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701/2 and still blessing

Southeastern's donors undeterred by new tax law hurdles

By Robert Kimberly **Executive Director**

The IRS continues to change their policies and practices in ways that negatively affect charitable giving. The recent change to the standard deductions for individuals and couples have resulted in millions of Americans no longer taking line item deductions.

The good news for Southeastern Children's Home is that our donors and friends have continued to give whether they receive

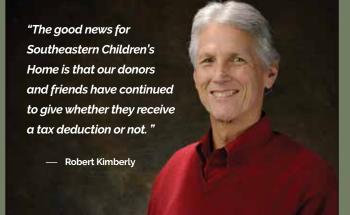
a tax deduction or not. Thank you so much for your continued commitment in partnering with us in providing for abused and neglected children.

In spite of the changing in policies and practices, the IRS has continued to allow those 70 ½ year old's, who are required to take minimum distributions from their IRA's, to make qualified charitable distributions (QCD) free of federal income taxes to their charities of choice. This can be a blessing to both the charity and to the donor. The QCD have four potential tax saving advantages.

Advantage #1 - QCD's are not included in your adjusted gross income (AGI), thus reducing your tax base.

Advantage #2 - QCD's always deliver a tax benefit while "regular" charitable donations might not due to the doubling of the standard deduction amounts.

Advantage #3 - A QCD taken from your traditional IRA counts as a distribution



for purpose of the required minimum distribution (RMD) rules up to \$100,000 annually.

Advantage #4 - QCD's reduce your taxable estate. This means more of your money goes to the places that you would like for

Southeastern Children's Home has been ministering to children and families for over 50 years. Many of our friends have partnered with us almost from inception of this ministry. Please continue your commitment to the children, when you are 70 1/2, and for as long as you have the ability to bless.

May God continue to bless each of you.

Sincerely,





Contact us!

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

We can be reached by mail at Post Office Box 339, 115 Children's Way, Duncan, SC 29334, by phone at 864.439.0259, and **online** at sech.org.



Rising star

By C.J. Karling

A year ago, Neasha joined the SECH family feeling timid and awkward. At times, her emotions would get the best of her if she was embarrassed. Other moments would be cause for clamming up. But it didn't take long for shy Neasha to come out of her shell and show her world who she really is.

"Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly" – Proverb

And that began to describe Neasha.

"... As encouragement goes a long way with others, so does learning the importance of leadership and discipline in oneself...."

Spreading her wings in a new environment with unfamiliar people, she took a leap of courage and began to play basketball with the girls' team at Holland Park Church. She went for it; and though she may not have scored much, she learned to encourage her teammates to keep pressing on.

As encouragement goes a long way with others, so does learning the importance of leadership and discipline in oneself. Neasha found herself gravitating towards adding another year to her ROTC high school resume, and her house parents began to witness positive results of her training within the home.

Now a year later, Neasha has turned 18 years old. She continues in her third year as a proud participant in the Byrnes High School ROTC

program. In her

courage, she recently attended a ROTC event in Orlando, Florida. Now, she has added a part-time



18-year-old Neasha is a proud participant in the Byrnes High School ROTC program.

job at Burger King to her active schedule.

She continues to love her Holland Park Church of Christ Family and enjoys participating in the youth group activities.

Timid and awkward are but adjectives in Neasha's history. From butterfly to a rising star she is beginning to be that "light that shines" (Matthew 5:16) with her incredible smile and bubbly personality that is contagious for all who are blessed to hang out with her.

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Magical memories

Joy, wonder, waterslides and wave pools

By C.J. Karling

At the dawn of autumn, when mittens and beanies keep the cold at bay, memories from summer begin to warm our minds. Beachballs and sunscreen, ice cream and ocean waves - these are a few of what make summer dreams come true. These make up one of our favorite weeks of the year in July, and summer of 2019 was pretty magical.

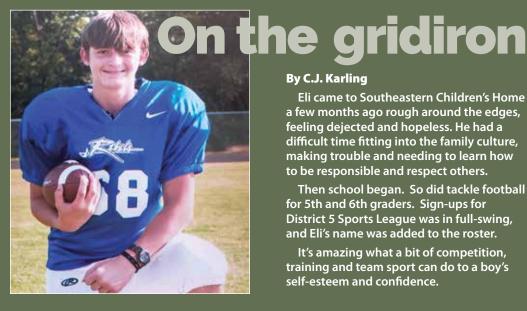
Magical it was, when daily devotionals are derived from Disney characters analogies depicting Christ's love, how we ought to treat each other and a father's love for his prodigal's son – offering relatable imagery with a message of hope and forgiveness to the hearts of our children.

As the message of God's truth sank into our hearts, so did our calloused feet in the warm, salty sand and ocean water. Sun rays of vitamin D had a way of revitalizing our strength and spirits. The children laughed and played, whether at the camp pool or Garden City's beach, getting along, forgiving each other's faults, experiencing each other on fresh, new grounds. Most of them had never experienced Southeastern Children's Home's annual beach trip, and it's pretty amazing to watch how petty annoyances that come by children seem to fall by the wayside and life is seen from a different perspective. Needless to say, the

staff watched and interacted with joy and wonder.

As the week went on more memories were made. The traditional mini-golf competition was an adrenaline starter of the week. Wonder Works, which never seems to get old, continued to capture the minds of both child and adult with its magical wonders of science and high-ropes course. The Carolina Opry offered moments of unforgettable memories to one of our children. She was invited onto the stage by an Opry star to help demonstrate some dance moves. In a magical moment, she had the time of her life feeling like a star as the audience cheered her on.

Waterslides, wave pools and lazy rivers took up the tail-end of our momentous trip. With over-cooked suntans and sleepdeprivation, we kept smiling and thanking our Lord for the many wonderful ways He was blessing us. And one of those blessings was the opportunity to spend time with our dormitory neighbors. With this delightful group of people, we fellowshipped by singing songs, sharing God's word in devotion and playing fun and crazy games. But we must not forget – what is the most common thing that brings people together? FOOD! We gave thanks and ate with glad



By C.J. Karling

Eli came to Southeastern Children's Home a few months ago rough around the edges, feeling dejected and hopeless. He had a difficult time fitting into the family culture, making trouble and needing to learn how to be responsible and respect others.

Then school began. So did tackle football for 5th and 6th graders. Sign-ups for District 5 Sports League was in full-swing, and Eli's name was added to the roster.

It's amazing what a bit of competition, training and team sport can do to a boy's self-esteem and confidence.



our Acts brothers and sisters in Christ did in the first century church. "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." Simply magical!

Yes, those were some magical memories that keep the embers burning in our hearts for next summer. The countdown begins for July 2020!

Several weeks have passed and Eli is happier, improving not only in academic responsibilities, but beginning to understand how beneficial living in a family environment is. Looking beyond his STERN CHILDREN teammates and the opposing team and into the bleachers,

on any given game night, he can see the support his family at SECH gives him as they are cheering him on - giving him an extra boost of endurance to finish the game well.

On a recent Tuesday evening, Eli went home from a game he had played smiling big. He scored a touchdown. And for any

football player, scoring a touchdown is a big accomplishment.

It's true that a boy who's given an opportunity as he struggles at the start of a new season in life will run with that opportunity even if he doesn't know how it will turn out. It's all he has to hold onto. I know this is true, because Eli is that boy and his first experience on the gridiron was made possible with the help of SECH. He did not disappoint.

On the contrary, he's having the time of his life!

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Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Walton
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Waters
Mr. Jim Watson
Gerald's Tires and Brakes
Mr. & Mrs. Philip Weatherford
Mr. & Mrs. Charlie White
Ms. Laurie White
Ms. Laurie White
AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-A
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Winston
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Winston
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Wood
Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Woodroof
Liberty Tax
Ms. Judy Young
Gravitonia

Jaion 24 Mr. & Mrs. Barry Wood Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Woodro Liberty Tax Ms. Judy Young Gravitopia Apalache Baptist Church Bremen Church of Christ Bridgeway Church Bristol Motor Speedway Carolina Fresh Farms Centre Stage
Church of Christ on Hilton Head
Island
CJ's on Main
Country Boy's Garden Center
CPM Federal Credit Union
Denny's Corporation
Double Spring Baptist Church
Duke Power
Dynamic Recovery Systems
El Jalisco Mexican Restaurant
El Primo Mexican Restaurant
El Primo Mexican Restaurant
El Primo Mexican Restaurant
Game Day BBO
Gold Hill Road Church of Lyman
Game Day BBO
Gold Hill Road Church of Christ
Grace United Methodist Church
Grand Strand Church of Christ
Grill Marks
Hampton Golf
Hope Remains Ranch
Lancaster Church of Christ
Lexington Church of Christ
Lexington Church of Christ
Lexington Church of Christ
Lexington Church of Christ

QuikTrip Corporation
Ross Stores, Inc.
Seneca Church of Christ
Ms. Tina Henderson - Shear N Dipity
Salon
Shelby Church of Christ
Southern Barbecue
Spartanburg Co. School District
No 5
St. Andrews Road Church of Christ
Sticky Fingers Smokehouse
Table Corporation
The Corporation
The Preserve at Verdae
Tipsy Taco
Wellness Chiropractic Health
Center, Inc.
Whatta Wash Car Wash
Williamston Church of Christ
Windsor Lake Church of Christ
Windsor Lake Church of Christ
Woodland Church of Christ
Woodland Church of Christ
Zaxby's of Duncan
Zips Car Wash
Zoar United Methodist Church
Mr. Josh Whitener
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Whitener
Mr. & Mrs. Donnie Williams

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Williams Mr. & Mrs. Ed Winston Mr. & Mrs. Barry Wood Mr. & Mrs. Bryant Woodrool Ms. Judy Young Dr. & Mrs. Tony Zeiss Mr. & Mrs. Greg Zeman

Volunteers

Ms. Bonnie Abbott
Ms. Lisa Briggs
Mr. Jason Ferguson
Mrs. Tonya Ferguson
Mr. Matthew Holiday
Mr. Matt Howland
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Link
Mrs. Wanda Martin
Miss Kimmie Mayberry
Mr. & Mrs. Toby McCall
Mr. Tommy McCall
Mr. Tommy McCall
Mrs. Crystal Smith
Mrs. Nancy Shaw
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Whitener

Generous beyond her years

Byrnes High School student's campus tour germinates seed planted in early childhood

On a recent afternoon, we received a call from a young lady stating that she wanted to make a gift to Southeastern Children's Home. We didn't know this person and had no record of her making a previous gift.

Charla Gentry is a 17-year-old senior who attends Byrnes High School. She also takes college courses at the University of South Carolina Upstate and is a member of the Sigsbee Church of Christ.

"... She knew she wanted to help someone or some ministry but she did not know whom she would help"

When Charla was in the 10th grade, her parents began talking to her about the importance of helping and serving others. Her parents' discussion planted a seed deep in her heart. She knew she wanted to help someone or some ministry but she did not know whom she would help or when the opportunity to serve someone else would present itself. However, she had faith that an opportunity would arise.

So, over the next two years, Charla held a number of fundraisers that included selling cooked meals at her

mom's job and selling candy to others in her community. Over this two year period she raised a little over \$1,000.

Charla now had to choose someone to help.
She remembered hearing about Southeastern
Children's Home at church.
She learned that SECH was a ministry dedicated to serving abused children. Her mind was quickly made up – it was children she wanted to help.

Charla called Southeastern Children's Home and asked if she could visit our campus. When she arrived, she was given a tour that included visiting the children's home's newest cottage. During the tour, she was told that we still needed to buy a washer and

dryer for the new cottage, and that we hoped to be purchasing a set soon.

Charla needed to hear no more; it was right then that she decided that blessing the Southeastern Children's Home campus with a new washer and dryer was something she could do with the funds she had worked so hard to raise. The newest cottage on our campus has a new washer and dryer thanks



Byrnes High School student Charla Gentry with Southeastern Children's Home Executive Director Robert Kimberly

to the hard work and generosity of this young lady who is a tremendous blessing to our ministry.

We are so thankful for Charla's generous donation. Her gift will bless children for many, many years.

Thank you, Charla, for this gift and for your incredible, wonderful heart!

