

Hope!

southeastern

children's
home

inside ...

A simple mission

New year, new focus

Employment
opportunity for
foster parents

Brighter days
always ahead

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- The Blackburn Giving Fund - Your Cause
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- Double Springs Baptist Church
- Duncan Church of Christ
- Durham Church of Christ
- Essex Village Church of Christ
- First Baptist Church of Lyman
- First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
- The Garden
- Georgetown Church of Christ
- Gold Hill Road Church of Christ
- Grand Strand Church of Christ
- Henderson Church of Christ
- Hendersonville Church of Christ
- Hillcrest Church of Christ
- Holland Park Church of Christ
- Holly Hill Church of Christ
- Lancaster Church of Christ
- Liberty Hill United Methodist Church
- Long Creek Church of Christ
- Mauldin Church of Christ
- Morganton Church of Christ
- Old Union Church of Christ
- Outpost a church of Christ followers
- Palmetto Church of Christ
- Plaza Church of Christ
- Seneca Church of Christ
- Sharon United Methodist Church
- Shelby Church of Christ
- Shiloh Baptist Church
- St. Andrews Road Church of Christ



October 15, 2022 - March 10, 2023

Brighter days are

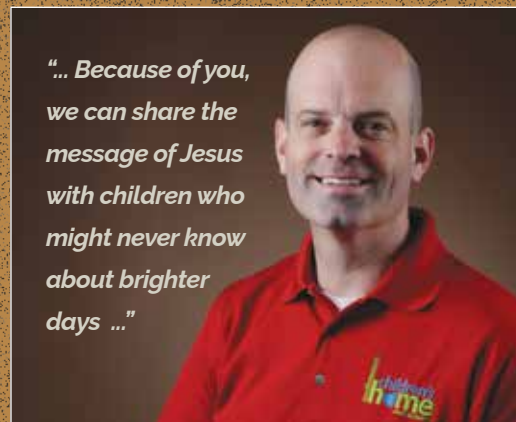
Our Savior promises that he is "making everything new"

By Brad Brooks,
Executive Director

One of my favorite things about living in South Carolina is that we get to experience all four seasons here in the Palmetto State. While some would argue that's not necessarily a good thing, or that the heat and humidity of July and August makes one of those seasons feel much longer than the others, I would still say that we get all four seasons in this state and that's a good thing. I like cooler weather and I'm a football fan, so there is something very special about the fall months for me.

But the transition from the shorter and seemingly darker days of January and February to the longer and brighter days of March and April is almost invigorating for me. And I know I'm not alone. A good friend of mine suffers from Seasonal Affective Disorder (with the very appropriate acronym, SAD), which is a very real mood disorder that affects more than 3 million people in the US. It is often the case that those who suffer from SAD find the late winter months to be particularly problematic for them. It is during those months when the depression symptoms can be at their worst, leaving the person feeling as if there is no hope and that the brighter and sunnier days of the spring and summer months will never arrive.

When I check in with my friend to see how he's doing during those dark winter months, I always try to remind him that those brighter and sunnier days of spring are coming. The dark days of winter won't last forever; the



"... Because of you, we can share the message of Jesus with children who might never know about brighter days ..."

newness of spring is indeed coming. And I believe all of us must remember that. The children we serve at SECH each day have all experienced darkness in their lives – some suffer from diagnosable conditions like SAD, while others have had their trauma manifest itself in other forms, both diagnosable and undiagnosable.

It's something they live with every single day. But what we try to do is remind them that spring – whether the literal season of spring that begins on March 20 or a more figurative season of newness that comes in the form of a Savior who promises in the book of Revelation that He is "making everything new" – is indeed coming. We try to show them that things can get better and that the darkness in

"... The children we serve at SECH each day have all experienced darkness in their lives ..."

Hope! is a publication of Southeastern Children's Home, Brad Brooks, 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.

always ahead

their lives does not have to last forever. We love and care for them with the love and care of Jesus, who also tells us in Revelation that through Him we are all victorious because He "will be [our] God and [we] will be His children."

Because of you and your continued support of SECH, we can share the message of Jesus with children who might otherwise never know about brighter days. The newness that the spring season brings each year is coming. It will be here soon. And the

newness of life that Jesus promises us is available as well. Thank you for the support you offer that gives our children the opportunity to have both!

Sincerely,



Brad Brooks



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St. George Church of Christ
 Sugarcreek Church of Christ
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 West Spartanburg Church of Christ
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October 15, 2022 - March 10, 2023



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October 15 2022 - March 10, 2023

A mission to serve and

New Case Manager begins her journey of service, ministry, and learning at Southeastern

By Caitlin Harbuck,
Case Manager

The mission of Southeastern Children's Home as I have come to understand it is simple – to serve and minister to kids. Each staff member at SECH is completely devoted to this mission. That is why I feel so blessed and excited to be starting my career here. I love the ministry of SECH because everyone we serve here is viewed holistically. We do not focus only on the physical needs of the children and teenagers we serve just as we do not focus only on their spiritual needs. Instead, our program cares for our residents physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. James 2:26 states that faith without works is dead. SECH aims to combine faith and works in order to accurately depict Christ-like love to those in our care.

I began working for Southeastern for the first time back in 2021 as a summer intern. Starting in October of 2022, I worked part time as a Social Services Associate. After graduating college in December with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, I began working full time at SECH as a case manager. I hope to accomplish a few things in my new role here. My biggest goal as a case manager is relationship building. I have such a unique opportunity in this job to show love to a group of children and adolescents who have likely not been loved well in the past. Every child who walks through our doors has experienced some type of trauma. My hope is that I can be a safe place for our residents. My other goal in this job is to learn from those around me. I have so much to learn



"... My biggest goal as a case manager is relationship building ..."

from the other SECH staff members about social services and about ministry. Additionally, I want to learn from our residents. They have all had vastly different life experiences from mine, and I can learn a lot from simply listening to them tell their stories.

As a new college graduate, I am so thankful for this job opportunity. I have already grown so much during my time here. I will take what I am learning here with me throughout my entire career. More importantly, I have gotten to know some amazing kids and teenagers.

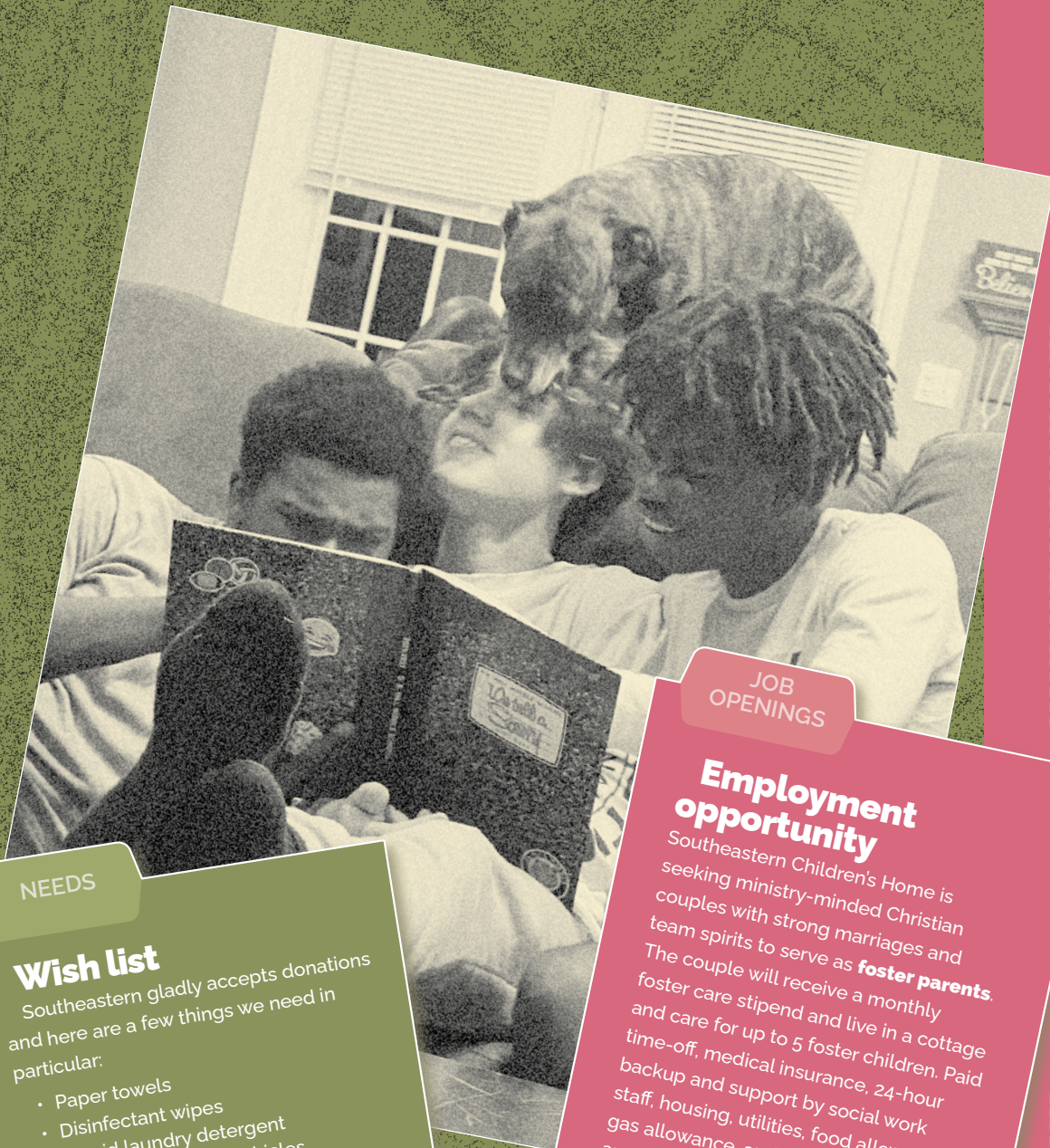
"... SECH aims to combine faith and works in order to accurately depict Christ-like love to those in our care ..."

I am beyond excited that I get to witness the work God is doing here at Southeastern Children's Home.

minister to children

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JOB OPENINGS

Employment opportunity

Southeastern Children's Home is seeking ministry-minded Christian couples with strong marriages and team spirits to serve as **foster parents**. The couple will receive a monthly foster care stipend and live in a cottage and care for up to 5 foster children. Paid time-off, medical insurance, 24-hour backup and support by social work staff, housing, utilities, food allowance, gas allowance, and van for work use are provided.

NEEDS

Wish list

Southeastern gladly accepts donations and here are a few things we need in particular:

- Paper towels
- Disinfectant wipes
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Dependable used vehicles



Thank you to the Gold Hill Road Church of Christ for the work, food, and fellowship!

October 15, 2022 - March 10, 2023

New year, new focus: family, stability,

By Robyn Smith,
Case Manager

When children enter our program, they are already facing a challenging and emotionally taxing situation. Losing their homes, their families and their sense of stability can be traumatic, and it is the responsibility of our program and the Department of Social Services to ensure that children are cared for in a safe and supportive environment.

One of the most important aspects of this care is keeping siblings together when they are taken out of their home. For children who have already lost so much, the bond with their siblings can provide a crucial sense of security and continuity. Being separated from siblings can intensify the feelings of isolation and loss that children already experience when being taken away from their family, and can have long-term negative effects on their emotional and psychological well-being.

At SECH, we have been able to see what placing siblings together can do for a child's mental and emotional well-being. This year we have been able

to unite two sibling groups, so they can remain under the same roof. The joy that this has brought to the children and our program is indescribable.

Studies have shown that siblings who are placed together are more likely to maintain a sense of family unity and identity. They can support and comfort each other during difficult times and can provide a sense of belonging that is essential for children who have been uprooted from their homes. When siblings are separated, they may become anxious or depressed and may struggle to build relationships with new caregivers or peers.



"...One of the most important aspects of this care is keeping siblings together ..."

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and consistency

In addition to the emotional benefits of keeping siblings together, there are also practical considerations. Programs and families who can take in sibling groups are less likely to face placement disruptions, as they are better equipped to handle the unique needs and dynamics of a larger family unit. Furthermore, keeping siblings together can reduce the need for multiple placements, which can be traumatic for children who are already experiencing instability and uncertainty.

Despite these benefits, keeping siblings together is not always easy. There may be logistical challenges, such as finding placements with enough space for multiple children or finding a family that is willing and able to care for siblings with complex needs. However, the importance of sibling relationships cannot be overstated, and it is the responsibility of the child welfare system to prioritize the well-being of children by keeping siblings together whenever possible.

New year ... new focus: By prioritizing the importance of sibling relationships, Southeastern Children's home, and the child welfare system can provide better care and support for children in need.

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Bluffton Church of Christ
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