

Mentoring Magnified in Two Friends



Ruth Boyce and Miriam

It's not unusual to see our volunteers serving at another agency, because they have big hearts. But, if you serendipitously spot one working with their former mentee, now lifelong friend, you have to tell everyone.

CCT! has long admired the years of gentle, yet strong mentoring relationship between volunteer Ruth Boyce and Miriam, now a UNC-G sophomore. They were recently seen volunteering at the CORA food pantry, even though their formal CCT! time has passed. They are giving back, together.

Boyce attributes her volunteerism as a way of life to her Wisconsin upbringing. Now she has passed it on by sharing her life with Miriam.

It all began ten years ago following Boyce's retirement

from the General Alumni Association at UNC-Chapel Hill. While tutoring at Moncure Elementary School, the assistant principal encouraged her to become a mentor for CCT! Boyce completed the volunteer training and asked to be matched with a young girl, but not someone with too much energy! Waiting in line was nine-year-old Miriam, transitioning from a foster home back into her busy, large, blended family.

It was much easier getting to know each other than they imagined. "It didn't take me long to trust her. I knew she was a nice lady, so we became close really fast," Miriam remembered.

Although Miriam was a little socially withdrawn, she was very bright and eager,

Boyce recalls. "I immediately realized her potential, and I have never felt differently about her, even to this day," she said. "I introduced her to my friends and created an extended network for her. She was always very receptive to anything that I suggested. Academics were a big focus in our relationship, and she always did her homework."

Mealtime was a simple pleasure for them. "Our favorite meal was macaroni and cheese, string beans and rolls. That was so fun! She really took me away from the unsettledness in my home and gave me peace, even if only for a few hours," Miriam shared.

"It was those small things that we take for granted that made her so content, like sitting down at the table and eating together," Boyce said.

"She wanted to learn how to cook and how to set a table properly," Boyce responded. "She was a very ambitious child who thrived on learning, and I ran with that. I didn't have to spend a lot of money to have a good time with her."

Miriam praises her for the years of mentoring. "She is the most responsible woman I know! She gets things done in life in an orderly manner. She makes sure that her health and well-being come

(continued on page 5)

Upcoming Events

Burrito Bash with the Shelbys

Monday, Nov. 6th
Pittsboro General Store
6-9 pm
\$12 a plate

Drawing for \$100 Gift Certificate to PGS
call us for tickets
\$1 each

Holiday Bowl- a-Thon
Sat. Dec. 9th
learn more, sign up
on page 2

Night in Italy
Gourmet Home
Cooked Italian Meal
& Auction

Council on Aging
Pittsboro
Sunday, Jan. 28th
5:30-8:30 pm
Tickets \$20 each

"Turn your lifetime of experience into the experience of a lifetime. Share what you know... mentor a child."

- Harvard
Mentoring Project



Doug Ballard & EJ

NEW 1-on 1 MATCHES

- Carole Maddox & DeeDee
- Robin R. Kalish & Shequilla
- Cindy Jackson & Marionanna
- Floyd Baldwin & Ronald
- Tracy McInturff & Charity
- Amy Rogers & Justasshia
- Rosa Glover & Jamillison
- Meghan Lynch & Rashawn
- Doug Ballard & EJ



Ronald & Floyd Baldwin

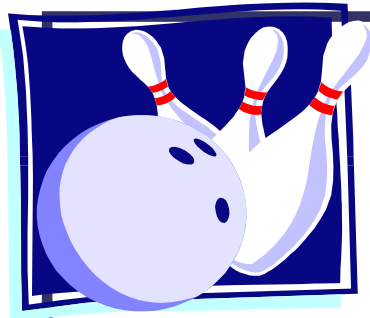


Robin R. Kalish & Shequilla



Amy Rogers & Justasshia

Visit our website at
www.chathamcountytogether.org
 to learn more about our programs,
 our matches, our staff, upcoming
 events, and to see lots of photos.



CCT! Holiday Bowl-a-Thon Fundraiser

Come bowl with us or sponsor a CCT youth to bowl!

YES, I want to (check one or both)

- sponsor a CCT! youth to bowl
- be a bowler myself

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

**Saturday, December 9
1 pm - 4 pm**

**Sportsman Lanes
Siler City**

**Cost to sponsor a CCT! youth
to bowl or to bowl yourself
is \$25 per person.**

Please mail this form with \$25 to:
Chatham County Together!
PO Box 1101
Pittsboro, NC 27312



New Staff at Chatham New School

Chatham New School, the alternative educational program for long-term suspended youth begins its sixth season. We are delighted to have Andre Mapp returning as well as the addition of Gwen Overturf to our staff.

Gwen brings a wealth of experience for her years teaching in Nevada and Louisiana public schools, as well as her recent tenure at the Community Independent School in north

Chatham. She is married to Eddie White, Chatham County artist and metal sculptor, and together they have a daughter, Jessie, who is a freshman at UNC-Chapel Hill. "I'm excited about joining Andre," says Overturf, "and I hope that I can help make a difference in a few young lives."



Director's Note

– Kim Caraganis

CCT! has begun this year with established programs and strong support from our partners. This includes so many of you, who take part in our programming; help to encourage and guide our children; devote funding to make these programs possible and help us in our many projects-be it boiling lobsters, cooking for a fundraiser, setting up our tent at a street fair; putting this newsletter together or calling to check on us. It all matters! So on behalf of the CCT! staff and Board of Director's, Thank you!

Hope to see you soon at one of our up-coming events.

Mario Rosica Scholarship Fund

Last year one of our dear volunteers, Adeline Rosica, lost her husband Mario. Both she and her husband had mentored a young girl through Chatham County Together! In honor of her husband and their belief in the importance of education, a scholarship fund has been established in his name. Students who are graduates of Chatham County Together! and can show a need for funds to be used in their pursuit of a secondary education will be able to apply. Three scholarships will be made available in the spring of 2007 through a process to be established by a committee of CCT! board members. An application can be made available after April 1, 2007. Awards will be announced in May, and recipients will be invited to receive their award from Adeline Rosica at the CCT! annual Board of Directors meeting in June 2007. Students should call the office in April for more information. Information will also be available on the CCT! website in April, as well.

Mentoring Children of Prisoners

Chatham County Together! receives continuation monies for Mentoring Children of Prisoners from the Administration of Children, Youth and Families.

Nearly 2 million children in the United States have an incarcerated parent. In Chatham County many children live with that same reality. Studies have shown that children with incarcerated parents who have mentors are less likely to use drugs or alcohol, initiate violence, and are more likely to attend and perform well in school. Family members, schools and agencies are encouraged to refer children to us if they have one or both parents in prison.

Panel of "Experts"

This summer, Chatham County Together! was a featured participant in a roundtable discussion at the national workshop, "Replicating Programs –National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, held at the UNC-CH Friday Center.

Tutoring Program

A new tutoring program is being held in Siler City on Wednesday afternoons, in conjunction with UNC Scholars Latino Initiative - Service Corps. This semester-long initiative public service internship for Jordan Matthews students will involve one-on-one tutoring of students in middle school who need academic help. CCT's AmeriCorps fellow, Tracy McInturff will be facilitating this project on Wednesday afternoons at the Siler City Community Center.

CONGRATULATIONS!! WINNERS of the Travel to Mexico Raffle

We made \$2745 – and –
thanks to Elder Printing for tickets!

1st prize (Mexico Trip) – Joseph Klakalah

2nd Prize (gas grill) – Butch Hudson

3rd prize (Travel Certificate) – Nansi Greger-Holt

Contributions since last newsletter

Elizabeth Anderson	Whitney Wiggins
Anita Anglin	Sandra Young
Avis & Larry Autry	Adam & Eve
Susan Brantley	Carter Realty
Jim & Cathren Brooks	Chapel in the Pines
Barry & Phyllis Burns	Cinemark-Asheboro
Scott & Mia Burroughs	Delta Sigma Theata Sorority
Kay Carson	Dry Forks Hunting Club
Nathan & Kathleen Conroy	Ferrington Women's Club
Gail & Harry Curry	First Citizens Bank
Virginia Daniel	IBM
Don Davidson	Herd Charity
Thomas & Anna Emerson	Guy Loeffler, Horizon Cellars
Robert & Sandy Gabor	Lowes Foods
Robert & Mary Heisserman	Luihn Food Systems, Inc.
Sam & Marjorie Hudson	Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, UNC Chapel Hill
Steve & Pam Johnson	Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church
Dorothy Hammett & Brad Kosiba	Network Funding, L.P.
Shirley Lee	NC Inst for Health Tech
T. Carleton & Emily Lee	Daphne Lagasse, Nomadic Catering
Irving & Lena Lo	Our Closet-Siler City
Diane Lyons	Pittsboro Presbyterian Church
Anne & Dean Mathias	Pittsboro United Methodist Church
Lee Parker	Progress Energy
D.J. Partin	Public/Private Ventures
Bettina Patterson	Rainbow Graphics
Mr. & Mrs. Farrel Potts	Scoreboard
Dr. Paul Powell	Terminix
Kerry & Timothy Sherrill	The Page & Otto Marx Foundation
Kenny & Kellie Sigmon	Town of Siler City
Fabian Sparrow	Triangle Community Foundation
Ed & Becky Spence	<i>Send a Kid to Camp</i>
Lee Sullivan	Triangle Youth Ballet
Marion & Diane Thomson	Valassis

THANKS to Triangle Community Foundation's Send a Kid to Camp Campaign, the Ferrington Women's Group, Chapel in the Pines and ChathamArts for sending 46 youth to camp!



Activites since last newsletter

- Spring Track in collaboration with Chatham County Recreation
- Play "Chatham Bears" performed at the CCT! Annual Board of Directors meeting directed by Anita Anglin
- Side Street Gallery Summer Art Camp



Please help us reach our fundraising goal of \$40,000

✂

I want to contribute to Chatham County Together!

Name

Address

Chatham County Together! is a private non-profit organization.

Your contribution is tax deductible.

Amount

My donation is in honor/memory of _____

include address for us to send acknowledgement

Please send me a One-on-One Volunteer application.

Welcome New Volunteers

Gordon Light
Monica Howell
Christine Hughes
Mechelle Thompson
O'Brien Doyle

Plain Talk Spoken Here!

The hostess and a small group of neighbors and friends are waiting for the party to begin, a party unlike any other. There will be refreshments, perhaps a little music, even door prizes, but no dancing or sales pitches for cosmetics or household products. So what's this about? This is a home health party! It's all about *Plain Talk/Hablando Claro*, and it will be replicated again and again within the Hispanic community among parents and friends who welcome program coordinator, Mario Soto and her staff of Chatham County Together! The hosts make a generous commitment to two, two-hour sessions on communication and sexual health.

Home health parties are an informal and more comfortable way to educate families in improving parent-teen communication as it relates to sexuality. "In any culture, sexuality can be a 'taboo' topic, but it is particularly difficult within the Hispanic community," explained Soto.

"Families are getting valuable education and skills in a personal way, coming to them by people who have similar backgrounds and familiarity with the cultural issues," said Kim Caraganis, CCT! director.

"The Plain Talk/Hablando Claro staff was already part of a strong established network of community outreach groups that make a real effort to work together," she said. Soto and Promotoros Ernestina Cortez and Hugo Gallegos have each been in Chatham County for ten years and more and felt comfortable as they interviewed almost 300 adults and 130 teens, ages 12 -18.

The home health parties are a rewarding outcome from months of parent-teen surveys and conversations related to communication, health and sexuality issues. Soto and the promotoros, also called "walkers and talkers," worked within the *Plain Talk/Hablando Claro* guidelines to seek permissions and make preparations with the support of neighborhood leaders and property owners.

Plain Talk/Hablando Claro was created by the esteemed Annie E. Casey Foundation. This unique program of pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted disease prevention has demonstrated that working with parents and families is an effective strategy for both male and female teens and can reduce teen pregnancy by 10%. Caraganis knows the model can succeed in Chatham County.

"The positive effects will extend beyond the neighbor-



Promotoros Hugo and Ernestina hosting home health party

hoods currently being served by the program, because of the saturation among parents, teens and friends," she said.

Chatham County Together! is the only North Carolina agency and one of fourteen sites nationwide that received Annie E. Casey funding for this four-year project. Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina is responsible for the program being in North Carolina, and Public/Private Ventures is contracted for the initial training, overall data collection and technical assistance. The NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, is funding and monitoring the project through its Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives.

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MATCH

(continued from page 1)

first, and she emphasizes this to me, as well. She helped me get dental care and figure out how to get health insurance," she said.

Boyce was surprised that Miriam never seemed to resent her advice. "Well, I

always told her like it was," she said.

"She showed me that I don't have to live the life I grew up in...so I decided to 'break the cycle.' I can always do better," she explained. Miriam has heeded her advice as an active UNC-G student

creating programs as a Dormitory Community Advisor, educating and regulating residents.

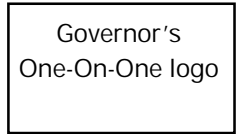
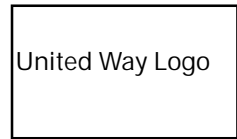
Miriam has a passion to build strong families and chose Human Development and Family Studies as a major. "I want to know more about why people are the

way they are, too!" she said.

Miriam vows her friendship with Boyce will never end. "We will always keep in touch, and I visit her whenever I go home."

When thanked for her outstanding commitment and volunteerism, Boyce replied, "I don't need any thanks. SHE is my thanks."

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919-542-5155
chathamtogether@earthlink.net
www.chathamcountytogether.org



Chatham County Together! is a private non-profit agency that encourages young people ages 6 to 17 to remain in school, stay out of court and make better choices through advocacy, counseling and mentoring. When possible, CCT! provides a caring adult volunteer for each child. We carefully monitor school attendance and performance, and provide tutoring, counseling, and advocacy to improve specific skills.

2006-07 Board of Directors

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Hugo Gallegos
Ernestina Cortez

Annual Pool Party Lots of Fun

On August 23rd, CCT! youth, staff and volunteers made waves during the 5th Annual Back-To-School Pool Party at Bray Park in Siler City. CCT! provided transportation via Chatham Transit from Pittsboro and back. For two hours straight, about 40 children and youth swam, splashed, and showed off their diving skills, while others attempted to stay dry...



4-H Club Gets Going

We successfully launched our 4-H Clubs in Siler City early in the summer. A total of 20 children who are on our waiting list for mentors participated in a 4-H project titled "Public Adventures." We learned about citizenship, democracy and our community.

The enthusiastic 4-H members, who range in age from 5-19, went on litter patrol in town, started a homework club, raised money at a carwash (\$110 in the rain!), and are working on creating a community watch program at Landreth-Siler Park. They toured the Police Department, took a walking tour of the town, played kickball, met with community leaders and had many hours of meaningful interaction learning about respect, giving back to the community and leadership skills. We have discovered some natural born leaders in these clubs that would have otherwise gone unnoticed.

