

Mentoring, A Priceless Gift

A ten-year-old girl races through her mentor's yard looking for her in a requested game of hide-and-seek. She asks to play that game, even though there are very few bushes or trees to conceal them. It's a game of freedom, in a sense, freedom to be a child.

When referred by her elementary school, Maleeka was not a behavior problem or at-risk in a category supported by CCT!'s designated funding sources. Maleeka was failing the third grade, and it was nearing the end of school. Her mother, hearing impaired, was distraught. Her grandmother lived out of town and wanted to be supportive, but felt

disconnected from the school. The school thought CCT! could make a difference. Fortunately, United Way and community donations support this type of need.

In June, Maleeka and her mother met with CCT! staff and became involved in the program. CCT! included Maleeka in cultural and recreational group activities while they awaited a one-on-one mentor. By the end of the month, a match was made with Curtisteen McCrimmon, a strong volunteer who values academic achievement. McCrimmon joined CCT!'s family advocate and volunteer coordinator and met

with school staff to discuss their retention decision. McCrimmon was able to help the family understand the decision and continues to be a liaison between them and the school.

Through participation in CCT!'s weekly afterschool program, group activities and one-on-one mentoring, Maleeka thrives with the encouragement she receives. For two nine-week periods, she has made the A/B honor roll!

McCrimmon is modest about her part in the success, but it is evident that she is a strong influence. "I help her believe in herself, and I encourage her," she said. "When Maleeka was so happy about her report card, she said, 'I'm bragging, aren't I?' I told her that was okay; she had lots to be proud of. Sometimes we play simple games, like bouncing a ball back and forth or hitting it like volleyball. She makes the rules, and she knows I know that. When we are studying, though, she knows I am in control. We work on homework two afternoons, and then we play on the weekends," McCrimmon shared. She enjoys a respectful relationship with Maleeka's mother and



Samira & Curtisteen & Maleeka

6th Annual Lobster Sale

see page 3

Night in Italy Big Success!

Thanks to the work and generosity of MANY people, Night in Italy was fun and earned \$6200 for CCT! To read more about it and see photos from the event, visit our website at

chathamcountytogether.org

stays in touch with her grandmother, as well. When asked about the mother's response to the mentoring relationship, volunteer coordinator Shirille Lee paused and gave this answer. "She *signs* 'thank you' a lot. Now I have learned to *sign* that phrase!" Maleeka's sister is now part of the mentoring relationship while she awaits her own volunteer. McCrimmon includes her in the tutoring as well as other activities and calls them "her girls." United Way funding helps CCT! to serve Maleeka, her sister Samira, family and her school in ways that bring positive social, academic and community outcomes, a priceless investment.



NEW STAFF

Oliva Provides Latino Outreach for CCT!

Nancy Oliva loves her job as a part-time family advocate for CCT! youth and families within the Hispanic/Latino community. "I like to help people and show them what I know that might be of help. Then they have more confidence in helping themselves. My job is to help them understand the system and their role within the system. It's rewarding to hear them say, 'I can do it!'"

Working from both CCT! offices, Oliva interprets letters from schools, such as misbehavior complaints. She accompanies parents to school conferences, locates services and assists with applications and forms from social agencies.

"Many times I call on Nancy to help us make connections with Spanish-speaking parents whose children have been referred for CCT! services," said Director Kim Caraganis. "Recently," she said, "she has helped translate for a family whose child is about to get a mentor."

Oliva has been part of the CCT! staff since July 2005, coming to Chatham County from Rhode Island. There she served as Chair of the Juvenile Committee within its family court system.

Tracy McInturff - Americorps Promise Fellow

Serving as an Americorps Promise Fellow gives Tracy McInturff new insight into the overall programming of CCT! She continues to serve as a volunteer mentor, while filling her new role to increase awareness through marketing and publicity. She recently prepared displays for our local libraries and a monthly volunteer newsletter. "I am truly impressed with how much work is being done by such a small staff. They really get things done and work efficiently. You realize how important volunteers and the community are to the success of the program," she said.

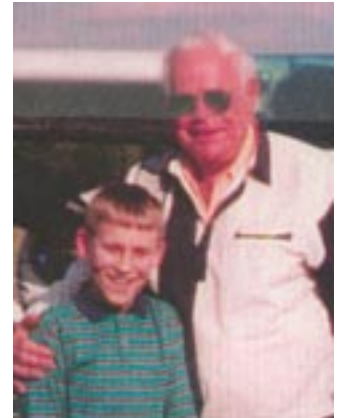
"Being a volunteer has been a wonderful experience for me. I had angels in my life, so I wanted to give back," she said. She particularly wanted to mentor a teenager, although she knows they are more challenging. "I like a challenge, and I could not volunteer without the support of the program staff. They are available to help. When I called for help, they dropped everything to help me," she praised.

With dual roles within CCT!, McInturff has participated in a variety of recent activities. She joined Volunteer Coordinator Shirille Lee for a Saturday community service group activity in preparation for Siler City's Martin Luther King celebration; participated in a volunteer training session and waited tables for *A Night in Italy*.

Pemberton William Hobbs

November 16, 1924 – January 27, 2006

We dedicate this newsletter to Pem whom we will always remember as one of our long-term mentors. He became matched with a Siler City youth December 1999 and proudly attended his graduation last May. He was so humble about everything he did with his "match," but so proud of the young man as well. He kept an album of photos and mementos of their activities which included everything from an airplane ride over Siler City to Boy Scout activities which he actively encouraged. Later he and the young man would take outings to electronics stores, and his young friend would not only advise him on what components to buy but also how to install them. Pem also included this young man on his family beach vacations. They attended a town council meeting together, and the list goes on.



Now a college student, his match and his mother drove to Newton Grove to pay tribute and to celebrate Pem's life with the Hobbs family.

Pem supported this agency in many ways: paying for food at different group activities; attending many volunteer trainings to encourage people to become mentors; inviting CCT! to Rotary Club meetings to recruit; calling the staff here to say hello; as well as making financial donations. He was truly a gentleman, full of warmth, humor, love for his family and a sense of commitment to others and his community.

Sadly we say good bye to this great man.

–Kim Caraganis, CCT! Director

Thanks to the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club

Thanks to the Kiwanis Club for collecting school supplies for Chatham County Together! youth.



Director Kim Caraganis, Jose, and Carolyn Ashford-Works representing the Pittsboro Kiwanis Club.



ENJOY delicious prime whole Maine lobster delivered live direct from one of the largest lobster suppliers in the Northeast.

- Plan a quiet dinner at home or get together with family & friends for a Lobster Party!
- Only \$13 each live; \$15 each cooked.
- Average weight 1.33 pounds.
- No limit – buy as many as you like!
- Order by **April 28th**. Pick up lobster **May 6th** between 3PM and 4PM
- Pick up at one of several convenient locations (see order form).
- Confirmation card with exact pick-up location will be mailed from CCT! upon receipt of order.

Lobster Notes

Precooked lobster may be unwrapped and eaten. Or, warm in microwave 1-2 minutes, or in conventional oven set at 350° for 15 minutes. Live lobster can be kept overnight in a pot or bucket in the refrigerator. Simply drape with a damp towel. Be sure to check occasionally... if the lobster dies, cook immediately. Do not seal the storage container – the lobster needs to breathe.

Health Note

If you have **ANY** reason, small or large, to suspect you may have any shellfish allergy, please consult your physician before eating any shellfish. Chatham County Together! will not be held responsible for sickness due to lobster-related illness.

6th Annual Lobster Sale

Lobster Order Form

___ Number of Live Lobsters x \$13= ___

___ Number of Cooked Lobsters x \$15= ___

Total amount (enclose check) _____

Name

Address

Phone (Phone number MUST be included. Very Important!)

**I will pick up my order on May 6th at
(check one)**

- Pittsboro: off Hwy 87
- Fearington
- Carolina Meadows (residents only)
- Governors' Club (residents only)
- Siler City
- The Preserve (residents only)

Mail order form with check to
Chatham County Together!
PO Box 1101
Pittsboro, NC 27312

**All orders MUST:
be postmarked no later than April 26th
OR
received at CCT! office no later than April 28th.**



Contributions since last newsletter

Thank you, contributors!

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--|
| Acacia Nails | Earnest, Sally | Holt, Mr. & Mrs. Billy | Ober, Rita & F. H. |
| Allred Pottery | Edward Jones | Honeycutt, Mary | Orchids by Hank's Chapel |
| Amero, John | Edwards, Tommy | Horizon Cellars | Page, Debbie |
| Angers, Anne & John | Edyie's Beauty Salon | Hosta Farm | Parker, Lee |
| Aria Skin & Laser Spa | Elizabeth's Pizza-Pittsboro | Hudson, Sam & Marjorie | Parsons, Frederick & Barbara |
| Atwater, W. Ben Jr., Attorney | Erickson, Sally & Tom Bennett | Imagine That Jewelry | Peele, Michael |
| Aurora Restaurant | Evams, Ernie/Loves Creek, Inc. | Immermann, Kristin | Performance Automotive & Tire |
| Autry, Avis & Larry | Farley, John & Diana | James, Jennie | Perkins, Mona |
| Baldwin, Floyd | Farrell, Lissa | Jennifer Andrews Law Offices | Perry, Cynthia Sax, LLC |
| Barber, Jr., Wade | Farrish, Brenda | Jones, C. Tandy & Alison Hill | Phillips, Adam |
| Baroke Builders | Fenley, Bette-Burr | Kachergis, Karl & Marjorie | Phoenix Housing |
| Batsche, Andrea & David | Ferdinand's Dog & Cat Boutique | Fowler | Piercecchi, Willie |
| Beadart Designs | FirstBank | Keen, Elizabeth & George | Piggly Wiggly |
| Beggars & Choosers | Flexner, Doris & Jennifer | Keiser, Doris | Pleasant Hill United Methodist Church |
| Berry, Connie & Edgar | Food Lion-Pittsboro & Siler City | Kelley, Francis & Elizabeth | Popes True Value |
| Blanton, Patty & Bob | Foster, Thomas & Nan | Kelley, Robert & Sandra | Potts, Mr. & Mrs. Farrel |
| McConnaughey | Fraser-Reid, Lillian | Kerr Drug | Powell, Paul |
| Booker, Phil & Linda | French Connection | Kibbe, Nancy | Preferred Insurance |
| Bostic, Bill | Frickey, Anne | Kinetic Gardening | Quintiles Gives Back Fund of Triangle Community Fdn. |
| Bourn, Jeffrey & Brenda | FVRC in Chatham County | Kirkhoff, James & Anne | Rakes, Reggie & Margaret |
| Boyd, Sally | Gaba, Daniel & Rhoda | Kirkman, Jim & Sharon | Raleigh Little Theatre |
| Bradshaw & Robinson, LLP | Gabor, John & Anna | Kirschner, Deborah | Ramirez, Efrain |
| Brantley, Chuck & Susan | Gabor, Robert & Sandy | Kiwanis-Pittsboro | Raymond, Dixon & Barbara |
| Britson, Robert & Janice | Gaffney, Peter | Klakulak, Joseph | Re/Max Southern Advantage |
| Brumley, Kitty | Galick, Fran & Jeanne | Klein, David & Carol | Reflections Glass |
| Bryant, Miriam | General Store Café | Klein, Sheri | Reid, Dee & Jeff Starkweather |
| Bueker, Shannon | Gill, John & Mavis | Kloster, Marye | Resnik, Demitri |
| Burroughs, Scott & Mia | Glass, Angela | Koenig, Ted & Marilyn | Resnik, Janet |
| Butt, Judith | GNC | Koonce, Wooten & Haywood | Richardson, Kenneth & Joan |
| Buyze, Patricia | Goathouse Gallery | Layton, Lawrence & Barbara | Robinson, Gracie Herzog |
| C & C Boiler | Goetz, Robert & Patricia | Leight, Ruth & Charlie Bolton | Ronny's Quick Stop |
| Capt. John's Fish & Crab House | Goldston, Blanche | Leonard, Kristin | Rosica, Adeline |
| Carson, Kay | Goldston, Larry | Leuteritz, Jerrie | Rosica, Daniel & Patricia |
| Carver, Sandy & Doug | Goldston, Margaret & Bryan | Licht, Carol & Ernie | Rosica, Grace |
| Carver, Sondra | Graye, Alexander & Vera | Lindsey, Rossie | Royal, Lil |
| Cassedy & Fahrback | Green, Vivian | Lowe's Foods-Pittsboro & Siler City | S & T Soda Shop |
| Cathy Holt Yoga | Greenlaw, Raymond | Lucier, George & Jane Gallagher | Saffer, Mimi & Tom Harbin |
| Chapel Hill Tire Co | Greger-Holt, George & Nansi | Luihn Food Systems, Inc (KFC-Siler City) | Scannell, Joseph & Edith |
| Chatham Crossing | Griffin, Stephanie | Madden, Marilyn & Thomas | Schmidt, Fred & Barbara |
| Cherniak, Robert & Nancy | Grooves | Mahan, Dorothy | Schoonard, Mary & Jim |
| Chicken Bridge Pottery | Groves, Debra & Julian Sereno | Marley-McKenzie, Rita | Schultzberg, Fran |
| ChristGift Fellowship | Gunn, Robert, Attorney | Matthews, Vickie | Schwankl, Jim |
| Clarke, John & Mary | Gypsisky Metalworks | McDermott, Jaye & James | Score Board Grill |
| Clarke, Kim | Hackney, Joe | Mollmann | Scott, David & Anne Geer |
| Clarkson, Mary Ann | Hagen, Armin & Jeanne | McLaughlin, J. B. & Shirley | Shakori Hills |
| Collins, William & Jacqueline | Hamilton, Fran & John | McNeith, Roger | Shields, Jane |
| Cornucopia Cheese | Breckenridge | McWhirter, John & Mary | Shively, Amanda |
| Counter Culture Coffee | Hammett, Dorothy & Brad | Mebane, William & Joyce | Simon, Kenny & Kellie |
| Craig, Jimmy & Marilyn | Kosiba | Mich Gardens | Siler City Presbyterian Church |
| Crossen, Cynthia & Kennth | Hancock, Patsy | Michael's Bar & Grill | Silk Hope Nursery |
| Cure Nursery | Hancock, Robert & Helen | Milholen, Sallie & William | Smith, Allen |
| Curves of Carrboro | Harrell, Paul & Rebecca Peer | Mitchum, Paul | Smith, Julie |
| Cysco Food Systems | Harrison Brothers | Moldt, Edward & Alice | Smith, Lily |
| Dahl, Salinda | Hart Furniture | Moncure Museum of Art | Smithfield Bar-B-Q |
| Danek, Richard | Haywood, Jean | Morrow, Ruth & Bob | Southern Showcase |
| Daniel, Virginia | Heartwood Realty, Inc. | Mt. Pleasant United Methodist Church | Southern States |
| de Sherbinin, Robert & Betty Jane | Helmer, Susan & Stephen | Muhammad, Idris | Sparrow Realty Company |
| Deal, Ted | Helmer, Walt & Jeanne | Musselman, Edward & Carol | Sportsman Lanes |
| Dillon, Maura & Doug Dotson | Hewett, Joy | Myers, Barb | Sprint |
| Dockside | Hewitt, Carol & Mark | NC Travel Service | St. Andrew's Church |
| Dow, William | Hewitt, Meg | Neufer, Nancy | Stafford, Greg & Paula |
| Downtown Phillips 66-Siler City | Hildreth, Mark | New Horizons | Stone Crow Pottery |
| Drake, Ann & Max | Hill, Joan | Oakmont Nursery | Stunck, Eugene & Mary |
| Dreamland Homes | Hively, Nancy | | Sugar Lake Nursery |
| Dry Dock-Siler City | Hobbs, Pem & Babe | | |
| | Hobbs, Ruffin | | |

CCT! RAFFLE

Proceeds to benefit CCT!'s programs and services for at-risk youth and their families in Chatham County

For each **\$25 per ticket** or **5 tickets for \$100**, CCT! offers one numbered ticket in a supervised benefit drawing that entitles the holder of the winning ticket to receive one of the following:

- 1st Prize:** week long trip at a resort in Mexico with \$1000 toward travel expenses
www.palaceresorts.com
- 2nd Prize:** Phoenix Gas Grill valued between \$300-\$400
- 3rd Prize:** \$100 Travel Certificate for any travel arrangements offered by NC Travel in Siler City

Maximum of 400 tickets issued
Drawing to be held June 12, 2006 at the Chatham County Together! Annual Meeting.
Meeting location will be in local newspaper and on our web site at www.chathamcountytogether.org
You do not have to be present to win.
Call us at 542-5155 for tickets!



Destiny & Sue



Tim & Anthony



Miracle & Floyd

NEW 1-on 1 MATCHES

- Floyd Baldwin & Miracle
- Sue Boyd & Destiny
- Chad Virgil & Christina Eastman & Jose
- Heather Rutherford & Jezebel
- Tim Scurlock & Anthony
- James Ledgerwood & John J



Jetzibel & Heather



Chad & Jose

Contributors (continued)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| SunTrust | Wal-Mart |
| Strozier, Susan | Warren, Robert & Karen Fisher |
| Tanguay, Nancy | Weaver Street Realty |
| Tauriainen, Marvin & Zana | Welch, Monnda |
| Taylor, Dot & Matthew | Wells, Norman & Jean |
| Tedesco, Liz | Westmoreland, James & Cherie |
| The Barbecue Joint | White, William & Dora |
| The Bread Shop | Whole Foods Market |
| The Dry Dock | Wiggins, Whitney |
| The Lumina | Wilkie, Kristi Dawn |
| The Shelby's | Williams, Annette |
| The Video Booth | Willson, Susan & Robert |
| Thomas, Phyllis | Wilson, Matthew |
| Thomson, Marion & Diane | Witthaus, Herman & Ethel |
| Town of Goldston | WNCA-Siler City |
| Townsend's | Worth, Jack & Marilyn |
| Toys-for-Tots | Wren Foundation, Inc. |
| Trancale, Melody | Young, Sandy |
| Tresnak, Robert & Martha | Zinsmeyer, Jack & Kathryn |
| Triangle Youth Ballet | |
| Vatter, Fred | |

As summer approaches, we begin our plans to provide summer camps and other activities for our youth. Please help us by contributing to CCT!

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.



PO Box 1101 Pittsboro, NC 27312
919-542-5155
chathamtogether@earthlink.net
www.chathamcountytogether.org

United Way Logo

Governor's
One-On-One logo

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.

2005-06 Board of Directors

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Avis Autry, vice-chair
Jim Kirkman, secretary
Rita Marley-McKenzie, treasurer
Ed Berry
Vicki Mathews
Annette Williams
Fabian Sparrow
Page Vernon

CCT! Staff/Support Staff

Kim Caraganis
Roy Barnes
Shirille Lee
Pam Johnson
Elizabeth Vickrey
Andre Mapp
Caro Bick
Maria Soto
Nancy Oliva
Tracy McInturff

Group Activities

Group activities provide important recreational, social & cultural experiences. Since the last newsletter, these have taken place:

- Afterschool program on Wednesdays
- Bowling Activity in Siler City
- Cinderella
- *Disney on Ice*
- Holiday Bowl-a-Thon
- *James and the Giant Peach*, Raleigh Little Theater
- Martin Luther King Service Project
- Ringling Brothers & Barnum Bailey Circus
- The *Nutcracker* Ballet

Basketball Team Tops Last Year!



CCT!'s recreational basketball team for boys ages nine and ten won 6 games this year, versus one last year. "Maturity and understanding made the difference! This is the same group of kids, but they grew taller and stronger," said Roy Barnes, head coach. As part of the Chatham County Recreation League, they advanced to the semi-finals tournament where they lost by eight points. Already someone has called and asked Barnes, "Will we be having a summer league?" Thanks to parents, Barnes, and Assistant Coach Shirille Lee for their support at practices, games, and with transportation.

Visit our new website at

www.chathamcountytogether.org

to learn more about our programs, our matches, our staff, upcoming events, and to see lots of photos.