

# family matters

children's home society OF FLORIDA

fall 2007 buckner edition

*"Mankind owes to the child the best it has to give."*

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## Grand Opening of two newly renovated buildings

THE BUCKNER DIVISION of Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS) recently celebrated the grand opening of two buildings that underwent extensive renovation to become state-of-the-art facilities. The new Louise Jackson Regional

Adoption Center and Teen Girls Residence opened with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 6. For more on the buildings, ceremony and capital campaign, turn to our Special Capital Campaign Edition beginning on page 5.

▲ *Bill Shetler, Executive Director; David Clark, Development Director; Shelley Katz, VP of Operations; Tim Gaskin, Capital Campaign Co-Chair; Linda Ellis, Director of Program Operations; Jim Griffiths, Immediate Past Board Chair; Charlie Cromer, Board Chair; and Todd Smith, Brick Campaign Chair, prepare to cut the ribbon on the new Louise Jackson Regional Adoption Center.*



## 24th Annual Caring Chefs set for October 21



▲ *Lewis S. and Frances Childress Lee, Honorary Chairs for CHS' 24th Annual Caring Chefs.*

A SELL-OUT CROWD of more than 2,000 people are expected to flood The Avenues Mall Sunday, October 21, 7-9:30 p.m. for CHS' 24th Annual Caring Chefs.

For almost two and a half decades, the event has been the First Coast's premier culinary affair. Through the years, it has raised more than \$2 million for CHS from the generosity and time of our Caring Chefs, local sponsors, volunteers and supporters. As the biggest food-tasting event in the area, it also offers three live bands, fine wine stations, a photo booth and a silent auction of celebrity-decorated aprons.

This year, we're pleased to recognize Lewis S. and Frances Childress Lee as Honorary Chairs. The Lees have been part of the CHS family since Fran was adopted as an infant. Contributing a lifetime to giving to the community, they are truly philanthropists who lead by example. *(continued on page 2)*



www.chsfl.org

Special Capital Campaign Edition

## Caring Chefs (cont.)

Tickets are \$60 each and may be purchased with cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express by phone or in person at CHS or The Avenues Mall. We strongly suggest you reserve tickets now, as last year's event sold out one week early. Sponsorship packets start at \$1,500 and include a list of benefits. For more information, call 904.493.7739.

The restaurants and sponsors on this page registered for the event prior to our print deadline. A complete list will be in the event's program.

### New Buckner board officers 2007-2008

Charles L. Cromer of Charles L. Cromer, CPA, became the Buckner Division's new Chairman of the Board on July 1. He will serve a two-year term, as will the other new officers: *Jeanne Maron* of Jacksonville Electric Authority, First Vice Chair; *Mindy Lanigan* of Kemper Auto and Home, Second Vice Chair; *Thomas L. Peterson* of Fidelity Information Systems, Secretary; *David K. Leininger* of Administar Services Group, Inc., Treasurer; and *Mary Biggs Knauer* of First Guaranty Bank, Assistant Treasurer.

## family matters

buckner edition

Family Matters is a regular publication of Children's Home Society of Florida (CHS). CHS is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to *Embracing Children. Inspiring Lives.*

Children's Home Society of Florida  
Buckner Division

Executive Director—Bill Shetler

Vice President of Operations—Shelley Katz

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www.chsfl.org/buckner

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Starbucks Coffee  
Sticky Fingers  
The Sun Dog  
Timuquana Country Club  
Trellises  
Twisted Martini  
University Club  
Williams-Sonoma

## Staff members honored

IN APRIL, two Buckner employees were recognized for their work at The 14th Annual Child Abuse Prevention Recognition Awards Luncheon. Sarah Rhone, House Parent in our Promise House Maternity Home, was a Recognition Awardee, while Alfredia Tripp, Family Support Worker in the Monique Burr Prevention Program, was honored as a Lifetime Recipient. The CHS Buckner Division is the first organization to have two staff recognized simultaneously at the conference!



▲ Alfredia Tripp and Sarah Rhone with their recognition awards.

## Special thanks ...



▲ Leonard Neal, ENS, and Captain Raquel Bono from NAS Jacksonville cut the ribbon at the grand opening of our new storage facility. Volunteers renovated the building, formerly an open pavilion.



▲ Pricewaterhouse Coopers, LLP, sent volunteers as part of United Way's Days of Caring in June. The group spent the day beautifying the campus.



▲ Eagle Scout Marcus Crapse and fellow scouts collected donations to improve the landscape and paint of Terry Center.

The Deercreek Women's Alliance donated funds to install new flooring in our Promise House. John Ho of Ultimate Flooring donated his labor to upgrade the flooring to tile. The funds also provided new vertical blinds and outside play equipment for the babies living in the home.

Lifestyle Interiors volunteered time and talent to renovate the study rooms in Terry and Chambers Centers by adding new tables and chairs, painting the walls and creating murals.



Home Depot and Volunteer Jacksonville helped beautify the landscape in front of Chambers Center and at the Spring Park entrance.

## An Evening of Taste raises \$33,500

APPROXIMATELY 100 GUESTS filled Matthew's of San Marco on April 29 for the 5th annual An Evening of Taste with Chef Matthew Medure, helping CHS raise \$33,500 to make it the most successful evening in the event's history.



MPS Group was the Presenting Sponsor, and board member Dave Leininger served as Event Chair.

Though usually closed Sundays, the restaurant opened exclusively for CHS. Guests enjoyed an intimate setting with fine wine and delectable creations by Chef Matthew Medure and his staff. Elegant harp music enhanced the ambiance, and the harpist later spoke about his experience as a CHS adoptive parent. Guests also heard the testimony



▲ Terry and Sharon Mills, Mike and Cathy Crabtree, and Felecia and Morris Applewhite enjoy An Evening of Taste.

of a young mother from CHS' Promise House.

The silent auction more than doubled the amount raised last year, thanks to the efforts of Maribel Padiar. Next year, Maribel will serve as Event Chair, with board member Mindy Lanigan as Vice Chair.

## Sherry Bruner retires

CHS' SHERRY BRUNER retired in June after 21 years of service. Sherry began her CHS career as a birth parent counselor in 1986 and retired as Supervisor of the Community Based Care unit.



Right after retiring, she and her husband, Fred, ventured overseas to the Netherlands and Belgium to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. They plan on more traveling, including to Nova Scotia, where Sherry's family lives. Now that she's not working 13-hour days, Sherry's been completing things around the house she never had time to do.

She says her fondest memory of CHS is "how hard the staff worked to make things happen. They really worked to get children's and families' needs met."

Thank you, Sherry, for your dedication to so many children and families.

## From the CEO

Few voices resonate as powerfully as passionate child and family advocates determined to brighten futures for hundreds of thousands of teens, children and families that have struggled to find hope. And when our voices unite at the Florida State Capitol during our annual Legislative Day, they form a powerful choir on behalf of children, sharing their dreams and securing their futures. To all of you who played a role in this year's Legislative Day, I sincerely thank you. Our many volunteers and advocates devoted their time and energy to help inform elected officials of the needs of Florida's children and families, encouraging our delegates to take a stand for these young ones and their parents.

The most substantial development that resulted from the recent legislative session is the creation of a Children and Youth Cabinet. Though this success is non-monetary, it holds incredible potential for strategic long-term implications. Complementing directions for several child-serving organizations, this Cabinet is designed to ensure better coordination and improved communication between state agencies, with a direct link to the governor's office.

Additionally, integral modifications made to the Office of Adoption and Child Protection illustrate the Executive Branch's desire to take a more active role in child protection, especially adoption. With the Office's close ties to the aforementioned Children and Youth Cabinet, we should expect to see resources unite in a more coordinated manner at state and local levels, allowing us all to better serve children and families.

And, in a legislative session primarily dominated by property tax and insurance debates, we did see a modest increase in financial support for our crucial services, but it's vital that we continue advocating for increased funding so we may reach more children, teens and adults who need us. I encourage you to begin looking ahead to the next session, where we'll once again push for more resources to better serve teens through our independent and transitional living programs, as well as advocate for the opportunity for CHS and other child-serving organizations to assist employees in paying for mandated auto insurance coverage if they transport children.

Thank you so much for your continued support as we work together to make a difference in the lives of those who need us. I'm honored to be part of such a dedicated team.



Dave Bundy

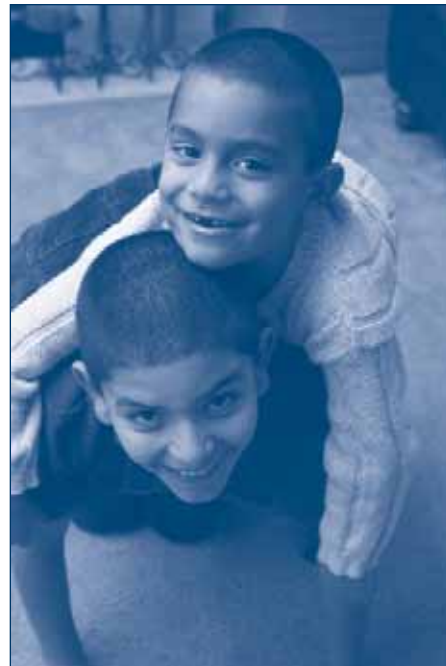
## \$400,000 Kellogg grant will help promote school readiness for abused children

CHS RECENTLY RECEIVED a two-year \$400,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation—the sixth-largest grant-making foundation in the country—to help fund an innovative project designed to promote school readiness and facilitate early returns to safe, permanent placements for abused and neglected children. The project, Ready by 5, uses community-based, collaborative approaches to provide young children with the developmental and emotional skills and competencies they need to succeed in school.

We're excited to partner with several funders and organizations as we pursue effective, evidence-based programs to help children succeed. Ready by 5 focuses on reaching youngsters who lack critical skills necessary to perform well in school and in other family and community settings. Through our partnership with Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy, we're fortunate to receive additional expertise and valuable funding, contingent on matching dollars. Recognizing the critical importance of this project, the Sovereign Order of St. John recently donated \$10,000 to CHS, which will be matched dollar for dollar by Florida State University. This is an exciting start as we continue to seek vital financial resources for this project—through this matching opportunity, donors can actually double the impact of their support, ensuring these children receive the crucial services they need.

Early childhood abuse or neglect can have a permanent, negative impact on healthy brain development and school readiness—and research indicates that children who don't succeed in the first three years of school are often headed toward long-term, costly difficulties, great personal tragedies that also burden their communities. Fortunately, effective interventions such as Ready by 5 help these children and their families by preventing and treating early childhood problems so they won't interfere with learning and the everyday coping children confront as they grow up.

Ready by 5 uses trained early childhood specialists to provide comprehensive developmental screenings of vulnerable young children, while infant mental health experts offer valuable parent education, working hand-in-hand with parents and children.



▲ Ready by 5 will help promote school readiness and facilitate early returns to safe, permanent placements for abused and neglected children.

These family interventions promote strong bonding and attachment, positive interactions, and safe, secure relationships between children and their caregivers.

"By infusing these additional resources and enhancing expertise, we believe the results will show fewer children being abused, more children performing better in school, and quicker family reunifications for children who have been separated from their families," says Dave Bundy, CHS President.

We're grateful for the support of the Sovereign Order of St. John to help us reach the full potential of our partnership with Florida State University Center for Prevention and Early Intervention Policy. We invite you to join us in this initiative, or in another project you're passionate about, by participating in matching grant opportunities. Through matching grants, you can double the impact of your dollars—allowing us to continue providing valuable services for children and families. If you're interested in matching opportunities, contact the Development Department in your local division at the phone number listed on the back page of this newsletter.



# Capital Campaign 2007

## Louise Jackson Regional Adoption Center opens

IT'S BEEN SIX YEARS in the making and, on June 6, the ribbon was finally cut.

With the help of an anonymous \$1 million donation, CHS' Buckner Division celebrated the grand opening of its new Louise Jackson Regional Adoption Center with an official ribbon-cutting ceremony attended by local dignitaries, families of adoption and organization leaders who all shared what adoption has meant in their lives.

The building is part of a project first discussed in 2001 as a vision of how adoptions could operate at the division.

The \$1 million gift is the largest received for the campaign thus far, among the largest CHS has ever received and the largest anonymous donation in the organization's history. Though anonymous, the donor was clear about who to honor, naming the building

after a beloved former CHS adoption counselor known as Aunt Lou.

Louise "Aunt Lou" Jackson spent more than 25 years as an adoption counselor at the Buckner Division, devoting her life to CHS, the families it serves and the adoption cause. So dedicated to her calling, she remained active and connected to her work even during her battle with cancer, as she provided guidance and assistance by phone while on leave from CHS. She passed away just six months after retiring in 1990.

"What a tremendous way to make a very generous gift—recognizing Jacksonville's own Louise Jackson," says Bill Shetler, Executive Director of the Buckner Division. "This will enhance our menu of adoption services and support to northeast Florida."



Louise "Aunt Lou" Jackson was a devoted adoption worker for more than 25 years.

The new facility allows CHS to expand voluntary infant and international adoption programs throughout the entire region—as far south as Daytona and Ocala and west to Lake City—and will elevate the value and importance of all voluntary adoptions in the region. (continued on page 6)



BEFORE

◀ The front of the building prior to renovation.



AFTER

▼ The new Louise Jackson Regional Adoption Center.

### Capital Campaign Cabinet

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John D. Milton, Jr.  
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Wilson Z. Carley, Jr.  
James R. Griffiths  
Frances Childress Lee  
M. Richard Lewis  
Jay Southerland

### Adoption Center Opens (cont.)

The building is the oldest on the Buckner campus and originally served as an orphanage in 1939. During its complete renovation that began in March of last year, the building was gutted and reconfigured to provide a more modern office environment while preserving the historical charm of the original structure. Designed as a family-friendly space, it has a residential feel, offering many meeting spaces for new families and post-adoptive families to gather for counseling and support as they adapt to their new roles.

The center provides all adoption participants—adoptive parents, birth parents and adopted children—with access to valuable resources. Computer stations with Internet links to national and international adoption sites are available in the new Childress Foundation Family Resource Room, as are books and other literature. Renovation on the facility is still being completed through a brick campaign for the center’s courtyard, and several naming opportunities are still available.



▲ The Department of Children and Families (DCF) was one of the first supporters of the campaign, giving \$200,000 toward the new adoption center. Pictured are Bill Shetler, Buckner Division Executive Director; Nancy Dreicer, DCF Northeast Region Director; Tim Gaskin, Campaign Co-Chair; Rep. Stan Jordan; and Jim Griffiths, Immediate Past Chairman of the Board.

### One-of-a-kind Teen Girls Residence



TWELVE GIRLS MOVED INTO the newly renovated Teen Girls Residence on June 26. The residential home is truly one of a kind; the girls have already expressed pride in it. Each girl has her own room complete with a mini refrigerator, microwave and laptop, for which she will receive training.

The atmosphere of the home, originally built in 1947 as a residence for infants but has since been used for offices, is intended to prepare the girls to be self-sufficient and successful once they age out of foster care at 18. They receive special training and counseling to prepare for independence.

Two family rooms filled with books, games and flat-screen televisions offer the girls plenty of places to study and recreate. The home’s décor features contemporary furniture and artwork.

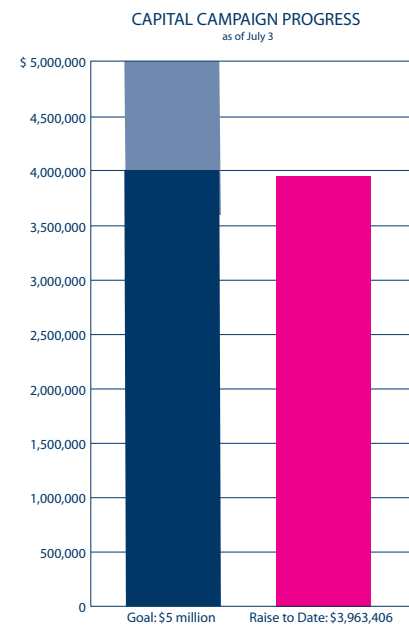
Though this renovation wasn’t part of the initial capital campaign goal, it soon became a priority, as the previous teen girls home had endured major roofing damage. The campaign goal was increased, and several generous donors contributed to the renovation. There are still naming opportunities for the building, and tours are available upon request.

Far left: The old “Teen Center” entrance front desk area...

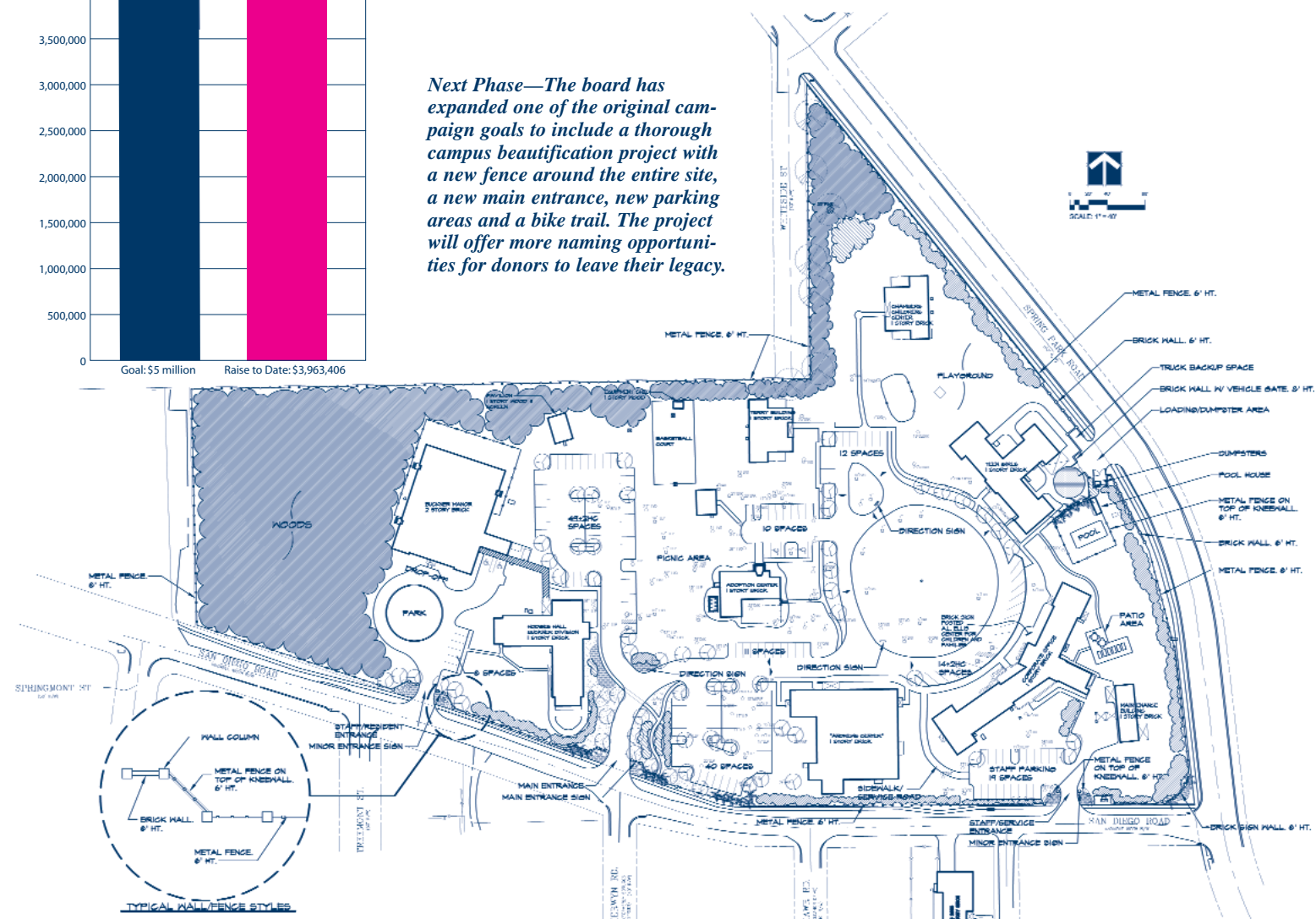
...is now the living room of the new Teen Girls Residence (left).

### New campaign goal

THANKS TO EARLY DONORS and the leadership of Campaign Co-Chairs Tim Gaskin and Mary Biggs Knauer, we’ve almost reached our goal of \$4 million. This phenomenal success demonstrates the community’s commitment to the children and families we serve. But there’s still much to do! The Buckner Division Board leadership is determined to build on this spectacular success and has increased the campaign goal to \$5 million! With the community’s response and the need that still exists on campus, we know we can make an even greater difference for our community’s most vulnerable children—and now is the time to do that.



Next Phase—The board has expanded one of the original campaign goals to include a thorough campus beautification project with a new fence around the entire site, a new main entrance, new parking areas and a bike trail. The project will offer more naming opportunities for donors to leave their legacy.



### Brick Campaign

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY and become a permanent part of CHS history by purchasing a brick for our new adoption center courtyard!

Personalized bricks can be purchased in two sizes: 4” x 8” or 8” x 8”. The smaller brick is just \$150, and the larger is \$300. As a special thank you, each brick comes with a commemorative “mini-brick” replica for your home or office. They’re a great way to honor or memorialize a special person or occasion. Bricks can be personalized with writing and artwork.

Your donation will help fund campus-wide improvements as part of our beautification project. The renovations will create a nurturing and modern environment for children and families.

For more information, call the CHS office at 493-7744 or e-mail david.clark103@chsfl.org.



The adoption center courtyard will be filled with personalized bricks to help fund the campus beautification project.

## Thank you to our campaign donors

We sincerely thank the following donors of our Capital Campaign. Without you, none of this would have been possible.

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Mrs. C. Herman Terry  
Ms. Sharon D. Tison  
U.S. Department of the Navy, Religious Ministries  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Van Berkel  
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Whitlow, Sr.  
The Winston Family Foundation  
WJXT-TV Channel 4  
Ms. Candace L. Wurster  
Zimmerman Family Foundation

## A legacy of love

**HER EYES REVEALED HER HEART.** Her warmth conveyed her devotion. And her dedication illustrated her passion. Sue Lilley was more than a mother, more than a friend, more than a mentor—she was a lifeline, an embodiment of hope and a provider of peace, nurturing and comfort to countless children. Children who had never known stability, never known love. Children who found security and opportunity because of her desire to change their lives, to offer them a chance for happiness.

We lost Sue in March, after a long, brave battle with cancer, but her legacy continues to touch lives, to change hearts, to brighten futures.

Sue's devotion to CHS began decades ago, as she volunteered her time and resources to serve children in need at our Central Florida Division's Crisis Nursery. She transformed her passion into a career—indeed life's call-



▲ Sue's devotion changed the lives of countless children.

▶ Children will continue to find hope and love at the Crisis Nursery and The Lilley House.

ing. She truly enjoyed every day, as she knew each moment with CHS had a purpose—to help a child who desperately needed her nurturing. Sue clearly conveyed her commitment to our mission and children—even during her battle with cancer, she continued her steadfast service with CHS. She simply couldn't pass up the opportunity to help another child.

Yet Sue's impact extended beyond the children and families she faithfully served. She so inspired fellow donors, volunteers and community members that they chose to recognize her in 2001, when they named the Central Florida Division's new children's emergency shelter in her honor.

"Sue portrayed her desire to make a difference in these children's lives every single day. It was truly our pleasure to name the shelter in her honor, as she provided so much hope and encouragement to each child she helped," says State and Central Florida Division Board Member Deborah Theroux, who was one of several volunteers and companies helping initiate The Lilley House. "Thanks to her welcoming spirit to all guests, the residents of Casselberry recognized what a great contribution The Lilley House would be to their community, which resulted in the shelter's success. Sue truly took CHS' mission of *Embracing Children. Inspiring Lives.* to heart, and she inspired countless others to follow her example."

Now, as Sue's legacy thrives in The Lilley House, her memory lives in the children who have turned into productive adults, in the youth



▲ CHS Vice President of Operations Kim Brien, Sue Lilley and Susan Lilley (Sue's daughter) at Sue's CHS retirement luncheon

who have transformed into caring citizens, in the mothers who understand the importance of nurturing their children. Her influence passes through generations—each child she helped, each family she consoled, each teen she taught to trust has the power to continue the path toward success and happiness.

And for years to come, children who find safety and love at The Lilley House and Crisis Nursery will have hope because of Sue.

After Sue's passing, many members of our community wanted to honor her legacy by supporting the cause she believed in, helping the children she loved. If you'd like to honor Sue, we invite you to indicate your wishes by marking the correct box on the enclosed envelope.

Or perhaps you have a loved one who had such passion and desire, like Sue, to make a difference, to bring happiness to children who have known hurt for too long. Perhaps you'd like to keep that dream alive, to continue the legacy your loved one began.

When you make a gift to CHS in honor or memory of your loved one, you continue a legacy that can change children's lives. Your

loved one's legacy will shine in the smile of a child, in the love of a mother, in the success of a teen. We encourage you to share in the dream of your loved one, to help make dreams come true for the children and families in our care.



# Thank you to our donors

We thank the following child advocates for their generous donations of \$50 or more received between January 16 and June 30, 2007. We also thank all individuals and organizations not listed below who contributed goods, services and time to our children and families. We could not fulfill our mission without you! We apologize for any inadvertent omissions.

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▲ *The ROAR of the Jaguar and community volunteers modeled the clothes.*

## “Hope By Design” Fashion Show

**THE SECOND ANNUAL** “Hope by Design” Fashion Show hosted by The First Coast Alliance was held May 5 at the Jacksonville Public Library.

The show featured fashions from Jaffi's, Cabi, kyds and Karl's. WJXT Channel 4 Morning Show Host Stacy Spanos emceed the event, which raised almost \$5,000 for CHS.

Thank you to the event's sponsors: All About Painting and Contracting, ASAP Plumbing, Matheny Jaguar Land Rover, Meinrod and Leeper, Oceanside Cleaners, Paradise Vending, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, and Shopworks.

## Get your craft on!

**COME TO JARBOE PARK** in Neptune Beach on Saturday, November 10 from 11 a.m.—4 p.m. for the 6th annual Crafternoon.

Crafternoon is an outdoor, hands-on activity event for children of all ages, presented by Natural Life. In addition to craft stations, there will be food, dance groups and live music.

The event is free to attend, and punch cards for crafts cost \$10. All proceeds benefit CHS. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, call Nick Geinosky at (904) 493-7738.



## Awards Luncheon September 26

**THE ANNUAL** Awards Luncheon Under the Tent will be September 26 at noon on the CHS campus to honor local individuals and organizations for their outstanding efforts with children.

The R. David Thomas Child Advocate of the year will be announced, as will the Public Official of the Year, Corporate Citizen of the Year, Volunteer of the Year and Foster Parents of the Year. The event is sponsored by Outback Steakhouse. Look for your invitation in the mail or call (904) 493-7744 for more information.

## Children of Terry and Chambers excel

**THE CHILDREN** of our Terry and Chambers Centers are on a roll—the honor roll!

Fifteen out of the 16 who live in the Terry and Chambers group homes made the A-B honor roll at the end of the school year. Four children made straight As, one of whom did so all four quarters and another who did so the last two quarters. Eight youth made the

honor roll the entire school year, and 13 are reading above their grade level—one even has the highest reading score in the first grade at his school.

Congratulations to our children in the Terry and Chambers Centers, and to the staff and volunteers who've invested in them to make this happen!

## Back-to-school needs

Many children come into our care after school starts, so we need back-to-school supplies year-round.

### ALL GRADES:

Erasers (pen/pink/pencil)  
 Folders  
 Glue sticks  
 Lined notebook paper  
 Pencil sharpeners  
 Pencils (No. 2 and red checking)  
 Pens (blue, black and red)  
 Rulers

### GRADES K-5:

Colored markers  
 Colored pencils  
 Construction paper  
 Crayons  
 Elmer's White Glue  
 Jumbo crayons  
 Tissues  
 Primary tablets  
 Scissors (blunt)  
 School boxes  
 Watercolor paint sets

### GRADES 6-12:

6" protractors  
 Assignment books  
 Calculators (graphic and regular)  
 Combination locks  
 Compasses (ball-bearing and regular)  
 Five-subject spiral notebooks  
 Highlighters  
 Index cards  
 Multi-subject composition books  
 Paper clips  
 Steno pads  
 Three-ring binders



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## Calendar of Events

### September 26

*Annual Awards Luncheon*  
 "Under the Tent"  
 Noon-1:30 p.m., Buckner Campus

### October 13

*Caring Chefs Radio Remote*  
 with WEJZ Lite 96.1  
 10 a.m.-2 p.m., The Avenues Mall

### October 21

*24th Annual Caring Chefs*  
 7-9:30 p.m., The Avenues Mall

### November 10

*Crafternoon*  
 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Jarboe Park, Neptune Beach

### December 5

Holiday drop-off and wrapping begins

### December 14

Holiday drop-off ends

### December 18

Wrapping ends

Contact Nanette Vallejos at 493-7739 for more information.



Embracing Children.  
 Inspiring Lives.

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 Buckner Division  
 P.O. Box 5616  
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 (904) 493-7744  
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