



Children's Home Society
OF NORTH CAROLINA

CAROLINA *Children*

North Carolina's Leading Resource in Adoption and Foster Care®

fall

2010

A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

NEW LEGISLATION EXPANDS
POST ADOPTION SERVICES

BOULEVARD CENTER GRAND
OPENING

PARENTING UNDER TWO ROOFS

CHS HOLIDAY CARDS ARE HERE!



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Fall is upon us, and it is hard to believe how fast this year is passing. The integration of programs and staff from Family Life Council and Youth Homes has progressed rapidly, and the “new” CHS is growing by leaps and bounds.

This year has been one of great transition for the agency with one of the biggest changes being in the leadership of programs. This coming January, we will say goodbye to Sandy Cook as she retires and celebrate with Frank Crawford as he assumes full leadership of the child welfare programs of CHS.

I first met Sandy in the early 80s at a foster parent luncheon before I was even on the board at CHS. From that day forward, I knew she was a force to be reckoned with. We have spent a great deal of time together over the last 19 years, and it is incredibly hard to imagine CHS without Sandy being a big part of the picture. However, we are well poised for success under Frank’s guidance and leadership.

Frank brings a wealth of experience as the former Executive Director of Youth Homes with more than 20 years of experience in the child welfare system. Over the summer, Frank and his staff have been hard at work restructuring the internal organization of our programs to more easily integrate programs statewide. This new structure will streamline the supervision of field staff and enable CHS programs to have greater impact on more children and families.

CHS has been blessed with strong leadership, a dedicated staff, and a “family” of supporters that reaches far and wide. We are getting ready to enter the 82nd year of the Little Red Stocking Campaign, and now, more than ever before, your support is critical. The needs of the children and families we serve continue to increase, and our agency must continue to grow in order to meet those needs; but we cannot do it without your help.

Your investment in the Little Red Stocking Campaign will help change the lives of thousands of individuals right here in North Carolina. Be on the lookout for the Little Red Stocking mailer, which you will be receiving in early November, or visit our website at www.chsnc.org to find out how you can make a difference today.

Thank you for being a part of the CHS family.


KEN TUTTEROW
CEO & President

CHS is a statewide, nonprofit, non-sectarian, private agency serving children and families in North Carolina. CHS is licensed by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services; accredited by the Council on Accreditation for Children and Family Services; a member of the Child Welfare League of America; and a member of the Children and Family Services Association of NC. An individual plan will be made to address the circumstances of any person who has special communication needs or language barriers. CHS has a commitment to respond to each client with respect and to ensure quality services and equal application of policies and procedures. All client information and contacts are handled confidentially. A copy of the CHS grievance policy is available to any client upon request. CHS does not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, political belief, religion, or mental or physical disability.



A Legacy of Leadership

Sandy Cook has become something of an institution around CHS. Starting as a social worker in 1974, Sandy has been a part of the CHS family for almost 37 years.

Sandy's career began with Buncombe County DSS in 1966. In 1974, Sandy came to CHS as a social worker in the Asheville area. Over the years, she served as an area supervisor in both Asheville and Raleigh before moving to Greensboro in 1984 and becoming the agency's Executive Director in 1991.

"One of my favorite quotes is Ecclesiastes 3:1. For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under Heaven," said Sandy. "And as hard as it is to imagine not being at CHS, it's definitely my time to leave."

"I cannot imagine being CEO without Sandy as my partner," said Ken Tutterow, CHS CEO. "The structure of

having both a CEO and an Executive Director was new when we implemented it. However, we both brought such unique skills and knowledge that the partnership was bound to be successful. Sandy brings great perspective on how things affect our clients and our staff. Together we have always kept the agency committed to doing the right thing for children and families in North Carolina."

During Sandy's tenure, CHS has undergone many changes including the establishment of the Adoption Resource Center in Greensboro, enormous staff growth of the agency, the establishment of strong foster care programs in the Triad and the Fayetteville area, and most recently the mergers with Family Life Council and Youth Homes. With her guidance, CHS was able to transition its focus from infant adoption to older child adoption resulting in 2,899 children finding what they need most in this world – a family to call their own.

According to Sandy, some of the accomplishments in her career include ensuring that every member of the CHS board and staff know and can recite the agency's mission and eliminating the use of the phrase "foster kids" in the vocabulary of anyone affiliated with CHS. She also notes that playing a key role in the passage of legislation to allow adults adoptees to gain access to their birth family records and seeing the development of private/public partnerships develop between DSS and CHS were important steps she wanted to accomplish before she retired.

"We have made great strides in child welfare services but there is still so much more to do. So much has changed in the child welfare world but some of the same challenges we faced in 1966 we still face today. I only wish I could have done more for more children," said Sandy.

Frank Crawford has been working closely with Sandy throughout this year to make the leadership transition as seamless as possible and to complete the integration of Family Life Council and Youth Homes' programming with CHS' legacy programs and services.

continues next page



“In my 20 plus years of working with and around Sandy, I cannot recall a single instance in which I did not feel comfortable approaching her to pick her brain about the dilemma of the day. Sandy practices what I consider ‘old school’ social work - grounded in strong ethics and the best interests of those we serve – but at the same time, she has been a leader in our field in terms of developing innovative service delivery,” said Frank. “I have learned much from her, and I know I will never be able to fill the large shoes she leaves behind for me.”

According to Sandy, the past twelve months of hard work and the relationship she has developed with Frank have both been incredibly valuable and rewarding. “Although it has been a challenge to ‘let go,’ I am ready to pass the torch to Frank. I know I have learned so much from Ken, and I have full confidence that he and Frank will continue to lead and inspire the child welfare world to benefit children and families across the state. It has been a blessing to work with both of them.”

Sandy says she feels good about her retirement knowing that through her career she has made a positive impact in the world. “Over the last 37 years, seeing so many children and families connect has made my heart sing. I have been blessed with not just a wonderful agency but also so many wonderful colleagues who have inspired me in so many

ways. It’s been an honor and privilege to be associated with CHS,” said Sandy.

“The year 2010 has been a year of great changes at CHS but also one of great promise. I may be transitioning out of my leadership role, but I am so excited for the future of CHS and the agency’s ability to quickly change and innovate to respond to the needs of families,” said Sandy.

With the mergers of Family Life Council and Youth Homes, CHS now provides one of the most comprehensive and seamless child welfare continuums in the state. Through CHS, families can access a wealth of child welfare services - parenting education, family preservation, teen pregnancy prevention, foster care, adoption, and family support services - all from one agency.

“The staff and board are an incredible team who make CHS the leader in child welfare that it is. CHS is well poised for great success in the future,” said Sandy. “I may not be on staff, but I will always be proud to be associated with this agency, and I will always hold CHS near and dear to my heart.” Sandy will officially retire in January 2011.

CHS invites you to make a contribution in honor of Sandy Cook in recognition of her impact on children and families over the last 37 years here at CHS. Please see page 9 for details on how you can make a contribution today.

CHS Launches Web-Based Database of Children & Families

This summer, CHS launched an innovative new searchable web database of children available for adoption and families waiting to adopt.

Updated daily, this database has huge potential to shorten the matching process and more quickly connect children with waiting families. This database will also enable waiting families to quickly, easily, and efficiently search for children who are waiting to be adopted.

Families can simply enter the characteristics of the type of child they are searching for, and a list containing photographs and short biographies of matching children will be created. From there, families can view the children in greater detail, watch the child’s Adoption Chronicle video, and request additional information on the child.



Social workers, DSS, and other placement agencies will also be able to search for families who meet the needs of the children on their caseload who are waiting for permanent, loving families of their own. Social workers can enter characteristics of the child and the type of family they are searching for, and this database will provide a detailed list with information on potential matches.

You can access the database by visiting www.chsnc.org and clicking on “Meet Waiting Children” or “Meet Waiting Families.”

New Legislation Expands Post Adoption Services

New legislation, effective 10/1/2010, is expanding access to the CHS Confidential Intermediary Program.

The Confidential Intermediary Program allows CHS to act as a confidential intermediary for a biological parent, adult adoptee, or adult lineal descendant of a deceased adoptee in order to obtain and share non-identifying birth family information. If both parties want contact, CHS may share identifying information.

With the new legislation, services will now be available to adoptees 18 years of age and older. In addition, if a birth parent is deceased, adult birth family members may now be contacted without a court order. CHS may now agree to act

as a confidential intermediary for specified family members of a deceased adoptee or birth parent or with written consent of a living adoptee or birth parent. In addition, if a birth parent is deceased, CHS can attempt to secure a death certificate and deliver it to the person who requested services.

We recommend that all of those who enter the Intermediary Program prepare themselves for this very emotional journey by reading adoption-related materials and by joining local adoption groups or online groups. You may also consider consultation with a counselor who is familiar with adoption issues.

For more information on our family support and post adoption services, please visit www.chsnc.org or call 1-800-632-1400.

ILDERTON'S HIGH POINT BEACH MUSIC BLAST

Thank you to everyone who attended our second Ilderton's Beach Music Blast concert series in High Point! It was a tremendous success!

The Ilderton's Beach Music Blast concert series ran every Thursday from September 9 to September 30 in uptown High Point. Featuring some of the best of Carolina Beach music, fans enjoyed music by

Chairmen of the Board, the Craig Woolard Band, the Embers, and the Band of Oz.

Thank you to our sponsors, our volunteers, and to all the beach music fans who put on their shagging shoes and joined CHS in raising awareness of the needs of children in foster care, along with much needed funding to support our work statewide.

ILDERTON
CHRYSLER Jeep DODGE





give children hope

Little Red Stocking Season is Upon Us

Though the temperatures are just cooling off, the holiday season is fast approaching. Each year, we rely on our supporters to help provide hope for children awaiting adoption and children living in foster care. You can make a difference this year by supporting the 82nd annual Little Red Stocking campaign online at www.chsnc.org, answering the Little Red Stocking holiday appeal you will receive in the mail in early November, or by visiting a participating retailer and purchasing a Little Red Stocking this season.

An exciting new way you can make a difference is to partner with CHS this holiday season and promote the work of the agency through your personal Facebook page or Twitter account. CHS would love to count on you as a “Little Red Stocking Champion” to help us raise awareness and much-needed funds to support children living in foster care. This is a simple, easy, and fast way you can make a difference this holiday season.

If you are interested in becoming a LRS Champion, please contact Becky Wrisley at bwrisley@chsnc.org.

In addition, CHS invites you to help promote our cause by connecting your holiday festivities to the Little Red Stocking Campaign. You do not have to do anything special or plan an extra holiday event; simply turn a family dinner or party for friends into a Little Red Stocking celebration by asking them to bring a contribution for CHS. CHS has invitations, table toppers, and other materials to help you promote our mission. You can access materials for your Little Red Stocking party online after November 1, or you can call 1-800-632-1400, ext. 207 and request for materials to be sent to you.



LITTLE RED STOCKING FUND



CHILDREN AWAITING Adoption

Please visit www.chsnc.org for more information about these and many other children who are available for adoption.



Brandon
AGE 16



Mindy
AGE 10



Adron
AGE 10



Breanna
AGE 13

Champion SHOWCASE



CHS thanks all of our champions for children who sponsor and support our services and programs!



CHS was awarded \$49,000 from the Lincoln Financial Foundation to support the development of the Guilford Youth Empowerment Center project. This project will be a resource center for youth aging out of the foster care system. CHS hopes to have the center open by the summer of 2011. This is a great investment to help us secure staff, mobilize community support, and design the program/service structure of the center.

Mary Ferebee Howard Endowment Fund

In July, the Mary Ferebee Howard Endowment Fund, a component fund of the North Carolina Community Foundation, provided \$3,000 to help support the CHS Lifeline Fund. The Lifeline Fund helps cover unexpected and often unfunded needs ranging from special educational needs to extracurricular activities for children in the care of CHS adoptive and foster families.



The Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro awarded CHS with a \$3,000 grant. These funds are being used to help integrate the brands and programs of Children's Home Society, Family Life Council, and Youth Homes. This funding will help ensure that Children's Home Society of North Carolina provides one of the most comprehensive and seamless child welfare continuums in the state.



Guilford County Partnership for Children awarded CHS with \$81,000 of SmartStart funding to educate parents and preschool teachers on parent/teacher communication, parenting skills, and family literacy. With this funding, the Family Life Council division will provide valuable workshops throughout Guilford County for more than 500 teachers and parents.



The Landmark Foundation

The Landmark Foundation provided CHS with a Greensboro News & Record Continuing Education award of \$2,500 to create scholarships for Family Life Council's Good Beginnings for Teen Parents graduates. Good Beginnings for Teen Parents is an education program for pregnant and parenting teens. These young parents gain valuable parenting skills that help them provide a safe and nurturing environment for their children.

This spring, the Weaver Foundation provided CHS with a \$5,000 grant to help with the integration of Family Life Council, Youth Homes, and CHS programs. Through the newly merged Children's Home Society of North Carolina, families can access a wealth of child welfare services - parenting education, family preservation, teen pregnancy prevention, foster care, adoption, and family support services - all from one agency.



Youth Homes Boulevard Center Grand Opening

CHS is pleased to announce the grand opening of Youth Homes' division Boulevard Center in Charlotte's Boulevard Homes community. The Boulevard Center is the centerpiece of our new Family Support and Self-Sufficiency Program, which serves the residents of the community.

Launched January 1, the Boulevard Homes project is a collaboration with the Charlotte Housing Authority to provide family strengthening case management to the families in this community. The entire community will be revitalized by moving the families towards self-sufficiency as staff work in partnership with various agencies to assist the families with a variety of needs including employment, education, parenting skills, and health needs.



Face painting was one of the many activities at the Boulevard Center grand opening.

The Boulevard Center facility will also serve as a workspace for CHS Youth Homes division staff as well as a community center for the residents, including a computer lab, meeting space, seniors' room, and kids' play area.

For more information on the Boulevard Center, please visit www.youthhomesinc.org.



Schiffman's
Charity Classic

CHS Charity Bridge Tournament

November 16, 2010

10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Greensboro Country Club

\$50 Entry Fee includes
Bridge, Lunch, and Raffle Prizes!

Join us and enjoy a friendly game of bridge for a great cause. Don't play bridge? Bring a team and your favorite card or board game.

You can register by calling 1-800-632-1400, ext. 556. All proceeds benefit CHS.

Sponsored by Schiffman's Jewelers

For the past 22 years, Family Life Council's Parenting Children of Divorce

workshop has helped thousands of parents learn to cooperate and protect their children from conflict during the separation and divorce process. This month, the highly regarded workshop is transitioning to its new name and format - Parenting Under Two Roofs. The workshop will continue to help separating and divorcing parents, but it has been adapted to also address the unique challenges of families where a child's parents have never married.

Today, divorce is very commonplace. It affects millions of children who not only experience the end of their own parents' marriage, but also frequently become a part of a stepfamily - all within a short period. Additionally, more than 40% of children in NC are born to parents who are never married to each other.

The issues a child must deal with during a divorce, or as the result of splitting his/her time with two parents living separately, can be overwhelming and even traumatic for the child. However, there is ample research to suggest that

PARENTING UNDER TWO ROOFS

children do best when their separating/divorcing parents treat each other respectfully and civilly. Parenting Under Two Roofs is designed to tackle these issues by teaching parents more effective communication skills and helping them realize the impact of their actions on their child.

The updated Parenting Under Two Roofs workshop utilizes the latest research and cites the best of dozens of guidebooks written for divorcing or never-married parents. Key legal terms, the role of the courts, and alternative legal approaches that minimize conflict are also explored.

In the new adapted program, parents are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their actions and to recognize limits of control over the other household. Like the original program, Parenting Under Two Roofs discourages parents from pursuing lengthy court battles that cause more animosity and harm children.

Parenting Under Two Roofs is offered twice a month: the second and third Thursday of the month, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, and the first Saturday of the month, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. There is a \$40 fee per participant and registration is required. For more information, please visit www.flcgs.com.



In Recognition



CHS invites you to make a special contribution in honor of Sandy Cook and her dedication to improving the lives of children and families statewide. Sandy's impact has been long lasting on CHS and on the adoption community as a whole.

You can make a contribution online or by mailing in the form below. Thank you for all you do to support children and families in North Carolina.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

GIFT AMOUNT _____ Check MasterCard Visa

CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD _____



Fourth Annual
Children's Home Society
Charity Classic

We are pleased to invite you to participate in the fourth annual Children's Home Society Charity Classic in Wilmington! This year's tournament will be held on Monday, October 18 at the Country Club of Landfall and includes a golf and bridge tournament, a fundraising dinner, a raffle, and a live auction.

Over the past three years, this tournament has raised over \$100,000 through sponsorships and donations. These funds have helped support the programs and services of Children's Home Society and touched the lives of thousands of children awaiting adoption across North Carolina.

Golf Registration: \$250

- One Player - Includes Reception & Dinner
- Two Raffle Tickets
- One \$10K Putting Contest Entry

Bridge Registration: \$50

- One Player - Includes Lunch
- Two Bridge Raffle Tickets

Dinner & Reception: \$75*

- * Special \$50 Spouse/Guest Rate with Golf or Bridge Registration
- Dinner & Reception for One
- One \$10K Putting Contest Entry
- Two Dinner Raffle Tickets

All proceeds benefit CHS. Space is limited, so register today!

For more information, please call 1-800-632-1400, ext. 556.

Thank you to our sponsors!

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Texting and Sexting

It seems like every week we hear about another young celebrity who has been embroiled in a scandal involving explicit photos sent via cell phones or a politician in trouble for sending racy text messages. Much to parents' dismay, this phenomenon, "sexting," is a growing part of their teens' and middle schoolers' lives.

The majority of teens and a growing number of middle schoolers have a personal cell phone or regular access to one. Virtually every cell phone has the capacity to take photos and videos. That technology in the hands of kids with a limited capacity to think of long term consequences leads to the majority of sexting. Some kids participate in sexting because they are being bullied, to get attention, or because of other serious emotional issues. Many kids think sexting is just another form of flirting. They never even consider how quickly and easily their photo could be spread and how that could haunt them in the future.

Set Limits

Discuss and set limits about your child's use of cell phones. Talk to them about your family rules, and stay aware of how they are using their phone. Remind your child that having a cell phone is a privilege and that they need to treat it as such.

Talk about Consequences

Ask them if they have ever received an inappropriate photo or if someone has asked them to send a photo of themselves. Talk to them about the long-term consequences of sending these photos and remind them that sending nude photos is illegal.

Never Take Racy Photos

The easiest and best way to prevent sexting is to teach your child to never take explicit photos in the first place. Talk to them about respecting the privacy of their bodies. Tell them to never take photos they would not want their friends, teachers, and family to see.

Report

Help your child understand how important it is to report any nude photos they receive. Do not forward the message or delete it. Tell their parents, teachers, or school counselors immediately so proper action can be taken.

If You Find Out Your Child Has Been Sexting...

Explain that they are participating in an illegal activity. Make them stop sending photos immediately, and if they have received any photos, make sure they do not forward them to anyone else. Stay calm, be supportive, and learn as much as you can about their sexting habits. Try to find out if they were coerced into sending the photos or if they were doing it as a way of flirting. Let them know sexting is not acceptable in any way, shape, or form.

APRIL 1, 2010 -
JULY 31, 2010

CAROLINA *Children* ONLINE



Are you signed up to receive *Carolina Children Online*? This email newsletter is an extension of our printed *Carolina Children*. It is distributed on a regular basis with special editions released as needed. To sign up, please visit www.chsnc.org!

Gray	Newborn
Kristiana	Age 3
Edward	Newborn
Deontra	Age 13
Demetrice	Age 15
Malachi	Age 2
Shy'Leek	Age 3
Shy'Nasah	Age 3
Emelia	Newborn
Shy'Reek	Age 3
Jarene	Age 15
Hannah	Age 5
Jacqueline	Age 10
Jaiden	Age 4
Piper	Newborn
Consonna	Age 7
Roy	Age 1
Emily	Age 9
Sarah	Age 7
Makeya	Age 12
Alexis	Age 10
Isaac	Age 8
Brandon	Age 14
Sarah	Newborn
April	Age 12
Shania	Age 6
Jorge	Age 4
Lueugene	Age 4
Jaquante	Age 6
Gabriel	Age 9
Armando	Age 6
Noel	Newborn
Estella	Age 15
Natalie	Age 12
Precious	Age 12
Dalton	Age 9
Lily	Newborn
Isiah	Age 1
Justin	Age 18

at a glance

CLIENTS SERVED

AUGUST 1, 2009 - JULY 31, 2010

Total Families and Children Served	6,697
Families Interested in or Seeking Adoption	3,630
Birth Families Seeking Assistance	160
Adoptive Placements	201
Families Interested in Providing Foster Care	867
Children with Foster Families	259
Total Days of Foster Care Provided	33,311
Clients Seeking Post Adoption Services	1,461



Children's Home Society
OF NORTH CAROLINA



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www.chsnc.org.

Financial information about this organization and a copy of its license are available from the State Solicitation Licensing Branch at 1-888-830-4989. This license is not an endorsement by the State.



CHS Holiday Cards Are Here!

The holidays will be here before we know it! CHS holiday greeting cards are now on sale. All proceeds from card sales support our adoption and foster care services.

This year, the cards feature the artwork of Katherine Dayton, assistant art director for *Our State Magazine*. Using only a blank piece of paper and graphite pencil, Katherine likes to make memories come alive. One pencil mark becomes thousands as she creates a memory her clients will hold dear.

"I created the art for the CHS holiday card as a way to show my support for all the work the agency does on behalf of our state's children and families," said Katherine. "It has been an honor to work with such a wonderful and compassionate group of individuals."

Katherine has over 10 years experience as a graphic and fine artist. She received a B.A. in fine art with a concentration in graphic design in 2001 from Meredith College in Raleigh, N.C. You can read more about Katherine at www.pencilparlor.com.

This year, the CHS holiday card features the inside message of, "Wishing you every happiness this Holiday Season and throughout the coming year!" CHS sends our warmest thanks to Katherine for her beautiful artwork!

Cards are available in sets of 20 cards/envelopes for \$25 (includes shipping and handling). To order, please call 1-800-632-1400, or order online at www.chsnc.org!

