

Teaching needed life skills and offering shelter from abuse and neglect.

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## Peace, Love & Poetry

A current resident we will call "Tasha" is a gifted poet. The title of her 2011 poem book is *Peace, Love, Hope & Joy*. Inside the book is a poem about herself, about things she loves, about the carefree lives of butterflies, and a couple of poems describing the hope and pain that she is working through as she heals from abuse and neglect. The poems represent both the pain that girls in our care must overcome, as well as the great hope that is in store.

**The two poems, right, are excerpts which depict both the pain of the past and the hope of the future:**

### That's Crazy

25 to life that's crazy  
 Waking up wanting to die that's crazy  
 Every second wanting to cry that's crazy  
 Never having a chance to say good bye that's crazy  
 Every second asking why that's crazy  
 Staying up 'cause you afraid to say good bye that's crazy  
 Lie to your mom 'cause you afraid to be beat that's crazy  
 A book is your only escape for peace that's crazy  
 It might be crazy for you but for me that's life



Mural , above, created by residents while working with a Converse Art Therapy student.

### "TASHA"

(A poem about myself)

*Calm, Peaceful  
 Relaxing, Eating,  
 Drinking  
 Country, Loved -  
 Crazy, City Rushed,  
 Employed, Conceded  
 Busy, Loud  
 Fred*

## Summer of Success

Twenty girls in our residential program just finished a wonderful summer! Due to additional support from generous individuals and several private grants, the last two months were *packed* with both fun and learning. A few highlights were:

- Beach trip!
- Completion of a “Trip Around the World” curriculum where students learned or reinforced their geography skills and studied other cultures.
- Six weeks of catching up on English Language Arts & Science through a part-time summer teacher.
- Carowinds.
- Several local field trips.
- Summer camp in NC (for a few)!
- Life skills/college prep camp for one older resident.

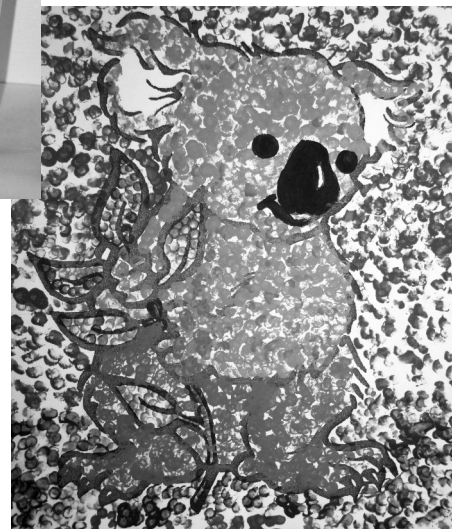
One 13-year-old resident was able to attend camp in North Carolina. This was her first camp experience and she’d never white water rafted before. When she learned she would be going rafting on this trip, she expressed some anxiety. However, she ended up

*loving* it. When asked after the week, “How was camp?”, she jumped into the air with excitement. She said, “*It was awesome!*” The rafting is what she brought up first. She said, “*I went rafting, and it was so much fun, and I even jumped off a cliff into the water!*”



*Pictured left, a group artistic depiction of the 4th of July (Statue of Liberty and Fire Works) during summer programming.*

*Below, art work completed by one resident.*



## Young Leaders Unite to Support the Ellen Hines Smith Girls’ Home

The Patron Society is an exciting opportunity for community leaders to come together and make a lasting impact on the lives of the girls we serve. Members of the Patron Society act as ambassadors, support the EHSGH through volunteerism and giving, and coordinate an annual fundraiser. Patrons also have the opportunity to directly interact with our girls through tutoring, mentoring, and the Patron Society picnic. Patron Society members meet quarterly.

*“Membership in the Patron Society is an excellent way to positively and proactively impact the lives of families in crisis who have been abused or neglected.”*

Ken Leopard  
Patron Society President

If you would like to learn more about the Patron Society and the Ellen Hines Smith Girls’ Home, please contact Tony Payne at (864) 590-4694 or [tony@spgirlshome.com](mailto:tony@spgirlshome.com).

## Family Matters

Each year Spartanburg County investigates 1,500 reports of possible abuse or neglect. In only about 300 of these cases is the report confirmed and the child removed from the home. Among those not removed, many of the families are isolated and not empowered with the resources needed to be truly effective in the role of parent.

In many cases, with some additional support, children are able to stay home *safely* and *thrive*. After all, *research confirms that children seek out and need a sense of belonging to their family*. They are healthier emotionally when they have this. Through focus groups with the Spartanburg Department of Social Services and Continuum of Care, Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home (EHSGH) found a great gap in services providing this type of support to families.

While EHSGH has worked for some time with the families of girls living in our residential

program, it is only in this last year that we have formally expanded our services to serve families not necessarily connected to our residential program. With this expansion, parents learn how to do the same, proven teaching interaction with their children that our trained staff use in the residential setting. In just one year and with just one full time staff person we have:

- \* Served 48 children
- \* Served 18 parents
- \* Served 12 extended family members
- \* Made 15 referrals to other community resources
- \* Maintained safety for 100% of the children served
- \* 100% of families showed a statistically significant increase in healthy family functioning
- \* Safely reunified 20 children with kin and moved them out of foster care



### Join us for the First Halloween Bash!

The Patron Society will be hosting the first Halloween Bash. This year's theme is: *The Horrors of Reality TV!* Festivities will include music, dancing, refreshments, and costume contests. Have a blast *and* support EHSGH at the same time!

**When:** Saturday, October 22nd 8:00PM until Midnight

**Where:** Carolina Country Club Pavilion

**Cost:** \$25 per ticket

Purchase tickets at [www.spgirlshome.com](http://www.spgirlshome.com)  
or call Brandi Hamrick at (864) 573-9223 x212

*Visit our website & Facebook page  
for more information!*

## THANK YOU TO OUR MANY SUPPORTERS!

Our last audit showed that only about 50 percent of our revenues came from the Department of Social Services. Girls and families receive quality, evidenced-based programming only through your generous support!

*Below: Marlene Wasness, President of **Piedmont Civitan** presents a check for \$1,000 to Chamlee Loscuito, Executive Director. This donation is meant for core EHS GH operating needs.*



Thanks to a very generous grant award from **J.M. Smith Corporation** of \$25,340, EHS GH received a complete technology makeover!! Partnership with *Integral Solutions* allowed EHS GH to overhaul all computers, upgrade much of our software and install and upfit a new server for better communication and protection of sensitive information!



### 3rd Annual Girls' Home Tea

Sunday, November 6, 2011

2:00-3:30 p.m.

Temple B'Nai Israel

New this year, a craft activity for girls between 4 and 12 years old. Please contact Brandi Hamrick at 573-9223 x212 or [bhamrick@spgirlshome.com](mailto:bhamrick@spgirlshome.com). You may also visit [www.spgirlshome.com](http://www.spgirlshome.com). \$20 for children and \$35 per adult.



Welcome, Brandi Hamrick, Systems Coordinator! Brandi, pictured below, will coordinate volunteer opportunities and troubleshoot issues related to our facility. If you would like to know how volunteers can help, contact her at [bhamrick@spgirlshome.com](mailto:bhamrick@spgirlshome.com).



*Left: Mothers and daughters after the 2010 EHS GH tea.*



## GREAT RESULTS THROUGH VOLUNTEERS

It has been a great season for volunteering! Many, many individuals and groups have given countless hours to benefit the girls and families we serve. We would particularly like to thank **Spartanburg Water** and **BB&T** for beautifying our campus (work day pictures below) and BB&T for donating a new riding lawn mower to Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home!



*Above: The kitchen to our largest cottage was renovated thanks to volunteers & in-kind donations from Dal Tile, First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, Spartan Tile & Wade's.*

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### EHSGH Wish List

#### Home Items

- Dorm sized mini refrigerator
- Twin size bed in a bag sets
- Household items – pillows, towels, laundry baskets or bags, shower curtains, twin sheets, curtain rods, blinds, dish towels, dish cloths
- Cleaning items - laundry detergent, dish soap, tub/shower cleaner
- Dishes – plates and silverware
- Vacuum cleaners
- Heavy duty pots and pans
- Couches (new or gently used)
- Window air conditioners (Family Services)
- Space heaters (Family Services)
- Chairs for conference table (6 needed)

#### Capital Items

- Pave parking lot
- Vehicles (vans)
- Storage shed
- Stackable washer/dryer (3 needed)
- Gravel (for parking lot)
- Small copier
- Hot water heaters (two 40 gallon, one 80 gallon needed)
- Red mulch

#### Personal Items

- Hair styling products, tools and accessories
- Underwear, bras, socks (new only)
- Plastic applicator tampons

#### Miscellaneous Items

- Gift cards (Wal-Mart, Target, grocery, gas, movie, home improvement, pharmacy, etc.)
- Tickets to special events
- Large plastic storage containers with lids
- Umbrellas
- Plastic clothes hangers
- Luggage (new or gently used)
- Laser printer (3 years old or less)
- Wii games and accessories
- Batteries – sizes AA, AAA, D
- Educational toys, games, puzzles for children (Family Services)
- Outdoor equipment – bicycles, balls, sports toys (Family Services)

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage  
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Permit #173  
Spartanburg SC 29306

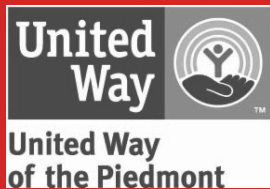
Ellen Hines Smith Girls' Home  
P. O. Box 1731  
Spartanburg SC 29304

Prefer to receive this newsletter  
electronically? Email Tony at  
tony@spgirlshome.com.

EHSGH is the proud recipient  
of the **PEACE Award** for  
2011 from *Westgate Training &  
Consultation* of Converse  
College. Westgate partners with  
EHSGH to utilize Master of  
Family Therapy practicum  
students in our Family Services  
programming.

#### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Chamlee M. Loscuito, Executive Director  
Maria Barber, Family Specialist  
Brandi Hamrick, Systems Coordinator  
Beverly Harris, Program Consultant  
Crystal McMillan, Program Director  
Jackie Tomlin, Business Manager  
Tony Payne, Director of Development



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