

The Church Connection Grandfather Home for Children



Community Easter Sunrise Service Christ is Risen Indeed!



**Everyone is invited to the
Easter Sunrise Service**

Grandfather Home for Children
Banner Elk Campus on Hickory Nut Gap Road
Sunday, April 4, 2010

6:30am on Resurrection Hill

Led by local pastors of many denominations
Come celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
as we watch the sun rise together!

Breakfast to follow at 7:30am
in the Gymnasium of Grandfather Academy

*Transportation available for those unable to climb the hill
If you want to sit, bring your own chair or blanket
(In case of bad weather services will be moved inside)*



In 2009 over 250 people gathered on Resurrection Hill

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from
God, who reconciled us to himself through Jesus
Christ and gave to us the ministry of reconciliation.”

(2 Corinthians 5:17-18, NIV)

Revealing God’s Love: A Story from Grandfather Home for Children:

Steven is 15 years old. He came to Grandfather Home after several failed foster home placements. He had serious emotional and behavioral problems that were the result of sexual abuse in the biological family from which he had been removed. He was demonstrating tendencies toward



bullying and abusing younger children because of his own terrible experiences. He was academically behind testing at only a 4th grade reading level (around 25 words per minute) when he came our Banner Elk campus. He felt unloved and unlovable and very much alone, never knowing who he could trust. When Steven came to Grandfather Home he was welcomed into a safe and structured environment. The staff in his cottage showed him unconditional love and acceptance, helped him establish a daily routine, made sure his personal needs were met and helped him begin his treatment regimen. He also attended Grandfather Academy on the Banner Elk campus. With the supervision and encouragement of the reading specialist, Steven began a nationally recognized reading program and was very successful. His success was self motivating and he spent much of his free time continuing to work on the reading program. In just 6 months, Steven completed the full set of reading exercises and has improved his reading skills to the point that he tests at grade level or above and reads over 250 words per minute. This once very retiring young man even had the courage to speak to our staff luncheon and share his accomplishments!

Because of his treatment at Grandfather Home, Steven will soon be ready emotionally to move into a new family setting in therapeutic foster care. His academic improvement has given him the confidence he needs to be able to move back into the public schools and to be successful. He has a long way to go but with the help of the staff and teachers at Grandfather Home he has made several huge strides toward being able to be placed with a permanent loving family. Please keep Steven and all the children under the care of Grandfather Home in your prayers.

Foster Parents Success

Grandfather Home for Children has an 89% retention rate for our foster parents, this compares to a less than 50% for family service organizations nationwide. The reason for our success is the exceptional level of training and support our staff offers these dedicated caring families. Each of our prospective foster families receives the state mandated training individually and in small groups. The types of training and the level of training are different for Therapeutic Foster Care and Family Foster Care situations. All of the children placed in foster care have survived some level of family trauma that culminated in their being removed from their biological family. Our foster parents receive one-to-one help with understanding the special needs of each child and are taught coping skills to deal with that particular child's behavioral issues. An individualized treatment plan is developed including any medical or psychiatric treatment and medications needed. Once a child has been placed in the foster home our case workers follow up with each family at least once a week. Because of their small case loads our case workers can be available to support the family for medical appointments or emergency intervention or even for a birthday celebration.

We believe that it is important for our foster families not to feel alone. That is why our cluster groups plan periodic celebration events where the families can get to know each other. The Smokey Cluster celebration was held at Living Waters Retreat Center and included games, prizes, good food, and an enrichment segment for the Foster Parents. In December we offered our first Foster Parents Conference on the Banner Elk campus. It included training in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention techniques for the parents and childcare with fun and therapeutic activities for the children. The response from our parents was very positive and they expressed an interest in more opportunities like this. The second Foster Parent Conference will be held in May. Grandfather Home is also applying for the state licenses that will allow us to use some of the cottages and other facilities on the Banner Elk campus to provide respite care for our foster parents. This will be increasingly important as a result of recent changes mandated by the state of North Carolina. With the 90% decrease in the number of level III residential placements across the state the children being moved into foster placement have a higher level of psychological and behavioral problems. The foster parents need to be trained to handle these behaviors in an effective, consistent and loving way. Grandfather Home is proud to be setting a high standard of care and support throughout all of our Community Services clusters in Asheville, Banner Elk, Gastonia, Winston-Salem, and Raleigh.

If you or your congregations would like to be a part of a support team for the Community Services cluster in your area please contact Mae D. Weed, Director of Church Relations (828-260-7584 or m.weed@grandfatherhome.org).



A Celebration of New Life Grandfather Home for Children

During Lent and Easter Christians Celebrate Jesus Resurrection And Our New Life Through Him!



Healing, success, and a new beginning



Grandparents Clubs provided his very own new bicycle!



Caring volunteers teach new gardening skills and self-confidence



The confidence to perform and be recognized

Your Gifts to Grandfather Home for Children offer a New Life to the Children in our care! Thank you!



**To order copies of our
Lenten bulletin insert
“A Celebration of New Life”
Contact Mae D. Weed
Director of Church Relations
828-260-7584
m.weed@grandfatherhome.org**

**Grandfather Home
For Children**

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