Raising Hope

On October 1st, 2011, Family Connection, Inc. and Hope Hill Children's Home hosted the first Annual Raising Hope Event. This event helped raise awareness in the local community about the programs and youth at Hope Hill. Guests enjoyed a cookout, bluegrass music, demonstrations from the Equine Program and an opportunity to see firsthand how lives are being changed through the programs at Hope Hill.

Christmas is Coming!

Can you believe that stores are already putting out Christmas items?! It seems like the next few months go by so quickly and it's easy to get lost in the chaos. So why not get an early start by considering how you can bring some joy to children and in crisis this Christmas.

Every year Hope Hill has youth who will not get to be with their families on Christmas and some that have never recieved a Christmas present. This can make such a joyous season feel a little hopeless.. But you can help change that by supporting the Christmas Fund at Hope Hill.

A donation to the Christmas Fund will help provide gifts for hurting youth. Make a donation today or contact 859-498-5230 for more information.

Family Connection, Inc. Announces New Chief Operating Officer

Family Connection, Inc. and Hope Hill Children's Home are pleased to announce that Chris Peck has been appointed as Chief Operating Officer. Peck is highly qualified for this position and brings with him a great deal of experience including his most recent position as Director of Major Gifts for the Saint Joseph Hospital Foundation. Peck is also highly active in the community, serving on various boards including the Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery in Motion, Mt. Sterling Rotary International Club and the Community Education Advisory Council.

President and Chief Executive Officer, John Shue explains, "Chris has the experience, education, and leadership qualities that make him the perfect fit for this position at a time of great growth. He has demonstrated unique abilities and skills to lead the day-to-day operations of the organization as well as network with the business and service community of Mt Sterling and throughout the State of Kentucky."

"I am very excited about the opportunity to join Family Connection, Inc." said Peck, "I am thrilled to be working with our staff and community partners to enrich the lives of our residents. Hope Hill is a unique place and I aim to continue the tradition of helping every child discover and harness their strengths so that they can have a successful transition from our care to a permanent home.

In addition to Peck joining the management team, Elvis Alicea has been promoted to the Program Administrator for Hope Hill Children's Home. Alicea has 13 years of clinical experience and is highly qualified to oversee the residential treatment program for abused and neglected teenage girls. Shue states, "Family Connection, Inc. is pleased to have a strong executive team developing the treatment environment at Hope Hill and managing resources accruing to the benefit of some of Kentucky's children, youth and families."

Shue continues by saying, "We are pleased to have Chris aboard and look forward to continued growth of Hope Hill's services to children, youth and families in the years ahead as he brings his talents to bear on our efforts of Restoring Hope and Rebuilding Faith."

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Fall 2011

New Indoor Equine Riding Arena Now Open

The youth and staff at Hope Hill are thrilled to announce the opening of our new 8,500 sq. ft. indoor equine arena, as well as, the construction of an adjacent 12,000 sq. ft. outdoor arena! Along with the new construction, the Equine Assisted Counseling Program has seen tremendous change in the last few months to its curriculum and format. Through a partnership with 4-H our youth will begin a challenging Saddle Seat Riding and Training Program.

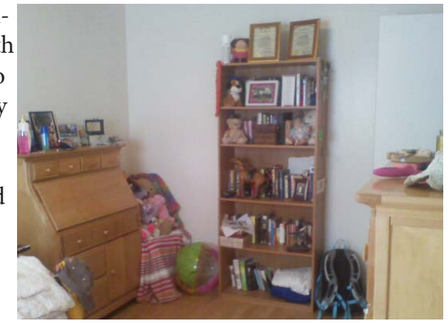
The new indoor arena provides a space for the youth that can be used year round, even in inclement weather. "This program is a one of a kind opportunity for our girls and is not offered by another all-female treatment facility anywhere in the state," said Program Manager, Alison Chambers. "This new indoor arena is one more unique resource at Hope Hill and we are enthusiastic about the positive outcomes we expect this program will produce." Alison continued by saying, "For instance, a girl here who has not bonded with another person and has no strong parental figures or support will find healing, confidence, and self-worth from working with the horses in the program."

Elvis Alicea, Hope Hill's newly appointed Program Administrator states that, "the Equine Assisted Counseling Program teaches abused and neglected young women to empathize and be compassionate while learning to care and touch appropriately. The program will also enable the girls to form positive attachments, thereby beginning to heal their history of negative relationships. Most importantly, the equine program will equip the girls to take the skills they have learned in the arena and use them in forming new and improved relationships with peers, teachers and family members."

The Equine Program is a supplemental program to the Residential Treatment, Independent Living Program and Therapeutic Foster Care Programs. Youth from all three of these programs are eligible to participate in this unique form of therapy. We are extremely enthusiastic about the positive outcomes we believe this riding program will produce and are looking forward to building on its expected success.

We are also excited about the recent addition of several horses to the program. The staff at Hope Hill would like to thank Pastor Lowell Rice and Ray and Mary Thomason for generously supporting our equine program through an in-kind donation.

Independent Living Program Provides New Opportunities to Graduates



At Hope Hill we are determined to provide our youth from both our Residential Treatment Program and the Therapeutic Foster Care Program with every opportunity to succeed well after their time with us has expired. To us there is no greater precondition for ensuring this success than a quality education. That is why we are so enthusiastic about the addition of our new Independent Living Program. We are excited to announce that two youths from our program have enrolled at Morehead State University and Eastern Kentucky University for the Fall semester!

The program is designed to work specifically with youth in state custody who are over eighteen and would like to pursue their educational goals. With two youth already attending school this Fall and one beginning in the Spring, we are thrilled to see these opportunities beginning to open up for our youth.

Program Administrator, Kim Pulliam, explains how this program will impact the lives of the youth we serve, "The Independent Living Program will allow us to help kids without proper parental support to further their education and learn to live on their own. These kids will learn how to apply for a job, maintain a job, open a checking account, manage their finances, set up an apartment, and schedule classes among other things." Youth in this program are expected to maintain a 2.5 GPA, have a part-time job and must pass random drug screens.

With the generous support of the community, we have been able to completely furnish two apartments near the campus of both universities. The Mt. Sterling First Church of God hosted a shower for the youth on August 21st and provided some of the essential items needed to furnish the apartments. Other donations came from donors in Washington, Ohio, and across Kentucky!

Music in the Making

Thanks to several very generous people, Hope Hill has been blessed with musical instruments to be used by the girls living on campus. Over the years several of our youth have expressed an interest in learning to play an instrument but at the time we did not have any. Now we have many types of instruments for them to choose from. With the help of volunteers Soon, music will fill the air and bring joy to everyone on campus. Thank you to all those who so graciously made this possible.

New Mentoring Program to Begin in Spring

Mentoring programs have been proven to have a positive impact on the lives of at risk youth. The support and involvement of a positive role model can be just what a child needs to stay on the right course to a brighter future.

Now, the youth at Hope Hill Children's Home will have the opportunity to be partnered with a mentor from the community who can be yet another encouraging influence in the life of our youth.

The mentoring program will begin with 10 mentors and 10 youth who will be paired together for a period of at least six months. Mentors will be asked to have two weekly contacts with the youth either in person or by phone. The goal of the program is to connect our young ladies with mentors from the community who will guide, listen and share their journey as they restore hope and rebuild faith in their future.

To find out more contact Dena Garrett at 859-498-5230 x 208.

Leave a Legacy in the Memorial & HonorariumGarden

The memorial and honorarium program is one way you can support the youth and programs at Hope Hill Children's Home, while at the same time recognizing an important person in your life. For a $100 contribution, you can have any name engraved on a 2x4 brick and placed in the Prayer Garden. The proceeds from this program go to support the Annual Fund which is critical to the success and continuance of this ministry. By supporting Hope Hill through this program you not only honor someone dear to you, but you also leave a legacy of making a difference in the lives of hurting children and youth. To order your brick today, simply complete and return the attached form.

Your donation will help to restore hope and rebuild faith in the lives of youth for generations to come.

To order your brick today, call 859-497-0628 x2 or visit our website to order your brick on-line at www.familyconnectioninc.com/get_involved/memorials_honorariums.html.

New Health Clinic Opened September 8th

Good health practices and access to a broad range of medical services are essential to the well-being of the residents of Hope Hill. We are excited to announce that this September a medical clinic will open on our campus.

Through a partnership with Dr. Taufik Kassis, owner of the Community Family Clinic, Hope Hill will be able to provide on-site treatment once a week to our girls. At this well-equipped clinic, residents will be able to receive primary medical care, pediatric care, health education, nutritional counseling, gynecological care, and a complete medical assessment. Combining the experience of Dr. Kassis and our resident nurse, Danyale Ball, our girls will have access to the best medical care around.

Besides the benefit of comprehensive medical treatment, an on-site clinic will alleviate concerns of staff making multiple trips to town and diminish the risks associated with girls with chronic AWOL tendencies.

This additional service will coincide with our existing psychiatric treatment program which will occupy the clinic's space two days of each month. Resident Nurse Practitioner, Jinny Woodcock, will continue to administer initial psychiatric assessments and medication management to our residents, but the new clinic location will provide our staff and residents with a significant improvement in privacy and confidentiality.

We would like to thank the St. Joseph Mt. Sterling Medical Staff for their donation to fund the start up of the new clininc.