



Mentoring Benefits All

Armani's mother began that her family's experience with CCT! is "truly a blessing from God and a joy in my life!" She was so exuberant about her son's success that she said, "Let me get my breath!" She shared that she, her sister and her mother could not have achieved the 100-percent turnaround they observed in Armani. He is in the second grade for the second time, but he is now reading well and interested in school.

"Can you imagine how I must have felt when people told me that my seven-year old son spoke in front of a

group of people, telling them about his time with CCT! and impressed them all?" Armani and his mentor joined CCT! staff in its United Way Campaign endorsement at Fearington this past fall. "He talked about the match with confidence, and they were blown away by him," said CCT! Director Kim Caraganis. His mentor shared that he was even able to answer questions posed by the audience after his presentation.

"I thought my son really needed a male volunteer, and Roy Barnes was trying to find one for Armani, but

a suitable one could not be found. Now I know he has found the perfect one. It's not about male or female, but it's what's inside your heart and what you want to do for somebody that counts," she explained with profound wisdom.

His mentor stated that her goal was to build the relationship first, and then help with school. She knew friendship would build trust. Her perception and plan worked for Armani. Although she did not sit down and help with homework, she asked, "How is school going? What did you like at school this week? Science is his favorite." She carried him to the Morehead Planetarium, expecting him to like the story with all the lights, but "he loved the exhibits, the hands-on displays. After the show, he wanted to go back and look at them again. He didn't want to leave, I'm sure," she said. "His family gave him a telescope for Christmas."

She said she enjoyed working and "hanging out with him. It's the little things that are so rewarding, like riding in the car and hearing a song we both like. It's these random quality moments in the relation-

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Lobster Sale**

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**Shakori Hills
Volunteer Work Day**

April 5

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ClydeFest

April 26

Siler City Alive

May 10

ship that build trust. We do fun stuff like movies, but he helps me with work projects, too. He seems to enjoy the 'not-so-fun stuff' like packing bags, and then we go eat pizza. We have good times together," she said. "If I'm busy, I just involve him in what I'm doing. The time goes well."

Caraganis recalled that his mentor looked forward to seeing him so upbeat, smiling and ready to go during a time the mentor had experienced sadness in her family. Caraganis said, "His mentor told me that his smile and eagerness to see her really comforted her during that time – an example of how the mentoring relationship can be beneficial to both the mentor and young person."



Megan and Armani

Chatham New School Partners with Community

The students “called for a recess” at their mock court trial for Walter Dean Myers’ *The Monster*. “Although they had completed only 23 pages, it was their own idea to have the trial,” said Susan Helmer, their English teacher and Exceptional Children’s Teacher for Chatham County Schools. They pushed back their chairs after agreeing to talk unexpectedly about last week’s visit to the Council on Aging.

The eight students had lots to say about their discussion group among 50 senior citizens and 12 nursing students from Central Carolina Community College. As part of the nursing students’ behavioral science class assignment, they were instructed to interview senior citizens and youth, so this unique setting met their needs while benefiting everyone.

“After the students introduced themselves and explained they were trying to make it back to their home schools after suspension, the seniors burst into spontaneous applause for what they were trying to accomplish. It was encouraging,” said Lindsay Straughn, Bridge to Wellness Manager at the Council on Aging. “You never know how youth will respond to something like this, but I think they really enjoyed it,” said Helmer. Their quick responses and variety of comments provide the evidence.

“Times were different for them, like the work ethic,” Mike remembered. Another student commented, “They were proud of their families. When one said she had one grandchild, another said she had five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.”

“One man dropped out of school in the fourth grade. His parents wanted him to go to work. He was smart, though,” said Travis.

Cesar and Sam recalled, “One lady didn’t have Christmas again after her mother died. She was six. Later her step-mother didn’t allow her to go to school.”

Nic remembered words of advice, “Always keep your head up, hold your head up and look proud!”

Chatham New School is a partnership between Chatham County Schools and CCT!, serving students in grades 8-12 who have long-term suspensions and meet criteria to participate. Classes are held daily, and students are held to same high standards as regular school enrollment. Other partnerships include Chatham YMCA and Our Neighborhood School.



6th Annual Night in Italy Earns \$8000!

January 20 was a cold night, but you wouldn’t know it by all the warmth that filled the room at the Council on Aging. CCT!’s 6th annual gourmet Italian dinner and auction brought in over \$8000 in needed funds to the agency. Thanks to the coordinators: Avis Autry, Andrea Batsche, Janice Britson, Gail Crider, Brooksie Edwards, Mary Schoonard, and Nancy Tanguay (who created this event), for all their help, as well as everyone else who made this a huge success:

auction items

Avis and Larry Autry
 Carol and Mark Hewitt
 Fran Hamilton
 Jim Schoonard
 Imagine That Jewelry
 Cindy Goodwin & Debbie Carter
 Greg Henson,
 Downtown Phillips 66
 Faye & Harold Hart,
 Hart Furniture
 Philip Dark,
 Oakmont Nursery
 Tamera Mulanix
 Gypsysky Metalworks
 Cure Nursery
 Bill & Jennifer Cure
 Janet Resnik
 Melody Troncale
 Monda Welch
 Silk Hope Nursery,
 Joseph DeBlasio
 Dmitri Resnik
 Orchids by Hank’s Chapel
 Greenhouse
 Doug Dotson Pottery
 Joyce Bryan
 Stone Crow Pottery
 Shakori Hills
 Shannon Bueker
 Allen and Holly Baddour
 Shirley Lee

Norma Hawthorn
 Lowe’s Home Improvement
 Jamie Smith
 Karen Dalton
 Vestpertine
 Tony Sullivan, CA Sullivan
 Music
 Marion Goldston
 Martha Danaek
 Janice Rieves
 Ruth Morgans
 General Store Café
 Carolina Brewery
 Aria Skin & Laser Spa
 Pope Hardware
 Jenny Young
 Winn Dinsen
 Full of Life Nursery
 Beggars and Choosers
 Capt. John’s Dockside
 Becket McGough,
 Kitchen A Go-Go
 Pittsboro Feed
 Nansi Greger-Holt
 Lynn’s Fancy Stiches
 Fusions Art & Fine Craft Gal-
 lery
 Madeline Mason
 Jerry Fowler
 Virginia Houk
 Ehren Hines, Aeris Hardwood
 Creations

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Avis and Larry Autry
 Harris Teeter
 Whole Foods
 Chatham Marketplace
 Cornucopia
 Townsends
 Smith’s Water
 Food Lion
 Piggly Wiggly
 General Store Cafe
 Our Neighborhood
 School
 Robert & Janice Britson
 Blossom

DESSERTS

Lil Royal
 Sheri Klein
 Delores Tewksbury
 Sue Wilson
 Page Vernon
 Laurel Boyd
 Ted Deal
 Avis Autry
 Lissa Farrell
 Nancy McClendon
 Kitty Brumley

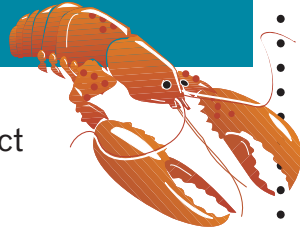
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8th Annual Lobster Sale

NEW! You can now order and pay for your lobster online at our website www.chathamcountytogether.org



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 \$15 each live; \$17 each cooked.
- Average weight 1.33 pounds.
- No limit – buy as many as you like!
- Order by **April 28**. Pick up lobster **May 3** 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 it 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.

Questions? Contact Pam Johnson at 919-542-5155 or pam@chathamcountytogether.org. THANK YOU!

Director's Note

One of our staff, Elizabeth Vickrey-Meadows, is leaving CCT! It is truly a loss that we will not have her expertise in her role as Family Advocate, as we have had for many years. But it is also with great pride that we acknowledge her many hours of dedication and advocacy for families and professionals throughout Chatham County. She will truly be missed but will always be considered part of our family here at CCT!

– Kim Caraganis

8th Annual CCT! Lobster Sale



Number of Live Lobsters x \$15= _____

Number of Cooked Lobsters x \$17= _____

Total amount (enclose check) _____

Name _____

Address _____

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

I will pick up my order on Saturday, May 3 between 3-4 PM at (check one)

- Pittsboro CCT! office
- Ferrington *
- Carolina Meadows (residents only) *
- Governors' Club (residents only) *
- Siler City *
- The Preserve (residents only) *

* exact location will be on confirmation card

Mail order form with check to

Chatham County Together!, PO Box 1101
Pittsboro, NC 27312

All orders MUST be postmarked no later than April 25 OR received at CCT! office no later than April 28.

Project Symphony

In our last newsletter, we featured the work of former CCT! youth and musician, Ari Picker. True to his mission, Ari has established Project Symphony, and fundraisers for his project will be held on April 5 with the UNC Orchestra and April 13 at Ferrington Gardens. At the latter, he'll perform snippets of Project Symphony, as well as selections with the *Lost in the Trees* ensemble. The entire symphony will be performed at a Fall date (TBA) with proceeds from this



event to be directed towards CCT! Check the website for more detailed information.

NEW MATCHES



Ashanti & Monica Hadley

Mary Grace McCoy & Shantina
 Mary DeMare & Destiny
 Harvey Harmon & James
 Monica Hadley & Ashanti
 Ciera Brown & Tylan
 Roxanne Dukes & Vanessa
 Stacy Laughters & Jackala
 Allison Buckner & Amber
 Lance Stokes & Shakeem
 Katie Comer & Alesha
 Carrie Fields & Susanna



Mary DeMare & Destiny



Shantina & Mary Grace McCoy



James & Harvey Harmon



Cierra Brown & Tylan



Vanessa & Roxanne Dukes

Happenings since last newsletter

- *The Nutcracker* at Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium
- Christmas Art at Side Street Gallery in Pittsboro
- Christmas parades in Pittsboro, Siler City and Goldston
- Christmas bowling party in Siler City
- Valentine's art at Side Street Gallery in Pittsboro
- Jr. Pastry Chefs with the NC Coop. Extension in Pittsboro
- StoriesWork storytelling with the Teen Coalition for Family Peace in Siler City
- MEAC basketball tournament in Greensboro

Go Cavaliers! Our own CCT! basketball team finished up the season with high marks.

About 220 kids and volunteers participated during these activities!



CHRISTMAS PARADES

It's hard to think back to Christmas now that Spring is here, but CCT! mentors, youth, staff and business sponsors had such a great time participating in the Goldston, Pittsboro and Siler City Christmas parades that we didn't want to leave it out of our newsletter!

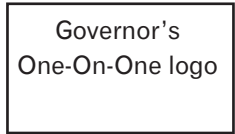
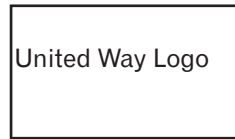
Thanks to Goldston volunteer and mentor, Jerry Campbell, for providing the trailer and driving the team, and Margaret Goldston, Penny Tharp and Kayla Corns for helping with decorations! Carr Amplifiers, CA (Tony) Sullivan Music and Baroke Builders sponsored the float in the Pittsboro parade. Steve Carr's '69 Chevy flat-bed was the perfect platform for our "Make a Joyful Noise" theme.

Siler City's float - "Magic and Music of Christmas" was sponsored by Southern States employees, Johnny Hilliard and Chip Price. All together, about 100 Chatham County Together! affiliates enjoyed the spirit of togetherness, and fun was had by all.



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 cct@chathamcountytogether.org
 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.

CCT! Staff/Support Staff

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

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- Rita Marley-McKenzie, Treasurer
- Barry Burns
- Kathy Fowler
- Curtisteen McCrimmon
- Richard Parrish
- Dee Reid
- Ruth Roundy
- Fabian Sparrow
- Page Vernon
- Annette Williams

This newsletter is in Memory of Jim Smith, beloved husband of longtime mentor Mary Smith.

Volunteer Work Day at Shakori Hills

On April 5, CCT! will host a volunteer work day at Shakori Hills in Silk Hope. This is a great way to engage youth in community service and to earn tickets to the festival, held April 17-20. Volunteer at the CCT! booth during the festival and we'll give you a day pass! Contact Tracy McInturff at 542-5155 for more information.

Holiday Bowling Party

Forty-seven youth, mentors, board members, staff and families enjoyed CCT's holiday bowling party at the newly re-opened Sportsman's Lanes in Siler City. Thanks to unseasonably warm weather, everyone picnicked and tailgated outside. Toys for Tots once again blessed CCT kids with Christmas goodies and McIntyre Books' Angel Tree supplied some great reading material. Many thanks to our other supporters and sponsors who made this a great event!



A tailgate picnic for Holiday bowlers

Scholarship News

May 15 is the deadline for current or former CCT! youth to apply for the Mario Rosica Scholarship. Those in need of financial help in attending post high school educational programs (vocational school, community college, 4-year college) are encouraged to apply. Scholarship winners are strongly encouraged to attend the CCT! annual board meeting tentatively scheduled for June 19, 2007. Call 542-5155 for more information or check our website after April 15 for application and instructions.