



THE 2015 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER





Creating programs to serve the youth and families of our community is a production. This fact has never been clearer to me than in 2014. Just like the production of a

Hollywood film, many people come together with their talents to support the creation of something that gives us all great pride.

Helping Hands has undergone tremendous change while continuing to operate effectively. This year, we have begun to revamp our physical space by replacing all of the furnishings. We have restructured our organization to create more accountability

and promote innovation and employee engagement. We have even begun the process of national accreditation with the Council on Accreditation. We have acquired new funding sources and created new community partnerships. This was all a part of our commitment to provide superior services to our residents and the community that we serve. But, it takes teamwork to create and execute quality programming for more than 100 residents, provide quality education for almost 2,000 youth and adult community members, maintain a staff of more than 40 and a volunteer pool of over 100. This year has taught us that the right cast and crew members can make anything possible! Thank you for being a part of that team!

## HELPING HANDS AT A GLANCE

### FINANCES

Revenue \$1,360,194  
Expenses -\$1,437,403  
(\$ 77,209)

### PLACEMENT BY COUNTY

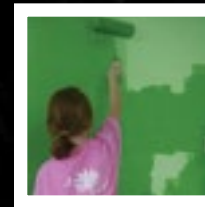
Aiken: 46	Laurens: 3
Allendale: 1	Lexington: 24
Barnwell: 5	McCormick: 2
Cherokee: 1	Newberry: 9
Edgefield: 5	Richland: 32
Greenville: 5	Saluda: 2
Greenwood: 4	York: 3

Total Placed: 142

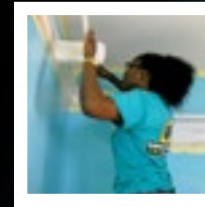
# THE SPACE LIFT



Enter Scene: A large group of volunteers, Helping Hands staff and teen residents gathered under the hot, summer sun. Though it was only shortly after 9 a.m., temperatures were soaring. A group of men and women, heads beading with sweat, opened the back of a truck to reveal boxes upon boxes stacked high.



After months of fundraising, planning and carefully choosing fabric colors and paint, the Helping Hands residential programs received new living and dining room furniture. This collaborative funding initiative was headed by several different community groups including Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, Leadership Aiken County, the Rotary Club of Aiken and Women of Woodside. Our friends with Aiken Young Professionals and Mommy and Me Missions also helped by painting two living areas. These agency investors worked together to honor one great cause and in turn, transformed each area beyond belief as the previous, worn, torn and outdated furniture was over 20 years old!



In 2014 alone, community members donated over 2,000 hours to our cause and volunteers continue to donate their time and efforts to our agency on a regular basis. Because we have such passionate and constant volunteers, we were also able to apply for another grant, as volunteer time often equals funding in the world of nonprofits. As a lucky recipient, the new grant will allow us to install a surveillance system for security purposes, bedroom furniture in each program, equipment for the Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator position and hire more Child Advocate/Case Manager staff members to ensure each resident's needs are constantly met.

Fun Fact:  
274 volunteers  
donated 2,018 service  
hours in 2014.



Want to be a "cast member" in future productions?  
Call us today to volunteer: (803) 648-3456!





# MILLION DOLLAR BABIES

**\$166 million:** This is approximately how much South Carolina taxpayers pay for teen pregnancies every year.

Teen pregnancy statistics are decreasing, due in part to evidence-based curricula like the programs used by Aiken Youth Empowerment, a program of Helping Hands. In South Carolina, reports have shown that teen birth rates have declined by 54% since 1992. Though these numbers motivate us, they do not mean the problem is solved, as South Carolina still has the 12th highest teen birth rate in America.

AYE promotes healthy decision-making in youth in an attempt to lower the statistics more. From 2011-2014, over 3,800 students received age-appropriate reproductive health from our Community Educators. AYE has also shown over 920 teens how unprepared they are to be teen parents through the Real Care Infant Simulators lending program. And lastly, over 1,000 youth have developed an increase in self-efficacy, perceived social support and overall body perception through the gender-specific programs Girls Circle and Boys Council.

Thanks to a five-year, federal grant awarded by the Office of Adolescent Health, AYE will be partnering with the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy to offer more programming! SC Campaign's CEO Forrest Alton explained the process by saying, "About \$250,000 a year will go directly to youth-serving organizations in Aiken County to help them hire staff and purchase the resources and the materials they need to implement evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. At the end of five years, my hope is that the average citizen of Aiken County will look back and be able to say that the quantity and quality of programming for youth locally have changed significantly for the better."

*5,785 students have received AYE programming from 2011-2014. Want more information? Visit: [aikenyouthempowerment.org](http://aikenyouthempowerment.org) or [teenpregnancysc.org](http://teenpregnancysc.org)!*



# WE'VE GOT SPIRIT

## A SPIRIT SQUAD PRODUCTION

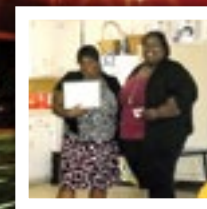
Work can be discouraging; the long hours and stressful days can really be burdensome, but when you work at a place like Helping Hands where you are supported and celebrated, that turns the whole perspective around!

Studies show that when staff feel respected, turnover rates decrease. This is vital in the area of child welfare. If staff are not reliable and consistently present, our facility can face major implications per our licensing agreement with the South Carolina Department of Social Services. The children's needs can also be left unmet, making them feel vulnerable and unsafe which is the opposite effect we want to have.

After a multi-day training with the Child Welfare League of America, our staff voiced their opinions and ideas regarding what would make them feel more appreciated. This prompted the creation of the Helping Hands Spirit Squad.

Currently five staff members work hard to make sure each person on our team knows they are valued. Every month, Kandace Cave, Shenita Thomas, Lynn Wade, Laura Wilson and Marco Morgan create one-of-a-kind bulletin boards to celebrate staff birthdays and work anniversaries. They also implement a quarterly voting system where the entire staff chooses our "Staff of the Quarter." A celebration is then had to honor that person's hard work and dedication to the agency's mission and the children we serve. Other agency fun days are planned and prepared by these individuals such as the annual Helping Hands residents vs. staff baseball game, the Family Fun Day summer cookout and the annual Holiday party.

The spotlight is on you, Spirit Squad, for constantly going above and beyond in thinking of ways to celebrate others on our team!





# SUPERSTARS



There's an old saying, "it takes a village to raise a child," and we believe this is true! Without the generosity of our supporters and event planning committees, our programs would lack severely.

Let us break it down for you. Last year we reported that our contract with the South Carolina Department of Social Services made up approximately 69%, and United Way of Aiken County, Inc. funding made up about 17% of our budget. Though we are incredibly grateful for both organization's support, there is still a gap for other agency needs, which is why partnerships and fundraisers are so vital.

On a Friday in early November, over 150 guests come dressed to the nines to attend our biggest fundraiser, A Chef's Extravaganza. Proceeds from this formal dining event go directly to our programs which is truly a huge help! We are

delighted to highlight our superstar volunteer planning committee for the 12th annual event as: Marissa Evans, Teresa Felder, Mary Jo Herring, Gladys Miller, Vicki Snow, Rachel Stofan, Peggy Thome, Chef Brandon Velie and Susan Vernon.

Fast-forward to March. A second set of true superstars head the Triple Crown Golf Classic every spring, which is a fundraiser that benefits us and Tri Development Center. Months of planning, soliciting and carefully shaping relationships are time-consuming, so without these people, this tournament would fall short. In the spotlight from our 20th annual planning committee are: Gail Boule, Ron Jones (Chairman), Jeff Jenik, Melencia Johnson, Eric Lenser, Gladys Miller, Susan Vernon and Jack Williams. We'd also like to thank our friends at Tri Development, Ralph Courtney and Bonnie Fulghum, for partnering with us for this event every year.

## Behind the Scenes at Helping Hands

(In Order of Appearance at the Agency, Where We Have Some "REEL" Fun!)

Assistant Residents' Unit Director Pearl A. Carter, *Direct Care Staff*

Assistant Educational Series Producer Lynn Wade, *Direct Care Staff*

Food Stylist Andrew Jenkins, *Maintenance Tech*

Residents' Travel Coordinator Rancho Smiley, *Direct Care Staff*

Musical Arrangers Doris Hoffman, *Board Member*  
Phyllis Loftis, *Former Board Member*  
Susan Jurgensen, *Volunteer*  
Helga Hulse, *Former Agency Piano Instructor*

Story Producers Siobhan Maley, *Volunteer*  
David Pretorius, *Volunteer*

Event Developers Sand River Woman's Club, *Volunteers*  
Wise Outrageous Women, *Volunteers*

Choreographer Todd Hamilton, *Direct Care Staff*

Craft Artists Elaine Bennett, *Volunteer*  
Wanda Padgett, *Volunteer*

Residents' Hair & Makeup Artist Sonia Chacon, *Administrative Assistant*

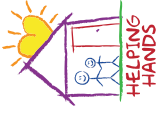
AYE Statistical Data Wrangling Lauren Winburn, *Staff Member*

Prop Makers Trinity UMC Men's Group, *Volunteers*

Location Scout Cold Creek Nurseries  
*Agency Supporter/Donor*  
USCA Ruth Patrick Science Education Center  
*Agency Supporter/Donor*



**Want to be a part of the sequels? Admit one; admit all!  
Call us to join our planning committees: (803) 648-3456!**



P.O. BOX 503  
AIKEN, SC 29802

**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Triple Crown Golf Classic**  
Monday, March 28, 2016  
**Woodside Plantation Country Club  
Aiken, South Carolina**  
To benefit: Helping Hands and Tri-Development Center  
For information, call us at (803) 648-3456

*A Chef's Extravaganza*  
*A Chef's Extravaganza is a unique night of fine wine and food. The event will feature some of the CSRA's finest chefs, an auction, and live entertainment.*

**Friday, November 11, 2016  
Woodside Plantation  
Country Club**

For information, call us at  
(803) 648-3456

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