



SENDING HOPE

hopecenteratpullen.org

The Hope Center at Pullen provides holistic support and life enrichment to at-risk foster youth, and homeless adults and families

Summer
2013



2013 RAISING HOPE DINNER MOST SUCCESSFUL EVER

The 2013 Raising Hope Dinner, an annual fundraising event for The Hope Center at Pullen, took place on May 5th in Pullen Memorial Baptist Church's Finlator Hall. This year the dinner, which was dedicated to the life and memory of The Hope Center at Pullen Board Member Jamie Kirk Hahn, raised over \$58,000 to support the work of The Hope Center to end and prevent homelessness in Raleigh and Wake County.

"This year's dinner was a tremendous success—our best ever," said Anne Sayers, The Hope Center at Pullen Board Chair. "We are so grateful to the many individuals and businesses who sponsored this event, to the volunteers who organized the evening and to all those who attended the dinner. It was an amazing turnout and we are especially thankful to the family of Jamie Kirk Hahn for their generosity in designating the Raising Hope Dinner for gifts in memory of Jamie," she said.

Sayers also indicated that the success of the Raising Hope Dinner allowed The Hope Center at Pullen to reach its goal for matching the challenge grant from The Stewards Fund. "The large number of first-time contributors to the dinner helped us reach the \$25,000 match we needed to secure the \$25,000 challenge grant to expand our support for foster youth. This will allow us to serve more young people aging out of foster care who are at increased risk for homelessness," she said.

One hundred and fifty-two people attended the dinner and 18 volunteers served the meal. A special thank you to Janet McCormick who organized the silent auction. Greg Moore and Kevin O'Barr provided the evening's entertainment and Jo Ann Rey served as the chef for the evening. "I want to personally thank everyone who worked on the dinner," said Sayers. "There is no way we could have such a successful event without the help of many, many people."



BCBSNC Foundation President
Kathy Higgins (R)

Raising Hope Dinner

We salute our title sponsor, dinner sponsors, silent auction contributors, and gift in kind donors. Thank you!

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina-Title Sponsor

- 18 Seaboard
- David Anderson
- Lewis Andrews
- Ann & John Campbell
- Atlantic Coast Conference
- Kathy Bounds
- Brier Creek Country Club
- Café Carolina
- Cantina 18
- Carolina Ballet
- Carolina Hurricanes
- Carolina RailHawks
- Chapel Ridge Golf Club
- Lloyd Childers
- Cycle Logic
- Costco Wholesale
- Allison Dahle
- Walt Devins
- Mike Amburn & Graham Dixon
- H. E. Douglas, Jr., D. D. S.
- Earth Graphics
- Empire Eats
- Five Points Center for
- Aesthetic Dentistry
- Mickey Gault
- Great Outdoor Provision Company
- Haddock Collision Centers
- Jamie Kirk Hahn
- Christine Hayami
- Kathy Higgins
- Hillandale Golf Course
- Hillsborough Street Community
- Service Corp.
- Jane & Jim Hutchby
- Fran James
- Teresa & Christopher Kirk
- Donna Lerner Golf
- Pat & Mike Levi
- Logan's Trading Company
- McGladrey LLP
- Jan Gross & Don Miller
- Mitch's Tavern
- John Monti
- Morningstar Law Group
- N.C. Museum of Art
- N. C. State Women's Basketball
- Office Depot
- Peg O'Connell
- Sharon & Gary Oyster
- Pepsi Bottling Ventures
- Rolando & Associates Hair Studio
- Romeo Wiggan & Company LLP
- Seaboard Wine Warehouse
- Steven T. Smith
- Gerda Stein
- Joy & Eugene Sumner
- Cathy Tamsberg
- Ten Thousand Villages
- The Fresh Market
- The Preserve at Jordan Lake
- Pat Thomas
- Annette Thompson
- Tin Roof Teas
- Cas Sherin & DeVon Tolson
- Triangle Glides
- Carrie & Rolf Tweeten
- Tyler's Tap Room
- Village Motor Werks
- Stephanie & Ron Warren
- Pat Hielscher & Brooks Wicker
- Brad & Carole Wilson
- Sylvia White & Ned Yellig

CYCLE FOR HOPE 2013 SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 5

Registration is now open for the 2013 Cycle for Hope. This year's event will be held on October 5, 2013 and will start and end at The Hope Center at Pullen. We welcome new and experienced cyclists, as well as families, to ride in support of the work and mission of The Hope Center at Pullen.

For active cyclists, there are 100km (62 mile) and 50km (35 mile) routes leaving downtown Raleigh, crossing over several lakes, and providing scenic tours of southern Wake County. For newer cyclists and young families, there is a 19km (12 mile) urban ride that covers portions of the Raleigh greenways and a trip through the Dorothea Dix campus with captivating views of the Raleigh skyline. Registration is limited to 200 riders.

We are also seeking sponsors for the event. Cycle for Hope is in its third year, and we fully expect to reach our cap of 200 riders and exceed last year's fundraising feat of \$10,000. Sponsorships for the 2013 Cycle for Hope range from \$2000 for an Event Sponsor to \$50 for a Bronze Sponsor. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities or how you can support the ride and the work of The Hope Center at Pullen, please call Stacy Bluth, Executive Director, at (919) 322-2751, ext. 5, or email her at sbluth@hopecenteratpullen.org.

REGISTER NOW at <http://hopecenteratpullen.org/events/cycle-for-hope>



**Thank you to our
2012-2013 Volunteers**

Becky Adams
Tania Allen
Shannon Atako
Anna Bailor
Amy Ballard
Amantha Barbee
John Barbee
Alyssa Barrett
Alice Baynes
David Baynes
Terri Beck
Alex Bell
Carolyn Billings
Caroline Blunck
Kevin Boyer
Nancy Bradley
Steve Braun
Deborah Brogden
Chelsey Brown
Jaleeza Brown
Dane Buckner
Sally Buckner
Serena Buckner
Ted Buckner
Ajouli Butler
Eddie Cash
Emily Cato
Clinton Chapman
Warren Chesson
Kate Christmas
Elias Clarke Campbell
Jaime Combs
Vicky Crosson
Jim Crum
Katie Curran
Judith Dean
Sheila Devins
Walt Devins
Annemaire Devlin
Grace Devlin
Stacie DeWolfe
Patrick Dickerson
Graham Dixon
Heidi Dove
Karen Drake
Grace Evans
Colleen Farris
Laura Ford
Ken Fuquay
Corbin Garrett
Linda Garrett
Jamie Godfrey
Bill Gowan
Max Gowan
Jamie Hahn
Stephanie Harden-Smith
Che Che Harper
Muriel Henderson
Earlene Hicks
Pat Hielscher
Kathy Higgins
Davis Hill
Jill Hinton
Jim Hodge
Dottie Holmes
Scott Holmes
Tiffany Howie
Jane Hutchby
Jim Hutchby
Emily Iversen
Melanie Iversen
Kathy Jacobs
Frankie Johnson
Jen Johnson
Ophelia Johnson
Anya Jones
Nancy Jones
Lori Jordan
Oppie Jordan
Ginny Keister
Larry King
Rodger Koopman
Hope Krehbiel
Shaun Kurian
Jackie LaChance
Nancy Landis
Laura Langham
Vickie Leigh
Phil Letsinger
Gerry Ligon
Patricia Lokken
George Marengo
Ronni Margolin

MOMENTS OF JOY: New Executive Director looks to build on strong foundation, aim for the next level

By Ophelia Davis Johnson, M.F.A., The Hope Center at Pullen board member

Stacy Bluth still remembers the penetrating shrill of the telephone ringing in the middle of the night, bringing news of yet another emergency into the family's home in suburban Chicago.

Another catastrophe. More suffering, in many cases.

"My mom was an emergency room nurse and my dad was a police officer," she said. "My parents wanted nothing more than for my sister and I to become lawyers or doctors, but from a very early age, I remember being concerned about social justice."

Growing up, she made up petitions and gathered signatures from classmates and neighbors after school. While others planned elaborate prom dates, she volunteered in the community and often showed up at the school board ready to speak out on issues bigger than herself.

Venues may have changed, but the new Executive Director of the Hope Center at Pullen is still ready to raise her voice to help ease the suffering.

The married mother of two children—Mollie, 7, and Spencer, 5—has a Masters from Stanford University in Education Policy and Evaluation. She has studied troubled communities, witnessed first-hand the societal pressures that weigh people down, and she's never been content to stand on the sidelines in social matters.

In a recent interview, Stacy briefly discussed her new mission at The Hope Center at Pullen, a church-based safe haven in an urban metropolis where about 78,000 people live in poverty and an estimated 1,100 people, including 200 children, are homeless every night.



ODJ: How are you feeling about your work at The Hope Center at Pullen?

SB: I've only been here a short while, but it's easy to see that The Hope Center at Pullen is a unique and wonderful place. The foundation that was built by Diane Daily [the former Executive Director] and the board is incredibly strong and there's the support of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church and all of the volunteers who give so much of their time, energy and heart to this organization. I've never seen anything quite like it. It's truly inspiring.

ODJ: How's your family adjusting to your expanded role back in the workplace?

SB: I've been a stay-at-home mom for the past few years, so this job has definitely brought a new dynamic to our home. Mollie was thrilled. She immediately wanted to know how many people I would be helping and started telling her friends, "my mom is working to make the world a better place." Spencer sees things a little differently, more pragmatic. His first question was "Will you be making more money working at a nonprofit than you make being a mom?"

ODJ: You've said that your husband, John, is a great inspiration and motivator. How so?

SB: He's amazing. He has tackled the piles of laundry and dishes that seem to be growing in our house with a smile. And, most importantly, in those occasional moments when I find myself wondering what I was thinking in going back to work, he's always there to reassure me that I am doing the right thing.

continued on page 3

OUR VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

We salute all 183 of our volunteers for donating 3,313 hours of service! The volunteers listed in this newsletter serve as mentors, tutors, cooks for our summer book club, and furniture movers when our clients move into their own homes. The Hope Center at Pullen volunteers go above and beyond!

A special thank you to our amazing volunteer summer intern, Jen Johnson. Jen has made incredible contributions to The Hope Center at Pullen in her short time here and we will miss her when she returns to UNC-Chapel Hill. Interested in joining this amazing group of volunteers? Email Caitlin, Education Specialist, at cmartinez@hopecenteratpullen.org to find out how.

MOMENTS OF JOY *continued*

ODJ: What about your role in other jobs, including the “I Have a Dream Foundation.” [The organization helps children in low income communities have access to resources and helps them develop skills to gain entry and be successful in college].

SB: I worked with a local chapter in California for almost nine years. The youth I worked with were in first grade when I first met them and got to know their families. This past year my “babies” graduated high school. Almost 90 percent graduated in a community where the graduation rate is typically 30 percent. It was their hard work and determination that got them there and I am so proud of them for doing what so many thought they couldn’t.

ODJ: You also taught in inner-city Washington, DC after college. Did that experience impact your development and decision to pursue other non-profit sector positions?

SB: I taught in a school where students were bringing knives and guns to class. There were no textbooks and my car mirror was smashed at least once a month. On top of all of that, I was right out of college and had never taught a day in my life. It was the first time I failed miserably.

ODJ: You considered leaving, but decided to stay for several years, right?

SB: I wanted to quit at least ten times a day, but I stuck with it and it got better. I never have nor will I ever win an award for my teaching, but it was those years that taught me so many lessons about serving people in a community where the needs are great and the resources are scarce.

ODJ: Would you like to share any goals about The Hope Center at Pullen?

SB: My main goal is to continue to build on this incredible foundation while helping take us to the next level so that we can serve more individuals in the community who desperately need the services we provide. I like writing grants and developing strategic plans, but I really love being in touch with the people who’re being touched by the organization.

ODJ: Your family hoped for different career paths for you and your sister. Have you reconciled the fact that you’re serving—as your parents did—in a challenging area with so many people in crisis?

SB: My sister went the lawyer path, although she’s worked as an eviction defense lawyer and at a nonprofit for battered women. I’m not so sure that’s exactly what they [my parents] had in mind! I have always been drawn to smaller organizations. I find incredible joy seeing a volunteer realize their time and energy makes a difference and, of course, in seeing the people we serve become more independent and on a better path. The moments of joy in this type of work can be few and far between, but when they happen, they are amazing.

THE POWER OF GIVING

The Stewards Fund

The Hope Center is thrilled to announce that it met and exceeded the \$25,000 Challenge Grant from The Stewards Fund. In fact, The Hope Center at Pullen raised over \$78,000 from new, lapsed or increased donations. Thank you to those of you who made contributions, and thank you to The Stewards Fund for partnering with The Hope Center at Pullen to prevent and end homelessness.

State Employees Combined Campaign

The Hope Center at Pullen received a combined total of \$3473.23 in the 2012 State Employees Combined Campaign. We are so thankful to have the support of our wonderful state workers. Please designate The Hope Center at Pullen (code 3749) as a recipient of a gift in the 2014 Campaign. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



SAVE THE DATES

Village Motor Werks Garage Party—A benefit for foster youth featuring *The Carolina Rollergirls’ Car Wash and The Yard Dawgs Band*

September 21, 2013 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.

234 South Boylan Avenue

Owner Pam Wood will throw a festive, kid-friendly party with good food, great music and door prizes. Bring your appetites, dirty cars and generous spirit. Donations accepted.

Oakwood Waits Concert—Donations support *The Hope Center at Pullen’s mission to prevent and end homelessness*

December 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Pullen Memorial Baptist Church

**Thank you to our
2012-2013 Volunteers**

- Judy Mays
- Connie McCall
- Ana McClanahan
- Caroline McCormac
- Stuart McCormac
- Janet McCormick
- Jan McVeigh
- Eleanor Miles
- Donald Miller
- Leigh Mobley
- Monique Momay
- Kelly Moore
- Mary Moore
- Angela Morrow
- Olivia Mudd
- Martha Mullins
- Mary Nations
- Mayra Navarro
- Deborah Norton
- Peg O’Connell
- Erin O’Hara
- Ruth Pardue
- Betty Parker
- Lacy Parrish
- Mack Paul
- Mandy Peacock
- Jeff Perkinson
- Caitlin Phelps
- Rachel Phelps
- Evan Pierce
- Tasha Pippin
- Win Poor
- Cheryl Posner-Cahill
- Nathan Powers
- Beth Reed
- Todd Robinson
- Susan Rogers
- Lorry Romano
- Felicia Roper
- Brenda Rozar
- Cristina Ruiz
- Anne Sayers
- LeighAnna Schesser
- Noelle Schofield
- Amy Schwerthofer
- Genevieve Seghini
- Greg Shank
- Sandy Shank
- Robin Sheffield
- Allyson Siegel
- Kelly Sippel
- Bill Skeels
- Jonathan Sledge
- Jimmy Smith
- Marshall Smith
- Steve Smith
- Traci Smith
- Thom Solomon
- Tammy Spellman
- Tiana Spencer-McClain
- Karen Stanley
- Libby Stephens
- Tim Stephenson
- Eugene Sumner
- Joy Sumner
- Kayla Sumner
- Nancy Swauger
- Cathy Tamsberg
- Chris Tew
- Paul Tew
- Pat Thomas
- Elise Enders Thompson
- Chante Thompson
- Michelle Ventour
- Don Walker
- Lacy Walker
- Cathy Walsh
- Debbie Warren
- Gregg Warren
- Roberto Warren
- Norm Watson
- BJ Welker
- Toni Whitaker
- Sylvia White
- Brooks Wicker
- Rachel Wildhaber
- Amber Wilkes
- Julia Williams
- Zoe Winton
- Ned Yellig
- Eric Young
- Tom Young



1801 Hillsborough St.
Raleigh, NC 27605
(919) 322-2751
hopecenteratpullen.org



Matching Gifts Programs

If your employer has a matching gifts program please consider choosing The Hope Center at Pullen to receive your donation.

Thanks to our 2013 Matching Gift Donors

Citrix
GlaxoSmithKline Foundation
IMO Pump
Kraft Food Group Foundation

The Hope Center at Pullen Board of Directors

Graham Dixon*
Jim Hutchby
Ophelia Johnson
Rodger Koopman
Laura Langham
Peg O'Connell
Mack Paul
Kathy Perkinson*
Anne Sayers
Karen Stanley
Eugene Sumner
Cathy Tamsberg
Gregg Warren
Ned Yellig
**New board members*

We thank all our board members for their commitment and service.

The Hope Center at Pullen Staff

Stacy Bluth, Executive Director
Tania Grant, Mental Health Counselor
Pat Hielscher, Office Manager
Alex Atwell Lane, Case Manager
Caitlin Taylor Martinez, Education Specialist
phone (919) 322-2751
fax (919) 800-3335
hopecenteratpullen.org

MEET ONE OF OUR YOUTH: Jada

This summer The Hope Center at Pullen has had the opportunity to support our youth through several different enrichment opportunities, ranging from art to reading to cooking, and more. In fact, a total of 19 youth have been involved in our programming in these past couple months!

One of our favorite activities this summer has been our youth book club on Tuesday evenings. This book club has given our youth and staff the opportunity to come together to read and discuss a high-interest novel, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Sea of Monsters*. The kids have brought such energy and enthusiasm to this group week after week, and we look forward to taking them to see the movie version in theatres when it comes out this month.

With all the positive things happening here at The Hope Center at Pullen lately, we wanted to take this opportunity to highlight one of our youth, in particular, and to share what she has accomplished through her time at The Hope Center at Pullen.

Jada has been highly involved with The Hope Center at Pullen since January 2013. An avid reader, she attends our book club every week and adds excitement and creativity to our discussions. Beyond book club, we have had the opportunity to support her in a variety of other ways. Jada has a long-term Hope Center mentor, Carolyn, with whom she spends fun, quality time every week. During the spring semester, she also participated in tutoring here at the center. Jada also successfully completed our poetry workshop in February, a college shadow day experience in March, hands-on animation classes with NC State in May, and an Artspace camp in June. Through these opportunities, Jada has shown incredible creativity and drive.

We admire Jada for the goals she is setting and actively working toward, and we will continue to be here to support her along the way. Thank you, Jada, for all your hard work! You inspire us.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

We are growing and the newsletter is reaching more people than ever. By switching to an online newsletter in 2014, the money we save will go directly to helping more program participants.

Do we have your email address? We want to stay in contact with you in 2014. Email Pat Hielscher at phielscher@hopecenteratpullen.org to ensure you will receive future newsletters.

Want more ways to stay updated on The Hope Center at Pullen daily news and activities? Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/hopecenteratpullen and follow us on Twitter @hopectrpullen.