

HEAD FOR HOME

Summer 2016



Collins
CHILDREN'S
HOME



Thank you: Clemson students, Foothills Community Church and "Impact Oconee" for beautifying our campus



Proud to call "home" ...

As a volunteer-driven ministry, we have a variety of volunteer needs throughout our campus....some seasonal, while others are on-going; for example...yard work. Although this presents great 'life skill' learning opportunities for our children, it is still more than our homes can keep up with. Especially when we have younger children. So as you can imagine, we get pretty excited when we receive calls asking if we have any projects for Life Groups, Sunday School Classes, Youth Ministries, School Clubs, etc.

To take it a step further, we'd love for groups to 'adopt' certain areas of the campus to maintain and beautify throughout the year. To name a few: Boys /Girls Home flower beds, Prayer Garden, etc.

So if your small group, club or even your family would like to help us keep Collins Home a place our children are proud to call home, give us a call at 864-882-0893.

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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**

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Ms. Deborah Henderson
Mrs. Linda McKenzie
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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



Boys' Home

From the Director | Alena Pelfrey

I believe Collins Children's Home is one of the best children's homes there is; I like to say, "We are the next best thing to home." When I say that though, it's with a clear image in my head of "home" being a safe loving place for children to grow, thrive and develop throughout their childhood, surrounded by family and friends who care for them.

If you've kept up with the news reports regarding the well being of children in South Carolina and across our nation, you've seen reports proving that is not the case for many children. In the United States, there are roughly 400,000 children in foster care at any given time. That is why the work we do here is so important!

Our children come from diverse backgrounds. Most are from broken homes and many with some of the most horrid situations imaginable. Others come from families that love them, but have made wrong decisions in life and now find themselves in great need. At Collins Home, our children find healing in the nurture and safety of a family environment. Without Collins Home (and others like us), law enforcement, social workers, and volunteers, the outcome for children in care would be even more uncertain. A safe haven is an incredibly important resource to children as their reunification and/or a permanency plan is created. At Collins Home, our children can live with us as long as they need to. It is our hope and prayer that when our children are reunited with their families or adopted, they are successfully "home."

A **House** is made of bricks and beams

A **Home** is made of

Love & Dreams

Happenings in the Homes | Tina Justice

Our children have been very busy since the last newsletter was mailed. I would need a lot more space to list everything the kids have experienced so I'll list some of the highlights.

Our girls enjoyed the American Doll Fashion Show compliments of a special friend.

Staff and children enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Lighthouse Restaurant through a donation designated for that purpose.

B.K. Seabolt celebrated his 49th birthday...and he's already excited about celebrating the big "50" in 2017.

Hepsibah Baptist, Pendleton First Baptist, Johnson Controls and some very special Cosmo Ladies hosted parties for our children.

We attended a Clemson Football Game compliments of Dabo's All In Foundation.

Our kids had a blast at Rally in the Valley thanks to special friends.

Some of our kids shopped with a BOBCAT.

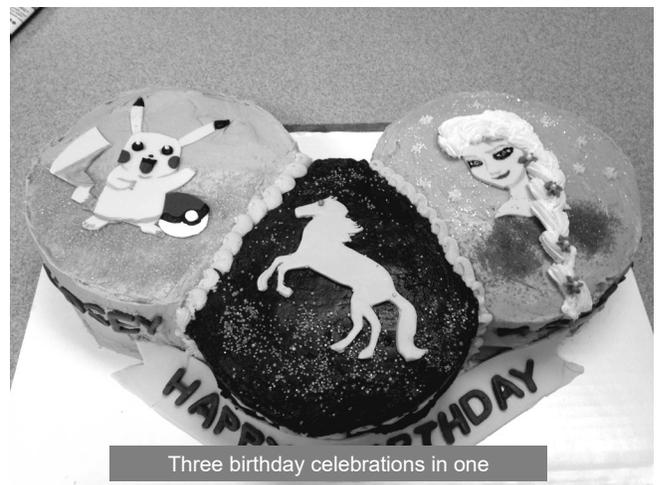
Foothills Community Church, Foothills Garden Club, Clemson Students, and other groups helped with yard work and landscaping on our campus.

The entire campus (except Mrs. Kaye who had house guests) made our annual complimentary trip to Garden City Chapel and Retreat in Garden City Beach, SC the week of July 4th.

All our children in both homes have been thrilled with the beautiful birthday cakes that Linda Shelton has baked and decorated for each of them. We are blessed by her talent and generosity!



Happy Birthday B.K.!



Three birthday celebrations in one



A couple of our girls with winter wonderland makeovers :-)



Some of our boys enjoying a Clemson game

What they said...

When Collins Home staff were asked to share a funny or heartwarming interaction they had with one of our kids...here's what they said:



Bridgette Fowler
Housemom—Boy's Home

“Our 6-year old boy (who was starting the transition phase of being reunited with his mom) said, "Mrs. Bridgette, at night when I'm in bed at my moms house I miss you and my heart gets sad and starts to crack! And every time I miss you my heart cracks!"

“On our way home from church one night, one of our boys got upset about something that wouldn't normally have bothered him, but that night brought him to tears. When I stopped to get gas, I asked if he'd like to get out and talk with me and he said yes. When I asked him what was bothering him, I wasn't expecting much due to his quiet nature. Especially about personal stuff and because he normally connects better with females. Little did I know, he was ready to talk. We talked for almost 40 minutes about some trouble he'd had at school with some of his "friends" and in general about how kids act. We talked about how he doesn't have to act different just so they will "like" him and he shouldn't let anyone talk down to him. Although it was unexpected, it was a good talk I felt we had a special connection and that our relationship also meant something to him.



Tyler Fowler
Housedad—Boys' Home



“A while ago, I picked up one of our teenagers from school to meet with his adoption worker. When he saw me standing in the office, he had the biggest smile on his on face (it brings me to tears just thinking about it). As he came through the door I said, "Guess what today is?? He said, "I knew something good was going to happen today." He went on to say he'd just had a feeling 'today was the day' he would get to see his new family. All the way to Collins Home, throughout the meeting and hours afterwards that smile never left his face. Defiantly one of my top memories of my time with Collins Home.

Tina Justice
Case Manager

“Recently, I was touched by the generosity of one of our girls. Housemom, Crystal came by and asked me if I had an envelope that a Ziplock bag and sheet of paper would fit into. I saw hair in the bag and said, "Oh, Maddie cut her hair!" Crystal set the bag and paper on my desk and I went back to reconciling a bank statement. Later as I placed the neatly tied lengths of hair in the envelope; I thought of this young lady's sacrifice for a cancer patient that she will never know. Then the truth resonated in my heart, "Maddie will surely meet the recipient of her gift in heaven one day.”

Kaye Gibson
Office Manager

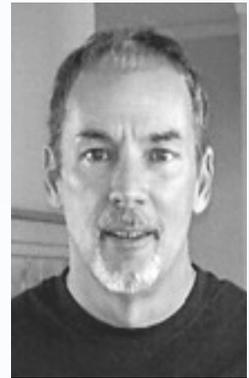




Crystal Crawford
Housemom—Girls' Home

“On night, one of our pre-teens was really upset when I told her she had a visit the following day. She stated she did not want to go to visit her mom anymore, that she did not like her and reminded me of all the negative things her mom had done to ruin her life. I listened to her vent for several minutes then asked, “What did we talk about this morning in devotion?” She said, “Love,” but with a negative tone to her voice. After asking her where love comes from, we had a long conversation about her salvation and how Jesus is love and He has shown her the perfect love for her to take into her life and spread it to others. And even though she has every right to resent her mom for her poor choices, I encouraged her to go and show Gods love to her mother. I told her I know it is backwards for the child to teach the parent but that she has lots of ways she could help her mother and make a positive impact by having a good attitude and trying new things at their visit to make it better.”

“I enjoy all the girls rushing to get in the living room for devotion to see who can sit beside me. Sometimes they will even bring their jacket and try to lay it beside me to save their spot. And all the kids will always come to me when they want snacks. They all make jokes that I'm always eating and always willing to give them food when others would normally say no.”



Jamie Crawford
Housedad—Girls' Home



“Last semester, Alexis was able to see her grades in parent portal as all above an 80! She was so thrilled with her achievement and she also has no zeroes for the first time this semester. Since our tough, but apparently fruitful parent/teacher conference for which she was present, she has worked hard to complete all of her school work and is actually proud of herself and her grades! She is genuinely beginning to gain self-confidence and believe in her own abilities. We are so proud of her!”

Katie Reams
Relief-mom—Girls' Home

“A few weeks ago, we welcomed a sibling group who had just learned they wouldn't be going home for a while. The boys were stoic, but the sister was crying. When I said to her, “Do you need a hug?” She couldn't even speak, she just nodded yes through her tears. As she held on tight, I tried my best to reassure her that she would get through this and we'd be here for her. A few days later, I saw her laughing and goofing off with her brothers and just being a kid and it was a sweet reminder of why we (CCH) are here.”



Alena Pelfrey
Executive Director

“*Listening is where love begins.*” ~Mr. Rogers

Upcoming Events |

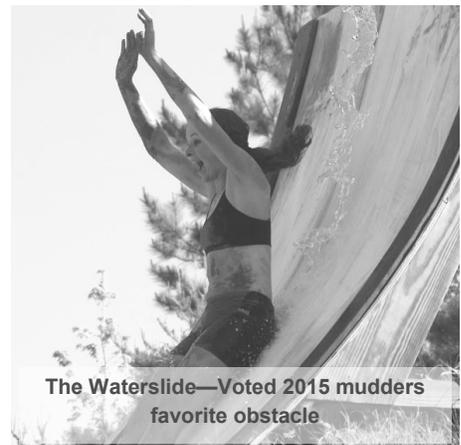
4th Annual Collins Home Mud Run —Saturday, August 27, 2016

We hope you're as excited as our kids and we are about our upcoming Mud Run at the Shaver Complex in Seneca on August 27, 2016 starting at 8:30 AM. Not only is a Mud Run a great way to work together as a team, have lots of fun, but it can also give you an interesting or crazy story to tell (according to how you spin it). For the past 3 years, three of our staff members have led teams with our kids over the age of 12 in the Mud Run. Since then, some of those kids have been reunited with family or have been adopted...they still call and ask to be on one of our teams; pair that with our current kids wanting to run...we've got a lot of kids clamoring to be on the fastest team. It's actually pretty cool to hear them tell about their experiences and to see their sense of accomplishment afterwards. Crystal Crawford (House Mom in the Girls' Home) and Tina Justice (Case Manager) normally lead a team...they like the fitness part of it, but I'm pretty sure they continue to do it because of the kids' enthusiasm...it's contagious (or they're afraid to lose face)! Bridgette and Tyler Fowler (House Parents in the Boys' Home) do it because they LOVE it. Believe it or not, the Mud Run is what brought them to Collins Home. After they ran in our very first Mud Run, they heard we had an opening for a House Parent Couple; they celebrated their 2-year work Anniversary this past May and as they say, the rest is history.

Kidz Mud Fun

Of course, I can't leave out our little MUDDERS...we have an AWE-SOME kids' course for ages 4 – 11, with miniature obstacles: a rope swing over a mud pit, 2-foot walls to climb over, tires to crawl through, boulders to climb on and lots of MUD!

We hope you'll join our Collins Home Family and make this your family fun day too.



The Waterslide—Voted 2015 mudders favorite obstacle



The Mud Pit—the first obstacle to start your adventure



The Kidz Mud Slide—a favorite of the kids

Back to School Bash 2016 (Wrestling Match) —Saturday, September 10, 2016

Doors Open 6 pm / Pre-Show 6:40 pm / Bell Time 7 pm
Cost \$5 for 1st grade thru 12th grade / \$10 Adults
Hosted by Golden Corner Wrestling—benefiting Collins Children's Home

At Bounty Land Baptist Church, Seneca SC
GCW Tag Team Title: The Challengers Delta Squad (Big Dan and American GI) w/ Col Studd will face the GCW Tag Champions Sons of Steel; Boomer and Brice
Tag Match: GCW Heavy Weight Champion BJ Hancock w/Brett Wolverton will tag with Mid-Atlantic Legend and Star Mr #1 George South will face Team Fearless; WCW Star Lodi and Scotty Mathews

You will see also: Sweet Dreamz, Deon Johnson, Bryson Willis, The Machine Josh King, Purity Boy Montgomery, and Erik Anton and more.

Card Subject to Change.



33rd Annual Collins Home Chicken Barbecue Dinner —Saturday, September 24, 2016

It's time for our 33rd Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner! We hope you will join us for delicious food and a great time. Mark your calendar and plan on joining us from 4 –7 PM at Northside Elementary on Saturday, September 24th. We will be preparing 1,500 plates complete with 1/2 chicken barbecued—baked beans—cole slaw—potato chips—roll —pickles—iced tea/lemonade—and cookies; all for \$10.00.

Collins Children's Home has been an essential part of our community for over 36 years and the need for services grow each year. Because you care, this ministry can continue serving hurting and frightened children in the Upstate. We believe children should be with family whenever possible. We always try to make that happen when it is in the best interest of the children. When extended family is not ready, willing and/or able to take the children, we are here to care for them for as long as they need us. This is only possible through the faithful generosity of friends like you.

This is our biggest fundraiser and we need your help to make it successful and raise the much needed funds to care for our children each year. We hope you purchase tickets, encourage your family and friends to purchase tickets, and if possible consider an extra contribution. We value your generosity and do not take your kindness for granted.

Thank you for supporting and caring about our children!

In His Service Together,



Alena Pelfrey
Executive Director

P.S. To order tickets, please complete the response form attached to the remittance envelope and return it today or call 864-882-0893 to reserve your tickets. You can also pick up tickets at our office after September 5th.

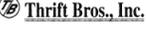
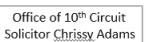
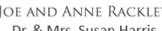
This amazing community effort is not possible without our generous sponsors and hard-working volunteers. Check out our sponsor banner and a few of the pics from last year below. To see more pictures go to our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/Collins-Childrens-Home-Est-1980.



THANK YOU SPONSORS



PLATINUM SPONSOR: Alexander Farms

GOLD SPONSORS:	SILVER SPONSORS:
 <p>Clemson Carpet Cleaning Tom & Linda Brune Linda B McKenzie, Atty</p>  <p>CollinsCraft Capacitor</p>  <p>Itron</p>  <p>BLUE RIDGE Esp. Center, P.A.</p>  <p>CLEMSON FAMILY DENTISTRY</p>  <p>Thrift Bros., Inc.</p>  <p>SOUTH CAROLINA Cardiology Consultants</p>  <p>US ENGINE VALVE</p>  <p>YONKERS EST. 1975</p>	 <p>ARAMARK</p>  <p>Allstate Julian Deacon</p>  <p>Byerley, Payne & White, CPA, PA</p>  <p>STATE FARM INSURANCE Lewis Patterson Agency</p>  <p>SANDVIK</p>  <p>Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Jim Hill & Lee Woods</p>  <p>Oconee Pediatrics</p>  <p>Palmetto Insurance</p>  <p>FOSTER FARMS, INC.</p>  <p>goldie ASSOCIATES www.goldieassociates.com</p>  <p>Koyo</p>  <p>RANKIN Real Estate, LLC.</p>  <p>Dr. & Mrs. Conrad K. Shuler</p>  <p>Edward Jones MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING Jim Hill & Lee Woods</p>  <p>Office of 10th Circuit Solicitor Chrissy Adams</p>  <p>JOE AND ANNE RACKLEY Dr. & Mrs. Susan Harris</p>



Anne, Sen. Alexander, Alena, Lynda & Joe



Clemson Rangers



Kaye & Anne



Hepsibah Volunteers

What a Difference You've Made |

Cosmopolitan Woman's Club

Cosmopolitan Woman's Club...best in the world! Words cannot even begin to express how much these awesome ladies mean to Collins Children's Home!! Since the inception of the club, they have been our champions and to this day, continue to care and support us with love and enthusiasm. In May, I had the pleasure of accepting a check for \$16,700 from the club and President Shari Roberts...THANK YOU ladies...we are so grateful and blessed by each one you.

For Easter, the Cosmopolitan Woman's Club also helped our children by providing each with a personalized Easter basket. The children were delighted to receive baskets that met their own individual personalities.



There are so many other ways the Cosmo ladies help us throughout the year with tutoring, mentoring, donations to our thrift store, baking & decorating cookies, swimming lessons, sponsoring bowling/pizza parties, etc. .



14th Annual Stancil Cooley Estep & Stamey Charity Golf Tournament

Thank you to all our wonderful Sponsors, Golfers, Volunteers and Cross Creek for making our 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament a success again this year.! Because of you, many children and families are provided opportunities to overcome sad situations...these children THRIVE and enjoy a happy and safe childhood!



Blue Ridge Fest



As a charity reliant on community support to provide a safe loving Christian home for children, we were thrilled and excited to learn we will be one of the charities to benefit from the 2016 Blue Ridge Fest this year and were absolutely overjoyed when they showed up with a check for \$16,000.

Thank you Blue Ridge!

Pictured from left to right: Zach Hinton, Zeke Seigler, Rep. Bill Sandifer, Kaye Gibson, Tina Justice, B.K. Seabolt and Executive Director Alena Pelfrey.

Community



Thank you **Home Builders Association of Oconee** and to everyone who supported their efforts to raise money for CCH!
(Pictured from left to right: Tom Markovich, Brad Kisker, David Gully, Sharon Pratt and Brad LeCroy)



Thank you Mary Bowen for delivering duffel bags and toiletries for our kids from **Pleasant Hill Baptist Church**...and just in time for camp!



Thank you **Oconee Christian Academy's Middle School** for raising \$150 to donate to CCH through your **Government Service Project**.



Thank you **Keller Williams Employees** for the amazing job painting at Collins Home and the work you did at our thrift store!



Thank you **"Impact Oconee"** for working hard ALL DAY and blessing us more than words can say as you beautified our campus and thrift store!



Thank you to the **Lake Ladies** for collecting toothpaste, socks, underwear, camis, t-shirts and tanks for our children. This was a tremendous blessing!

Memorials & Honorariums |

Memorial Gifts — *Thank you for celebrating a memory...08/01/15—7/31/16*

Mr. William C. Acton

Mr. & Mrs. James Acton

Ms. Joan Andrek

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Simmons

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Banks

Mr. & Mrs. James Phillips

Mrs. Maggie Bost

Betty, Barbara & Patty Young

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bushey

David & Jan Bushey

Mr. Aaron Byerley

Mr. Mark Byerley

Bill and Connie Caldwell

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Towers

Mr. Tom Fuss

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Brillowski

Mr. Mathew Fuss

Randy & Michelle Grant

Ms. Nancy Arneson

Mrs. Sara Haslup

Mrs. Scott Haslup

Mrs. Dee Helvik

Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Morgan

Tom & Cathy Holmes

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Glasgow

Ms. Teresa Jernigan

Mr. & Mrs. Brian Jernigan

Dr. & Mrs. Richard Juel

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brown

Mr. & Mrs. John Kennedy

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kennedy

Ms. Margaret King

Mr. & Mrs. James Acton

Ivey & Mary McMillan

Mr. & Mrs. James Acton

Rev. Ray Ramsburg

Keowee Key Sunrise Service

Mrs. Katie Reams

Valvoline Instant Oil Change

Mr. & Mrs. Don Sawyer

Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Brown

Tim & Bev Sevick

John & Sylvia Peters

Ms. Carla Shorts

Ms. Christina Shorts

Mr. Ken Swafford

Mrs. Alis Suddeth

Mr. Tom Thrift

Blue Ridge Electric Co-op

Mr. Elmet Toole

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Toole

Honorarium Gifts — *and for honoring a friend, family or associate...08/01/15—7/31/16*

Mr. Ed Bedard

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Krueger

Rev. Jeff Bost

Mrs. Maggie Bost

Ms. Betty Young

Young Memorial ARP Church

Mrs. Ellen Bowen

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Bowen

Dr. & Mrs. A. E. Jordan

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Shimmel

Mrs. Mildred Bridges

Mr. & Mrs. Ben J. Martin

Theresa Brink

Mr. & Mrs. David Grant

Mr. Neil Byerley

Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Byerley

Mr. Mark Byerley

Mr. Michael Byerley

Mr. Nick Di Tommaso

Ms. Elizabeth Di Tommaso

Dot & Derrill Driggers

Tom Driggers

Mrs. Audrey L. Durham

Mrs. Imogene Hunnicutt

Dr. Gordon L. Eckert

Ms. Shirley Eckert

Mr. John Fitzgerald

St. Luke Methodist Church

Ms. Martha Fortenberry

Ms. Candy Fagan

Ms. Lina Haycraft

Mrs. Erin Chapman

Mr. Neal Hicks

Mr. & Mrs. Ben J. Martin

Mr. Jason Honeycutt

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Chastain

Mr. Derald E. Hunnicutt

Mrs. Imogene Hunnicutt

Dr. Mike Lee

C12 Group Upstate SC

Mrs. Rosa Bell Collins Lee

Rev. & Mrs. Edward Bryson

Marcia B. Collins

Ebenezer Baptist Church

Kim Fincannon

Holly Springs BC Dorcas Missions

Sylvia Lee

Evelyn Marcus

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Poore

Cindy Lee Sheriff

Ms. Clinta Moore

Mr. & Mrs. Lou Christensen

Mr. Bill Nicholson

Mr. & Mrs. Don Thompson

Ms. Jessica Porter

Mr. & Mrs. Tom H. Newman

Mr. Aaron Pugh

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Pugh

Mrs. Clara A. Rackley

Mrs. Imogene Hunnicutt

Mrs. Carol Ramey

Ms. Mary Lou Hamilton

Mr. Van Rogers

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Boswell

Mr. John Shively

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Krueger

Ms. Betty Mitchell Wills

Requard Center for Acute Rehab

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

HAVE YOU PREPARED YOUR WILL? |

There are few things in life we can do so easily that make such a big difference. Having a well thought out estate plan is one of them. Those who complete a plan are almost always amazed at how quickly and easily it can be accomplished. Those who include a charity or nonprofit organization in their plans are among the happiest. It's easy to see why. Without the worries of day-to-day living, we are free to do so much more in our will than we can do while we're alive. If you do not have a will or have not included a cause like Collins Children's Home in it, why not create one or amend it to include your gift? You can be among the elite philanthropists by including as little as 1% or 2% of your estate. If you think on a grander scale, you can leave a fixed dollar amount, or a greater percentage of the residual of your estate. The flexibility and choice rests entirely with you. Remember that when you include a qualified charity in your will or plan, your estate is reduced by that amount, which means that much less is subject to estate taxes. The money that would have gone to the government can be strategically used to help your family and loved ones as well as the causes you cherish. Writing a will is so simple, there is no reason not to have one. Just as your gift is limited only by your imagination, your possibilities for making it a reality are also almost endless.



For more information, give us a call at 864-882-0893

Back to School |

A new school year is just around the corner.

Since many of our children are coming to us from situations of abuse, neglect or abandonment, it is common for them to have fallen behind academically. Most of the children are at least a year behind grade level and some are as many as three years behind.

Our children need your help. Your gift can help provide the necessary supplies, additional tutoring, and other resources necessary to make them successful. We believe all of our children have bright futures, and a proper education is just one of the ways to help them realize their potential. The Lord said in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



Please send your gift today so there is enough time to provide the children with all the materials they need for the coming school year!



Collins Children's Home—Est. 1980



Collins Children's Home—Thrift Store



Collins Home Mud Run

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

Like and Share us on **facebook** 

For more Information Contact Us

Collins Children's Home
 P.O. Box 745
 Seneca, SC 29679
 (864) 882-0893

www.collinschildrenshome.com



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