

**Look for the helpers**...From the late Fred Rogers, popular children's TV show host, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." Mr. Rogers' mom sure did get it right. Not a day goes by that we don't see or hear of a news report of scary and terrible things happening to children. I can't even begin to express how my heart hurts every time I look into the helpless eyes of our children when they arrive at Collins Home. In almost every instance, you can see so much hurt and pain through the anger, sadness and even through the smiles. I hope in my advocacy for children, I can be as brave as they are! I once heard a commentator say something along the lines of, "There are those that take up the fight to right wrongs and there are the supporters to stand beside them; the helpers." That's what many of you are for CCH...we may be on the frontlines working with hurting children, but you stand beside us...and we couldn't do what we do without you!

Over 100 awesome volunteers (helpers) proved that point last Saturday when they helped us pull off our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Chicken BBQ Dinner served at Northside Elementary. We are so very thankful and blessed that they let us invade their cafeteria year after year to serve 1,500 plates to a few of our closest friend. I'd like to do a few 'shout outs' to some of our helpers.

Alexander Farms for donating the chicken halves...Little Pigs BBQ for the delicious coleslaw...Aramark for the baked beans and chips...Rock Springs Redeemed Sunday School Class for sponsoring the cookies...Flowers Bakery for the rolls...Quality Coffee Service for the Tea and Lemonade!

Daryl Justice for spending countless hours getting the BBQ Pit ready and for serving as our Pit Boss for the day slow grilling 1,500 chicken halves...Rusty Guill with Clemson University for ALL he did securing so many awesome Clemson students to help cook the chicken and serve (even on a game day!)...Curt Davis and BK Seabolt who have helped with this event for 35 years...Paw's Diner for donating all the breakfast items for us to prepare breakfast for our cooks...Cindi Gosnell, Anne Rackley and the 3 awesome Hamilton Career Center Culinary Art students that Rodney Quick sent over...Kelly McCormick and Hepsibah Baptist Church for taking charge of the kitchen at Northside and ensuring our BBQ ran so efficiently...Melanie Guill for working diligently at the registration table...Mike Pelfrey and Richard Gibson for their help as spouses who get roped into helping every event we have and then some...the Cosmopolitan Woman's Club ladies that bagged 3,000 cookies...Ed Pekarek for the firewood...just to name a few!

And for each of you that came out to enjoy a delicious chicken plate and fellowship with us. Last but not least, our amazing, outstanding, awesome, sponsors...your financial and/or in-kind support of this event truly 'helped' it be the success it was. Because of everyone named above and so many others I don't have

the space to thank we exceeded our goal of \$40,000. THANK YOU for being our helpers and coming along side us to love and support our children!