

Mentoring Spotlight: *Forever Friends*

When asked how long she had been matched with her mentor, Charity responded slowly with a smile in her voice, "Um, I'm not sure, It feels like it's been forever!" That's because she and Tracy McInturff are trusted friends now, each really valuing the other.

"I just love it," Charity said, praising their match. "We talk a lot and have the same interests, and it's helped me to have experiences I would not have without her."

They do simple things like cook together, but many of their activities have art connections built upon their first introduction at Charity's home. McInturff just happened to see some of Charity's paintings there and recognized her talent. Later she suggested that Charity display them at Shakori Hills. Charity was surprised that some admirers actually asked to buy her creations. "I usually gave my paintings away, and only to people that I knew really liked them. So, at first I sold them for only the cost of my supplies, and a canvas is only \$5.00," she said.

This summer several wonderful art opportunities developed for Charity. She attended the Chatham County Together! art camp at Side Street Gallery. Charity and other youth created phenomenal life-size personal images during Michael Mosca's sculpture session, using papier-mâché and plaster castings. "Mine has real hair," she said.

Another important connection was made when McInturff passed along word that Louise Kessel needed a helper for her summer art camp. "I would not have known that her Clapping Hands Farm was just four miles from my house, and that she would hire me to work there," Charity said. She didn't mention earning money, but with her genteel spirit shared what fun she had and how the children asked her to help them draw and paint. "They'd say, 'Come over here, Charity. Help me draw this.' On Fridays we'd have potluck and display the work, and I would meet the parents." A parent especially admired one of her own paintings and asked to purchase it for a substantial price. "I knew she liked it. It had an African figure, a dog, and desert. She has mailed me a photo of the piece in a nice gold frame."

McInturff describes Charity as a fabulous youth and painter who has blossomed by recent experiences. She has watched her develop new friendships and listen to constructive criticism from the artists. "She exudes responsibility and trust, and shows me the beauty of youth. It makes me feel young to be around her. Yet another perk of mentoring!" she said.

"Mentoring is very, very beneficial," Charity recommended. "Everyone should have one, even adults. It helps you believe in



yourself. It has made me look into the future for the first time. I go further than I did, because I didn't have other ways and different strategies to do things. I thought because I didn't have money, I couldn't succeed."

Charity's life-like sculpture now stands in McInturff's office at CCT! She said, "Charity had been an inspiration. We'll be friends the rest of our lives."

BURRITO BASH

Join CCT!

for our annual BURRITO BASH fundraiser!

November 13th, General Store Cafe.

Doors open at 6:00, tickets are \$15.00.

We're delighted to have
The Shelbys again this year!



Mario Rosica Scholarship

Maurice Eubanks proudly accepted a \$500 scholarship from the Mario Rosica Scholarship Fund. Eubanks is now a freshman at UNC Pembroke and was Jordan Matthews *Male Athlete of the Year* in 2006. The Mario Rosica Scholarship was set up by former mentor, Adeline Rosica, in honor of her deceased husband.

Project UpGrade Begins

Chatham County Together! has added a tutoring component called Project UpGrade to help youth who could use some extra help with academics that are involved with the Office of Juvenile Justice and receiving Family Advocacy assistance.

Fun in the Sun

September 1 was a busy day for Siler City teens. The Teen Coalition for Family Peace sponsored a free event for them that included a DJ, water balloon contest, one-mile run, lots of swimming, and a cookout. About 75 kids participated. The Coalition invited Siler City Police Chief, Gary Tyson, to speak about the role of the Police Department and how to improve relations between the Police Department and area youth. CCT!'s promotoro with the *Hablando Claro/Plain Talk* program, Mano Gallegos, organized the contests and awarded prizes to the winners.

Manuel Colorado, who specializes in Domestic Violence Prevention, and Mano Gallegos present Oswaldo Bonita with a trophy for the 1-mile run. Bonita is a JM student who volunteers with Service Corps as a tutor and is a member of the Teen Coalition for Family Peace.



Summer Camp Opportunities Set Record

Every spring and early summer, Volunteer Coordinator Shirille Lee gets in "camp mode." This year she coordinated the complete process for a record 67 CCT! kids to experience summer camp at 4-H, Salvation Army, Support Our Students/Teenworks, Clapping Hands Farm, Girls in Action, Side Street Gallery Art Camp, and others. Some CCT! teens also had an opportunity to work as counselors and attend a Leadership In Training program in Reidsville, courtesy of 4-H. Thanks to individual sponsors, the Triangle Community Foundation's Send a Kid to Camp Program, Clapping Hands Farm, Fearrington Women's Club, Chatham Arts, Chapel in the Pines, Salvation Army and 4-H for making these experiences possible.

Project Symphony I

Chatham County native Ari Picker, accomplished musician and Berklee College of Music student, decided to give back to his community by unconventional means: he is composing a symphony. He will begin recording Project Symphony I this fall, release the record in late spring, and present the live performance in late summer. He hopes to



sell as many as 1200 tickets, with a portion of the proceeds to be donated to CCT!, as well. "This is a living example of what a program can do for a child who needs it," says Picker.

While drinking coffee and listening to Mozart's 40th Symphony in G minor, the idea of the overall Project Symphony was born. His vision is to create a sustainable program designed to serve youth by exposing them to and including them in classical music-making. He is applying for non-profit status through the UNC-CH School of Law, and is currently seeking board members that can help him organize this massive project, which is an ongoing effort to connect kids to classical music in a hip way.

Picker reflects, "With all of my efforts in education and career building it was important for me to also focus on something other than just myself and the immediate life around me."

The 26-year-old became interested in classical music as a teenager and has been part of several popular area bands, including The Never. He has released albums with NC label, Trecky Records of Chapel Hill, and leads Lost in the Trees Productions that performs regularly and provides original music for film scores and other types of media. Lost in the Trees is an orchestral ensemble that utilizes the talents of UNC-CH and high school student musicians.

You can check out Picker's current project, Lost in the Trees, on November 30 at the Open Eye Café in Carrboro. For more information visit www.projectsymphony.org or call board member Tracy McInturff at 542-5155.

IN MEMORY

Anita Anglin – 3/24/51 to 8/20/07
Creator & Volunteer Director for
"The Bears of Chatham" featuring CCT! youth

LaCharles Edwards – 10-28-83 to 8-21-07
CCT! youth

Director's Note

CCT! has settled quite nicely into our new home in Pittsboro. Already we have had a Lobster Sale pick-up, Board of Directors' meetings, Volunteer Orientation & Trainings and In-Services, and a five-week Chess and Scrabble Camp. Chatham New School began, volunteers tutor youth here and many people from the community have visited us in our new surroundings. This move would not have been possible without the valuable support of Chatham County Board of Commissioners, our many funding sources, Board of Directors and many of you reading this note. We appreciate the enthusiasm we have received and the smiles on people's faces when they walk in. We look forward to making this a "center" for our kids, families, volunteers, professionals and friends who care so much about the mission of Chatham County Together! Come see us!

– Kim Caraganis, Director

ONLINE GIVING

You can now make a secure contribution online!

Visit us at www.chathamcountytogether.org and click **CONTRIBUTE**.

Every dollar you contribute supports programming that benefits hundreds of Chatham families.

Computers for Kids

We'd like to welcome the innovation and energy of Jeff Bouton who is committed to launching CCT!'s new Computers for Kids program. It aims to bring technology to those youth who do not have a computer at home. Bouton will partner with CCT!'s Tracy McInturff to collect, test and inventory select hardware, software and other components to create fully functional, refurbished systems for CCT! youth. "It's my pleasure to serve the community in this way. In today's society, technology is key for education, and those without it are being held back. One goal is to have hands-on workshops where kids will learn to build a computer from scratch and take it home when the workshop is completed," says Bouton.

If you'd like to offer donations or make arrangements to bring your working system or parts to the CCT! office in Pittsboro, please call Tracy McInturff at 542-5155.

Hablando Claro/Plain Talk Continues

Home health parties in their own homes are ways for families to learn about important topics that affect adolescents. *Walkers and Talkers* or *Promotoros* present educational sessions on communication, birth control, and HIV and AIDS to adults, so that they can teach their children to avoid risky behaviors. Recently, Maria Soto, Coordinator for *Hablando Claro* received the 2007 June Stallings Award at the state-wide Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Council of North Carolina conference. This award was given to acknowledge the long lasting effects her work has had on teen pregnancy prevention. *Hablando Claro/Plain Talk* is supported by the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

WISH LIST

- Functional computers, monitors, software and parts to refurbish and give to CCT! kids
- Porch furniture

YES, I want to contribute to Chatham County Together! and help meet the goal of \$42,000 for the fiscal year!

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 Volunteer Application.

CCT! needs tutors, mentors, and lunch buddies for kids on our waiting list. Please call 542-5155 if you are interested.

WELCOME NEW CCT! VOLUNTEERS

Suzanne Robinson, Rachel Hoff, Mary Grace McCoy, Harvey Harman, Kelly Adams, Mary DeMare, Lance Stokes, Alison Buckner, Bob McKinley

CONGRATULATIONS to Avis Autry for being honored as one of Chatham County's outstanding volunteers!

A BIG THANK YOU to Carolina Meadows Outreach Committee for collecting all the school supplies for CCT!

Contributions since last newsletter - THANK YOU!

William and Maureen Adam	Carolyn Lail
Ernest Alston	Ronald & Janet Lander
Chuck Anderson and Nancy Easterling	Jim Massengil
Thomas & Joel Argote	Mary Shaw Love May
Avis & Larry Autry	John McInerney and Janice Wedel
Mr. Franklin Bird	Tracy McInturff
Mott Blair	Barb Myers
Jeff Bouton	Nancy Neuffer
Ruth Boyce	Gwen Overturf and Eddie White
Jim & Cathren Brooks	The Page & Otto Marx, Jr. Foundation
Mia and Scott Burroughs	Lee & Betty Parker
Capital Bank	Cynthia Sax Perry
Carolina Meadows	Pittsboro Auto Care
Millie Cason	Pittsboro Kiwanis
Chapel In The Pines	Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church
Chatham County Council On Aging	David and Patty Poe
Chatham Market Place	Progress Energy
Larry & Alpha Cheek	Public/Private Ventures
Gail Curry	RBC Centrua
Mr. and Mrs. Don Davidson	Anna Louise Reynolds Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Bill Doyle	Gracie Herzog Robinson
Mary L. Dudek	Roger and Beth Lamanna Family Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Henry Elixson	Ruth Roundy
Eno River Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	Salvation Army
Fearrington Women's Club	Joseph and Edith Scannell
Chris Fuller	Scott Family Endowment Fund of Triangle Community Foundation
Bob & Sandy Gabor	Mimi Sharp
Carol Genovese	Kenny & Kelli Sigmon
Frances Gerngross	Martha Hope Smith
George & Nansi Greger-Holt	Susan Strozier
Rosemarie and Joseph Gulla	Sportsmans Lanes
Dave and Frances Haman	Carol Stamm
Heritage Strip and Finish	Christi Stanforth
Willie B and Bruce A. Hill, Sr. Charitable Fund of Triangle Community Fdn.	SunTrust
Warren Holmes	Phyllis Thomas
Stephanie Holt Helmer	Town of Goldston
Ruby Louis Holt	Triangle Community Foundation
Aaron & Mary Honeycutt	Patricia Wagoner
Horton Middle School	Wal Mart
Julia Johnson	Guy Watkins
Marye Kloster	Whitney Wiggins
Stacy & Walter Koehler	Sandra Young
Antonella Kundig	

CCT! Success Stories

- We congratulate *Cornisa Alston*, who completed her degree at St. Augustine's College in Early Childhood Education. Cornisa was mentored by long-standing mentor and community volunteer, Barb Myers, who met Cornisa as a first grader. "It feels great to see young people like Cornisa reaching their potential", says Myers. "I believe that mentoring works, and I'm so proud to have been involved with this wonderful young woman."

- 27-year-old emerging artist, *Lewis Fulton*, recalls his experience as a CCT! teenager. "The adults who worked with me were really dedicated. A lot of times I was rebellious and not a good listener. Back then, it was Kim, Roy and T. C. Bland, my mentor, who stayed with me as my motivators and sources of encouragement. I am still in contact with all of them. Today my mentorship comes from Kenneth Neilson and Don Hudson at DK Clay in Sanford." Here, Fulton perfects his pottery skills as he manipulates clay into unique bowls, vases and canisters. His advice to struggling youth: "I was a kid who had some hard breaks, but I finally came to a place within myself that gave me the courage to come out of it. The individual must want change." Fulton's work will be on display at the Seagrove Pottery Festival on November 17. His ambition is to be the first African-American potter from Seagrove.

- Support for CCT!'s youth is ongoing, sometimes well beyond high school graduation or mentorship. *Miriam Lyde*, UNC-G student and former CCT! youth (mentored by Ruth Boyce and featured in our last newsletter) received sound advice from CCT's Office Manager, Pam Johnson. Johnson offered information about the "Lemon Law", upon which Miriam was able to return a car for a full refund and the expenses associated with repairing it. In addition, Johnson facilitated the donation of a used car for Lyde and parts and labor costs from Pittsboro Auto Care. Many thanks to this business for its help.

New Funding for 2007-08 Fiscal Year

Chatham County Together! gratefully acknowledges funding this year for the first time from:

- Carolina Meadows Grantmaking Committee
- Triangle Community Foundation: Willie B. and Bruce A. Hill, Sr., Charitable Fund

These two funding sources are providing valuable support for mentoring programs as well as activities for youth on our waiting list that needed additional funds to supplement these grants: Governor's One-on-One, Mentoring Children of Prisoners, and United Way of Chatham County.

***Night in Italy* is scheduled for
Sunday, January 20th
at the Council on Aging
in Pittsboro.**

**Please call or check our website
for more information.**

NEW MATCHES



Anthony & Nancy Tanguay



Marquise & Benny Sloan

Mechelle Thompson & Symanthia
Benny Sloan & Marquise
Carrie Overgaard & Alexis
Megan Bolejack & Armani
Mildred Massey & Shanalyn
Nancy Tanguay & Anthony
Victor Manos & Raekwon
Emily Pelino & Elizabeth
Jamie Spinks & Rosa
Kelly Williams & Uriel



Mechelle Thompson & Symanthia



Alexis & Carrie Overgaard



Megan Bolejack & Armani



Raekwon & Victor Manos



Shanalyn & Mildred Massey

Chatham New School Enters 7th Year

Chatham New School is a program that serves youth who are suspended long-term and students who need an alternative placement. This program started out as a project with Governor's Crime Commission and is now supported by Chatham County Schools. This school year the program has moved into the same location that houses CCT!'s mentoring and administrative services. In addition to moving to a new location, Chatham New School now has the on-site expertise of an Exceptional Children's Teacher, Susan Helmer who was the first director of Chatham County Together! She joins Andre Mapp and Gwen Overturf to give students ongoing academic instruction and one-on-one attention. Chatham New School collaborates with Chatham YMCA to provide physical education and a curriculum that teaches students to be respectful of others and accountable for their actions.

Games Camp

The lush green grass and shade from old hardwoods at the new CCT! office was a perfect platform for summer fun. For five weeks, Pittsboro youth gathered for a challenging round of chess and Scrabble and worked up a sweat playing badminton and volleyball. Organized by CCT's youth advocate, Roy Barnes, 12 youth and eight volunteers enjoyed hours of laughter, social time and some intense moments trying to make the next best move. Says Barnes, "We wanted to give the kids who weren't in camp something to do and have fun in a relaxed setting. Games Camp gave the kids an opportunity to get better with their spelling and strategic planning through Scrabble and chess. It was great for everybody and we appreciate the volunteerism that came not only from the adults, but teenagers as well."

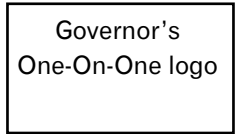
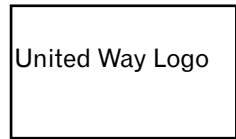


CONGRATULATIONS to Elizabeth Vickery-Meadows on her recent marriage to Lyn Meadows.



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 www.chathamcountytogether.org

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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.

2007-08 Board of Directors

- Avis Autry, Chair
- Jim Kirkman, Vice Chair
- Ginger Purvis Marte, Secretary
- Rita Marley-McKenzie, Treasurer
- Barry Burns
- Kathy Fowler
- Annette Williams
- Curtisteen McCrimmon
- Richard Parrish
- Dee Reid
- Ruth Roundy
- Fabian Sparrow
- Page Vernon

CCT! Staff/Support Staff

- Kim Caraganis
- Roy Barnes
- Shirille Lee
- Pam Johnson
- Elizabeth Vickrey Meadows
- Andre Mapp
- Maria Soto
- Tracy McInturf
- Gwen Overturf
- Hugo Gallegos
- Ernestina Cortez

Farewell and thank you to Vicki Matthews and Ed Berry for their dedication and service to this agency. We will miss you!

Pool Party

CCT!'s annual back to school party was a treat for kids who started school the following week. About 45 youth, mentors, family and staff attended. Chatham County Together! has been sponsoring the pool party for the last 10 years.



Donta, Destiny and Maleeka take a break from horseplay for the attention of the camera.

REGISTER TO VOTE!
 We want to remind CCT! families and volunteers to register to vote. It's your right!
 Contact Roy at CCT! (542-5155) for a voter registration form.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Here at CCT! we stress the importance of our youth giving back to their communities. Some of our projects since the Spring have included work days at Shakori Hills, Service Corps tutoring, the Big Sweep at Jordan Lake and teens volunteering during Games Camp this summer. We encourage mentors and their match to get involved – together, we can make a difference!

CONGRATULATIONS to Nancy Hively and Mark Hildreth on the birth of their daughter, Keziah.

CONGRATULATIONS to CCT! staff person and Promotora, Ernestina Cortez, on becoming a US citizen along with her husband Fernando!