


HEAD FOR HOME

Fall 2016



Newsletter—2016—Volume 2

“Unto the least of these...”



**Nature is the
best playground!**

Hiking to waterfalls is one of the many great outdoor activities our kids experience where they explore, learn and grow.



P.O. Box 745
Seneca, SC 29679

"Within a community of Christian values, Collins Children's Home cares for children and supports families in an atmosphere that instills feelings of acceptance, safety, permanence, dignity and joy while teaching important life skills and a work ethic that will enable them to be productive members of society."

Officers & Board of Directors

Mr. Craig Homan
Chairman

Mr. Larry Wingard
Budget/Finance

Mrs. Suzette Cross
Mr. Bill Harley
Ms. Deborah Henderson
Mrs. Linda McKenzie
Mr. Tim Murphy
Mr. Ed Pekarek
Mrs. Tammy Swinney

Co-Founders
Joe & Anne Rackley

Executive Director
Alena Pelfrey

Where no counsel is,
the people fall; but in
the multitude of
counselors there is
safety.

Proverbs 11:14

From the Director | Alena Pelfrey

There is no quick fix...

It's hard to succinctly describe the positive effect Collins Children's Home has on the lives of kids who have been abandoned, abused and neglected. Whether we have a child for 6 months or 10 years, we know that each moment with that child is precious. We must use every opportunity to teach hurting children they can have successful futures regardless of their past circumstances or family situations. What we do today for our children makes a difference for generations to come.

A friend once said to me, "But Collins Home only has 16 to 17 children at a time...there are other organizations that can help more people..." Rather than being offended, I welcomed the opportunity to educate my friend. Working with abused and neglected children can never be about numbers or the time involved in healing broken hearts.

We know there is no quick fix to the serious problem of abused children. How can we spend a lifetime raising our own children and expect children who have been abused and neglected to spend a few months or even years in care and somehow function normally?

There are hundreds of children throughout our state that need the stability of a safe and loving home with caring parents to nurture and guide them. Many of these children have never known what it is like to have healthy meals every day, or a warm bed to sleep in, or clean clothes that fit, or have never had someone to help them with their homework, cheer for them at an event, or encourage them to keep trying when learning to tie their shoes, read a book or fill out a job application. These children have been abused, neglected, and abandoned by those they loved and trusted the most.

Herbert Ward said, "Child abuse casts a shadow the length of a lifetime." We know this to be true, but we also know that **every child** deserves a chance at a happy childhood. Nobody longs for a safe and loving family more than a child in foster care. Our prayer is to provide this and more for our children.



B.K. turns "50" on April 11, 2017

Brian Keith Seabolt (B.K.) was the 4th child to arrive at Collins Children's Home and has lived here for over 36 years. He is very excited about turning the big "50" and is looking forward to the 'surprise' party he is expecting us to throw him :-). We don't want to disappoint him, so over the next few months, we'll start the planning process. If you are interested in helping us throw him a great party, please give us a call at 864-882-0893.



Happenings in the Homes | Tina Justice

Life at Collins Children's Home is never dull. Between school, church, family time and the anecdotes of the children, living life together is such a blessing. The following are just a few of the things happening around the campus:

- Back to School Party—We have made this fun day an annual event where Carolina Bounce donates a waterslide for the day and Domino's donates pizza for lunch. The staff either enjoy watching the kids play in the water or join in themselves. Great way to end the summer and get ready for the new school year.
- Tutor Orientation—We are very proud of our tutoring program that brings together volunteers from the community and our residents that need extra help with their school work. We get together at the beginning of each school year to go over the needs and for them to meet the students.
- Mud Run—Several of our kids and staff participated in our Mud Run again this year. It was exhausting and rewarding all at the same time as we strategized obstacles and laughed at our efforts...but we did it!!!
- Trauma Informed Care—Houseparents and I attended training to help us better understand, recognize and respond to the effects of the trauma our children may have suffered.
- Clemson Football Game—Thanks to Dabo's All In Foundation, we were able to take our little tigers to the Clemson vs. Troy game. Although it was hot, we had a blast cheering on the Tigers.
- Back to School Bash—After attending the Clemson game, we attended the 'Back to School Bash' wrestling match organized by Mike Worsham to benefit Collins Home. I was truly surprised at just how much our kids got into it...I can't remember the last time I laughed so hard.
- 33rd Annual Chicken BBQ—Kids and staff had a great time at this year's BBQ. It was great hearing some of the adults that grew up at Collins Home describe their childhood experiences helping prepare for the BBQ each year.
- First Baptist of Pendleton's Lydia Group—served the children and staff with a taco dinner. This sweet group of ladies have been involved since the very beginning of the Home's existence and we greatly appreciate all they do for us.
- Cosmopolitan Woman's Club Soup'r Supper—The CWC ladies and their spouses served the children's home a delicious buffet of soups, sides and desserts ...and Yahoos after learning how much our kids LOVE them.
- Fall Festivals and Activities—This is a great time of year to enjoy time together and form lasting traditions. So far this Fall, our kids have participated in trunk or treat activities, carved pumpkins, attended Oktoberfest and played in the falling leaves.



Some of our girls enjoying Oktoberfest activities.

What a Difference You've Made | Thank you!

Thank you for another great Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser!

I hope you were able to visit with us at our 33rd Annual Barbecue on September 24th. It was a great day! The weather could not have been better. When "Pit Boss" Daryl Justice arrived at Collins Home at 2 AM, the stars were shining and there was hardly a cloud in the sky. More importantly, there was a breeze! If you ever try to cook 1,500 chicken halves in twelve hours over a giant charcoal pit you will understand why every small breeze is greatly appreciated.

It's hard to put into words just how much we appreciate every sponsor, donor and volunteer who work together to make it possible for us to host the barbecue each year. There are literally hundreds of sponsors, donors and volunteers who come together with the purpose of having a good time while raising funds to help children and families in trouble.

We are so thankful for... Gary and Hellan Alexander of Alexander Farms, who provided the chicken again this year; it was delicious as usual. Mike Pelfrey was a 'trooper' as he traveled from Seneca to Clemson to Anderson and back picking up various supplies. Rusty Guill, who is our Clemson University liaison coordinated awesome students to help cook the chicken and serve it. This year the Rangers started their day at the Pit at 5 AM... followed later in the morning by Beta Theta Pi Fraternity and then the Rugby team finished out the schedule.

Anne Rackley, in keeping with the tradition she started 33 years ago, showed up at 6 AM along with our volunteer extraordinaire, Deborah Henderson to make a homemade breakfast of bacon, eggs, grits, biscuits with sausage gravy and toast with plenty of butter and jelly for the early cooks. The students were very appreciative of the extra effort that goes into giving them a hearty breakfast.

It was great having Curt Davis, back again this year... Curt has helped at the BBQ pit since the beginning (33 years ago). We were also thankful to have Andy Dobson help again this year. Andy spent 10 years of his childhood at Collins Home. Ed Pekarek and B.K. spent several days preparing the cooking site. Kelly McCormick, our "Kitchen Boss" and wonderful folks from Hepsibah Baptist Church worked their magic in the kitchen as usual. THANK YOU to our volunteers for their gifts of time and effort....and our wonderful community!



Joe & Anne Rackley and
Rusty Guill



Clemson students serving
in the kitchen



Who doesn't love fresh
baked cookies



"Yummy"

To see more pictures of our "33rd Annual Chicken BBQ, go to our Facebook Page for Collins Children's Home - est. 1980

"Best Mud Run EVER!"

At least that's what the majority of our mudders had to say on Saturday, August 27th at the Shaver Complex in Seneca. With our 4th Annual Mud Run in the books, we are looking forward to planning for an even bigger and better one next year.

We are so thankful for the support and enthusiasm of our community! Not only do we have awesome mudders, but also a caring community that supports and cares about children—and that showed at this year's mud run.

THANK YOU mudders, sponsors and volunteers!!

To see more pictures of our "4th Annual Collins Home Mud Run" go to our Facebook Page @collinshomemudrun



Team: "Has Beens"



Team: "Just The 2 of Us" & 1st Place 2-
person team winners



Showing some love...

Some of our girls put together a sweet presentation to surprise their houseparents. The following are some of the heart-warming things they had to say:

You're always talking about how we can serve and help others, but what about you? We couldn't do much to help serve you, so we made this. It's to show how much we appreciate all that you both do. We hope you enjoy!

First I just want to say thank you for being the parents I have never had. I know I won't be here long with you guys, but even after I leave, I hope both of you will continue to be my family. You are both amazing parents, workers, even role models, and you both make an amazing family that I am blessed to say I am a part of. You've shown me the family love I have never seen, you teach me how to forgive, how to be an adult, you've shown me how to love God's word, you let me know it is okay to be different. I am blessed to have someone like you both who work so incredibly hard to give all of us an amazing family. You've shown me I have another opportunity at life, and I can succeed in it. Love, M!

Mrs. Crystal, words cannot express how I feel about you. Recently, I talked to you about Joel's sermon about racism and how I felt about it. I told you about how I felt lonely and left out in school, and that it is hard for me to make friends. When I finished telling you this, you comforted me and told me that I am beautiful, clever and many other characteristics. After you told me this, I walked into school with a sort of confidence that I haven't felt in a while. Not only do you say you love me, but you show it day to day. That's enough to brighten anyone's day. A verse that you should always remember is "God's love is beyond our understanding" Ephesians 3:18. I know you and Mr. Jamie are tired of hearing this but, God loves you very, very much! So do I Love, S!

Mrs. Crystal, I cannot tell you how much I appreciate you. I love how when you have had a bad day and I could have gotten off the bus and asked you how your day was and you would express how it was then you would say "Thank you for asking, it made me feel much better." Those days were days that I will never forget because I got a lesson out of that. That lesson was no matter how bad my day was you taught me that when you express how you feel it can make you feel about ten times better. I also love the fact that when I came home in a bad mood you told me to forget what happened and say that incident should not define how you will live life that day. That saying can also apply to events in your life that could affect how you live if you let it. One thing I know I will hate is saying good bye. I know when I go home I will be happy but I am going to hate to say good bye because I will miss getting to go outside after dinner and playing outside for hours at a time. When I go home I will not be able to play outside (I explained this to you on Tuesday.) I also wanted to tell you I'm sorry for anything I have done wrong in the past year I have been here. I decided that it would be the best thing to apologize before I leave. I also want you to know that your love resembles a mother's. Speaking of love, I wanted to give you a verse that reminded me of you. That verse is 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Love, L!

I just wanted you to know I appreciate that you do so much for me. I am so glad I met you about 3-4 years ago and that I just wanted you to know that I really consider you my Aunt. And that you and Mr. Jamie are the best Aunt and Uncle ever!!!! I just enjoy seeing you guys every single day and that you taught me that I don't need to act like someone I am not. And that there is going to be ups and downs in life but I know I can get through them. I can trust you with almost anything and I believe that you can just be there for anyone. You guys do a lot for us and most of the days we barely tell you that we appreciate it. So thank you for considering me as your child!!!! P.S. I love you. P.S.S I loooovveee yooouu! P.S.S.S I don't think I've said this enough.....IIIIIIIIII LOOOOVVVVEEE YOOOU! Love, S!

Memorials & Honorariums |

08/01/16—10/15/16

Memorial Gifts —*Thank you for celebrating a memory...*

Robert G. McCall

Ms. Kim Tippet

Edna Collins Sams

Mrs. Mary Berry

Sarah G. Brown

Ralph & Bonnie Collins

Mr. & Mrs. William Hilscher

Ms. Doris E. Kelley

Mr. & Mrs. Winslow McKee

Miss Izonaer Scott

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Martin

Betty Senn

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Gibson

Brenda Surprenant

Mr. & Mrs. Tom Fuss

Mamie Dell Woodall

Coneross Church of God

Pete Worthington

Family of Harold & Sandra Elsasser

Honorarium Gifts — *and for honoring a friend, family or associate*

Rodney Massey

Joan McGee

Dr. Penny Moore

Home and Garden Club

Mrs. Floree Walker

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Martin

*For information on how you can
support Collins Home through
our Memorial—Honorarium pro-
gram, give us a call
at 864-882-0893*

Collins Children's Home: "Transforming lives of children for better tomorrows"

Like and Share us on
facebook 

We have 3 Facebook opportuni-
ties for you to like and share:

- Collins Children's Home—Est. 1980
- Collins Children's Home—Thrift Store
- Collin Home Mud Run

For more Information Contact Us

Collins Children's Home

P.O. Box 745

Seneca, SC 29679

(864) 882-0893

collinschildrenshome.org



P.O. Box 745

Seneca, SC 29679

NONPROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
SENECA, SC
PERMIT NO. 75

Return Service Requested