



# Second Chances

NEWSLETTER • FALL & WINTER 2008



## Creating A Hero

By Charlene Jones, GGH Clinical Director



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One of our residents recently graduated Generations after 20 months in the moderate program. Initially, he was convinced that he could successfully complete this program on his own. He insisted that he did not have a need for relationships and supported his belief by spending a lot of time engaging in solitary activities. He was clear that he did not have a need to trust others, because in essence, he was capable of doing anything he set his mind to and individual gifts and talents really did not matter. He further ostracized himself from others and his peers with his belief that "He was better than the average person, so there really was not much anyone had to offer him." Eventually, when challenged, he was able to recognize that there was "just maybe" a little something he had to learn from being here. He was able to see how this thinking further isolated him from others. By the end of one particular group this resident agreed that each of us has a unique purpose in life and that our individual gifts did not necessarily make us better, but different and needed. He acknowledged having a different way of viewing his need for others and was at least able to say that he might need others sometimes, because he may not have the answers to every question that might come his way.

*The rest of the story – page 4*

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- A Note From Kathleen: To Our Donors
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**School News**

**Education Moving Forward**

By Linda Barnett, GGH Education Director

The Education Program at Generations moved forward in many ways this year. Many of you have visited and volunteered in numerous ways. To name just a few - Carol Aston donated much needed books to our library. She labeled and categorized them and the boys have really enjoyed her selections. The Golden Strip Sertoma Club donated an abundant supply of art and school supplies. Many churches and other groups did as well. Jeff and Sandy Bowers provided each student with many items to help them get off to a good start this year. They also have contributed to our school store. Pat and Ken Pitcher have continued support with donating cookies from the Chocolate Shoppe. The guys look forward to those delicious cookies after school each day. Several of you have provided scholarships for GED and other educational needs. A HUGE help!

Our summer showcase, For the Love of Seuss, was splendid this year. We needed t-shirts for costumes so Roseanne put out an e-mail and the Upstate Women's Club stepped up and provided shirts for each student. Once again the Peace Outreach Program made tickets available to our students to attend several performances at the Peace Center. Thanks to Ellen Westkaemper for her continued support. I am truly grateful to all of you for your generous support of our education program.

Many of you participated in our Career Fair in September. Thanks to Travinia for providing



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lunch for our guests and students. Our students really enjoyed the new format of visiting booths setup by a variety of companies and being able to spend time with each.

This year, instead of a Black History program, GGH will be celebrating African-American Heritage during the entire month of February by inviting speakers in from different fields such as construction, medicine, arts, politics, education, religion and business. If you have interest in sharing with the boys your joys, hopes, experiences and contributions to our community, please contact me at 243-5557 x251.

Stop by sometime and see the Promethean Board in action. Teacher, Jonathan Brasfield, has one in his classroom and said, "The giant board allows me to leverage technology in very exciting ways. Improvements in student achievement are already apparent." He says it makes learning fun. "The students really enjoy putting all the states and capitals in order and try to beat the timer."

The newest change to school is our Construction Technology class. Teacher, Ray Miller, earned certification to teach the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) curriculum.

*More on page 7*



Come to our Christmas program on December 19th at 11am.

## Sounds of the Season

Students will be interpreting some favorite Christmas poems!  
Please RSVP to Amber at 243-5557 x274.

## Program Update

# Always Room For Quality Improvement

by Shannon Paradise, GGH Quality Improvement Manager

When you attend one of our Success Express Tours, or invite someone from Generations to come speak to your organization or group, you will hear about our success rate – currently over 98%. We are diligent in ensuring our statistics are accurate while we provide the best program possible for our residents. We also realized through our accreditation process several years ago that quality improvement needed to be a primary focus for us. This became a reality with the help of The Duke Endowment, and this summer we marked our one year anniversary with a new Quality Improvement Department with the goal to provide innovative, effective services for children with issues related to sexual aggression as we work towards our mission: “no more victims.”

The primary philosophy behind quality improvement is that regardless of how well a system works, there is always room for evaluation and improvement. Quality Improvement is a formal, ongoing process that takes input from all stakeholders in order to monitor and evaluate the quality of the services provided at Generations. Our GGH QI process includes both formal and informal evaluation of the different components as we look at everything from whether the children

are enjoying the food to whether we are meeting all the federal guidelines for our services. Based on the data we collect, we determine how we can do things even better.

As we look towards our renewal cycle through the **Council on Accreditation**, we know they share the strong value that we are placing on Quality Improvement for all their organizations. Personally, having my Masters in Social Work and over 6 years experience working with at risk families, I am thrilled to work in an agency that places such great importance on providing the very best care possible to our children so that they may become responsible, caring adults. I realize we can only accomplish this through the support of others, and I thank YOU for the part you play to help make our program possible. Together we all can make a real difference. ✚



## Giving

# Creating A Legacy

by Roseanne Brown, Director of Development

Recently I've gotten some questions about how to leave a “legacy” for GGH. I found out there are many ways.

- A Gift of Life Insurance
- The Charitable Remainder Trust  
allows you to make a gift to GGH yet continue to receive income for the assets contributed!
- The Charitable Lead Trust  
allows you to make immediate and lasting gift while still providing for your family at possibly little or no tax cost.

- IRA/Roth IRA Opportunity  
Just approved last month, Congress renewed the 2006 law which enables a person aged 70 ½ or older to donate up to \$100,000 per year from his/her IRA and Roth IRA to a charity without having to count the distribution as taxable income. This has many advantages and will expire December 31, 2009.

To make a direct gift, please consider donating by credit or debit card on our website - [www.generationsgroup.com](http://www.generationsgroup.com). If you have an interest in leaving a legacy, please visit our website, or talk with your insurance or estate planning expert.

## Creating A Hero

Continued from page 1

Also, during this transitional time of self-exploration, this boy faced and decided to address the issues of a strained relationship with his father. I can recall the agony and dread that he faced, as he prepared to talk to his father about the details that brought him to GGH. He feared rejection. However, what a wonderful sense of relief he was able to experience after enduring this trial. Furthermore, he gained the reward of a new beginning in his relationship with his father. I remember him telling me that his father said that despite the details, he would “always love his son.” What this resident did not say, but was clearly evident in his demeanor, was how very pleased he was to hear this from his father.

In helping prepare for this encounter with his father, and being able to process and support him after the fact, it became clear that this child’s mistrust in relationships and decision to “Go it alone” were simply his way of protecting himself from the negative feelings and experiences he had in past relationships. It is far easier to withdraw than to endure the negative. But when you close yourself off to building relationships to avoid the hurt and pain, you also lose out on the many positives and rewards that relationships can bring. And when your relationships are healthy, the good far out-weighs the bad. But as this child discovered, you have to be open to taking risks and getting out of your comfort zone to be able to experience the pleasantries, gifts and joys that relationships can bring. Again, this experience with his father showed our resident that relationships have many purposes and can be a source of comfort and support.

The challenge to get to know others and what made them unique was accepted. Through his treatment plan, he was given tasks that focused on developing relationships with others. With time, we were able to see him gradually interacting with some of his peers. His peers became more open to accepting his feedback and his laid back style of leadership. We saw him develop into this bright young man with the potential to be very successful in life as long as he can be constantly mindful that “No man is an island” and it’s okay to need support from others. That makes him human and just like the rest of us – as we were created to be interdependent beings.

During this resident’s stay at Generations, he took the first step toward relationship building and fortunately had a pleasant and favorable outcome. As he went through our graduation process a few days before he left, I encouraged him to remember and be sensitive to the fact that even when you are joking, words pack a punch and can be hurtful - even when on the outside one is smiling or laughing. This young man left the nest at GGH with encouragement to continue to take appropriate risks in “giving of yourself through relationships”... Risks that help to build “bridges to success” in future career choices, friendships and family ties. It gives a whole new meaning to “Nothing ventured, nothing gained!” ❖

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## Volunteering

# Generations Fills A Need In Our Life

by Jeff & Sandy Bowers, GGH Volunteer Committee Members



Getting a package of cards that bring tears to your eyes and the overwhelming feeling that you're loved... priceless.

Believe it or not, it all started at a Saturday Night Auction. We were blessed to meet one of Generations Group Homes' staff at an auction of all places. She became an instant friend and told us about Generations, not just because it was her "job" but because it was her "passion". We visited Generations Group Homes bringing some of our "general merchandise" auction finds. That day they offered to take us on a tour of the homes and told about the program. Jeff and I were somewhat leery at first, as our hearts were still recovering from an adoption that fell through. But as we walked around the campus, we saw a group who was organized, focused on treating the boys and giving the best care, and people who were passionate about making a real difference in the boys' lives, their families and the community. They blew us away. After helping out several other groups, we had finally found a place that would let us help... emphasis on "let". Other non-profit groups would accept our donations, but Generations sent us thank you notes (from staff and the boys) and quickly got us on the volunteer committee! Now we're in! And they won't be able to get rid of us!

We started by bringing our great auction deals and now, as a graphic designer, I'm working with the development group to help produce materials that help spread the word about the difference Generations is making. Jeff and I both go to cookouts and events to serve food, help with games and just spend time with the boys. We're really looking forward to spending time during holidays with them this year. We like to find out what they want in the Points Store and track

down or make those kinds of items. We made pillow cases with sports team logos that the boys seem to really like and we donated our music CD collection. Our hope is that these things help build incentive for good behavior.

*She became an instant friend and told us about Generations, not just because it was her "job" but because it was her "passion".*

What do we get out of it? Time with the boys to encourage them and let them know they're cared about... the support and love the boys (and staff) show us through conversations and thank you cards... the feeling that we have an extended family... and a place we can leave a legacy. In our hearts we have adopted a few boys... about 58 of them to be exact and the number grows as boys enter and graduate the program.

Volunteer contact cards are coming and I encourage everyone to ask for them... keep them with you all the time. You WILL have an opportunity to share Generations with someone. They may be like me and Jeff, looking for a place to serve and help make a difference. It's made a huge difference in our lives and we are so very thankful.

Thanks, Karen, for the passion you have for Generations and Roseanne for your constant encouragement. ❖





## A Note From Kathleen A Word To Our Donors

by Kathleen Reynolds, GGH Founder and CEO

I am so humbled and overwhelmed with the generosity at this year's Luncheon for Second Chances.



We raised \$ 472,000. To do that in one hour is truly a testimony to an efficient caring team lead by Roseanne

Brown. There are so many, however, to thank for making this Luncheon such a success... Our Table Captains who share their passion for our program with their guests long before they sit down at the luncheon table, our volunteers who put countless hours into

*The passion and dedication to our Mission, so evident that day, literally brought me to tears.*

preparation, the amazing anonymous donor who gave the matching gift that inspired and motivated all present to look deeper into their hearts, and those of you who did so – knowing your gift was going twice as far. The passion and dedication to our Mission, so evident that day, literally brought me to tears.

Seventeen years ago when Generations began, the idea was a small group home in the country that would give a second chance to children who had been abused and were now abusing others. We were a model group home with this sexual abusive specialty. I was very concerned that our mission would not be understood and accepted by the public. We purposely shied away from any notoriety or focus. As the years passed I began to understand that our community clearly embraces children and understands that intervention – not detention – is in the best interest for our community. By giving these boys hope and healing, they will all become our heroes.

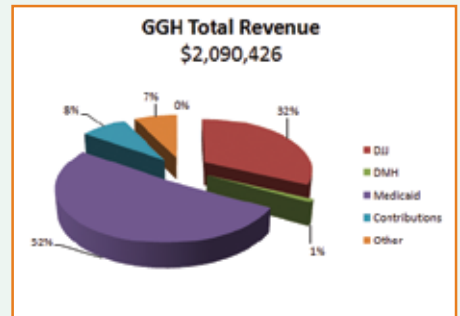
Thanks to all of you who support us, especially our Second Chances Giving Society members and our wonderful matching donors. Your time, gifts and donation allow our 98% success to continue. We have always considered Generations' conception and success as part of Divine intervention; and I clearly understand that the survival of Generations Group Homes is due to the loving and caring nature of our supporters. ❖

### GGH Financial Report

(Fiscal Year End 03-31-2008)

#### GGH 2008 Revenues

DJJ .....	\$668,521
DMH.....	\$20,654
Medicaid .....	\$1,080,025
Contributions.....	\$166,927
Other .....	\$154,299
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,090,426</b>



#### GGH 2008 Expenses

Personnel .....	\$1,246,549
Rent .....	\$102,216
Utilities/phone.....	\$51,349
Depreciation .....	\$60,089
Food & clothing .....	\$97,794
Insurance .....	\$120,687
Other .....	\$388,648
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$2,067,332</b>



# GGH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2009  
2008

## December

- 19 TOUR - 10:00am at GGH School
- 19 Holiday Program - 11:00am at GGH Gym
- 25 Christmas Meal - 12:30pm at GGH Gym

## January

- 1 New Years Meal - 12:30pm at GGH Gym
- 15 TOUR - 2:00pm at GGH
- 15 School Awards - 3:15pm at GGH Gym

## February

- 1 Super Bowl - 6:00pm at GGH Gym
- 21 TOUR - 1:00pm at GGH

## March

- 3 Table Captain Kick Off - 5:30 pm at Peter David's Fine Dining
- 20 GGH 500 (Derby) - 10:00am / GGH Gym
- 26 TOUR - 2:00pm at GGH
- 26 School Awards - 3:15 pm at GGH Gym

## April

- 18 TOUR - 1:00pm at GGH

## May

- 13 Luncheon for Second Chances - 12:00 noon at Carolina First Center
- 25 Memorial Day Cookout - 12:00 noon at Bridges Campus

## June

- 11 TOUR - 2:00pm at GGH
- 11 School Awards - 3:15 pm at GGH Gym

## July

- 4 Cookout - Noon at Bridges Campus
- 15 TOUR - 2:00pm at GGH
- 15 Summer Showcase - 3:00pm at GGH Gym

## August

- 22 TOUR - 1:00pm at GGH

## September

- 7 Labor Day Cookout - Noon. . . at Bridges Campus
- 19 TOUR - 1:00pm at GGH

## October

- 30 TOUR - 10:00am at GGH
- 30 Fall Festival - 11:00am at GGH Gym

## November

- 26 Thanksgiving Dinner 12:30pm at GGH Gym

*Please contact Amber at 243-5557 x274 to sponsor or participate in any of the above activities.*

## Education Moving Forward

Continued from page 2

Greenville Tech has partnered with us so our students can receive dual credit in Building Construction. How exciting for our boys! Adam said he learned what a 'General Duty Clause' was and what it does. "It summarizes the intent of the law, and it can have some heavy fines for the employer," he said. Kendall shared, "It made me realize that I want to do mechanical or electrical engineering, and also made me feel like that God made construction just for me." Trey learned, "There are 27 cubic feet in one cubic yard. I also learned how to find the circumference of a circle. And what I think is one of the most important things is now knowing the colors and shapes of signs and what they mean."

We have already received a few supplies, and tools to help us teach this class, but can use more. We welcome any participation in this venture if you have that interest!

New to our teaching staff is Karen Landers. Karen worked in the Development Department with Roseanne Brown last year and brought her

passion and dedication for our program with her to the school. We are thrilled to have Karen teaching mathematics this year.

Brentleigh Crow from Greenville County Workforce Development administered the WorkKeys assessments to our students recently. They put forth their best efforts and achieved 2 gold, 5 silver, and 10 bronze certificates! Many thanks to Dean Jones, Charlene Gilliam, Melyssa Harrison and Brentleigh for making it possible for our students have this valuable opportunity. ❖



## News Flash!

91% of GGH students, on the regular state diploma track, passed their High School Exit Exam this past spring!



# Save the Date!

**Generations Group Homes, Inc.**  
*Luncheon for Second Chances*  
FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON

Wednesday, May 13, 2009

12:00-1:00pm

at The Carolina First Center  
One Exposition Avenue, Greenville

Circle May 13th on your calendar and let us know you will be joining us for this sixth annual fundraiser. Do you know 10 other people? If so, you could be a Table Captain and help us ensure a successful event.

**Call 243-5557 today!**  
Roseanne x269 or Amber x274

Since 1991, with the goal of stopping and preventing sexual abuse, Generations Group Homes has offered a quality program in a group home like setting for troubled boys ages ten to nineteen. Within this program, these boys are given a place to heal and the opportunity of a true second chance.



**Newsletter Editor**  
Roseanne Brown  
Director of Development  
864-243-5557 x269  
Email: roseanne@generationsgroup.com

### Board of Directors

- Emily Dean, President
- Scott Halkett, Treasurer
- Linda Barnette, Secretary
- Pete Garrett, Member
- Barb Hocking, Member
- Dorothy Boyd, Member
- George Singleton, Member

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## Giving

### Mail Checks to:

Generations Group Homes, Inc.  
PO Box 80009  
Simpsonville, SC 29680  
Attn: Roseanne Brown



### Easy Online Giving:

[www.generationsgroup.com](http://www.generationsgroup.com)  
Credit or Debit



Generations Group Homes is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible and sincerely appreciated.



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