



A Newsletter for Friends of Family Shelter

Family Matters

Summer 2014

www.columbiafamilyshelter.org

FAMILY SHELTER

Shelter Alumni Gather to Discuss Ways to Give Back

By Lisa & David Hodges, Former Family Shelter Residents



Front L to R: Dorthea Nixon, Michelle Hymes, Donna Jones; Rear L to R: David Hodges, Lisa Hodges, Jessica Wilkinson, Sharonta Simpson, Moses Simpson

The new [Alumni Advisory Committee](#) had their kick-off meeting on Saturday, April 5, 2014. 8 alumni, 2 married couples and 4 single mothers, all former residents of the shelter, gathered together to discuss how the Family Shelter helped them and what they could do to give back.

The alumni passionately discussed the sense of community and support they received during their time of need. It was important to know that there were others who were there to help; therefore, the alumni wish to give back by putting a Buddy Program in place. The Buddy Program will provide current residents of the shelter with someone they can talk to who has been in their position to provide

emotional support, encouragement, and above all else—hope. Miss Angela, the Family Services Director, will match residents with alumni buddies based on who she thinks may be a good match of personalities and life experiences.

The Alumni committee will be called upon for future projects for their input in bringing about positive changes for the residents of Family Shelter and will have a chance to provide ideas and input into the design of the new Community Building that will be built later this year. It is important to keep in mind that we must all work together and support one another.

New Enrichment Programs Offered for Parents & Children

By Angela Culbreath, Family Services Director

It is both an honor and a privilege to share news about the wonderful activities and enrichment opportunities we now offer our resident families. The new [Rising Families support group](#) (named by our residents) meets weekly and provides non-working adults an opportunity to discuss various challenges and receive understanding and inspiration from each other.

On Wednesday nights, we offer simultaneous programs for parents and children. Our [Parent Education class](#) is for all current and some former adult residents. The class rotates topics between financial literacy and life skills. Residents learn about budgeting, credit reports, coupon clipping, and the importance of having good spending habits as well as self-care, stress management, parenting, and family values.

While the adults are busy learning, music students from USC bring instruments to sing, laugh, and create great fun, which the children look forward to every week. While the children 7 and older are enjoying [music class](#), the younger children participate in a special [storytime](#) to promote reading and literacy skills.

In addition to our enriching Wednesday programs, we now have volunteer [Homework Helpers](#) on weekday afternoons and regular unstructured [playtime for the kids](#) with various college student groups. We are excited to offer our families opportunities for fun and laughter while engaging in lifelong learning. All of these programs are possible because of the generosity, dedication, and time of individual and group volunteers; too many to list here, but thank you to each and every one!





Builder and Architect Selected for New Community Building

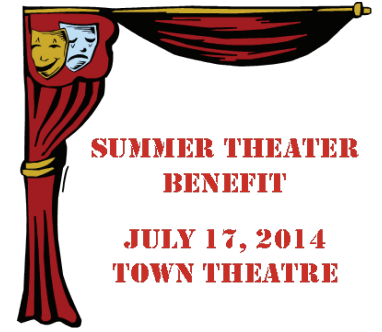
By Lawrence Hershon, Board Member & Building Committee Chair

The Building Committee is off to a fast and exciting start in 2014! Thanks to a generous pledge from Shandon United Methodist Church's 2013 Capital Campaign, we are moving full speed ahead on the construction of a new Community Building on our campus.

We are happy to announce we have selected Bobbitt Design Build as our contractor and The Boudreaux Group as our architect. Bobbitt has generously offered to take on our project as their community service project for 2014 and

is donating pre-construction services and forgoing their profits on the project. Boudreaux has also offered to forgo profits on the project and has donated services as well. We are extremely grateful for the service-minded approach of both firms who want to help us improve the facility for the families we serve.

We expect to have a site plan by early summer and are aiming to break ground this fall. Stay tuned to our website, Facebook, and Twitter for updates!



SUMMER THEATER BENEFIT

JULY 17, 2014
TOWN THEATRE

Join us for the delightful and always entertaining story of **Peter Pan!**

Use the ticket form in this newsletter or buy online:

columbiafamilyshelter.org

***Our Mission:** To provide emergency shelter in a stable living environment for homeless children and their parents and help our residents build life skills needed to regain independence. It is our vision to be the most supportive emergency shelter in the Midlands for homeless families. By strengthening the family, we strive for 100% of active program participants to move to a life of independence.*

We're Building Community, Will You Help Spread the Word?

By Rebecca Jacobson, Executive Director



Fulltime Staff L to R: Danielle Mullins, BSW, Case Manager; Tiffany McIntyre, Administrative Assistant; Angela Culbreath, LPC, Family Services Director; Rebecca Jacobson, MPH, Executive Director; Nick Washington, Family & Youth Program Manager; Not pictured: Edward Holiday, Custodian; Kenshundra Goodman, Lanita Patterson, and Toy Pilot, Human Services Assistants (Night/Weekend Relief Staff)

The April Alumni meeting was one of the most poignant experiences in my nearly 2-year tenure as Executive Director. To sit around a table with former residents praising the value of Family Shelter in their family's lives and asking how they could give back literally brought me to tears. The sense of community that has been building over the past year was evident from these former residents, all living independently now and giving up their personal time on a Saturday to come back and discuss how they can help other families experiencing what they've already been through.

Getting to this point in our program has been a collaborative effort. Our many donors, friends, and volunteers help make it all possible. Our intensely committed Board of Directors truly exemplifies the meaning "a working Board." My compassionate and hard-working staff, fulltime and part-time, weathers many storms with our families

and remains unwavering in their dedication to help improve the lives of the families we serve.

I ask all of you who feel moved by our work or called to pitch in to become ambassadors for Family Shelter in any of these ways:

- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- Forward our e-news
- Tell people about us
- Tour the shelter and bring friends
- Attend our events
- As we say on Page 3, volunteer, donate, and shop for the shelter! Every bit of support you can offer helps us achieve our mission for homeless families in the Midlands.

Thanks for your support and have a great summer!



Volunteer, Donate, and Shop for the Shelter!

Volunteers are Vital

Volunteers support our operation in a variety of ways: helping in the office, on the grounds, with family programs, and even running errands and grocery shopping!

During the 18-month period of our most recent audit, our gracious and dedicated volunteers logged an amazing **1,472 volunteer hours**.

Special thanks to the following individuals and groups who have been volunteering weekly or monthly for more than one year:

Cynthia Dew, Julian Dew,
Delawese Fulton, Bruce Jones,
Lou Ann Jones, Sarah Pregnall
Oak Grove Baptist Church
Zion Chapel Baptist Church

To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit the [Volunteer page on our website](#) or contact [Nick Washington](#), 771-7040, nick@columbiafamilyshelter.org.



Thank You to our Wish List Donors

It takes a whole lot of supplies to support the daily living needs of 35-50 adults and children! Thank you to the many people and groups who respond to our Wish List needs. To donate or host a supply drive, visit the [Wish List page on our website](#).

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Your purchases on Amazon's charitable mirror site can earn income for Family Shelter.

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5. Enter #40118 or Family Shelter; select Family Shelter from list and click confirm
6. Verify Family Shelter shows on right side of your info page



\$15 ALL AGES

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE at columbiafamilyshelter.org/events OR
Mail this form with payment to Family Shelter, 2411 Two Notch Road, Columbia SC 29204

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THEATRE
BENEFIT
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Please Donate Generously. We are the only emergency shelter in the Midlands that serves homeless families, including fathers.



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Is this donation _____ an Honorarium or _____ Memorial?

If yes, please include person's name and notification information:

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Mail this form with your donation to: [2411 Two Notch Road, Columbia SC 29204](http://2411TwoNotchRoad.com)

- OR - DONATE ONLINE at www.columbiafamilyshelter.org/donate