

# Discover Jesse's House

MAY 2003

*Providing Emergency Care and Shelter for Children in North Georgia*

## CUMMING FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GREAT DAY OF SERVICE

We are grateful that **Cumming First United Methodist Church** once again held part of its Great Day of Service at Jesse's House, fulfilling a great number of our needs and 'wishes'. Twenty one volunteers attended; 15 adults and 6 students. **Barbara Barnett** was the overall team leader with **Andrew Plyler** heading a team who worked at our new building. They completely covered the roof with a tarp to halt rain damage during the upcoming construction, cut the grass and trimmed the weeds.

At the shelter itself, the basement was cleaned out and organized. The kitchen and bedrooms were deep cleaned, including hands-and-knees kitchen floor scrubbing. Carpets were steam cleaned. A dozen or more plants were potted. The damper on the fireplace was closed (a small-sounding deal that was a BIG deal — we were losing an astonishing amount of heat and air up the damper which was rusted open).

To each and every volunteer a deep and heart felt "Thank you". **Barbara B. Barnett, Janet Barnett, Dale Chambless, Bill Jacobs, Louise Jacobs, Ashley Jernigan, Rick Jernigan, Sandi Jernigan, Laura Jordan, Sydney LeBlanc, Thomas Leblanc, Tim LeBlanc, Van LeBlanc, Andrew Plyler, Landon Plyler, Bob Ray, Linda Ray, Diane Terry, Sarah Terry, Lanny Turner, and Jenny Wells**



## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Around this time last year, I excitedly began the position of Executive Director at Jesse's House. Since that time, I have witnessed several "success stories". I decided to take this opportunity to share those stories with the people that help make it all possible.

The first is the story of a 16-year-old girl who arrived at Jesse's House with visible signs of the pain she had endured. While at Jesse's House, she welcomed the variety of services we provided. Immediately, her true character came through, revealing a beautiful young girl with incredible leadership skills, strong will and the ability to be-friend anyone. Upon leaving Jesse's House, she began a part-time job to save money for a car, joined the Color Guard Team at her high school and became active in her local youth group. Fortunately, we still speak with her today and look forward to news of her future accomplishments.

Second is the story of a 15-year-old Native American girl with jet-black hair and dark eyes. She yearned for the opportunity to return to her native culture in Oklahoma and to family members who could properly care for her. She also grew tremendously while at Jesse's House. She excelled in all school subjects, made several friends and always had a smile. More importantly, however, her stay at Jesse's House gave her a safe place to stay while concerned people worked hard to arrange for her return to Oklahoma. She was able to return immediately after leaving Jesse's House.

Finally is the story of a 16-year-old girl who struggled while at Jesse's House. The history she experienced prior to Jesse's House resulted in self-destructive behaviors that continued during her stay. We continued to demonstrate our belief in her and provided unconditional caring. This confused her further in that no one had ever demonstrated genuine concern for her. She eventually was discharged from Jesse's House but it was very clear that she had received the first glimpse that people truly cared for her. And we pray that this experience provided a stepping-stone on her way to her future success.

Sincerely,

Julie Barry

## HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY JESSE'S HOUSE

On Saturday, March 29th Jesse's House celebrated its 5th birthday with an Anniversary Gala at the Polo Golf and Country Club. The formal event attracted over 125 people to an evening filled with music, fine dining, and both a live and silent auction, all to help raise funds for the emergency girls shelter.

Two special awards were presented, an architect's rendering of the new shelter building was previewed, and, of course, there was a grand birthday cake. The auctions were exciting and everyone was in great spirits. The night was filled with fun and laughter and glamorous attire.

The event was a wonderful success raising several thousand dollars for the shelter. For more details and pictures from the night see the article on the special insert page.

## NEWSLETTER 'NEWS'

We can now e-mail your newsletter. If you would prefer this newsletter be e-mailed to you, need your address corrected, or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact **Donna Mincey Collins** at 770-532-0451, or [dmincey@minceymarble.com](mailto:dmincey@minceymarble.com).

**CONTRIBUTORS/ IN-KIND DONATIONS**

- |                                |                              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Alpharetta YMCA                | Diane Hall                   |
| Billy Amos                     | Peggy & Rudy Hampton         |
| Bobby Amos                     | Chris Hartley                |
| Bald Ridge Chapel              | Kit Hein                     |
| Barbara Barnett                | Lucy & Edward Herman         |
| Barnett Business Services      | Toni Insand                  |
| Janet Barnett                  | KC's Lawn Service            |
| Mike Barnett                   | Nancy Kiley                  |
| Betty Benson                   | Helen Lane                   |
| Judy & Robert Blackburn        | Chris & Martha Lappe         |
| Mr. Leon Boling                | Leslie Jo Marshall           |
| Janet Brazeal                  | Beverly Martarella           |
| Bridgeway Church               | Shirley McKinzie             |
| Brookwood Baptist WMU          | Mincey Marble Manufacturing  |
| Kalan Brown                    | Sonny & Marguerite Mitchell  |
| Charles Bullock                | Steve & Terry Morgan         |
| Rose Marie Calleja             | Movies 400                   |
| Doug Carnes                    | Northwinds Equestrian Center |
| Dale Chambless                 | Heather O'Conner             |
| Children's Restoration Network | Lisa O'Saben                 |
| Tina Cote                      | Pack 254 Cub Scouts          |
| Bennie & Jeanne Marie Cowdrey  | Sandra Petersen              |
| Cumming Civitan Club           | CiCi's Pizza                 |
| Cumming First UMC              | Pleasant View Baptist WMU    |
| Cumming Kiwanis Club           | Charles & Lynn Pregler       |
| Sheila Davis                   | Jim Rewalt                   |
| Kristen DeLee                  | Taylor Brooks Salon          |
| Donald & Dorothy Donalds       | Sawnee Ballet Theatre        |
| The Estelle Holbrook Circle    | Enid & Charles Schneider     |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Ellis         | Slapshots                    |
| Family Home Providers          | Sonic Drive-in               |
| Frank and Pam Felker           | Sorta Fifties Class-CFUMC    |
| Folks Restaurant               | Deborah Stair                |
| Beth Friedman                  | Mr. & Mrs. Cy Timmons        |
| Friends of Mike Evans          | Joyce Tisovec                |
| Sarah Garrett                  | TS Williams & Associates     |
| Rebecca Gazaway                | Lanny Turner                 |
| Mrs. Nancy Gilbert             | United Way of Forsyth County |
| The Michael Gilmore Family     | Lavonne Wheeler              |
| Girl Scout Troup 3850          | Rusty Whitlow                |
| Girl Scout Troup 535           | Pam & Robert Willis          |
| Eileen Glick                   |                              |

**Jesse's House Girls Volunteer Activities**

The power of helping others is a healing tool in itself. In our effort to help the girls we serve, we have added volunteer work to our program. Recently, the girls helped the **Lanier Area Habitat for Humanity**. They also visit **Chestnut Ridge Nursing Home** twice a month. Everyone anticipates these visits with great excitement. Meaningful connections have been built there and a short time ago the girls helped with their beauty pageant. One resident commented. "They make me smile and it's nice to make them smile too".

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We venture outside from the long, cold drab winter to see the beautiful color that God places before us each year. The flowers are full and fragrant and the air is warm and sweet. And the pollen is driving everyone nuts – but that is Georgia in the spring. Thoughts turn from basketball to softball – from "what excuse can we use to stay inside" to "how can we get outside"- from "let it snow" to "please, don't let it rain." And every child begins a countdown that sends shivers through every parent - the dreaded Last Day of the School Year! We at Jesse's House are right there too. We are relishing the spring as a time to get out of the cramped quarters of the house and are already preparing to start our summer programs. Allow me to get personal a moment and extend many special thanks to the **United Way** for providing continued support for all of these programs.

This spring, we have celebrated our 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday in grand "Gala" style. Many, many thanks to Jason Dudley, chairman of the Gala Committee, and his staff, Jeanne Marie Cowdrey, Charlene Harrell, Mary Henderson and Martha Lappe, for the untold hours spent planning and implementing the event. I think everyone had a great time and it was wonderful to finally meet so many of you that have quietly helped us for so long. The gala was a major success and an excellent start towards our goal of the \$50,000 we need to raise this year for the matching funds.

For those of you who missed the big announcement in our last issue let me briefly recap. Jesse's House has been blessed with the donation of a larger building. Unfortunately, this building needs extensive reconstruction to make it into a home. To this end, an anonymous angel has made a generous gift, which will match, dollar for dollar, every donation toward this massive renovation project. Please keep this in mind if you wish to donate specifically to this and mark your donation accordingly.

As Easter passes, we are looking ahead. It is not too late to order our Mother's Day and Father's Day cards. Also, we are now compiling recipes for a cookbook. I can't think of a better gift for your favorite someone - the gift of "food" without the calories.

And lest I forget, at the end of June we will begin to narrow the hunt for the homes to be in our Annual Christmas Tour of Homes. We will once again be hosting the event in the Polo Fields. This year already looks to be another spectacular tour with maybe a few twists.

We are off to a great start for 2003. Thanks so much for your continuing support.

God bless.  
Steven Morgan

**IN HONOR OF**

**Beth & Karl Friedman**  
By Mabel Clupper

**IN MEMORY OF**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Allison</b><br>By Linda Elias                 | <b>Terry Lewis</b><br>By Sonny and Marguerite Mitchell |
| <b>Barbara Ann Echols</b><br>By Charlene Harrell | <b>Raymond McKinnon</b><br>By Joyce Tisovec            |
| <b>Warren Hauck</b><br>By Mark and Meyers        | <b>Jesse Morris</b><br>By Magdalene D. Morris          |

**MOTHER'S DAY GIFTS**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Mrs. Evelyn Arnold</b><br>By Lucile Tull          | <b>Mrs. Glynnell Ellis</b><br>By Stacey Hodges   |
| <b>Mrs. Jeanne Marie Cowdrey</b><br>By Carol Cowdrey | <b>Mrs. Adair L. Williams</b><br>By Sky Williams |
| <b>Mrs. Midge Daugherty</b><br>By Melissa Williams   |  |

**OUR SINCERE APOLOGIES**  
*To all deserving persons out there who were inadvertently not listed. We continue in our goal to improve our efficiency.*

**SPECIAL THANKS**

Thanks to a donation from **Family Home Providers**, Jesse's girls recently attended a Thrasher's Hockey game. The game was a first for all of the girls. They had a wonderful time and learned a lot about the sport. It provided a memorable evening for all.

**Country Club of the South Charity Guild** has been supporting local charities for over 15 Years. Past charities have included the Starlight Foundation, and Camp Sunshine, among others. This year, Jesse's House presented our mission of helping at-risk girls and are extremely excited to have been selected as a charity by the Guild. We are grateful for this opportunity, and would like to thank Maggie David for sponsoring Jesse's House.

Also we send a grateful thanks to the **Forsyth County United Way** for their continued support. The **United Way** has been a partner with Jesse's House from day one. In February, Jesse's House shared with their review board our successes for the past year, and our goals for the upcoming year. We are pleased to continue to be a part of the **Forsyth County United Way** family.

**JESSE'S HOUSE NEEDS**

- Vacuum Cleaners (2)
- Office Supplies (copy paper, legal pads, scotch tape)
- Cleaning supplies
- Summer clothes.
- Shoes
- Gift Certificates (Wal-Mart, Kroger, etc.,) for unexpected needs.

**WANTED: YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES**

A **Jesse's House Cookbook** is in the works! Is your Mom, Dad, Grandma, or favorite Aunt or Uncle a fabulous cook? Now you can promote them to stardom by having those fabulous secret recipes published in the **Jesse's House Cookbook**. It will be available for purchase just in time for Christmas.

Starting in May, look for recipe forms in the **Forsyth County News** and **The Herald** newspapers. Simply fill them out and mail them in. If you do not receive the paper contact **Mary Henderson**. She can be reached by email at marydlynn@aol.com, or you by mail at: Mary Henderson, 3555 Pilgrim Mill Road, Cumming, GA, 30041.

**HURRY!** The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2003.

**COOKOUT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 28, 2003**

- What:** A cookout to support Jesse's House
- Where:** The Mashburn Cabin on Lake Lanier
- When:** June 28, 2003 starting at 6:00 p.m.
- Cost:** \$25.00 per person, Adults only please

Swimming, tennis and lots of fun will be waiting for you. For more information, contact **Martha Lappe** at 770-887-1393 or m.lappe@mindspring.com. This is a tax deductible event!

**YOUR GENEROSITY ALSO PROVIDED**

**Karaoke Night**—The gift certificates you provided to Jesse's House are always useful for the shelter to meet many different needs. In the area of recreational activities, we were recently able to purchase a Karaoke Machine for Friday night activities. Recent Karaoke themes have been Grease Night, 50's Party, Swinging 20's, and Disco Night. These activities have allowed the girls to have fun while facing their difficult circumstances. It has also enabled us to see the hidden singing talents of many Jesse girls!

**4th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT**

Our **4th Annual Golf Tournament** will be held soon. Be sure to visit our website at [www.jesseshouse.org](http://www.jesseshouse.org) for information on the date and location. If you would like to volunteer, sponsor or participate in the tournament, please contact **Jason Dudley** at 678-513-7901.

**IN HONOR OF YOUR MOTHER/ FATHER**

Here is a really neat way to honor the parent who has everything! Send a Mother's Day (or Father's Day) gift pledge in their name.

Simply make a donation to Jesse's House using the form below. When we receive the form, we will send your "Mother" or "Father" a beautiful, specially chosen card that both honors them and lets them know that you have made a donation in their name. You will also receive an acknowledgement that your donation was received, the amount, and confirmation that a card has been sent as you directed. All cards will be mailed the week of Mother's and Father's Day.

**Mother's/ Father's Day Gift**

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Jesse's House  
 PO Box 66  
 Cumming, GA 30028

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expenses

Please send a Mother's/ Father's Day Card to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send acknowledgement notice to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is made by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



Jesse's House  
PO Box 66  
Cumming, GA 30028  
678-947-6217  
www.jesseshouse.org

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CUMMING, GA  
PERMIT NO. 125

## Memorial/Honorary Gift

Jesse's House  
PO Box 66  
Cumming, GA 30028

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expenses

Is in memory of / honor of (circle one):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send honorary card to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This gift is made by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contribution

Jesse's House  
PO Box 66  
Cumming, GA 30028

Please earmark my gift for:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Matching Funds

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expenses

This gift is made by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Jesse's House 5th Year Anniversary Gala***

Saturday, March 29th was a very special date in the life of Jesse's House. The day dawned bright and beautiful, the evening turned warm and balmy. At 6:30 pm over 125 people, dressed in their finest formal attire, began arriving at the Polo Golf and Country Club. It's the beginning of a fairy tale evening for the shelter as our 5th Year Anniversary Gala begins.

The evening began with a silent auction, and then proceeded to a delicious buffet dinner with outstanding live entertainment provided by Cy Timmons. After dinner the program moved to a spirited live auction hosted by Rusty Whitlow. One of the live auction items was an painting of an angel. This painting, *Avera, Angel of Young Girls*, has been donated to hang in the shelter's new building when it is finished. *Avera* is a guardian angel assigned to protect young girls, especially in emergency situations.

Meanwhile, in an adjacent room, the silent auction continued. Everyone continued to jovially bid on the beautiful gift baskets and other items with the "Red-neck" basket getting an extraordinary amount of attention. As usual, as the deadlines loomed activity increased with flurry of bidding as the auctions drew to a close.

Once the bidding concluded, Julie Barry awarded "Volunteer of the Year" to the **Polo Women's Bible Study Group** and Steven Morgan awarded "Donor of the Year" to **Family Home Providers**. Jason Dudley unveiled the architects rendering of the new building showing the amazing transformation that will take place in the upcoming months. The evening was topped off by cutting a sumptuous, multi layer, birthday cake the Weger's of The Cake Shoppe had crafted.

After hours of laughter, conversation, wonderful food and great entertainment, everyone happily took their purchases home with them. Yes, it was a magical evening and we look forward to celebrating our birthday with you again next year!

We would like to thank the many persons responsible for making the gala happen. We could not have done this without your help and support .

### **CORPORATE SPONSORS**

**Family Home Providers  
Citizens Bank  
Mashburn Farms, LP.**

**Merrill Lynch  
German Classics, Inc.**

**Healthcare Georgia Foundation  
Jim Ellis Atlanta**

### **DONORS**

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Buckhead Brewery & Grill  
China Garden  
Gonzo's Mexican Restaurant  
Highlands Wine & Cheese Shop  
Jim Ellis Atlanta  
Lakeside Restaurant  
Matthew Butler Architecture  
Polo Golf & Country Club  
Suite Success  
Tuscan Italian Cusine**

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Parsons  
Seniors' Senior Prom  
The Cake Shoppe**

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Bennie & Jeanne Marie Cowdrey  
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Larry & Michele Morris  
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Michael Scaturro  
Cy Timmons  
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**Pete & Catherine Amos  
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Chris & Martha Lappe  
Roy & Beverly Martarella  
Sonny & Marguerite Mitchell  
Burt & Ellene Place  
Don & Diane Robinson  
Carolyn Timmons  
Mr. & Mrs. Reinhold Weger**



*A Few of the Board Members Pose While Setting Up. Pictured from left, Jason Dudley, Martha Lappé, Charlene Harrell, Mary Henderson, Jeanne Marie Cowdrey, and Steven Morgan.*

*Carolyn & Cy Timmons before the music starts.*

*Lenore & Kevin Whitley as dinner starts*

*Bidding at the silent auction*

*Rusty Whitlow at "work"*

*Friends enjoying conversations.*

*Georgia and Georgia Tech Gift Baskets in the silent auction*

*Bidding during the silent auction heats up just before it's close.*

*Architect rendering of the new shelter.*

*Bidders discussing auction items.*

*A formal affair—  
No color please.*

***Family Home Providers, Donor of the Year***  
*Pictured from left, David Savage of Family Home Providers and Steven Morgan, President of Jesse's House Board of Directors.*

*Mike Barnett and Steve Morgan share a laugh before dinner.*

*Sparkling gowns and smiling faces accent the evening.*

*Important faces filled the rooms.*

***Avera, Angel of Young Girls***

***Polo Women's Bible Study Group, Volunteer of the Year.*** Pictured from left, Cindy Purvis, Julie Barry, Director of Jesse's House, and Linda Ray

*A beautiful original painting by local artist Kevin Whitley.*

*The Dinner Buffet*

***Reinhold Weger of The Cake Shoppe Displays the Birthday Cake***