



Hurricane Florence Recovery Efforts



The Country Store (above) after the storm and (below) now.



The hay barn (above) after the storm and (below) now.

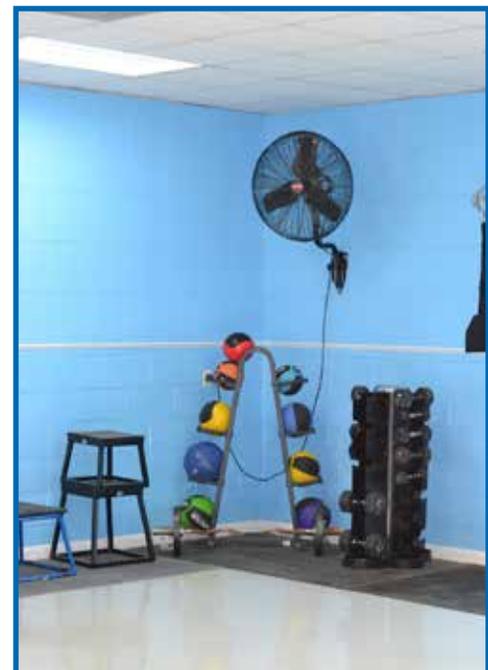


Hurricane Florence had a significant impact on our Boys and Girls Homes campus in Lake Waccamaw.

All told, the insurance documented cost of hurricane related repairs has climbed to \$439,000, with the process of assessment and repair still ongoing.

“It is a process that will continue for a long time as we not only repair the damages that occurred from this storm, but take proactive measures to make sure that the campus is prepared for the next storm,” said President Gary Faircloth. “We are truly grateful for all the support we have received from our friends who have made it possible for us to continue making futures brighter for children.”

To keep updated on the recovery efforts, visit our website www.boysandgirlshomes.org/hurricaneflorence.



Roxy's Place (left) after the storm and (right) now.

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A Message from President Faircloth



GARY FAIRCLOTH
President/CEO

Happy New Year!

We are so grateful that you are continuing the journey with us into 2019. So many wonderful things are happening, and I look forward to sharing the news with you!

As you saw on the front of this newsletter, we are continuing our recovery from Hurricane Florence. It is a process that will continue for a long time as we not only repair the damages that occurred from this storm, but take proactive measures to

make sure that our campus is prepared for the next storm.

You will also have the opportunity to read about the dedication of The Roy and Carolyn Register Community Based Services Administrative Offices. This special event, held in late November, recognized the contributions of an incredible family while also celebrating the continued growth of our Community Based Services. We have added the C.R.E.A.T.E. Hope program to help child victims of crimes and their non-offending caregivers and will be adding a second program in the coming months.

In this issue we also acknowledge the accomplishments of our students and staff at Thomas Academy. Our school was recognized with an Academic Growth Award from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction! This is truly a credit to all the hard work and dedication put in by the teachers and students and something we believe we will see more of in the coming years.

And, of course, we share the celebrations of the holiday season with a spread of photos to bring a smile to your face.

All of this is made possible through your generosity and support throughout the year. I look forward to sharing all the news in the coming year with you.

Thank you for making futures brighter for children!

For the Love of Kids,

OUR MISSION

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina is dedicated to providing a comprehensive array of residential and community-based services to meet the needs of vulnerable children by addressing their physical, emotional, social, educational and spiritual development.

Communiqué is the newsletter of Boys and Girls Homes and is published three times yearly.

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Boys and Girls Homes complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

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melissa.hopkins@bghnc.org
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e-newsletter list!

Alumni Corner: Macey Savage



Macey Savage is grateful for all the support B&GH has provided her in her educational journey.

When Macey Savage came to visit the B&GH campus during her winter break from Western Carolina University, she hit the ground running, volunteering with two different community groups and assisting in the automotive shop as she did during her days as a youth on campus.

“I enjoy returning and getting involved in the community,” Macey said. “I still talk with my staff who really supported me while I was here.”

Although she graduated from Thomas Academy in June, Macey will return to WCU this spring as a sophomore majoring in forensic science and psychology. She participated in the freshman leadership initiative and has applied to be a mentor for students who start in the summer program like she did.

“I would love to do the study abroad program in Australia,” Macey said. “I will have to work out the financial side, but I want to travel to meet new people and experience new things while learning.”

This level of initiative is something Macey never expected when she arrived at B&GH a year behind in school.

“I had no motivation to go to college because I was so far behind. Dr. Simmons, Ms. Tracy (Coston) and the staff really pushed me on the right track. That support and the scholarships I received through B&GH really allow me to pursue my education.”

Vice President Ray Cockrell earns Certified Financial Planner certification

Vice President for Development Ray Cockrell completed the certification process to become a Certified Financial Planner in October.

“This certification is another demonstration of our commitment to growth,” said President Gary Faircloth. “Ray took on this process in addition to his work responsibilities to become one of the 20 percent of financial advisors to have achieved CFP® status.”

CFP® certification is recognized globally as the highest standard in professional financial planning. To receive certification, Ray had to complete 33 hours of post

baccalaureate coursework, pass a 10-hour comprehensive exam, and accumulate 6,000 hours of practical experience while maintaining a high



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ethical standard. According to official estimates, each exam offering includes about 2,100 exam participants with an average pass rate of 64 percent.

“Having this knowledge and experience helps me to see our donor’s larger financial picture, which better equips me to help them meet their philanthropic goals,” Ray said. “This is good for our

donors, good for the organization, and, most importantly, good for our children.”

Spirit of Giving

By Ray Cockrell, CFP®
Vice President of Development
Planned Giving & Major Gifts

I recently had the opportunity to spend some time with a gentleman and his wife who have been great friends of our children for many years. As we discussed his generosity, he shared with me that he has been fortunate to be able to support organizations like Boys and Girls Homes – and that no matter how much he gives, God seems to replace it every year so that he can do the same or more again. We find this to be a common theme with our friends. The more they are a blessing to our children; the more they are blessed in their lives. God is good!

Our donors never cease to amaze me! We have great friends who continue to believe in what we do and continue to support our work with the children. We have wonderful supporters who give on a regular basis and then, when we experience a challenge like Hurricane Florence, they are generous beyond their regular contributions. Our children are truly blessed to have great friends like you in their corner.

We are having an impact on the lives of the children we are so fortunate to serve. We are making a difference and making futures brighter for those in our care. We are only able to do this with the help of passionate people who have a huge heart for children. Thank you for being a part of the Boys and Girls Homes family.

May God continue to bless you just as you have been a blessing to our children!

Christmas

Christmas Dinner Visit from Santa & the Elves



The 2018 campus Christmas dinner and visit from Santa and the elves provided plenty of smiles for children of all ages. Following the dinner in the fellowship hall, Santa made a special visit to each cottage to distribute presents to residents. A special thank you to all who contributed Christmas sponsorships for our children this year!



The Night Before Christmas Re-imagined

In this holiday season, Rev. John Cobb applied his creative skills to re-imagine the classic Christmas poem by Clement Clarke Moore to reflect the experiences of so many of the children we serve at B&GH.

It's the night before Christmas
But I'm not at home.
But I'll use this opportunity
To tell you how far I've come.
I've spent several years
Moving from place to place,
Add to that many bad memories
That I can't erase.
I've stayed with some family
That I never really knew
And yes you really do wonder
If they wanted you to.
I've slept on the floor
And on many couches,
I have stopped keeping track
Of the number of houses.
And now I've been placed
In your home you see.
I hope this helps make sense
Of what my behaviors may be.
I may come in with a smile,
But that's just a disguise.
If you look closer, there's
A deep sadness in my eyes.
I would rather be home
Even if I don't know where it is.
I would like for you to remember,

I didn't ask for this.
I may try to push you away
'cause that's all I know,
But please stick with me,
Please don't go.
What I really need is to
Feel safe and feel loved,
Instead of abandoned or
Pushed and shoved.
So if I am coming to spend
Christmas with you,
Here are some things that
Maybe you can do:
Be compassionate and genuine
And patient with me;
Don't get upset if I'm
Not filled with holiday glee.
If I get upset,
Don't ask me "What's wrong?"
Instead allow me some space,
Let me listen to a song.
When I am ready,
I'll open up to you.
I really am thankful
For all that you do.
So on this night before
Christmas
Take the time to remember
For me this may be a
Difficult December,
But I need Christmas love
just like you,
and I'll need it
after the holidays too.



Rev. Cobb is the Continuous Quality Improvement Risk Manager and Sanctuary Coordinator for B&GH.

Celebrations

Foster Care Christmas Party 2018



Christmas Open House

Ocean View Baptist Church of Ocean Isle Beach returned to share their time and talent with the 2018 Christmas Open House theatrical presentation of "Welcome to Bethlehem!"

A reception following the performance allowed the audience to meet the performers while enjoying a time of food and fellowship amid festive decorations.



Thomas Academy receives academic growth award

Thomas Academy received a North Carolina Academic Growth Award for the 2017-2018 academic year from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

“Academic growth represents an impressive amount of hard work by students and educators,” State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mark Johnson wrote in a letter of congratulations to the school. “Again this year, I’m presenting awards for achieving and exceeding expected academic growth.”

According to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction website, “Student growth is the amount of academic progress that students make over the course of a grade or class. Students enter grades and courses at different places; some have struggled while some have excelled. Regardless of how they enter a grade or course, students can make progress over the course of the school year.”

“Our student population is somewhat different from other schools in the area as at times students come to us significantly behind grade level,” said Dr. Tom Simmons, vice president for education. “Making



Some of our Thomas Academy staff, from left, Travis Fassnacht, Timothy Curtis, Whitney Bronson, Tara Haynes, Betty Hux, Jonathan Crawley, Patty Lyerly, DeLayne Sons, Brian Heim, Whitney Boykin, Leo Wilson and Dr. Geraldine Bradshaw.

expected growth by the state standards is a huge accomplishment for all of our students.”

It is an accomplishment set up by the educational plans put in place for each student according to Dr. Geraldine Bradshaw, director at Thomas Academy.

“Thomas Academy is a school of opportunity,” Dr. Bradshaw said. “As director, I look at each student individually and assist in putting a plan in place to assist all needs. Every transcript, every report card, is looked at personally by me. My school counselor’s background has come in handy with assisting the student and parent in planning their future. With the data provided through all

these programs, our staff is able to differentiate instruction to best serve each individual student.”

It is the teachers in the classrooms who are responsible for making sure the students are receiving the kind of instruction they need to continue to achieve.

“Our teachers truly deserve the credit for helping our students succeed,” Dr. Bradshaw said. “The statement I have heard over and over from the staff is that it is about focusing on student success,” said Bradshaw. “If it means that the teachers are expanding their hours to provide the needed interventions to bring these children to the next level, that is what they are going to do.”

Volunteering with Habitat for Humanity

A group of 24 Thomas Academy students traveled to Whiteville Nov. 8 & 9 to work on a Habitat for Humanity Home. The students worked on sweeping, cleaning walls, and painting. They also had the opportunity to meet and work with the woman who will move into the home when it is ready.





Lions Cottage kicks off Family Day Open Houses



In mid-November, Lions Cottage became the first to host a Family Day Open House.

“We have wanted to find ways to bring families to campus to be a part of the children’s healing process when appropriate,” said David Passmore, vice president for residential services. “We started with Lions Cottage because it is a transitional living cottage, meaning the youth are at a higher level within our program.”

In addition to family portraits, the day included a meal in the cottage, time to visit and even a special marshmallow construction project.

“This is just the start of what we hope to be a transformative collaboration with families,” Mr. Passmore said. “We will be working our way through the cottages in the coming months as part of our commitment to serve the children and families before us today.”

What was your very first Christmas present?

If asked, would you be able to answer the question, “What was your very first Christmas present?” Not the first Christmas present this year, but your first one EVER. The vast

majority of us would have no idea.

Yet during my time at Boys and Girls Homes, I have witnessed child after child receiving their first ever Christmas presents. Our staff see this every year. I have seen a young lady of 17 years of age thank our civic club friends for her Christmas presents – her first ever!

I saw another young lady ask a counselor what she was supposed to do with all the presents stacked around her during a Christmas party. “Open them,” said the counselor. “All of these are for me?!” the girl asked.

This year, one of our 13-year-old girls squealed with excitement as she opened her first-ever Christmas presents.

These presents were freely given with love and affection by some of our most treasured civic club members. The memories you have helped create are positive, permanent, and life changing.

I am continually amazed at the great difference you are making for our young people. Thank you for helping demonstrate the love of Jesus to our children at Christmas and all during the year.



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Roy & Carolyn Register Community Based Services Administrative Offices dedicated in Lake Waccamaw

The sun shone brightly over the crowd gathered for the dedication of the Roy and Carolyn Register Community Based Services Administrative Offices at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina held Tuesday, Nov. 27.

Roy Register of Pinehurst and his late wife Carolyn, provided their time, talent, and treasures to B&GH in many ways over the years. Carolyn was a leader in the Extension and Community Association in North Carolina and worked to connect that organization with B&GH. She later served on the board of trustees at B&GH and continued as an emeritus member until she passed away on March 4 at the age of 84 after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Roy and other members of the Register family were in attendance for the event along with longtime friend Dewey Alley.

The naming of the CBS Offices to honor the Registers is reflective of the expansion to that program thanks to the support from the family.

"When Miss Carolyn was on the Board, we were foster care and adoption, but since then we have added so many new programs that we are now called Community Based Services," said Donna Yalch, vice president of CBS. "Our programs include family foster care, therapeutic foster care, adoption, confidential intermediary services, the Janet Mitchell Winstead Lake Houses I & II and C.R.E.A.T.E. Hope."

Since 1999, family foster care at B&GH has served 1,385



Roy Register, center, enjoyed the dedication of the Roy and Caroline Register Community Based Services Administrative Offices with his granddaughter Lisa, left, great-grandson Pete, and daughter Laraia.

children. After learning of a need from the foster families, adoption services were added in 2004. Since that time, more than 300 children have found their forever family through B&GH. Confidential intermediary services came to B&GH in 2009 to help children who were put up for adoption or their families who put the children up for adoption to reconnect. The Janet Mitchell Winstead Homes serve teen moms and their babies were created in 2012 and have served more than 45 young mothers.

"I can't emphasize enough how much this family has meant to the lives of children at Boys and Girls Homes," said President Gary Faircloth. "Futures have definitely been made much brighter because of this commitment to our mission. By helping to establish new programs, children will have brighter futures for years to come."

Read an expanded version of this article on our website:

[boysandgirlshomes.org/news/Roy-Carolyn-Register-Community-Based-Services-Administrative-Offices-dedicated](http://www.boysandgirlshomes.org/news/Roy-Carolyn-Register-Community-Based-Services-Administrative-Offices-dedicated)

Keep up with the news between issues! Visit the website: www.boysandgirlshomes.org/News

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Gifts may also be given online at www.boysandgirlshomes.org