

Foothills Footnotes

A look back...

Wow! I can't believe it's already 2007. Time sure does fly, especially around Foothills. We had such a busy holiday season, starting at Thanksgiving and running right up to New Year's.

November started out slow, but it certainly didn't stay that way. With Country Santa and Angel Tree signups beginning and an offer of food boxes for our neediest clients for Thanksgiving dinner, we were hopping! Not long into all of this, Angie Bailey contacted us about Toys for Tots and offered to do signups here throughout the end of November and into December. Thanks to the

hard work of Country Santa, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Judy Chapman, Angie Bailey, Melissa Moody, Joy Kilcoyne and John Short and his family our clients had wonderful Thanksgivings and Christmases.

After all those signups started, we decided to participate in the Marietta Christmas Parade. Our special thanks to John Short for the use of his trailer, and Shorty and Grace Brazil for driving our crazy crew through the streets of Slater and Marietta. It was a wild ride. We handed out stuffed animals, candy canes and information about Foothills Family Re-



sources to many area residents that had not been through our doors before. It was a great outreach for us, and we look forward to it again next year. Thanks to everyone that helped decorate our float we got 3rd place in our category (although no one is sure if there were more than 3 floats in our category)!

On a more serious note we at Foothills would like to extend our sympathies to the family of Senator and Mrs. Verne Smith. Senator Smith was intimately involved with Foothills Family Resources. He assisted us in so many ways, and he will be dearly missed. What a wonderful legacy of service he leaves.

As the New Year dawns, let us all pause and think of what our legacy will be. What will people say about us when we depart this earth? Think of ways to improve your community, and then do them! That is what this agency is all about; improving our community, one life at a time.

BMW Charity Pro-Am May 17 - 20

This year, Foothills Family Resources was hand picked to participate in the BMW Charity Pro-Am at the Cliffs. So why not join us for a weekend of golf on May 17 - 20. When you purchase your Patron pass through us, Foothills receives 100% of the purchase price of the ticket. You can purchase an individual Patron pass for the entire

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weekend for only \$25. This pass includes parking and shuttle service and entrance to any of the golf venues. Other types of passes are also available. Call 864-836-1100 for details.

Why not purchase a ticket for yourself and one for a friend? You will have a great time, see some really good golf AND support the residents of Northern Greenville County at the same time! See you at the Cliffs!

Michele Merrigan
Janet Chandler
Kerstin Boehme
Candace Mercer

Executive Director
Families First
Parents As Teachers
Administrative Assistant

Special Thanks

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to Foothills over the past several months. Each individual and organization that gives enables us to continue in our mission to support and empower the residents of Northern Greenville County.

Thank you to everyone who donated food over the holiday season. Several groups had food drives including: **Slater-Marietta Elementary School, St. John's Chiropractic of Travelers Rest** and **Lima Baptist**

Church. Individuals who contributed were: **Joy Kilcoyne, Melissa Moody, Tami Howell, Marilyn Hill, Wayne & Bess McCall** and an **anonymous neighbor.**

We would also like to extend our appreciation to those who helped our neediest families have a merry Christmas. **Greenville Friends, Trinity Presbyterian, Country Santa, Judy Chapman** and the **John Short family** all contributed gifts for Christmas. Thank you for showing our clients true Christmas

spirit.

Each year the **Cliffs Valley Community Association, Trinity Presbyterian Church** and the **Slater United Methodist Sunday School class** make significant cash donations to Foothills. When these large gifts are combined with the smaller gifts of individuals, our ability to offer emergency assistance, both funds and food, to individuals in the community is greatly enhanced.

Strawberry Festival May 5, 2007

It's not too soon to start thinking about the 2007 Strawberry Festival. This will be the fifth annual festival held by Foothills Family Resources. Last year's festival raised \$8,675 for Foothills programs. Last year we estimate 2,000 people were present for the festival. This year we are planning an even bigger and better festival.

So start your spring out right! Join us May 5, 2007 and enjoy all that Northern Greenville



County has to offer. You are sure to have fun while supporting our community. There will be food, games and crafts for the kids, local musical talent, craft vendors, a pageant for the kids under 10, AND a pancake breakfast that morning.

If you want additional information on the pageant or on how to be a craft or information vendor, please contact Candace at 864-836-1100 or by email at clmercer@bellsouth.net.

Family Learning Team

Gil Knight works tirelessly with adults seeking their GED. He has been a teacher for more than 34 years. In fact, many of the students he sees come through his GED class are former students he taught while working at Slater-Marietta Elementary School. Gil is a wiz at getting the most out of his students.

The most challeng-

Gil continues to help them meet their educational goals so they can then provide a living for their families.

ing part of Gil's job is "providing the individual needs of each adult." However, Gil makes it look easy. He never gives up on a student. He loves the "wonderful people of Northern Greenville County", and he continues to help them meet their educational goals so they can then provide a living for their families.

Family Learning team is a partnership with the Greenville County School District designed to help parents of young children ob-



tain their GED. Gil always encourages students to look beyond their GED and see the possibility of more education through any of the various higher learning institutions in the area. Getting their GED is not the end, for many of his students it is just the beginning.

Parents As Teachers “Parents are their children’s first and most important Teacher”

Parents as Teachers had a wonderful year in 2006. We are looking forward to making 2007 an even better year!

4 Year Old Kindergarten registration is February 7-9, 2007. Please note: a child must be 4 on or before September 1st, pre-register at any elementary school or child development center, no documents will be needed until the time of screening in May, parents will be contacted for a screening appoint-

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ment. Children who will turn 3 before September 1, 2007 can be enrolled at Head Start in Travelers Rest. Please call Director Laura George at 834-5241 for more information.

Parents as Teachers encourages parents to read to their children in the New Year. Reading with young children daily is a great goal for parents looking to make a New Year’s resolution that will benefit the entire family. When parents read aloud, children

gain new knowledge upon which to build vocabulary and apply in exploring the world around them.

They also gain pre-literacy skills such as understanding the structure of a story and how to hold a book and turn the pages.

Reading to your child from birth is the best way to make him a successful reader when he starts school. When children see their parents reading it teaches them that reading is a valuable and pleasurable activity. Parents can include their children in reading Magazines, or even the Newspaper.

I hope to see you at group meetings and Family Activities. There are 3 openings for children under age 5. Contact Kerstin Boehme at 836-1100.

Families First “Helping families in crisis”

Janet Chandler and Families First would like to extend a special thanks to everyone who helped brighten the holidays for many of our clients. For Thanksgiving 6 of our families were provided complete turkey dinners, while 10 more received turkeys. These families all needed assistance so that they could have a happy Thanksgiving and thanks to many donations, they did.

For Christmas, donations of food

and gifts far exceeded our hopes. We were able to help 60 children from 19 families receive presents. 6 senior citizens received fruit baskets, blankets and goodies. We served 69 families through our food pantry in December and 90 in November.

Families First has limited Emergency Assistance funds at this time. We receive funds once a

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year from FEMA and we have reached the end of those funds. If you know of clients that may need assistance, you can still refer them to us and we will do our best to help them or get them information on other agencies that may be able to assist them.

Job Link

The goal of Foothills Job Link is to provide job search assistance to our clients. The Job Link coordinator, Candace Mercer, is responsible for giving clients the information they need to obtain and keep a job in today’s job market. Many of our clients are temporarily out of work, and of those, some do not have the skills or training they need to obtain a living wage. One of the main ways that Job Link provides assistance is through referrals.

There is training assistance out

there, but many of our clients do not know that it exists or how to access it. Once they know that there are ways for them to obtain their GED, get assistance to pay for college, get on the job training or ways to take additional classes many will seek out this assistance. Candace’s job isn’t just to find them a job; it is to help them see a better way of living by being able to earn a living wage.

A living wage is different from minimum wage. With a minimum wage, people barely meet their needs

and many still rely on government assistance to pay for things like food and healthcare. If a person is earning a living wage, then they can be independent of government help and can pay for all their needs themselves. Considering the economic background of most of our clients, this idea of a living wage is a dream in itself. Unfortunately for some, this dream is unachievable because of the circumstances in which they live. For those, the best we can offer is help meeting their daily needs and hope that a brighter day will come.

Our Pantry needs food!

We are in need of the following items:

Peanut Butter
Jelly
Spaghetti Sauce
Canned Fruit
Canned Meats
Macaroni and Cheese

We're on the WEB!

www.foothillsfamilyresources.org

Foothills Family Resources

PO Box 246
3 Main Street
Slater, SC 29683

Phone: 864-836-1100
Fax: 864-836-1105

Our Vision is a community where all residents have equal access to resources needed to improve quality of life, increase self-sufficiency, and ensure the well being of future generations.

Our Mission is to improve the quality of life in Northern Greenville County by providing residents a gateway to comprehensive services, programs and resources that support, educate and empower.

We would like to especially thank **Olga Bowles** for volunteering her time and talents to upgrade and improve our web site. Thanks Olga for all your hard work!

The Strawberry Patch/Donor's Corner

Thanks so much to all our sponsors. Without your donations our agency could not fulfill it's mission.

Bank of Travelers Rest
Blue Ridge Electric
BMW Manufacturing
Boy Scout Troop 007
Carolina First
Cliffs Valley Community Relations Committee
Coca-Cola
Country Santa
Duke Energy
G-five
George Coleman Ford
Greenville Friends
JPS Glass
Leopard Forest Coffee
Lima Baptist Church
Main Street Guitar and Drum

Slater Church of God
Slater Drug
Slater-Marietta Elementary School
Slater U. M. Church Sunday School
Spinx
St. John's Chiropractic
Travelers Rest Area Business Association
Slater United Methodist Women
Trinity Presbyterian Church
United Way of Greenville County
Upstate Parent Magazine
An Anonymous Neighbor
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