



News from the ORCHARD

Fall 2015

The Newsletter of Sipe's Orchard Home

Volume 70

From the President

For a couple of years we have focused on restoration at Sipe's--restoration of children's lives as well as our buildings and grounds. Today, we are seeing results!



Jamie Brown, CEO

- Houston Cottage's Transitional Living Program is expanding, with definite plans underway for the renovation and occupation of two currently empty buildings.
- *All* of our Houston residents are employed.
- One of our Houston graduates began her senior year of college.
- Forty-five four year olds left us in June, ready for kindergarten.
- A solar farm is being built on 25 acres, adding to the crops, cows, sheep, clubs, and cell tower which also use our excess acreage and generate revenue which serves our mission.

These are exciting times at Sipe's! You will see in this newsletter our expansion plans for the Transitional Living Program, as well as samples of all the folks who support our work. From cash donations, fund raisers, and physical labor, our community propels us forward with its gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

"I Had To Find A New Life"

Maria literally walked up to the Houston Transitional Living Program one day and said she needed a place to live. Her mother was taking advantage of Maria, forcing her to abandon school, friends, and dreams in order to provide free childcare for her younger siblings. After a year and a half at Houston, Maria has graduated from high school, obtained her first part time job, and learned to drive. Today, Maria is working a new, full time job at a doctor's office, planning and collecting for her own apartment, and saving for her first car which she hopes to purchase later this year.



Maria is driving on her own now, having recently obtained her driver's license.



Jamie Brown receiving a check from Joe Spears, president of the online Rotary E-Club One.

Vice-president Mark Morgan receiving a check from Sierra Wright, manager of Tutti-Frutti in Hickory.



We help families grow their dreams

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The newsletter of Sipe's Orchard Home

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4431 County Home Road
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For more news about Sipe's please visit
www.sipesorchardhome.org

Houston Program Will Grow to Serve More Youth

Plans are underway to expand the Transitional Living Program into additional buildings on the Sipe's campus.

The Transitional Living Program in Houston Cottage opened in 2010 and was soon overwhelmed by requests for placements. Having already grown from a maximum of six residents to twelve, the program is ready to grow again.

Dr. Jason Guyer, Houston Cottage Manager, says he is excited about this expansion. "It gives us the opportunity to meet more needs of our present population as well as opens up more beds for more kids. We're calling it *Stepping In, Stepping Up, and Stepping Out.*"

"We have a wide range of strengths, interests, abilities, and maturity living under one roof right now," says Jamie Brown, Sipe's Orchard Home's president. "Expanding into other buildings makes it possible for us to tailor the programs for different youths' needs."

The expanded Transitional Living Program will be divided into three distinct tiers which will offer each resident the most appropriate environment:



Stepping In Houston Cottage will serve as the entry point into the Transitional Living Program for most youth and provide the most supervision, the most structure, and the most focus on each resident's needs and goals.



Stepping Up In Bumgarner Cottage, residents will find that more is expected of them and less will be done for them. These youth will be attending school and/or working, managing their day-to-day needs, and clearly moving themselves forward.



Stepping Out Residents of the two-story house may need periodic staff support, but they will essentially live on their own. This residence will offer the youth a safe place to practice their independence, save some money, and establish themselves as solid young adults.

Bumgarner Cottage and the two-story house need considerable renovations. We have raised about a third of the funds we will need for this project. As we raise the money, we are also defining the details of the programs, pursuing all necessary licensing, and spreading the word about this expansion at Sipe's.

The Transitional Living Program serves young adults who are homeless, aging out of foster care, or otherwise disadvantaged and unable to cope successfully on their own. The program has helped numerous youth attain the skills, confidence, and credentials that they need to achieve independence.

Can you help us make this expansion a reality?

Here are some of our most pressing needs:

- Furniture
- Kitchen appliances
- Kitchen & cleaning supplies
- Towels, linens, pillows, drapes, blinds
- Labor (painting, renovating, and setting up)
- Paint and painting supplies
- Vehicles



Dr. Jason Guyer is the new Cottage Manager for the Houston Transitional Living Program. Jason began at Houston in 2012, moving from part-time to overnight to full-time positions. He has been a pastor in this area for 30 years and is founder and pastor of Big God Ministries. He says, "I consider my work at Sipe's an extension of my call to ministry."



President Jamie Brown receiving a check from Ray Robinson of GKN Driveline in Newton.



Former homeboy Peter Hauser and his wife Bobbi visited this summer. Peter had many interesting tales to tell of his life before, during, and after his time at Sipe's in the 1950's, as well as his family's fascinating story of immigration during World War II.

Tyndall Center Welcomes New Children

The three NCPK classrooms in the Tyndall Center started another school year with a new director, 45 new kids, seasoned teachers, great activities, and plenty of excitement.



Amber Vega is the new Director of Early Age Education; she oversees the NCPK classrooms and the summer camp program. Amber was an Air Force medic and is a Certified Child Life Specialist. She has three years of experience as a private child care center director. Amber is married and has two children.



The NCPK teachers and assistants enjoyed Teacher Appreciation Week in the spring. Pictured here are, seated, Linda Kuykendall, Kristin Oxford, Lori Herman, and, standing, Megan DeWitt, Emaly Williams, Na Lae See, and interim director Tonya Whisnant. All of last year's teachers returned this fall.



The annual NCPK graduation was its usual pageant of smiles, fidgets, songs, cute children, happy teachers, and proud parents.



Playground activities are a perennial favorite.



The Kappa Delta sorority from Lenoir Rhyne University spent a day fixing up the Tyndall Center's playground before the new school year started.



Grace and Truth Baptist Church of Hickory held their second fundraiser for Sipe's. A host of talented musicians entertained at the church for a day of southern gospel music.

The following donors supported Sipe's from January 1 through July 31. Thank You!

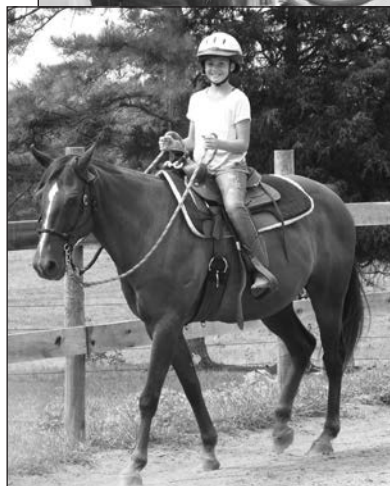
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Summer Camp



Summer campers enjoyed a host of activities, guest speakers, and special events, only a few of which are pictured here. Where else can kids learn about precious gems, cowboys, model airplanes, hula dancing, patriotism, and horseback riding, all in one summer?

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The annual Bunny Run for Sipe's was a treat for our children. Sponsored by Blue Ridge Harley Davidson, this event not only raises money for the Blessings in a Backpack program which benefits the four-year-olds in the Tyndall Center, it also provides many needed items for the older youth in Houston Cottage.

In Memory of...

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The Catawba Valley R/Cers held their annual Fly-In for Sipe's in their field on our campus. Besides the traditional gas and electric powered radio controlled airplanes, this year's event also showcased sailplanes, jets, helicopters, and drones.



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