



News from the ORCHARD

Fall 2016

The Newsletter of Sipe's Orchard Home

Volume 73

From the President



Jamie Brown, CEO

Often I write about what is currently happening at Sipe's and believe there is a lot to be excited about. From time to time it's good to look back and examine the journey. I was recently reminded what things were like for non-profits after the recession in 2008.

Many non-profits, individuals, and families were struggling. Programs, sometimes entire organizations, were closing. Sipe's had to close a few programs and resources were scarce. I read the board minutes, talked to the members and staff that were here at the time. Everyone agreed that this was a hard time for us and the future was uncertain.

Due to the commitment of staff, board members and a community that would continue to support Sipe's, we weathered the storm. Today, we are in the process of renovating two facilities in order to expand our teen program. The work is about 25% complete. We hope to finish early next year. Also I want you to know that Sipe's will remain debt-free as we complete the renovations and begin new programs.

We believe that this is important and want supporters to know that their gifts are being used to serve youth.

It's been a long time since we could say that all of our facilities on campus are being fully utilized and we are close to this accomplishment.

Thank you,
Jamie Brown



ABOVE: Photos of the ongoing renovations at Sipes Orchard Home

We help families grow into their dreams.

News from the ORCHARD

The newsletter of Sipe's Orchard Home

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For more news about Sipe's please visit
www.sipesorchardhome.org

From Houston Cottage:

Sandy is a local Catawba County girl who applied to the Independent Living program at a point in her life when she was unsure of the future. She was in an unstable and neglectful environment. Sandy dropped out of high school and had given up on graduating, but decided to enter our program and seek a GED. She came to our program with two sets of clothes and nothing else. Throughout the interview process she was reserved and quiet yet polite and serious. She seemed skeptical, but willing to give the program a shot. During her first thirty days in the program she was able to see a doctor for a physical for the first time in a long time and received much needed glasses. She treats them like a prized possession.

It turns out that Sandy is not that quiet. She is extremely social and has a great dry sense of humor. When she got a few outfits from a clothing closet at a local church, you would have thought they were from a high-end boutique. Upon further discussion we found out that she desperately wanted to go back to her high school and do whatever it would take to graduate with the class she started with. She is making that happen. Sandy came in from school last week and began to tell the staff all the she had learned that day about Isopods (Roly Poly bugs). As she walked out of the Director's office, she paused and simply said, "thanks for all y'all have done to help me."

Sandy is a prime example of one of the young adults who are not really on anyone's radar. To see her realize that she does not have to settle for less than her dreams is an amazing thing to watch.

By: Dr. Jason Guyer, Houston Cottage Supervisor

Results

(Measuring Impact)

We started a driving program for our teens at the transitional living program. This is not common for organizations such as Sipe's, but we believe driving is an essential skill for their futures. Our youth have to take their learner's permit test, complete a class and then finish 25 hours on the road supervised by staff. When all of this is completed they can drive one of our designated vehicles until they can afford their own car. This is a privilege and responsibility that youth earn and contribute to. Since the program was implemented 5 of our youth have learned to drive.

Excellence

(Improving our Programs)

Our Tyndall Pre-K recently started the new school year. As a new best practice we have implemented home visits. Home visits allow the staff and parents to get to know each other in order to start the school year on the right foot.

Our teen program is in process of adding financial classes for youth. Financial health isn't something that we are born knowing, it is something that needs to be taught. Most of our youth have never learned about saving and developing a budget. This will be an opportunity for us to provide them with information that will help them develop good habits from the beginning, as they learn to manage their finances.

Stewardship

(Taking care of what we have and have been given)

Recycling Equipment Inc. (REI) recently hosted its Second Annual Golf Tournament for Sipe's. The event was held at Rock Barn Country Club and Spa. Sixty golfers participated and more than \$9,000 was raised for Sipe's. REI does a great job planning and executing the event and we are grateful to them.



Recent grant:

We would like to thank the Unifour Foundation for its continued support. Sipe's was recently awarded a grant to expand of our teen program. In addition, we received a grant from the Episcopal Diocese of Western Carolina and St. Alban's, Ascension, and Epiphany Lutheran churches.

A legacy of giving:



Sipe's was honored by a legacy gift from David Cohen. Mr. Cohen, passed away in 2014, he lived in Hickory and supported many good causes in the area. His Brother, Manual Cohen, and niece, Kim Dye, recently visited Sipe's to present the gift.

From our Summer Camp

When I think about summer I smile because that means swimming, homemade ice cream, vacations, warm weather and experiences new and old. Over the summer Huckleberry Summer Camp gave new experiences to children that attended the camp. Some campers were seasoned where others were attending camp for the first time.

New experiences allow us to step out of our comfort zone, to learn something new about ourselves; which can bring laughter, joy, excitement and new interests. The staff and I had the privilege to be a part of the campers' new experiences, such as fishing and swimming.

Fishing down at the pond and swimming at Kool Park was a time that the campers looked forward to each week that brought fun and enjoyment for them. Some campers never fished, baited a hook or caught a fish. Others had never jumped off a diving board or could swim. They were experiencing an area that sparked interest and motivation to achieve. It was edifying to see the campers come together to help one another and experience activities together as a group. The joy and excitement the campers had when a fish was flopping on the end of their line or learning to swim and finally being able to jump off the diving board was a rewarding time and a sense of accomplishment for all involved.

As a director, teacher, mentor and parent it was a new and rewarding experience for me at summer camp serving and spending time with school-aged children for 10-weeks. My staff and I look forward to the new adventures that lay ahead for next summer.

By Amber Vega, Early Childhood Director



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Volunteers

Most people are surprised when I tell them our campus is 460 acres. This means there is always work to be done. Some of those projects would not be accomplished without volunteer groups.



We would like to thank Hedrick Honda Hickory and GKN Driveline for working to improve one of our playground areas. From spreading mulch to building playground equipment the groups were able to accomplish a lot, even on some of the hottest days of summer.



Freshmen from Lenoir-Rhyne University worked on clearing out some debris created by the renovations as a portion of their orientation.

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We would like to thank the many people that have made donations for our renovations. Thus far we have received refrigerators, kitchen supplies, couches and other furniture. Below are items that are needed.

Needs list

End tables
Dressers
Lamps
Bed mattresses and frames
Towels, linens, pillows, drapes
2 washers and dryers
Coffee makers
Silverware, pats, pans, glassware
Desks chairs
Computers
Dining table and chairs

Also we will be asking groups to adopt-a room. We will have 11 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, 2 dining rooms and kitchens to furnish and decorate. When groups adopt a room they purchase or refurbish donated items and decorate the room. If your group is interested please contact Jamie Brown at (828) 256-5056.
