



The Good News from The John 3:16 Center

A Note From the Director

Winter
2008

Volume 4, Issue 1

Quarterly Newsletter

Since October at the Center:

- ☺ We have had two big clothing giveaways, serving 228 individuals.
- ☺ A group from YWAM (Youth With A Mission) spent a weekend helping interested youth learn more about how to share their faith.
- ☺ A large group from churches within CBFNC volunteered in many ways, including running a Free Children's Carnival.
- ☺ More than 20 volunteers helped with shopping, sorting, and wrapping Christmas gifts.

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Happy New Year Everyone!

I am so excited and look forward to 2008 with great anticipation. On January 12th we held our first board meeting for the year and welcomed six new board members to our team. I love to see people who are excited about serving God with great ideas and willingness to use the many talents they are blessed with.

Mark your calendars for our 4th Annual Fundraising Auction and Yard Sale which will be held April 19th at The John 3:16 Center. Remember that spring is around the corner so while you are spring cleaning, feel free to donate any saleable items to the center for this fundraising event.

Christmas Update:

I would like to sincerely thank everyone who donated toys and funds to the center as well as the countless volunteers who wrapped and sorted the many gifts we were able to share with the 95 children for which we were able to provide Christmas. It is amazing to see how God provides every year exactly what we need and the willing people to help us share His love with families that may have otherwise not had Christmas.

I look forward to watching how God can use the center to impact lives for His glory and pray that each of you are blessed by your partnership with us in 2008

Because of Him,
Juli

At the 2nd Annual Fundraising Banquet in November 2007,
donations were made in honor of:

Warren and Elaine Lane

And in memory of:

Dawn M. Parrish

Peggy Hamilton

Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Shearin

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Jones

Introducing...our Board Members!

Rev. Mike Currin

I serve as pastor of Littleton Baptist Church and have been involved with The John 3:16 Center since its inception. I continue to be amazed at all God is doing through the center to care for the needs of children and families. I look with anticipation with what God will do in 2008.

Debbie Hammack

I am a Product Performance Manager at KapStone Kraft Paper Corporation and a member of Pleasant Hill Christian Church in Gasburg, VA. Why do I want to serve? To show Christ-like love and to help provide for the needs in our local communities. We have so much that many times we forget that there are those around us who do not even have the basic needs for daily life. I am honored to serve on this board as the John 3:16 Center not only recognizes and provides the physical needs but also the spiritual needs of children and families and changes lives in the process.

Ken Hinrichs

I am recently retired from IBM where I held various management positions. My family and I moved to Roanoke Rapids four years ago to be closer to our grandchildren. I am an active member of Lakeside Lutheran Church. I have been volunteering with the after school program the last several months and have enjoyed working with the children.

Carla Little

I am a Teacher at Halifax Academy and a member of Enterprise Baptist Church. My husband, Terry, and I have three daughters and one grandson. I want to serve as a board member to be a part of the continuation of the role that The John 3:16 Center plays in our community. I want to help it continue to grow and provide a safe haven for young people to grow socially and spiritually. I have watched the center grow since its inception and look forward to being a part of its growth in the future.

Mike Newton

Born in the first half of the last century in Colorado, I grew up around the world as the son of a US Diplomat. My career has been in the world of business and entertainment. I am currently with Halifax Regional Medical Center. My wife Becky and I bought our lake home 4 1/2 years ago and became full time Lake Lizzards last year. We have 2 children and 3 grandchildren. My desire to become part of John 3:16 comes from my passion to help children grow and develop into responsible adults. I helped start the Upward sports program at his home church, coached soccer for 18 seasons, have served as a camp counselor, an Indian Guide leader, and a swim meet official. I currently officiate for the sports program at Lake Gaston Baptist Church.

Marie J. Robinson

I am a native of Littleton, NC and reside on Weaver's Chapel Road with my husband, Samuel. I am the mother of three children and have two adorable grandchildren. I retired from the Halifax County School System as a teacher with William R. Davie Middle School. I enjoy shopping, walking, talking, inspiring others, and my greatest love—teaching!

Philip Sarpong

I was born and raised in Ghana, West Africa, but moved to the United States 15 years ago. I now live in Littleton, NC with my wife and our four children. I am excited about serving on the board because I love children and I care about their future.

Brian Snivley

I moved to NC from Michigan 3 years ago. I have always been involved with youth in some respect or another either through teaching swim lessons, coaching, or working with youth in churches. I am currently the Technical Director at The Centre at HCC and enjoy interacting with the different artists and play companies that come to perform. I enjoy being around friends and playing games. My favorite is being outside...especially at the beach. I also reading books and learning new things. The reason I am excited about being on the board of the John 3:16 Center is I love making a difference in the lives of youth and am excited to be a part of the Board of the John 3:16 Center. It is exciting to think that we are the Hands and Feet of Jesus on this side of eternity!

4th Annual Fundraising Auction
for The John 3:16 Center
will be held April 19th
At The John 3:16 Center

The John 3:16 Center is in need of **working, salable** items to be donated for this auction. Examples of items needed are: antiques, collectibles, new or gently used household items, electronic equipment, tools, etc.

No clothing will be accepted for auction purposes.

Because of the many programs that we have at the center, we must receive donations only on Saturdays from 10am—2pm. It would be helpful if items for the auction can be donated at this time to limit the distractions to individuals studying in our GED and after-school programs.

All donations to The John 3:16 Center are tax-deductible. If you have questions or would like to donate some items, please contact Juli or Shannon at The John 3:16 Center at 252-586-1800.

****More information will be available on our website and on flyers in the coming weeks when all details are confirmed.****

A Note of Thanks...

Thank you to all the many volunteers and supporters who made it possible for us to share God's love in a special way to the 95 children and their families that we served during the Christmas season. The time our volunteers took assisting with shopping, sorting items for children and families, choosing gifts, wrapping, and assisting with the Christmas party was greatly appreciated. Others assisted financially through monetary donations and donations of clothing and toys. The gifts you give and the time you take assisting mean so much to the children we serve, and the glory goes to God. Each child received a Bible and every gift was labeled "A Gift From God." Thank you for showing His love to others.

If I Could Fly



If I could fly
What would I do?
Would I help the world?
Would I fly like a bird so free?
Or would I stay cooped up afraid of what others might think?
Why should I be afraid to spread my wings and fly away?
If I could fly I would try to make the world a better place.
I would protect the homeless from the rain by flying them to the nearest safe shelter.
I would fly the brightest stars and angels to the very top of the biggest Christmas trees.
Most of all I would try to bring hope to all the little kids who have none.
If I could fly I think I just might fly like a free bird.
I believe it would be the happiest moments of my life.
Wait...
Why can't I bring peace, hope, and shelter now while I'm still a normal person?
Why can't I be happy now?
Truth is I don't need to fly!
So if I could fly I would help others but I would also realize that I don't need to fly
to make a difference.
Even though most people don't notice me I can and will make a difference in the world.

By: N. C., age 13

Volunteer



Spotlight

My name is Hope Neuer and I attend St. Alban's Episcopal Church. It is a pleasure to volunteer here at The John 3:16 Center. My husband and I retired here in January 2003 and soon assisted in building the center. I am a previous board member and have watched the center grow into a safe and secure place for children and their families. I assist on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with the after-school program. I am energized by the children as they share their happiness and love of the Lord. I feel very blessed to help in the nurturing of these children as they develop not only skills in academics and socialization, but in their spirits as young Christian boys and girls. It is my daily prayer that God continues to sustain this ministry as a symbol to the community of His eternal Love.



GED Update



Last semester's GED class was our largest ever with a total enrollment of 25 students. Two of our students graduated and 3 more passed at least one section of the GED. One graduate has gone on to enroll in classes at Halifax Community College and we are all so proud of her. However, I am proud of all our students who make the effort to come out to class and work hard at extending their education and thus improving their futures!



--Martha Nida, GED Instructor



Center Needs



Adult Toothbrushes
Paper Towels
Plastic Cups
Paper/Styrofoam Plates
Toilet Paper
Tissues



New Underwear (all sizes—children, men, & women)

**Winter
2008**

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" 'For God so loved the WORLD, that HE gave His only begotten SON, that whosoever believeth in HIM should not perish, but have everlasting LIFE.' " -JOHN 3:16



The John 3:16 Center
Post Office Box 1541
Littleton, NC 27850

The center will provide opportunities for parental and community involvement in the lives of their children. We look forward to realizing this vision by providing the following services through the center:

- After-school check-in
- Programs and structured activities for children
- Free summer day camps
- and holiday enrichment programs
- Outdoor recreation including a walking trail, softball field, basketball court, and playground
- Counseling services provided by local agencies
- Parenting classes and workshops
- Conflict Resolution workshops (adult and youth)
- GED and Literacy classes
- 12 Step support meetings (AA, NA)
- Family outreach (free clothing, home furnishings, hygienic items)
- Food pantry

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Littleton, NC 27850
Permit # 20