

the newsletter of southeastern children's home • spring 2025

Hope!

southeastern

children's
home

inside ...

building
relationships

essential
partnerships

contributors

Everybody
can do
something!

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Oct. 15, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025

Everybody can do

There are plenty of ways that you can help!

By Brad Brooks,
Executive Director

In preparation for a recent Sunday morning presentation at one of Southeastern Children's Home's supporting churches, our foster care team put together an information sheet with the tagline, "Everybody Can Do Something." As I spoke that morning, I made sure I emphasized that important phrase to the people listening. Sometimes the need feels too great, too big, too overwhelming and it paralyzes us, causing us to feel stuck and inadequate. Sometimes we just do not know what to do. So, we do nothing.

But by emphasizing that phrase, it was our effort to let everyone in that particular church know that when it comes to meeting the needs of the children and families in the foster care system, it is indeed the case that all people everywhere are capable of helping. It is true for that particular church; it is true for all churches; it is true for you.

Our foster care team's goal is to help inform people that, within the foster care system, there are countless ways for them – for you - to help. Could helping include getting licensed as either an on-campus or off-campus foster parent with SECH? Yes. Could helping mean accepting a foster child or children into your home for a long-term placement? Yes. Could helping look like welcoming a foster child into your home on a short-term or respite



basis, providing a needed overnight or weekend break for licensed foster parents in your church or community? Yes. Could you provide weekly babysitting for a foster child or two so their foster parents can enjoy dinner together as a couple? Yes. Could it even be providing meals or laundry service or transportation for licensed foster parents? Yes. Yes. Yes!

... when it comes to meeting the needs of the children and families in the foster care system ... all people everywhere are capable of helping. ..."

It's all of these – and then some. There are plenty of things you can do to help foster children and foster families, so many that I do not have the space in this newsletter to list. Again, everybody can do something.

Hope! is a publication of Southeastern Children's Home, Brad Brooks, Executive Director. We can be reached **by mail** at 115 Children's Way, Duncan, SC 29334, **by phone** at 864.439.0259, and **by email** at info@sech.org.

something!

At SECH, it is the mission of our ministry to care for children and families in need. And we look to fulfill that mission with our Foster Care Ministry. Our Foster Care Community serves children and families on our campus in Duncan, and our Foster Care Ministry serves children and families throughout the state of South Carolina in private licensed foster homes. Our on-campus Counseling Center serves individuals and families who need quality Christian counseling. That is our ministry; it is what we do each day. And it is a ministry of which you can be a part. You can contribute in any number of ways, and we would love for you to be part of what we're doing to love on those whom God sends our way.

If you would like to know more, please reach out to any member of our Foster Care Ministry team:

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Brad Brooks

bbrooks@sech.org

We would love to hear from you. Because "you" are most certainly part of the "everybody" in that phrase we shared that Sunday morning just a few weeks ago. Everybody can do something!

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 —

SECH
HOPE GIVERS
ARE PEOPLE WHO MAKE A
MONTHLY COMMITMENT TO
HELP CHILDREN IN NEED.
SECH.ORG

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Oct. 15, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025



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Building relationships

Our collaboration with businesses and communities are vital to the work we do with foster children

By Curt Harbuck,
Director of Development

“Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.”

Proverbs 16:3

As Director of Development, my primary job is maintaining and building relationships that make our work possible. It is encouraging to reflect upon the growing support for our ministry within the community.

The Town of Duncan has long been a supportive neighbor in our community, but we have begun collaborating more closely in our efforts. Towards that end, SECH will host the Town of Duncan Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. The event will include a magic show, carnival rides, vendors, and food trucks. Over 1,500 people attended last year's event: what a great opportunity to share our beautiful campus with our community.

I recently joined Business Network International (BNI), the world's largest business networking and referral organization. SECH is now hosting the weekly meetings of the Duncan chapter – BNI Go-Givers. This group is devoted to ethical practice, giving to others, and building professional relationships. This group has led to a business to help us with our bookkeeping and a business to help us with house maintenance. BNI also lead us to partner with a local minor league soccer team to spotlight SECH and our foster parents and



provide recreational opportunities for our kids.

Plasman Corporation, a local manufacturer, has been very supportive of SECH. One year they donated Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AEDs) for our on-campus Foster Homes. Another year Plasman donated trampolines for the kids to enjoy. This year they are providing furniture for one of our homes, as well as some nice outdoor benches for our recreational areas.

“...It is encouraging to reflect upon the growing support for our ministry within the community ...”

This type of community support is very encouraging to those of us who care for children in need.



The 2024 Annual Wade Scharff Memorial Golf Tournament took place October 26, 2024 at Woodfin Ridge Golf Course in Inman. Pictured are tournament players Jeff Brannon, Mitchell Brannon, Alvin Charping, and Bob Harley.

CHARITABLE OPPORTUNITY

Many ways to leave a legacy

CHARITABLE BEQUEST

Bequests are gifts that are made as part of a will or trust.

MARKETABLE SECURITIES

Marketable securities are financial assets that can be easily bought and sold on a public market, such as stocks, bonds, and mutual funds.

IRA DISTRIBUTION

If you are 70-1/2 or older, you can give to charity annually from your IRA as a tax-free rollover gift. These gifts count toward your minimum required distribution, but do not count as income.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES

A charitable gift annuity provides the donor a fixed income stream for life in exchange for a sizeable donation to a charity.

Visit sech.org or contact

Curt Harbuck, Director of Development, at 864.439.0259

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Oct. 15, 2024 – Jan. 31, 2025

Church community partners essential to



By Jon Adams,
Foster Care Outreach Coordinator

As an employee of Southeastern Children's Home, I have witnessed firsthand the immense need for foster care families and the critical role that the church plays in meeting that need. Foster care

is a challenging journey, but it does not have to be taken alone. Churches have the unique ability to rally together, providing not just resources, but also the emotional and spiritual support that foster families need. I have seen incredible stories of church communities stepping up. I believe it is time for more churches to rise to the occasion and create foster care communities within their congregations.

One example that stands out is a church in our area that organized a "Foster Care Sunday." On that day, they invited some SECH families fostering children to share their stories. The entire congregation responded with overwhelming support—providing meals, offering to babysit, and even

donating household items. One foster mother shared how the church had become a second family to her, reminding her that she was never alone in her struggles. The church did not just talk about supporting foster families—they put their faith into action, creating a tangible community of care for the families who needed it most.

At Southeastern Children's Home, we have seen several churches partner with us to ensure that families feel supported. Several churches went beyond the basics and wanted to help a family financially by buying diapers, clothes, and food. That allowed foster families to focus on what mattered most - caring for the children in their homes. Another church had their senior group, called "Prime Timers", who want to "Foster a Foster Family" by providing their time, treasure, and talents for foster children and foster parents. When we say, "Everyone can do something", we mean, "Everyone can do something". Care Communities have not only made a difference in the lives of foster families but have created a lasting bond between the church and the families they serve.

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our foster care mission

The beauty of a church community coming together to support foster families is that it provides a sense of belonging. Foster children and their families often feel isolated, both emotionally and socially, as they navigate the complexities of foster care. By stepping into this gap, churches can show these families that they are seen, loved, and part of a larger family. I have seen the difference it makes when churches offer more than just material help—they offer a space where foster families can share their burdens, pray for one another, and experience the love of Christ in a real, tangible way.

In conclusion, I want to encourage every church to consider how they can build a foster care community. The needs are great, and the work can be hard, but the impact is immeasurable. Foster families need more than just financial support; they need emotional, spiritual, and practical help. Churches have the opportunity to be a powerful force for change, supporting families at Southeastern Children's Home and beyond. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children and families in desperate need of love, stability, and hope. If you are wondering how to get started, take it from the churches who have already stepped up—they have found that by simply showing up, God's love can transform lives.

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