

Hope!

southeastern

children's
home

inside ...

With deepest
gratitude

From loan officer to
foster care

Many ways to leave
a legacy

Out of
this world



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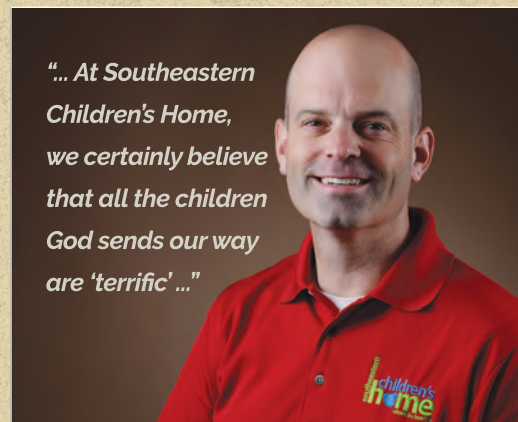
Out of this world

Foster parents, new teacher refused to give up

By Brad Brooks,
Executive Director

It's likely the case that you've seen the "My Child is a Terrific Kid" bumper stickers as you drive around town. They're bright yellow stickers with blue letters, and they're hard to miss. Parents display them proudly on the backs of their cars, honoring their child who worked hard to earn that award. Winning the award is not easy; most schools only honor a few students in each class or grade every year. The schools typically hold a program or ceremony of some kind to honor their respective "Terrific Kids" each month or quarter, or however often they present the awards to their students. Parents are invited to the program weeks in advance, often without the student knowing beforehand what is going on. Even if the children do know that they are going to receive the award, it still makes for an exciting time for the parents and their award-winning children.

At Southeastern Children's Home, we certainly believe that all the children God sends our way are "terrific." Despite their difficult circumstances and the trauma they have endured, we know that each child in our care is special, worthy of the love and support we provide each day. But rarely do our children earn an award as prestigious as the aforementioned "Terrific Kid" award. Often, they have moved from school to school, struggling to maintain stability in a classroom or develop



"... At Southeastern Children's Home, we certainly believe that all the children God sends our way are 'terrific' ..."

relationships with their teachers and fellow classmates. Having one of our children recognized in such a way is something I struggle to remember happening in a very long time. That was until ...

... the text came through on my phone on a Monday afternoon. One of our foster parents was texting our entire staff some pictures. One was a picture of a note from a teacher at a local school. Another was a picture of one of our boys, an 8-year-old named Jason.

"... What I saw in the note and the pictures made my heart jump ..."

What I saw in the note and the pictures made my heart jump. Jason has been in our care for nearly a year, and his behavioral struggles at school and at home were significant, often severe. Trips to the principal's office and out-of-school suspensions were common, and with the new school

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.

year came concerns that we would experience more of the same.

But our foster parents refused to give up on him. They built a relationship with Jason's new teacher, leaned on the support that SECH offers, and made the decision to love and support Jason no matter what. The result? The text that came through on my phone let me know: Jason had been awarded "Star Student of the Week." The note from his teacher that accompanied the award included words and phrases like "fabulous" and "worked really hard" and "did his best." Then there was the picture of Jason that included another note: "You are out of this world." And the smile on his face let me know that he believed it.

All children need to know they are terrific, that they are loved, that they are "out of this world." The children in our care are no different. Jason earned his award, and it's because of the generosity of people like you that we are able to provide opportunities for children like him to shine, to be fabulous, to work hard, do their best, and show the world that they and the God we all serve are simply out of this world!

Sincerely,



Brad Brooks

"... All children need to know they are terrific, that they are loved, that they are 'out of this world.' The children in our care are no different ..."



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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MONTHLY COMMITMENT TO
HELP CHILDREN IN NEED.
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Feb. 2 - Oct. 14, 2024

With deepest gratitude to God has answered our prayers through your many generous gifts and volunteer support

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 (NIV)

Reflecting on the past year at Southeastern Children's Home, one sentiment resonates deeply: gratitude. My prayer this year was that God would help us in our ministry. He has!

We have been the beneficiaries of incredible support from dedicated helpers, volunteers, and community members.

We received many donations for our yard sales. These yard sales produced income for SECH and benefitted the community, by providing for those who needed to stretch a dollar.

This year, we had five different days on campus when workers from churches and youth groups came together to help us maintain and improve our campus. What a blessing.



The Swift Corporation's gift helped us purchase much-needed supplies.

“... Every item, from clothing and school supplies to monetary contributions, has made a difference ...”



Swift Transportation held a back-to-school drive to help us supply our children with needed supplies and funds. The Timken Foundation awarded us a grant to fully fund repair,

maintenance, and replacement of decades-old HVAC systems.

We received a generous donation that allowed us to renovate and improve our recreational offerings. We now have rubber mulch in our playgrounds, new collegiate-level basketball goals and a paddle boat, to mention just a few things.

We are grateful for the generous donations received throughout the year. Every item, from clothing and school supplies to monetary contributions, has made a difference. These donations help us provide essential resources that enrich the lives of our children.

“...We have been the beneficiaries of incredible support from dedicated helpers, volunteers, and community members ...”

our dedicated supporters

We express our deepest gratitude to everyone who has joined us in our mission. Your dedication and kindness inspire us daily, and together, we are making a meaningful difference in the lives of the children we serve.

Thank you for being our partners in ministry to children in need.



The Timken Foundation funded upgrades to our HVAC system.



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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- The Yellow Butterfly
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My journey from mortgage loan officer to



By Jon Adams,
Foster Care Outreach Coordinator

I'm Jon Adams, and I've recently embarked on an exciting and meaningful new chapter in my life. After many years of working as a mortgage loan officer, I've made the decision to shift my career

focus to something that has long been close to my heart: foster care outreach. I am now working with Southeastern Children's Home, an organization dedicated to supporting children in the foster care system, and I couldn't be more excited about this transition.

Why Foster Care?

Throughout my time as a mortgage loan officer, I helped families secure homes—a place where they could build memories and create stability. But in the back of my mind, I always felt drawn to those who didn't have that same sense of security, especially children. I started learning more about foster care and the challenges these children

face, and it lit a fire in me. I knew I wanted to do more than just make a living; I wanted to make a difference.

There's something special about seeing a child's life transformed by love, care, and support. While my work in the mortgage industry gave me the chance to help people, this new path allows me to reach those who need it the most—children who have been through unimaginable hardships and are looking for stability, guidance, and love.

From Homes to Hearts

Leaving a successful career in the mortgage industry wasn't an easy decision. I loved helping people realize their dreams of owning a home, but I realized that I could use my skills in a different way. After a lot of soul-searching, conversations with family and mentors, I made the leap to join Southeastern Children's Home. Here, I can use my ability to connect with people, understand their needs, and build relationships to support children and families in foster care.

My new role allows me to advocate for these children, partner with foster families, and work to create

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Ms. Anna Montalvo
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Mull
Ms. Darleen Osteen
Ms. Stephanie Ponce
Mr. Jack Purviance
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Ragsdale
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Raker
Mr. Quentin Ray
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Remick
Ms. Julie Robinson
Mr. Charles Robison
Ms. Sillavan
Ms. Ann Silvius
Ms. Kathy Sims
Mr. & Mrs. Cale Smith
Mrs. Danesa Smith-Haney
Ms. Ashley Starkey
Ms. Frances Stephens
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Sullivan
Mr. & Mrs. Matt Talley
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Taylor
Ms. Lenesia Terry
Ms. Roslyn Terry
Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Thigpen
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Thompson
Ms. Karen Thompson
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Waddell
Ms. Karen Waddell
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Wampler
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Waters
Mr. Joe Weddle
Christa Wentzel
Ms. Estella Wilder
Ms. Sharon Woody
Mrs. Val Yosifov

Alpha Towing
Cregger Company, Inc.
Dollar General Store #10112
Duke Energy
The Duke Endowment
Elite Car Rental
EuroTink

Feb. 2 - Oct. 14, 2024

foster care outreach

better futures for them. It's incredibly rewarding, and every day I feel that I am where I am meant to be.

Looking Ahead

As I continue this journey, I am eager to see how I can help change the lives of these incredible kids. Southeastern Children's Home has been doing amazing work for years, and I'm proud to be part of a team that is so passionate about making a positive impact.

If you're reading this and wondering how you can help, I encourage you to consider getting involved. Whether through fostering, donating, or volunteering your time, there are so many ways to make a difference in the lives of foster children.

This is a new chapter for me, and it's one filled with hope, purpose, and a deep sense of fulfillment. I'm grateful for the support I've received from my community and colleagues, and I look forward to sharing more about my work with Southeastern Children's Home in the months and years to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey with me!

NEEDS

Wish list

Southeastern is currently in need of the following supplies:

- Children's Diapers (any size)
- Children's Pull Ups (any size)
- Baby Wipes
- Dishwasher detergent
- Liquid laundry detergent
- Anti-bacterial hand soap
- Trash bags (13 gallon and 32 gallon)
- Cleaning supplies
- Push/Riding Lawn Mowers
- Used vans or cars

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

- Furniture Liquidators
- Gilmore Entertainment
- Grahams Ice Cream Co.
- HGC Trucking
- James F. Byrnes Class of 1969
- Jersey Mikes
- McDonalds - AMC Management Corp.
- Merrell's Pizza
- Middle Tyger YMCA
- Plasman Corporation
- Roof Boost
- Spartanburg Scale Modelers
- Squiggles Toys and More
- Swift Charities
- Tony's Pizza
- Town of Duncan
- Walmart
- Central Church of Christ
- Church of Christ at Indian Land
- Cornerstone Baptist Church
- Friendship Baptist Church of Lyman
- The Garden
- Golden Strip Church of Christ
- Greenwood Church of Christ
- Ladies Bible Group
- Henderson Church of Christ
- Hendersonville Church of Christ
- Liberty Hill United Methodist Church
- New Hope Freedom Church
- Poplar Springs Baptist Church
- Seneca Church of Christ
- Sharon United Methodist Church
- Shelby Church of Christ
- Washington Baptist Church
- West Spartanburg Baptist Church
- Zoar Chapel

HOPES!

fall/winter 2024



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