

Hope!

southeastern

children's
home

inside ...

Deciding to foster

All needs will be met

Employment
opportunities

Change is
in the air.



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March 10, 2023 – September 30, 2023

Change is in the air, SECH transitions to become foster care community

By Brad Brooks,
Executive Director

During a recent weekend trip to Asheville, I was reminded of an annual pilgrimage that many in this part of the country make each fall to observe the foliage change in Western North Carolina.

While I have never been one to make a trip for the sole purpose of observing leaves, I was struck during my recent visit by the beauty in the bright and vivid colors of the changes taking place. And, while the volume of cars making the trip doesn't help the traffic challenges that already exist on I-26, I certainly understand the attraction. It is indeed beautiful.

Fall is an exciting time of year – football is back, there's a welcome chill in the air, and the leaves are indeed displaying bright colors – and it's a time in which there are changes all around us. At SECH, there is a change in the air as well.

As you are aware, in March of this year, the SECH Board of Directors voted unanimously to transition our agency to become a Foster Care Community; that transition was completed in August.

During that transition, my family and I temporarily moved into one of our on-campus cottages. While this move was made necessary due to a staffing shortage on our campus, it provided my family and me with a unique opportunity to experience what it means to be a foster parent. And we learned so much! We got to

"... These changes are welcome. These changes are in the best interests of the children and families we serve ..."



know the girls who lived in the foster home with us as we worshipped on Sunday mornings together, shared meals together, made a trip to Asheville of our own together, and just enjoyed doing life as a non-traditional family together. It was a great experience, an experience none of us will soon forget.

The girls we lived with during our stay – just like all the children we have served at SECH for the past 55+ years – each have their own unique story. Each story is a challenging one, fraught with trauma and difficult, often nightmarish experiences many of us cannot even imagine. Many of them have had almost no stability

"... Our goal is to provide consistency and permanency and stability like these children have perhaps never experienced before ..."

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.

and it's welcome!

during their young lives, moving from placement to placement, from family to family, and from school to school, all the while never knowing how long they will stay where they are or where they will go next.

They crave consistency, they crave permanency; they do not love the instability that has often been the rule in their lives instead of the exception. And that's where all of us at SECH come in.

Our goal is to provide consistency and permanency and stability like these children have perhaps never experienced before. Our goal is to provide an atmosphere of Christ-like love and acceptance, also perhaps on a scale that they have never experienced before. And with our transition to becoming a Foster Care Community, we are confident that we will be able to provide that stability and love and acceptance for even more children on an annual basis than we ever have before.

Change is indeed in the air, both from a seasonal perspective and on the SECH campus. But in this case, change is good. These changes are welcome. These changes are in the best interests of the children and families we serve.

Thank you for your continued support of this ministry, a ministry that works hard each day to provide hope and love and stability for children and families who so desperately need what we, because of your help, are able to offer

Sincerely,



Brad Brooks

FOR I KNOW
THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU,
DECLARES THE LORD,
PLANS TO
PROSPER YOU
AND NOT TO HARM YOU,
PLANS TO GIVE YOU
HOPE AND
A FUTURE.

— JEREMIAH 29:11 —



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March 10, 2023 – September 30, 2023

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March 10, 2023 – September 30, 2023

All needs will be met

Reflections on the uplifting generosity of our friends, our donors, and our community

By Curt Harbuck,
Director of Development

And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

– Philippians 4:19

As I reflect upon the generosity of the SECH supporters this year, I am amazed at God's provision. This year has been a time of significant change and transition. We trust that if we do the work that God wants us to do, He will provide. In that way, we step out in faith.

Provide He has, in numerous ways. We had specific things we needed help with, and generous donors provided help. We have updated two of our cottages with allocated gifts. We have been able to produce updated videos to communicate agency changes and messages about our ministry on social media and in email newsletters. We benefited from the sale of a restaurant property given jointly to SECH and another ministry.

There are so many stories to tell. Space will keep me from highlighting them all, but one I did want to tell. We received two motorcycles; these were special bikes. They were part of a friendship with more than a quarter of a million miles ridden, a life saved, and a soul saved. The man who brought in this gift told his story. He and his riding companion were the closest of friends, riding together through the decades. He told the story of how his friend confronted him with the truth of his circumstances many years ago. His friend told him that if he did not change his lifestyle, he would be

"... This year has been a time of significant change and transition ..."



dead within a year. His friend took him into his own home, and he changed his behavior. He returned to church and lived a better life.

Many years later his riding companion joined him in church. He wanted to follow Jesus and was baptized.

He began life anew.

Illness cut his life short.

As he

neared death, he wished he could have updated his will to benefit the church. He did not get to do that, so his friend made the gift of these motorcycles to the ministry of Southeastern Children's Home. It was a fitting gift, and we were honored to receive it.

"... Provide He has, in numerous ways. ..."



One of two motorcycles donated to Southeastern

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Committed to helping children in need?



Southeastern Children's Home is seeking **ministry-minded couples** with strong marriages and team spirits to serve as **foster parents**.

Monthly foster care **stipend**
24-hour **backup** and **support**

Visit sech.org or contact
Brad Brooks, Executive Director, at 864.439.0259

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Staff Therapist



Southeastern Children's Home has an **immediate opening** for a Staff Therapist. **LMSW, LISW, or LPC preferred.**
(Candidates for these licenses will be considered.)

Job duties include conducting assessments, individual/group/family therapy, and crisis intervention clients.

Visit sech.org or contact
Brad Brooks, Executive Director, at 864.439.0259

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March 10, 2023 – September 30, 2023

The life-affirming decision to become

By Robyn Smith,
Case Manager

I never thought I would become a foster parent. It wasn't something I had ever seriously considered until one day, a teen boy on my caseload completely changed my perspective.

He was just 14 years old and had already experienced more trauma and heartbreak than most people experience in a lifetime. He had been let down by so many adults in his life - his parents, his extended family, and even some of the professionals who were supposed to be helping him.

As his social worker, I felt a deep sense of responsibility to help him. But it wasn't just about doing my job - I genuinely cared about this child and wanted to make a difference in his life.

The more I got to know him, the more I realized that he deserved so much better than what life had handed him so far. He was a bright, curious, and resilient child who had so much potential. But he needed someone to believe in him and support him unconditionally.

After much soul-searching and discussions with my husband, we decided to take the plunge and become his foster parents. It wasn't an easy decision - we knew that fostering would come with its own set of challenges and uncertainties. But we also knew that we couldn't stand by and watch this child continue to suffer.

Bringing him into our home was both nerve-racking and exhilarating. We had to adjust to a new routine, learn how to navigate his unique needs and quirks, and deal with the emotional ups and downs that come with fostering a child who has experienced trauma. But we



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Ms. Sandra Loric

March 10, 2023 – September 30, 2023

a foster parent

also experienced moments of joy and pride as we watched him grow and thrive in our care.

Of course, there were moments of doubt and second-guessing. There were times when we wondered if we were doing the right thing or if we were equipped to handle the challenges that came with fostering. It hasn't been easy, but it has been rewarding beyond measure. We've been able to provide a safe, stable, and loving home for a child who deserves nothing but the best. And that, to me, is what fostering is all about - stepping up to be the person that a child needs, even when it's hard.

I have learned so much from my foster son. Most of all, I've learned that sometimes the most important thing we can do is show up for the people who need us. Even when it's hard. Even when it's scary. Even when we don't know what the future holds. Because when we show up, we have the power to make a difference in someone's life. We have the power to help them heal and grow and thrive. And that's what it's all about.



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

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