

Happy Good Friday! On behalf of everyone here at Collins Children's Home, I hope you have a beautiful Easter weekend! And for those of you with children, I hope you're enjoying a great Spring Break (don't even think about how quickly Monday is approaching ☺).

### ***Spring break & camping...***

For the most part, it's been quiet on campus this week as our houseparents, Tina and the kids left for their annual camping trip last Saturday. One of my favorite things about their trip is hearing about all their adventures the next week. I have to give a great big pat on the back to Tina and Crystal for all their hard work each year getting ready for this awesome memory-building week. The kids have a blast each year recounting all the fun outdoor adventures...from hiking and fishing to paddle-boating; camping is a great way to enjoy these activities. And camping helps our kids feel capable and confident. Teaching kids how to pitch a tent, fish and cook over a campfire are great ways to build confidence and independence in children (with supervision obviously).

### ***Easter...***

Wrapping up a fun-filled week of camping, they're returning Friday to enjoy an Easter egg hunt, lunch and boating day with friends from Waterford Pointe who've been collecting spring time goodies for our kids. The generosity of people in our surrounding area never ceases to amaze me.

Easter brings a beautiful message for us as Christians, but especially for children and teens in our care. Just like the resurrection tells us that Jesus's story isn't over we can teach our children theirs isn't either; there is hope for them and their future. Even when our plans may be dashed and we can't see beyond our own overwhelming sense of loss in the moment; there is hope.

We are also thankful to the Cosmopolitan Woman's Club for their continued faith, love and support for our children. Again this year, talented members assembled Easter baskets with personal touches for each of our kids. And for the camping trip, they also provided a new basketball, football and lawn games. We are blessed to have a group of ladies who care so deeply for our ministry to hurting children.

We give thanks daily for a community that works alongside us to love, nurture and provide hope for our kids.

Please join us at 8 am Tuesday, April 18 for "Prayer at the Flagpole" on our campus at 110 Collins Home Drive, Seneca, SC. A tour of our homes will be available at 9 am. Coffee and doughnuts will be served afterward.