

## Boys Adopted on the "Happiest Day of Our Lives"

"You are here. You are not going anywhere. You belong. You are a member of our family, forever. This is what we tell Adrian and Martin daily," says Wendy Cardenas. After providing Adrian, 5, and Martin, 7, with a loving and nurturing foster family for 1,596 days while their adoption was finalized, Wendy and husband Patrick became a forever family to the boys on August 20.

Wendy comes with a family history of fostering to adopt. Her grandparents were foster parents for 35 years, and adopted one of the children they fostered.

"It comes with its challenges, but it is well worth it. The boys are doing great, and we know they will continue to. We are extremely blessed. They have brought so much joy to our lives," Wendy says.



"The very best decision we ever made was to call CHS. CHS spends so much time making sure they find just the right family for the child."

CHS has been finding just the right family for the child since 1902, and has done so for more than 15,000 children over its history.

### 7-year-old Martin Cardenas' speech to the judge who finalized his and his brother's adoptions.

*Good Morning, Your Honor:*

*Thank you for letting me speak to you. I just wanted to let you know a little bit about what today means for me.*

*At first, I was afraid because I thought I would be alone if I fought or I was bad. I thought I would be separated from my brother.*

*I was also lonely because we had no family. We had to learn to make choices on our own as kids. We needed grownups to help us do better and make our hearts have more love.*

*I always wished for a family to have someone who cared about us and who we could trust and who could take care of me and my brother.*

*There was nothing we could do even though we wanted to be part of a family so badly. Today is probably going to be the happiest day of our lives.*

*My one wish would be for everyone to have the best family and a happiest day too!*

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Brian Maness  
President & CEO

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There are many ways we can measure the success of our work. From numbers served, to stringently reviewed outcomes, to post-test materials - all of these measurements are important feedback that influence our work and planning. But, for me, the most important measures are contained in the pages of this newsletter. It is the story of family that gets me up every morning and children who need our help that keep me up every night. The lives we change, the families we create - these are the true measures of our success.



Brian Maness

Adrian and Martin's story of their forever family is just one of the hundreds we will create together this year. Toby, Mikayla, Joey and the names you see listed on page seven are children whose lives are forever better, thanks to your support of CHS. Oftentimes, we get caught up in numbers and forget to look at the names. I encourage you to cut out the list of adopted children, post it somewhere you will see it often, and remember that each of those children is a real person whose future you helped change.

As we look towards the holiday season, I hope you will join me in making more of these stories. You will soon see our Little Red Stocking campaign materials arriving in your mailbox. When you do, go back and find that list of children and remind yourself of why you make that gift. On behalf of Adrian, Martin, Toby, Mikayla, Joey and all of their families, thank you.

My Best,

Brian Maness,  
President & CEO

## QUESTIONS from one of our children entering foster care...

CHS has more than 300 children living with our foster care families every night. Just imagine what these children of all ages are thinking as they join an unknown family. This is what was on the mind of a 9-year-old boy coming into our care.

- 1 Do they have pets
- 2 Do they have uther kids
- 3 Are the nice
- 4 Are there game systems.
- 5 Do they have Dses
- 6 Can I buy closo (clothes) (buy)
- 7 Do they have tvs in all rooms
- 8 Do they have bikes
- 9 Do they have fun stuff
- 10 Do they go on trips
- 11 Do they have cabelex
- 12 Do we have a lowensx
- 13 will I have a roommate
- 14 can I play a sportx

# Family Provided a Loving Home for 16 Babies

"We took the babies everywhere we went. When we went to see my parents in Durham, when we went to church, when we went on vacation, the babies came with us. They were part of our family when they were with our family," says Barbara Riddle.

Barbara and Stacy Riddle "hosted" 16 infants for Children's Home Society back in the 1960s. "Hosting" meant that for days, weeks, or months Barbara woke up in the middle of the night and fed and rocked infants whose adoptions were soon to be finalized. Cindy, their oldest daughter, was a big help in caring for the infants. Her brother and sister, John and Elizabeth, also played with the babies who slept in the same crib that the Riddle children had slept in as infants.



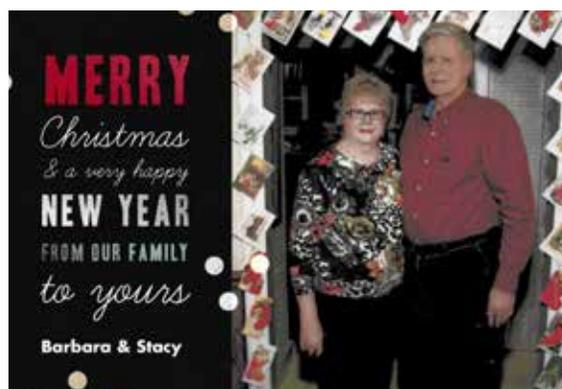
Barbara had no idea Children's Home Society existed until her church organized a clothing collection for CHS infants. Barbara brought clothes to CHS and was invited to peek into the nursery. Before she knew it, she was volunteering to host a baby before he joined his forever family. Knowing they were never hers forever, Barbara loved having each of these 16 babies in her life for a short time.

Before Barbara brought her first baby, "Tommy," back to CHS to go home with his forever family, she cried and prayed for him. Then she brought home "Tammy" and gave her a bath and opened her heart for a few more sleepless nights, and then came a little more crying and praying.

As a grandmother of eight and a great grandmother of eight more, Barbara's favorite Mother's Day gift is a scrapbook given to her by Cindy. The scrapbook has pictures of each baby, their nickname (one baby was named after Elizabeth's Eege doll because of her wild hair), their birth dates, weight, and special milestones.

After 64 years of marriage, their memories of hosting CHS babies are special to the Riddles. They have a big family that they see every other year at reunions, and they also have their babies that are out there in the world.

Since 1902, Children's Home Society has been about a society of people who care about children. We are grateful to the Riddle family for sharing their love and their home with these babies throughout the 60s.



## "A Baby Changes Everything"

Every family has a story and a precious part of our story includes 16 babies. In the early 1960's, our family served as a temporary family for the Children's Home Society. We loved and cared for these babies until they were adopted. This Christmas, surrounded by Little Red Stocking cards from the Children's Home, we wish you a very merry Christmas and happy memories of your Christmases past.

– Barbara & Stacy

**We would love to hear from you!**  
**Do you have a CHS story you would like to share?**  
Please contact [Marketing@chsnc.org](mailto:Marketing@chsnc.org).

Barbara and Stacy's Little Red Stocking cards remind us that the holiday season is fast approaching. We rely on Little Red Stocking gifts to provide hope for North Carolina's children and families throughout the year. Once again, you can make a difference this year by supporting the 87th annual Little Red Stocking campaign online at [www.chsnc.org](http://www.chsnc.org), by calling **1-800-632-1400** or by answering the Little Red Stocking holiday appeal you will receive in the mail in early November. Thank you for making a difference in the life of a child!



# CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION



*Lawrence, 11*



*Amanda, 17*



*Daysha, 14*



*Haley, 17*

Please visit [www.chsnc.org](http://www.chsnc.org) for more information about these and many other children who are available for adoption.

## Hope for the Holidays

The holiday season is upon us! Here at CHS, the holidays remind us of so much: traditions, love, and most of all, family. But for many of the children and families we serve, the holidays can be less than joyful. This year, help make a child's holiday merry and bright by participating in our Hope for the Holidays toy drive.



Each year, Children's Home Society collects and distributes gifts to more than 300 children who live with CHS-licensed foster families to fill their holiday full of joy and hope. Check out some of the ways you can help make an impact in your community below.

### Donate

We ask that each sponsor fulfill a child's wish list for holiday gifts by spending a pre-determined amount for each child based on age. Your local CHS office will provide you with a specific wish list for a child in your community. Once fulfilled, return the unwrapped gifts to your local CHS office. We also accept gift card donations to stores such as Walmart and Target. Additionally, donors can make financial contributions to support children throughout the year.

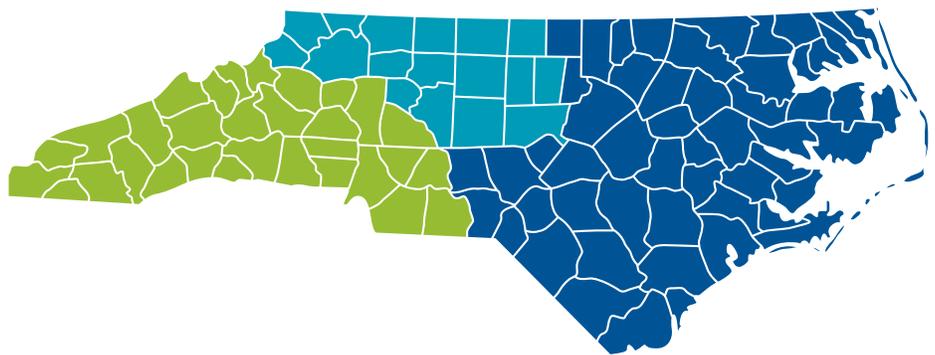
### Volunteer

Volunteer coordinators are needed in Greensboro, Charlotte and Raleigh, and duties will primarily include volunteer management, family matching, gift organization, and other miscellaneous tasks. Candidates must be available at least 20 hours per week, and be available through Friday, December 18, 2015. If interested, email [volunteer@chsnc.org](mailto:volunteer@chsnc.org).

### Corporate Partners

Looking for a way to engage your employees and build team morale? Request a group of wish lists from your local CHS chapter and encourage your employees to participate. As an organization, you can make a larger impact to many families throughout your region. Additionally, companies can make financial contributions to support children throughout the year.

*Please join us in making holiday wishes come true for these deserving children!*



Betsy Seaton – Corporate Partners and Volunteers  
1-800-632-1400, ext. 553  
[bseaton@chsnc.org](mailto:bseaton@chsnc.org)

#### Katrina LeFlore – West

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#### Shannon Johnson – Central

1-800-632-1400, ext. 303  
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#### Hope Newsome – East

(919) 609-7395  
[hnewsome@chsnc.org](mailto:hnewsome@chsnc.org)

# Wise Guys Receives \$3 Million Grant

CHS has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Adolescent Health (OAH) to implement and evaluate our Wise Guys program in Iredell-Statesville Schools.

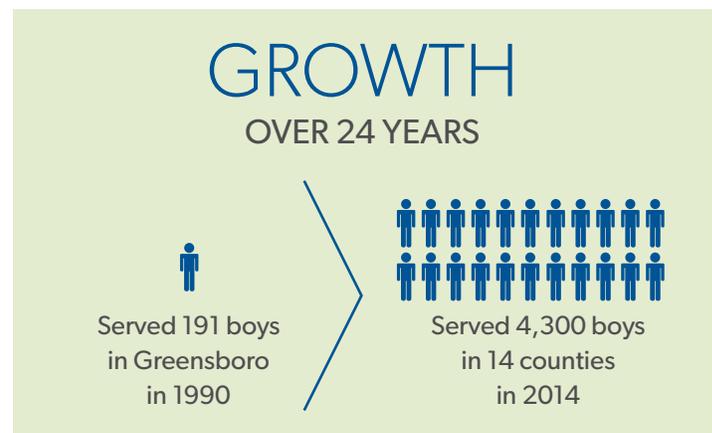
Wise Guys, created in 1990, is an innovative male responsibility and teen pregnancy prevention program. This interactive, engaging and informative approach is designed to help male adolescents make wiser and more responsible decisions.

"This grant is of particular significance because it will allow us to evaluate an adapted Wise Guys model that has been years in the making," said CHS President & CEO Brian Maness. "Major investments through the acclaimed Social Innovation Fund, along with support from leading foundations, have allowed us to expand the program to more communities in North Carolina in recent years. This new initiative in Iredell County will allow us to expand even further while also conducting a rigorous evaluation of our impact."

Wise Guys has grown from serving 191 boys in Greensboro in its first year to serving 4,300 boys in 14 counties last year. "This is a continuance of our commitment to build and continually

improve Wise Guys by establishing it as an evidence-based program with the highest level of research," Brian said.

Approximately 300 ninth, 10th and 11th grade males, who would not have otherwise participated in the program, will be recruited each semester for five semesters from high schools in Iredell-Statesville Schools to participate in the evaluation.



# Wise Guys Director Honored with Impact Award

Children's Home Society's Director of Wise Guys Rick Brown has been awarded the 2015 Impact Award by SHIFT NC (Sexual Health Initiatives for Teens). The organization is a statewide nonprofit that has led efforts to improve adolescent and young adult sexual health for 30 years.

The Impact Award honors an individual, organization, or collaboration that has made a significant difference in adolescent pregnancy prevention and sexual health. Brown has been instrumental in leading and growing the Wise Guys program.

"Through his work with Wise Guys, Rick has dedicated his career to ensuring that young men receive sex education that is inclusive and that honors their unique needs," said Kay Phillips, Chief Executive Officer of SHIFT NC. "It has

been my pleasure to know Rick for 20 years during which I have seen him continue to carry the torch for young men across the state."

"From evaluation of the data and interacting with the guys themselves, the program is making an impact," Brown said. "State teen pregnancy rates are falling dramatically.

In the past year alone the decline was 11 percent. As the only program focusing just on males, we've played a unique part in that."



*Kay Phillips presents Impact Award to Rick Brown.*

# Beach Music Fans Have a Blast in Greensboro and High Point

Once again, CHS has shared the familiar sounds of our favorite beach music bands with our fans and supporters. Through this popular fundraiser, people like you helped support the mission of CHS and enjoyed great music, food and fun.

Kicking the summer off, the **Bill Black Beach Music Blast** in Greensboro packed thousands of beach music enthusiasts at our new location on Commerce Place. Bands included Sleeping Booty, The Embers, The Entertainers, Too Much Sylvia, Eric & the Chilltones and Liquid Pleasure. Thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, supporters and our local community, we raised nearly \$180,000!!

In September, we shagged the night away at the Mendenhall Transportation Terminal in High Point at **Ilderton's Beach Music Blast**. Even though summer came to a close, the party was just getting started. Attendees danced each Thursday night to tunes from Part Time Party Time Band, Band of Oz, The Embers and Jim Quick & Coastline.

Every dollar raised helps us continue our work in creating temporary foster homes, find permanency through adoption, and offer family education programs to teens, parents and professionals across our state. As always, thank you for your continued support and we look forward to seeing you at Beach Music Blast next year!



# CHS ADOPTIONS

July 2014 - June 2015

Toby	15	Mikayla	11
Jaiden	5	Thomas	8
Joey	4	Hailey	9
Matthew	12	Dixie	10
Dakota	9	Michael	12
Timothy	8	Carter	Infant
Gray	Infant	Dray'ton	7
Drake	4	Kenneth	3
Autumn	12	Laysha	5
Angel	9	Tyler	5
Raul	8	Lianna	7
Victor	7	Timothy	9
Heaven	5	Chance	16
Hannah	12	Luca	1
Tania	Infant	Gabriel	Infant
David	Infant	Taniyah	3
Jimere	2	Tianna	5
Autumn	2	Stephanie	15
Emma	4	Jamyen	1
Christopher	6	Ke'Ravia	3
Brantley	Infant	Isabella	5
Mila	2	Nataleigh	3
Cameron	4	Chadwick	10
Jackson	11	Callie	1
Karston	9	Kimber	3
Quadair	2	Adrionte	7
Javoni	1	Damarion	6
Quentin	4	Makayla	3
Felicity	8	Layla	Infant
Anna	Infant	Ciera	6
Brennan	5	Isaiah	7
Avian	10	Britney	14
Brian	6	Sophia	5
Bridget	8	Elizabeth	4
Mary	3	Kerri	7
Michael	2	Kimberly	5
Jamel	1	Stephen	4
Dave	Infant	Razen	7
La'Qa'Veil	1	Wanda	Infant
James	6	Isabella	3
Justin	6	Gabbrilla	14
Destiny	1	Brandy	13
Aaliyah	1	Austin	9
William	Infant	James	8
Halen	8	Lymual	10
Kayla	6	Kimberly	10
William	3	Colin	11
Rose	1	Alexis	12
Quinnndre'	2	Damian	12
Christopher	3	Caedmon	6
Michael	9	Bejamin	15
Amazing	10	Anavi	7
Colton	Infant	Samarion	7
Daniel	8	Cali	8
Elijah	2	Meri-Jean	5
Davontae	2	Jaylah	Infant
Journey	8	Lane	9
Rhianna	7	Kamden	2
Aiden	2	Jasmine	Infant
Thomas	3	McKenzie	12
Jeffrey	2	Marquis	9
Hatcher	Infant	Ta'Neal	1
Keyshawn	3	Jah'Mere	6
Charles	6	La'Jarvic	4
Takia	2	Clayton	8
Erik	Infant		

## CHS KIDS PRACTICING

# YOGA

Children in our Child Specific Recruitment program and their potential parents are practicing yoga together.

"We felt our kids could benefit from yoga relaxation, and we wanted to do something different from traditional sports," said Michael Maxwell, Child Specific Recruiter, who is also participating in the yoga sessions. "Yoga is introducing them to the concepts of calm, consciousness, and being in the present."



Yoga participants surround the perfectly-shaped formation of stones created through teamwork.

Clinical studies have shown that yoga not only improves physical fitness in children but also contributes to better academic performance and emotional balance.

### Discussions during the sessions include:

- Speaking positively to others and to one's self.
- Staying calm in the face of negativity and always thinking in the positive.
- Living every day with gratitude.

In the session "Practicing Teamwork," the instructor put out a hula hoop and crystals and asked that the participants lay out the crystals within the hula hoop as a team without speaking. When the hula hoop was removed, a perfect shape that they had created together in silence was revealed. The kids learned that this is what you accomplish when you work with others as a team.

*"Yoga is very relaxing to me and helps take my mind off a lot of stressful things." – Michelle, Yoga Participant*

Child Specific Recruitment is a unique and innovative program that utilizes a highly individualized process to identify adoptive families for children who are older, have had lengthy stays in care, or have specialized needs.

## Get Social with CHS

Be sure to like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter to receive the latest news and updates from CHS!





Children's Home Society  
OF NORTH CAROLINA

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## CHS Holiday Greeting Cards

**CHS holiday cards are on sale now.**

Our cards are created from one-of-a-kind artwork by children in our care. There are two different cards in each set. Inside message: May your holidays be merry and bright!

All proceeds from card sales support our adoption, foster care, and family education services. 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/store](http://www.chsnc.org/store).**



### MISSION

To promote the right of every child to a permanent, safe, and loving family.

### VISION

To be a leader in transforming families and communities so children can thrive.

### CORE VALUES

Compassion. Integrity.  
Excellence. Innovation.