

JESSE'S HOUSE



May 2008



United Way of
Forsyth County

HOW JESSE'S HOUSE HELPED ME....

I am seventeen years old and a senior at Forsyth Central High School. I have been in the state's custody since the age of 12. Since that time, I have been in three foster homes and three group homes. Out of all the placements, Jesse's House holds a special place in my heart.

Before coming to Jesse's House, I placed four walls around me for protection against emotional pain. I wouldn't allow anyone to enter or even come close, with the exception of my brother who was also my best friend. I had felt ashamed, angry, hurt and not wanted because of the past that I had lived. While at Jesse's House, I felt the feeling that I had never felt before, the feeling of acceptance.

I went through a trauma counseling program at Jesse's House. I was taught to open up and allow people into my walls. Little by little, the walls began to fall.

The staff at Jesse's House is amazing. They had become the family that I never had before. They helped me understand caring discipline versus abusive discipline. I always received encouragement and was reminded to follow my dreams.

My dream is to become the first in my family to receive a college degree. At Jesse's House, I received tutoring twice a week. Due to this and my hard work, I was able to make a 1190 on my SAT.

Still to this day, I receive love and encouragement from my family

at Jesse's House. I entered as a girl living in shame and left as a young lady full of confidence. Jesse's House will always be my recommendation for girls in need. I am just one of the girls that have and will receive the care that is given as you enter their doors.

- 17 year old former youth served

We are happy to update that she will graduate from high school on May 24th and has been accepted in to a college of her choice. She will begin her dream of becoming the first in her family to complete college this fall.

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Volunteer Highlight— Tammy Shirley

Tammy Shirley became involved with Jesse's House four years ago and has been a regular volunteer since that time. Tammy was attending church, when the minister spoke about "What can you do for others?" As a local hairdresser, Tammy was inspired to contact Jesse's House about providing haircuts for the girls we serve.

Shortly after, she became involved as a mentor. Tammy has served in several volunteer capacities, including getting others involved in our mentor and volunteering programs, maintaining contact with former residents she mentored and

taking time to make each new girl feel special.

We are proud to say Tammy will be honored at CASA's Light of Hope ceremony on April 24th for her outstanding contributions in the lives of children.

Tammy is also currently working on raising funds and designing an outdoor recreation and relaxation area for the girls at Jesse's House. For more information on this project, please contact Julie Puckett.

Pictured from left to right, are Tammy Shirley and Keyana Brown, Volunteer Coordinator



OUTREACH PILOT PROGRAM

As a way of giving back to the community, one of our goals at Jesse's House is to provide outreach services for girls identified as "at-risk". Recognizing the importance of reaching girls *before* they engage in behaviors that could result in school suspensions, probation, or even incarceration, we teamed up with the counseling department at Otwell Middle School and the Forsyth County Department of Juvenile Justice and held a pilot program of the *Girls Circle Program*.

Girls Circle is an established curriculum (Girls Circle Association, 2004) that provides a strength-based model designed to meet girls where they are and address

a variety of issues through discussion and creative activities. It is designed to foster self-esteem, help girls maintain authentic connection with peers and adult women in their community, counter trends toward self-doubt, and allow for genuine self-expression through verbal sharing and creative activity. Themes are introduced which relate to the girls' lives, such as friendships, mother/daughter relationships, teen drug use and abuse, stress management, body image, dating violence, decision-making and goal setting.

This initial program received positive feedback from participants and community partners. We hope to gain useful information from this

initial project to aid our continued outreach efforts.

- Lindsay Rust, Assistant Director



Thank You

Barnett Businesses Services
Beck, Kimberley
Bobby Amos Waterworks
Bokelmann, John and Kris
Bridesmaid Boutique
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Carnes, Doug and Patty
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Forsyth County Commissioners
Friends in Faith
Hensley, Tammy
Holloway, Greta
Johns Creek Rotary
Kidwell, Bruce

Koehler, David
Laurel Springs Women's Club
Movies 400
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Borg
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Dudley
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Haddock, Jr.
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North Forsyth High School DECA
Oak Grove Baptist WMU
O'Saben, Lisa
Parker, Melody
Pizza Hut, Freedom Pkwy.
Renner, Karen
Shirley, Tammy
Simpson, Cindy L.
Slapshots Skating
South Forsyth High School Key Club
Spence, Pat
Stars and Strikes
Strbu, Joan
The Cooler Ice Skating
Tremonti, Marsha
United Way of Forsyth County

Windward Women's Club
Wolff, Patsy
Work, Brian

IN MEMORY OF

Mrs. Louise V. Mashburn
by June and Victor Dankewich

IN HONOR OF

Zane Michael John McGruder

by

Mr and Mrs Bennie Cowdrey

Neale Louise Ritsick
by Mr and Mrs Bennie Cowdrey

Haley Hawk
by Kimberly Colon

STAFF TRAININGS

In an effort to provide continued education for Jesse's House staff, we appreciate the help of these community members who have donated their time and experience to help Jesse's House staff receive continuing education.

We would like to thank **Sandra Taylor-Anderson**, for training staff about Adolescent Substance Abuse. Sandra has an incredible amount of experience in this field and it was an honor to have her share this information. We would also like to recognize **Mary Lamond**, Executive Director of CASA, for teaching the staff about the work of CASA and how we work together for children. And we would like to thank **Nancy Carlson** who routinely donates her time to assist with our CPR and First Aid requirements.

Cabot Corporation representatives, pictured from right Elizabeth Coop, Heather Hughes, (Julie Puckett) and Angela Gamble present a check to Jesse's House. The proceeds came from a chili cook-off Cabot Corporation holds annually for their employees as a way to give back to the community. We appreciate their support and commitment to the community.



JESSE'S HOUSE RECENT EVENTS

Dana Jolivet contacted Jesse's House to ask if the girls would like new pajamas. We responded enthusiastically and have been grateful to receive lots of new pj's for our girls!

Dana was reading an Oprah magazine 3 years ago and there was a small paragraph that talked about the work of the Pajama Program. She knew she had to get involved and contacted the founder of the program. Since her involvement with the **Pajama Program**, she has facilitated the collection and delivery of over 2000 pairs of pajamas to GA's children in need.

 The **GREAT DAY OF SERVICE** was held on March 29th. This annual event provides needed volunteers to complete projects at the shelter. The group worked extremely hard completing task such as spring cleaning, organizing the shed

and cleaning the patio and landscaped areas. Thank you to our group of volunteers and **Janet Walden, CFUMC Volunteer Coordinator**, for organizing this annual event.

*****] Jesse's House recently became a member of the **Georgia Center for Non-profits. GCN** is an organization that serves, strengthens and supports Georgia non-profits. We look forward to using their knowledge and services in our continued efforts to improve our program and services. Just recently, our executive director Julie Puckett, completed a certificate in the Essentials of Non-Profit Management. Topics included strategic planning, board relations, financial accountability and building high-performing teams.

On February 25th and 26th, the **Windward Women's Club** sponsored a trip for the girls to attend **Abstracts by Miko Salon** located in Crabapple. The trip included a hair cut and style. The group also provided dinner and small gifts for each girl. We appreciate **Windward Women's Club** for their continued support through the years and for making this very special VIP event for the girls we serve. They felt so special and it is so great to see. Also, for Easter the group provided Easter baskets. Thank you to Lynn Mulberry, the community outreach coordinator and to all of these dedicated women. *(Pictured below is Miko, Owner of Miko's Salon)*



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(678) 947-6106 fax

We're on the Web
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E-mail—juliebarry@jesseshouse.org

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Summer Needs

We are gearing up for summer fun and are in need of help to provide for the girls we serve. Wish list items include entertainment tickets and/or sponsoring an outing. If you are interested in helping or would like more information, please contact **Keyana Brown** at **(678) 947-6217**.

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Jesse's House PO box 66 Cumming, GA 30028

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