were torn, i fell effortlessly pummeling to nothing.

i was beaten battered and scorned, but now i really know

i need something.

life used to be nothing but a game,

always used to cheat my way through just to

things used to be where people couldn't control me or tame.

but now i need them in order to survive. i used to be a fallen, now i am a guardian.



"... favorite memories ... going to youth events with the Central Church of Christ youth group and getting to know my houseparents ..." - Jesse, 16

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Mr. & Mrs. Herb Smith
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Mr. & Mrs. Ty Robinson
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Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine Tyler & Ryan Nodine ERIC LEATHERWOOD

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AMY ROBINSON Mrs. Carole Jessup

#### In honor of birth

KAFLYN ALIVIA MADDOX Mr. & Mrs. James Edwards

#### In honor of 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Bailey

#### In honor of 60th birthday

ROBERT LEATHERWOOD Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine Tyler & Ryan Nodine

#### In honor of 80th birthday

JUANITA HORNE Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine Tyler & Ryan Nodine

#### In honor of wedding anniversary

**ROBERT & JACKIE LEATHERWOOD** Mr. & Mrs. Travis Nodine Tyler & Ryan Nodine

#### In honor of Christmas

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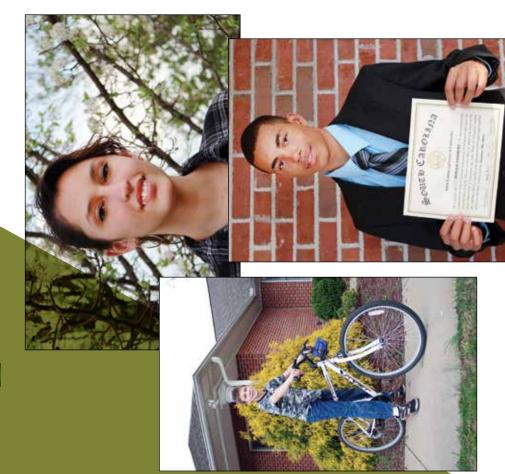
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