

We are
80+
Growing
Futures at
Sipe's Orchard Home



Jamie Brown
CEO / President

Here is the Buzz from the Orchard

As we usher in the new year and look forward to both the hopes and the challenges that 2025 will offer, it is worthwhile to reflect on the highlights and successes of 2024.

Wonderful things have happened at Sipe's Orchard Home in recent months:

- Recycling Equipment Inc. (REI) hosted their annual charity golf tournament in October. They do an amazing job of planning and organizing the event each year to benefit Sipe's Orchard Home. Two of our youth were able to speak to the participants at the end of the day, giving the donors a more personal connection to our mission.
- A late model VW Beetle was generously donated to Sipe's. Part of our program is teaching teenagers to drive and helping them to get their licenses. This puts a lot of wear and tear on our vehicles, so the donation of a car in excellent condition is of tremendous value to us and is greatly appreciated.
- Holidays are often difficult for the teens in our care. Their family connections are often poor, and many have had unhappy Christmases in the past. Thanks to the generosity of many businesses, churches and individuals who contributed gifts, our youths had a positive and joyful Christmas in 2024. It was nice to see them smile and receive some of the things they wanted.

In 2025, we will serve more youth both on our campus and in the community. We will continue to explore housing options for youth who are preparing to move out. With the increased cost of apartments, this is one of the biggest challenges we face. I'm grateful we have so many moving out into this next chapter, and we are honored to walk with them as they begin their new journey.

Jamie Brown, CEO / President



*Newsletter
Volume 97
January 2025*



**DeLane
Bowman,**
COO

Buzz from the COO

I am thankful for our community partners who support our children and youth. Your support impacts those we serve in many tangible and intangible ways.

Our Drive to Thrive program gives our youth the opportunity to earn their driver's licenses and drive independently. Three youths completed the program and received their licenses in 2024, and one was able to purchase his first car. While having a license opens new opportunities and freedoms, our staff continue to mentor and help them work through the obstacles in life. When life happens, we are here.

We strive for excellence in all aspects of our mission. The standards that we use in defining excellence are established by our accrediting body, the Council on Accreditation. We are now completing the many steps toward re-accreditation. This process keeps us informed and up to date on the best practices for the work that we do. Please review our 2023-2024 report and the results of our work.

As we dive into the new year, reflecting on the year we leave behind gives valuable perspective for the future so that we can prepare our children and youth for their best futures!

DeLane Bowman
Chief Operating Officer

2025 Summer Camp News

Mrs. Whisnant has a wonderful summer camp planned for our school aged children. We are expanding our summer camp and the theme this year will be centered around "National Days of Summer". We will have more to share soon!

We are beginning our search for group leaders to work in our Huckleberry Summer Camp. If you know of someone who is 18 or older, reliable, good with children, and looking for seasonal work during the summer months, please have them contact us.

SAVE THE DATE!

**Camp begins
May 27, 2025!**

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Buzzin' around in Transitional Living

Sipe's Transitional Living Program continues to inspire teens to THRIVE in 2025!

Sipe's Orchard Home's Transitional Living program provides a safe space for homeless teens to learn the life skills that are vital to becoming successful young adults. The first milestone they typically reach is graduating high school. Because our youth have been moved around in the system, their educational records are often fragmented. As a result of this, four youth finished high school in December.

It now is time for them to face one of the first major decisions in their lives. They ask themselves: What do I do now? Do I enter a community college, or a work training program? Or do I go to work immediately and try to save money to move out on my own? One of these graduates is beginning training at the fire academy. Another will be starting classes in medical billing and coding. Sipe's supports them as they work towards their new goals.

When I speak to groups in the community, I often ask them if they were finished parenting when their children graduated high school or when they turned 18. The audience unanimously says, "No!" They understand that youth need continued support well past that momentous graduation.

Buzzin' around at Summer Camp

Huckleberry Summer Camp served up fun to 57 families in 2024

At Huckleberry Summer Camp our campers took a break from electronics and participated in many adventures and activities in 2024. Centered around the theme "I like calling North Carolina Home," they enjoyed learning from our Master Gardeners about how to tend a garden and grow fresh vegetables. Campers expressed their creativity through arts & crafts projects. They got their wiggles out through exercise, such as hiking, bike riding, skating, yoga, outdoor games and sports like basketball, football and soccer. Campers learned to cook and got to make many different tasty recipes throughout the summer, went swimming weekly at the local pool, went fishing, and made many valuable friendships along the way.





Buzzin' about our Drive to Thrive Program

Sipe's DRIVE to THRIVE Program puts youth on the road to future success!

One of the first major milestones any teenager wants to reach is becoming a licensed driver. At Sipe's Orchard Home we are proud to offer our youth the chance to obtain their NC Driver's License through our DRIVE to THRIVE Program. Our youth are allowed to use donated company vehicles to acquire the training necessary to obtain their driver's license. As they learn, our staff supervises them just as a parent would.

Our DRIVE to THRIVE Program requires teens to meet all the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles eligibility requirements.

- Study for and pass all written, sign and vision tests.
- Complete a Defensive Driving & Driver's Education course.
- Drive while supervised for the first 6 months.
- Obtain and drive unsupervised with a limited learner permit for 9 months.
- Complete and log at least 60 hours of driving.
- Pass a road test.

At Sipe's we feel that driving is a vital life skill that must be accomplished in order to enter the workforce with reliable means of transport, gain confidence, live independently, and go on to achieve future success.



I'm so excited! I bought my first car!

Kelsey recently obtained her NC driver's license and completed all her program requirements to become eligible for the DRIVE to THRIVE scholarship that helps fund a portion of a youths first vehicle down payment.

Donations are Welcome!

Do you have a used car, truck or van you no longer need?
Sipe's Orchard Home accepts donations of mechanically-sound, drivable vehicles to be used in our DRIVE to THRIVE program! Contact us today at 828-256-5056 if you wish to donate!

Buzzin' around the NC Pre-K Program

*We are busy as bees
as we learn through play ...*



We are closing in on the first 100 days of school. In that time, our preschoolers are learning social and behavioral skills that will help them in kindergarten. These skills help them use their words to express their emotions. They have been busy writing their names, counting in English and Spanish and developing fine and gross motor skills – all through play.

Our preschoolers have learned about fire safety from our friends at the St. Stephens Fire Department. They participated in fun Halloween activities and treats hosted by the Catawba Valley Association of Nursing Students at CVCC. Finally, they shared Christmas with Santa with the help of Blue Ridge Harley-Davidson. These events continue to safely shape our preschoolers' socialization skills while being a whole lot of fun too. I am very proud of our preschoolers and look forward to seeing them grow.



St. Stephen's Fire Department visits for Fire Safety Week

The NC Pre-K Students enjoyed a wonderful visit from the St. Stephens Fire Department during their Fire Safety Week. The firefighters gave a classroom presentation and talked to the students about how to prevent fires in their own homes. The students then got to tour the fire trucks outside and learned about all the equipment that the firefighters use to help fight fires in our community. The students had a terrific time and enjoyed learning about fire safety. Thank you, St. Stephens Fire Department for supporting our program and keeping the community safe!



Buzzin' around the Golf Course

REI hosts 8th Annual Charity Golf Classic



REI and Sipe's Orchard home teamed up to host their 8th annual Charity Golf Classic this October. Golfer's enjoyed a beautiful day on the greens at the Catawba Country Club. All proceeds from this tournament went directly to fund Sipe's Orchard Home's transitional living program which provides youth who are aging out of the foster care system with the tools, opportunities and support to assist them in a more successful transition to leading independent adult lives. We greatly appreciate everyone who participated, You are helping improve the lives of our youth!



Sipe's Orchard Home hosts Halloween Trunk-or-Treat



The ghosts, goblins, superheroes and princesses at Sipe's Orchard Home's NC Pre-K program came out in full force to gather and gobble up all the candy and treats provided by the Catawba Valley Association of Nursing Students at CVCC. The kids even saw a pig and some goats at the NC Pre-K Halloween Trunk-or-Treat event! It was tremendous fun for our preschoolers.





Our Programs

- Prepare preschoolers for kindergarten at our 5 Star Licensed School
- Provide school-age children with a summer day camp
- Provide youth transitional living services on campus and in the community



Our Impact

- 36 preschoolers graduated from our NCPK program.
- 100% of parents would recommend our NCPK program to other parents.
- 100% of parents feel their child is ready for kindergarten because of our NCPK program.
- 100% of parents reported that they read to their child each week.
- 57 families with school-age children participated in our summer day camp.
- 58% of the families who participated in our summer day camp were NEWLY enrolled.
- 43 youth were provided youth transitional living services on campus and in the community.
- 52% of youth on campus participated in saving money by opening and maintaining a savings account.
- 48% of youth on campus attended school and/or were employed.
- 3 youth received their driver's licenses.
- 5 youth graduated from high school.
- 100% of youth in the community were living independently.
- 100% of youth surveyed said they are receiving the services they need.
- 100% of youth surveyed said they feel safe on our campus.



2023-2024 Financial Report



REVENUE

Public Contributions, Bequests, Legacies	\$466,886
Program Services Revenue	\$1,226,621
Grants	\$172,950
Other Revenue	\$147,423
Investment Return	\$537,108
Total Revenue	\$2,550,988

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,738,571
Support Services	\$347,694
Total Expenses	\$2,086,265





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Richard & Pettway Brands

Juanita Finding

RuthAnn Goodson

Richard Finding

Jeremie & Julie Bolick

Grady & Judy Bowman

Rev. & Mrs. Kyle Canerday

Mr. & Mrs. Don Coleman

George & Micky Finding

Susan Goldstein

RuthAnn Goodson

Martin Starnes & Associates,

CPAs, PA

David & Tonya Mikeal

Keith & Deborah Sigmon

Mr. & Mrs. Lee George

Mr. Jeffrey P. Bronnenberg

Cody Harrelson

Roger & Vicki Shull

Christopher Hagedon

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Hagedon

Cloyd "Sonny" Hager

Mrs. Nancy Wilfong

Christopher Hagedon

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Hagedon

Derrick Hallman

Frances H. Hallman

Dorothy Ham

Ms. Pamela Aaron

Cody Harrelson

Roger & Vicki Shull

Amos & Harriet Hastings

Ms. Terri L. Hastings

Donald Hedrick

Paul & Rhonda Hedrick Brown

Betty & Wade Hefner

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas E. Hefner

William Holloway

Nancy G. Holloway

Charles D. Houston

Mr. & Mrs. William Kupetz

Mr. & Mrs. James N. Wilson

Dewey & Hazel Houston

Mr. & Mrs. William Kupetz

Mr. & Mrs. James N. Wilson

Neil K. Houston

Mr. & Mrs. William Kupetz

Mr. & Mrs. James N. Wilson

Betty L. Huffman

Mr. Dolan L. Huffman

Betty Isenhour

Mr. Michael Isenhour

Arlene Kirby

Mr. Dan W. Kirby

Danny Kirby

Mr. Dan W. Kirby

Al & Harriet Kuhn

Mr. Thomas A. Kuhn

Marshall Tucker Band

Mr. Robert Alex Price

Frances Mauser

Ms. Pamela Dale

Huitt & Pat Drum

Jim Mitchell

Nancy G. Holloway

Johnny Motley

Mr. & Mrs. Willard C. McCall

Lee Elizabeth Nisbet

Tamera Nisbet

Kristin Whitworth Oxford

Dr. & Mrs. Richard M. Garlitz

Frank Pearce

Mr. Jeffrey P. Bronnenberg

David Phillips

Mr. Jerry Bowman

Mr. & Mrs. James Phillips

Mr. Jeffrey P. Bronnenberg

Howard Poovey

Roxy & Ronnie Poovey

Ural & Estelle Poovey

Roxy & Ronnie Poovey

Cloyd "Todd" Hugh Propst Jr.

Harley Blodgett

Pam & John Boehme

Mrs. Diane H. Brannon

Gerald & Loretta Burke

Ken & Connie Burseson

Lynette Carson

Catawba County EDC

Huitt & Pat Drum

Jennifer East

Marion J. Ford

Della Gilbert

Kate Hicks

Naomi Jane Hitchcock

Mr. Dolan Huffman

Judy Ingold

Ronald & Judith Isom

Robert & Sara Johnson

Kevin & Amber McIntosh

Mr. & Mrs. Harry McComb

Cloyd & Rita Miller

Mrs. Gail Miller

Sharon K. Miller

Mr. & Mrs. Eddie Neill

Bruce & Wanda Nunley

Lucretia Roxanne Sipe Poovey

Herman & Sylvia Price

Harriet & Dean Proctor

Mrs. Pam H. Propst

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Scott & Kathy Rhoney

Jack Sipe Construction

Company

Trey Smith

Wallace Sheet Metal & Roofing
Co., Inc.

Mr. & Mrs. Rick Ward

Barbara White

Deborah & Jan Wilson

Miriam Queen

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Queen

Richard L. Reese

Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy P. Reese

William Rockett

Mrs. Shirley Rockett

John Self

Rev. & Mrs. Kyle Canerday

Mr. & Mrs. Maison H. Sherrill

Mr. Maison Wayne Sherrill

Harold D. Shull

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Burton Jr.

Nancy B. Shull

Mr. & Mrs. William E. Burton Jr.

John Sinnett

Frances & James Rose

R.G. (Jack) & Margaret Sipe

Roxy & Ronnie Poovey



In Memory Of ...

K. Wayne Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Hoyle
Jerry Sturm
Jack & Lynn Hampshire
Anne Sulteen
Huitt & Pat Drum
Gary Teague
Sylvia Teague
Larry Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Anderson
Samuel Tillotson

Lavinia B. Tillotson
Richard Tyndall
Ms. Melissa Tyndall
Dr. & Mrs. William Tyndall
Dee Waters
Jess Waters
John Watts III
Mrs. Nancy Wilfong
David Whitener
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Whisnant
Michael Jason Whitener

Susan Denning
Mr. Harold Williams
Mr. & Mrs. William E. Burton Jr.
Joe Brady Yount
Mrs. Sheila Yount



Buzzin' about Fall Fun at NC Pre-K

Foothills Gymnastics created a Buzz with our Preschoolers





The Holiday Events are Buzzin'



Students shared Christmas Wishes with Santa Claus



The students at Sipe's Orchard Home's NC Pre-K program were filled with holiday joy when Santa Claus came to town and paid them a visit. Santa brought each student a gift and joined them for a pizza party generously provided by our partners at Blue Ridge Harley-Davidson.

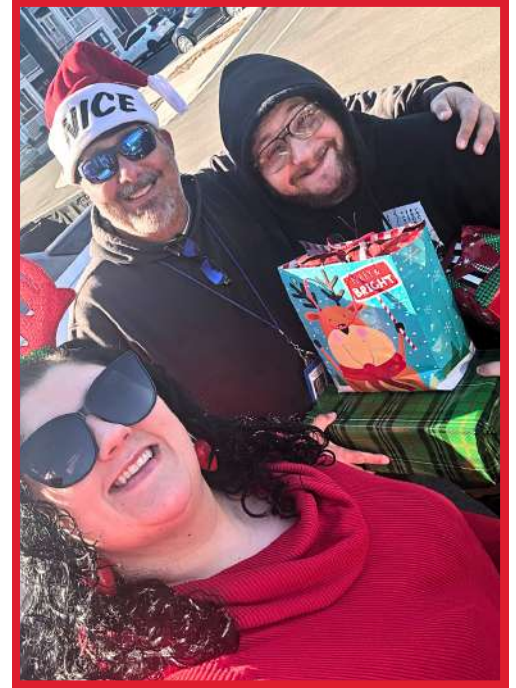


Buzzin' around the Community

Delivering Christmas Joy to our Young Adults Living Independently



Through the generosity of our many donors, our Continuum of Care Program "Elves" distributed Christmas gifts and joy to all our Sipe's Orchard Home Young Adults who have moved out into the local community! They were very thankful for the thoughtful gifts and had a Merry Christmas!



Heaps of Holiday Donations made for a Merry Christmas!

All the children and youth in the NC Pre-K Program and Transitional Living Program at Sipe's Orchard Home had a wonderful and Merry Christmas with the help of all the local communities donations of presents and supplies! We are so grateful!



Gr wing *Futures*

at Sipe's Orchard Home

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING EVENTS

<p>8 FEB</p>	<p>SOUPER BOWL PAINT PARTY ENJOY SOUP & BREAD BOWLS AS YOU PAINT A FUN CRAFT! TIME: 11 AM - 2 PM COST: \$20 CASH DONATION TO SIPE'S LOCATION: 4431 COUNTY HOME ROAD, CONOVER, NC 28613</p>
<p>4 MAR</p>	<p>FAT TUESDAY PANCAKE FEAST ENJOY A MARDI GRAS PANCAKE FEAST. DINE IN OR CARRY OUT. TIME: 5 PM - 7 PM COST: \$10 CASH DONATION TO SIPE'S LOCATION: 4431 COUNTY HOME ROAD, CONOVER, NC 28613</p>
<p>22 MAR</p>	<p>BE A BREAD-WINNER WORKSHOP LEARN HOW TO BAKE DELICIOUS HOMEMADE BREAD. TIME: 11 AM - 1 PM COST: \$20 CASH DONATION TO SIPE'S LOCATION: 4431 COUNTY HOME ROAD, CONOVER, NC 28613</p>
<p>12 APR</p>	<p>SIPE'S BUNNY RUN RIDE TO SIPE'S ORCHARD HOME TO ENJOY WATCHING THE CHILDREN HUNT FOR EASTER EGGS! TIME: 10 AM KSU: 10:30 AM COST: \$20 SINGLE / \$25 DOUBLE STARTS AT : BLUE RIDGE HARLEY-DAVIDSON ADDRESS : 2002 13TH AVE DR. SE HICKORY, NC 28602</p>

SPRING 2025

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS EMAIL SANDRADE@SIPESORCHARDHOME.ORG



Sipe's Orchard Home

Preparing children and youth for their BEST FUTURES!

4431 County Home Road
Conover, NC 28613

Telephone: (828) 256-5056

Email: sipes@sipesorchardhome.org

Web: www.sipesorchardhome.org



Sipe's Orchard Home Donation Opportunities



We accept checks, credit cards, and online giving through our website. We accept donations of vehicles (mechanically sound and drivable). Donate items from our needs list.

Current Needs List:

- Allergy Free All Powdered Washing Detergent
- Cantu Brand Shampoo & Conditioner
- Bathroom Towels, Hand Towels, & Wash Cloths
- Twin & Twin XL Mattress Pads & Protectors
- Spray Bathroom Cleaner
- Brooms with Dust Pan Sets
- Trash Cans - Kitchen & Bedroom Sized
- Alarm Clocks
- Laundry Baskets
- 8.5 x 11 Laminating Sheets
- Copy Paper

