**Life at Collins Home 08/04/17 By: Alena Pelfrey**

In my last article I described welcoming a sibling group of three; they are doing great by the way. I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who responded to my Facebook request for clothes and shoes for these precious children. Many of you brought new and gently used items for them, while others made a financial donation. Because of everyone’s generosity, they are ‘outfitted’ with the summer clothes they need and we have the funds for some back to school shopping and supplies. The children are appreciative of their new clothes and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Be sure to “Like” us on Facebook, “Collins Children’s Home – Est. 1980”.

This week, our hearts were touched by another sibling group of three, ages, 6, 8 & 9, who were reunited with their mom. As we hugged our girls ‘bye’ and made plans with Mom to keep in touch, I offered up a prayer for this family’s journey back to ‘being a family’. As Mom is adjusting to the renewed commitment for her precious children; the children will continue processing past hurts and prayerfully move past them. And as they loaded down the vans with all their teddy bears, clothes, shoes, bikes, etc. I said another prayer, one of thankfulness for the shared sense of excitement and hopefulness this family felt being back together.

Now I’d like to take a quick moment to brag on everyone who supports Collins Children’s Home! I believe our supporters are extraordinary. We see examples every day of their love and kindness for our children and staff and it blesses us beyond words. Whether they are picking up clothes for our kids, giving us the funds to buy the clothes, tutoring, holding their own fundraisers for us…they do it with such love in their hearts that it makes it even more special.

**Don’t forget…**Our 34th Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner will be held at Northside Elementary Cafeteria in Seneca, SC on Saturday, September 16, 2017 from 4-7pm. Eating in and take out is available. This is a good time for friends to get together with no food preparation and no clean up! Each $12 plate includes ½ slow grilled chicken, baked beans, coleslaw, potato chips, roll, pickles and cookies with tea or lemonade. Invitations will be mailed soon.