

chs GIVES HOPE AND SUPPORT to adoptive families

By Jenna Hill, CHS Adoptive Parent

The desire to be parents, to love a child, to become a family, did not come easy for us initially. In June of 2015 we decided in order to grow our family we would pursue adoption. A list of possible adoption agencies was written on a folded sheet of paper with the heading "Baby Hill." Phone calls were made to all the agencies written on the paper, messages were left, etc. As a neonatal nurse, I knew the process of adoption from the hospital side.

Some of the agencies that we phoned were familiar, some not. For whatever reason, CHS was the last agency on my list to call. That afternoon a call was made, and I was placed in touch with Lynn Jones. Until talking with Mrs. Jones, I did not have much hope of adopting a child. Every agency was full, or didn't contact me back, or seemed unaffordable. I told Rodney that evening that I had a really good feeling, a feeling of hope, after talking with Mrs. Jones. Mrs. Jones made me feel that this was going to happen. We were going to be parents.

From filling out paper work to an in-person interview to fulfilling home study visits, we were supported and encouraged all the way. We never felt like there were questions that were unanswered or that we would be in this by ourselves. We finally felt peace.

After bringing Eleanor home, the CHS staff have kept in contact with us. We consider these ladies family as well as everyone who works behind the scenes at CHS. We are very thankful for all they do in growing and building stronger families. We would not be the Hills without their help!

Eleanor is the sweetest, happiest little one. She is a daddy's girl. She knows her animals and their sounds. She loves books and puzzles, the outdoors, music, and eating cheese, vegetables, and cookies. She has been a pure delight and blessing. Never could we have imagined being parents would be so great. She makes every day full of joy and happiness.

Our experience with Children's Home Society was far more satisfying than we could have ever hoped for. Sometimes in life you get surprises. Thus far our surprises have included becoming parents to our precious Eleanor and meeting lifelong friends that really care about us as a family.



"I want things to be right with families and children, and I hope that the work I do has shown it can happen,"

Lynn Jones, Director of Contract Home Study Services

Excerpts from Jenna and Rodney's letters to Eleanor

"The opportunity to be your mom is truly a gift. I look forward to loving you forever and celebrating your future milestones as we have celebrated your first smile, your first coo, and your first Christmas. I look forward to encouraging you in your interests and participating in things that bring you joy as you have brought us joy."

"You are the most amazing thing in the world! I could have never imagined how great fatherhood could be. But then again, you are an angel of a baby! I knew having a child would be fun and rewarding (with some sleepless nights and dirty diapers thrown in) but it has been such a wonderful experience to welcome you into our life and our family. I love being with you and I miss you when we aren't together."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Learn more about how CHS is innovating, advocating, and growing to build, support, and strengthen families and communities.



Brian Maness
President & CEO

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Every issue of *Carolina Children* reminds me of the accomplishments of Children’s Home Society over the past months, but also throughout our history. We take great pride in the fact that every issue of *Carolina Babies* and *Carolina Children* has been archived in The North Carolina Collection at the Special Collections Library at UNC - Chapel Hill. What an honor to be documented as a notable part of North Carolina’s history.



Brian Maness

You will also see stories about the accomplishments of our staff in pursuing leadership development and in their commitments to making a difference in the lives of children and families. There is no greater compliment than to have our clients express their gratitude toward our staff and programs.

We ended last year with major investment commitments from three long-time partners – The Duke Endowment, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption, and The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation. These, in tandem with the continuing contributions from other foundations, and individual and corporate donors, will ensure that we can continue to build, support, and strengthen families and communities. Thank you for being a part of the CHS family.

My best,

Brian Maness
President & CEO

CAROLINA CHILDREN HOUSED AT WILSON LIBRARY, UNC – CHAPEL HILL

Children’s Home Society’s newsletter *Carolina Children* is a part of the Special Collections Library at Wilson Library at UNC-Chapel Hill dating back to our very first issue in 1945 through this very issue.

The CHS publication, first called *Carolina Babies*, is archived from 1945-1971. The title changed to *Carolina Children* in 1971 and it is on file from 1971-present.

UNC has a number of specialized collections housed in the library: The Southern Historic Collection, The Southern Folk Life Collection, The Rare Book Collection, The University Archives, and The North Carolina Collection. *Carolina Children* is a part of The North Carolina Collection.

“The North Carolina Collection is dedicated to preserving literary, visual, and artifactual materials illustrating four centuries of the colony and state of North Carolina.”



Good Beginnings for Teen Parents' Participant Earns Master's Degree in Engineering

"I love my sons dearly. They push me to greater heights, and give me such strength."



Dalila's sons: Jaisair, 4, and De'Leon, 12

Sixteen-year-old Dalila Fryar gave birth to her son, De'Leon, while in high school. Dalila had lost both her parents and was being raised by her brother. Children's Home Society was there for Dalila, offering our Good Beginnings for Teen Parents (GBTP) program. While participating in GBTP, Dalila stayed in school, graduated from high school, and went on to college with some financial support from the Pratto Family Life Scholarship—a small scholarship supporting graduates from GBTP who continue their education after high school. She earned her undergraduate degree in biology from NC A&T University.



Dalila continued her education at A&T and recently received her Master's in Engineering. She has just begun her new career as Quotes Manager with a pharmaceuticals company in Greenville.

For pregnant or parenting teens, ages 12-22, GBTP teaches prenatal care, positive parenting, and strategies for staying in school.

"Good Beginnings was a blessing. It was very encouraging and uplifting. It was not at all judgmental," Dalila said.

Parent Education Program Supervisor Sebrina Cooke-Davis says, "Dalila has always been such a rock star. She is a walking reminder of the importance of the work we do with Good Beginnings for Teen Parents."

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN BECOMING FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS,

we have information meetings coming up in these communities in April and May: Asheville, Burlington, Cabarrus County, Charlotte, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Morganton, Wilmington, Winston-Salem. Please visit our website at www.chsnc.org for more details.



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Children's Home Society
OF NORTH CAROLINA

GET INVOLVED WITH BUILDING FAMILIES

..... Attend Upcoming CHS Events



Child of Foster Care, Corporate Executive, Author, Father to Speak at CHS A Place to Call Home Events

Overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds, Steve Pemberton has gone from being a forgotten ward of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to becoming a trailblazing Divisional Vice President at Walgreens and the first Chief Diversity Officer for the 113-year-old company.

In every aspect of his life — diversity executive, author, father, and a voice for the forgotten — Steve offers abundant inspiration to others, emphasizing that from tragedy and strife can come extraordinary accomplishment.

“Who we are, our triumphs over adversity and our successes, begin and end with family.”

— Steve Pemberton

His memoir, *A Chance in the World: An Orphan Boy, a Mysterious Past, and How He Found a Place Called Home*, chronicles his difficult path through foster care and his determined search for his family. It is an inspirational story that crosses generations and cultures, but specifically whispers to those who have had the odds stacked against them.

A Place to Call Home Luncheon

APRIL 27, RALEIGH, NC • MAY 11, CHARLOTTE, NC

A Place to Call Home Dinner

MAY 18, GREENSBORO, NC

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IT'S A REMIX! New Venue! New Bands! Same Great Mission!

Have you been waiting all winter to dance in downtown Greensboro? Well it's almost time for the 14th annual Bill Black Chevrolet concert series and this year promises to be the best yet!

Join us on Thursday nights as we dance the night away in LeBauer Park and raise money for the children and families served by CHS. We will kick off the concert series June 1 at 6:00 pm. Nightly tickets are \$10 and can be purchased in advance or at the gate. For more information visit www.chsnc.org.

See you there!

- June 1** **The Plaids**
- June 8** **Bantum Rooster**
- June 15** **Sleeping Booty**
- June 22** **The Embers**
- June 29** **Band of Oz**



WHERE:

LeBauer Park
208 North Davie Street

WHEN:

Thursdays, June 1 – June 29
6:00-8:30 pm, Gates Open at 5:30

Want to be a Sponsor?
1.800.632.1400

CHS Responds to Alarming Trends



The foster care challenges in North Carolina are very complex and growing. At the end of 2016, more than 10,500 children were in foster care, a number that has increased by 25 percent over the past five years. Last year CHS was only able to place 12 percent of the children referred to the agency due to limited resources.

CHS will receive significant support from long-time partners to fund efforts to address North Carolina's growing foster care situation.

The Duke Endowment has committed a \$3.7 million grant to expand foster care, early intervention, and prevention services. The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption is adding 11 child-specific recruitment specialists, nearly doubling the number of CHS recruiters dedicated to finding forever families for the longest-waiting children in foster care. The Edna McConnell Clark Foundation has committed \$5 million in funding.

"These commitments total in excess of \$10 million to support our Strategic Plan which will dramatically increase the size and impact of CHS over the next four years," said Brian Maness, President & CEO of Children's Home Society.

"We realized that this would require significant investments above and beyond our normal operations. Our partners and supporters are stepping up in a big way. They recognize the need, they recognize CHS's capabilities, and they are making commitments that will allow us to pursue our objectives.

"Solutions require funding on multiple fronts, including scaling up recruitment of foster and adoptive homes, family preservation, parenting education, teen pregnancy prevention, and family finding. We are teaming resources from these three partners, other foundations, organizations, families, and individuals to accelerate proven programs to help more children," Maness said.

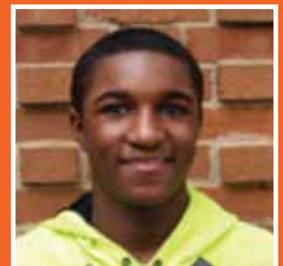
CHS President and CEO Brian Maness joined George Sheldon, Director of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, and Michael Shaver, President and CEO of Children's Home Society of Florida (pictured from left to right), at February Capitol Hill briefings in Washington, DC, hosted by Children's Home Society of America. The panel led a discussion on how the federal government can help incentivize innovative partnerships and collaborations to better serve children and families.



CHILDREN AWAITING ADOPTION



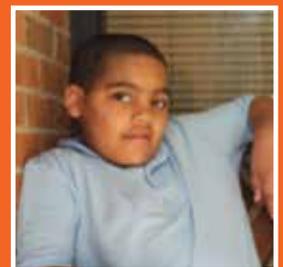
Candice, 15



Melique, 16



Joseph, 14



Michael, 10

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

..... Families Creating Families

When three-year-old Morrison walked into Kathy and Vicky Mangus' home with his two brothers, he looked up at them and asked, "Where's my room?"

At 5 months, 2, and 3, the boys came to live with the Mangus family with only the clothes they were wearing. In less than 24 hours, friends and neighbors pulled together to make sure they had everything they needed to transition from a family of two to a family of five.

Over the next several months – and still today – the family worked through a unique set of challenges for each child. With support from CHS and help from counselors, the boys began to assimilate into a family setting full of love, safety, and commitment. Kathy and Vicky were passionate about making sure they had all the help they could need with the steadfast feeling that "no issue they had could stop us from loving them."

Kathy began volunteering for the CHS foster care team in the Charlotte area transporting children in care to family visits. The Mangus family helped Children's Home Society with respite care when there were families who needed a break. They've since recruited six new families who are currently fostering and adopting through Children's Home Society.

Through this work, Kathy and Vicky found a community of foster care and adoptive families who've become their extended family. Their house is often full of CHS families and children who come over for parties and playdates. Kathy, who is adopted herself, is working on becoming a guardian ad litem because she wants to continue serving children in the foster care system who need a voice.

About one year after the boys' adoption was finalized, Pam Guy, a CHS specialist, called Kathy and Vicky when there was a premature baby girl who needed a family. The family knew they did not want that little girl to be on her own. For months, they took turns visiting the baby to comfort her every single day at the hospital. Kathy went in the morning. Vicky went on her lunch breaks. The little girl's name is now Makala Mangus. She is 18-months-old and her adoption was finalized in November.

"CHS put our family together and gave us strength. They always gave us the opportunity and always gave us support when we needed it."

– KATHY MANGUS



CHS PARTNERS WITH CENTER FOR CREATIVE LEADERSHIP



CHS is pleased to be partnering with the Center for Creative Leadership to promote leadership development with 12 CHS employees. As CHS continues to grow its ability to serve all the state's children and families in need, we are striving to cultivate strong leadership. These 12 leaders were involved in an intensive development program that includes coaching and a series of internal projects focused on important initiatives at CHS.

Congratulations to Matt Anderson, Deborah Artis, Vicki Barringer, Paul Constantino, Sebrina Cooke-Davis, Brenda deLaet, Donna Henderson, Shannon Johnson, Alex Kelly, Ted Sikes, Rebecca Starnes, and Brook Wingate on their participation.

The Center for Creative Leadership is a top-rated global provider of leadership development. By leveraging the power of leadership to drive results that matter most to clients, CCL transforms individual leaders, teams, organizations, and society. We feel very fortunate to have them as a partner on this and other projects.

CHS has phenomenal employees. We look forward to expanding the development of our staff as we move further toward achieving our mission.



Ted Sikes, Deborah Artis, Brenda deLaet, Shannon Johnson, Paul Constantino, Vicki Barringer, Brook Wingate, Alex Kelly, and Matt Anderson

Participant Sebrina Cooke-Davis worked with her one-on-one coach to identify character traits and determine a visual image to help her channel her traits for personal growth and development. Sebrina shared:



"This train is a visual reminder for me to make sure I use all the energy and power I have to stay on track and not get derailed. It also sparks conversation with others as they walk in my office and ask about my train, so I'm constantly reminded of the importance of me being present for our children and families."



Matt Anderson Named to Triad Business Journal's 40 Under 40

CHS' Vice President of Strategic Advancement Matt Anderson was recognized as one of the *Triad Business Journal's* 40 Under 40, an awards program honoring young leaders across the Triad. Forty recipients from ages 26-39 were honored for their accomplishments in their professions, industries, and communities.

At CHS, Matt leads four teams that are responsible for managing governmental affairs and external business relationships, grants and foundation relationships, recruiting foster and adoptive families, and expanding the impact of our programs. Matt produced the feature documentary *From Place to Place*, which tells the story of life after foster care for youth who have aged out and highlights the importance of family. *From Place to Place* won the National Association of Social Workers 2012 Media Award and has screened in all 50 states and Canada.

Among other outside interests, Matt is on the Board of Directors of Haiti Friends, a successful agricultural and re-forestation project in Haiti. He is a longtime member of the SynerG council in Greensboro and a member of their leadership committee. He is also an active member of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Kickball League. Congratulations Matt!





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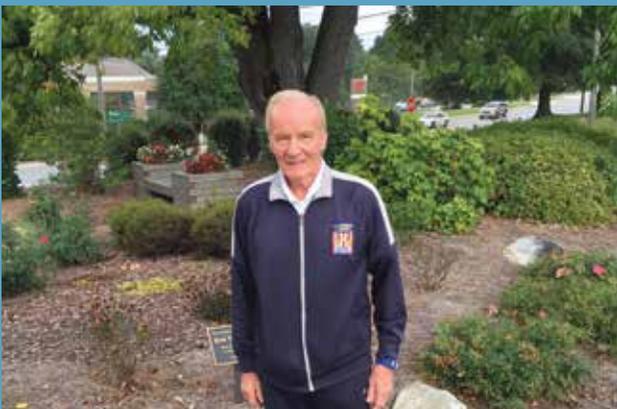
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Former Executive Director Visits CHS



David Herbert, Executive Director of CHS from 1968-1971, recently paid us a surprise visit. He had been in Raleigh for the Senior Games and was returning to Asheville, where he resides with his wife. He won Gold for the 400 meters and presented his medal to CHS. The day of his visit happened to be his 86th birthday, and he said he was so glad he had decided to stop in on a whim.

David shared stories about the nursery, and how he went to pick up babies from across the state. He left us with some amazing advice before he drove off, "Enjoy every day, because too quickly it all becomes memories. Thank you for this memory."

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.