

HOPE Works!

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~ A publication of Steps to HOPE ~

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CALENDAR

- May 18—Hunter Pace for HOPE

Warm Wishes for a Peaceful & Safe New Year!



Ward Street P.O. Box 518
Columbus, NC 28722
828-894-2340
www.stepstohope.org

DID YOU KNOW...SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE IS STEPS TO HOPE?

It happens at least once every day: someone calls the office asking if we have any refrigerators, artificial Christmas trees, or perhaps a coffee maker. Or someone calls to ask if we'd like a donation of furniture or televisions, and is confused when we suggest they deliver to Second Chance Thrift Store on E. Mills Street, where they can get help unloading.

Everyone's favorite thrift store—**Second Chance**—is part of Steps to HOPE, providing outreach for victims of domestic abuse and offering an affordable shopping option to our community. The store is responsible for roughly 49% of Steps to HOPE's operating income.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

There are many ways of supporting Steps to HOPE. Donations of money are always welcome and greatly appreciated, but we understand that some may prefer to contribute in other ways.

DONATE!

With additional budget cuts looming, Second Chance

will be relied upon more heavily in the future. *We need your donations!* Gently used clothing, accessories, household items, furniture, books—we need it *all!* After store hours donations are received at Steps to HOPE, or pick-ups may be arranged by calling the store at 894-2373.

SHOP!

Often referred to as “the Belks of Columbus”, Second Chance offers quality, affordable merchandise for the entire family!

Men's, women's, and children's “like new” clothing, as well as books, furniture, household goods, appliances, tools, electronics... the list goes on! Stop in to see what the buzz is all about!

VOLUNTEER!

Volunteer hours worked at Second Chance Thrift Store and Steps to HOPE totaled 6,818 last fiscal year, saving us roughly \$115,906! WHAT A GIFT! We are ever thankful for our volunteers!

Second Chance Thrift Store WIN BIG!

WIN when you shop:

Amazing low prices for clothing & home furnishings.

WIN when you give:

Donate and get a tax deductible contribution.

WIN for Steps to HOPE

Income goes to the STH shelter to protect families and prevent domestic abuse.

It's a win, win, WIN deal when you shop at the Second Chance Thrift Store. Amazing shopping bargains in womens'/childrens'/mens' clothing, housewares, furniture, seasonal decorations...

Come in and WIN!

Second Chance Thrift Store

232 East Mills St., Columbus 828-894-2373

There is hope. Call 894-2340.



PROMOTE AWARENESS

by wearing purple domestic violence ribbons and teal sexual assault ribbons.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES IN NC

Domestic violence homicides occur when a person murders their current or former intimate partner and/or their children, and includes the murder of third parties. Examples include the murder of relatives of the person’s former or current intimate partner, someone attempting to protect their current or former intimate partner, or the current intimate partner of the person’s ex-partner. Domestic violence homicides include acts of self defense against an abusive partner.

The North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV) collects information regarding domestic violence homicides in North Carolina. Information is gathered from public sources, primarily from media re-

ports. This list serves as a memorial to the victims and families and provides a current representation of the deadly impact domestic violence can have in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (NC-VDRS) also collects data on domestic violence homicides. NC-VDRS uses medical examiner records, vital statistics and law enforcement reports to capture domestic violence related homicides among NC residents. Because data is collected from multiple sources, these reports are generally released 2 years after the calendar year in which homicides were perpetrated.

NCCADV tracked 766 domestic violence related

homicides between 2002-2011, making the average number of homicides perpetrated annually 77. In 2011, the most recent statistically complete year, 52 alleged perpetrators were male, and 9 alleged perpetrators were female. Thirty-four percent of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators between 18-29; 44% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators between 30-49; 16% of homicides were committed by alleged perpetrators 50 and over.

According to the NCCADV, from January 1, 2013—October 6, 2013 there were 49 domestic violence homicides in North Carolina, 18 of which were murder/suicides.

www.nccadv.org

UNDER-REPORTED SEXUAL ASSAULT

What happens to rapists if and when they are caught and prosecuted?

Of all rapes and/or sexual assaults, fewer than 20% are not reported to the police, according to a statisti-

cal average of the past 5 years. Those rapists, of course, never spend a day in prison. Factoring in unreported rapes, only about **3% of rapists ever serve a day in jail.**

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Watch for details in the Tryon Daily Bulletin about how you can help bring awareness to this under-reported and unpunished crime.



FAMILY NURTURING PROGRAMS

Offering shelter and services to victims is essential for their safety and the safety of their children—but *abuse does not stop when victims leave.*

By working with male and female abusers in the Domestic Abuse Intervention Program (DAIP), with parents in the Parenting Education Program, and with adolescents and teens in schools and in the “ASK” Youth Program at our facility, Steps to HOPE works toward preventing and breaking the generational cycle of abuse.

DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION

The goal of the 26-week DAIP is to educate abusers on healthy family relationships—to create

healthier, happier families through feedback, participation, education and shared experiences.

PARENTING EDUCATION

Participants in the 12-week Parenting Education program become more effective parents through learning about children’s needs and development; developing routines; domestic violence; and safe environments.

“ASK” YOUTH PROGRAM

Topics of the ongoing ASK youth programs include:

- Resolving conflict in an appropriate manner;
- Developing life skills;
- Self esteem;



Karate instructor Sam Etheredge with yellow belt participant.

- Getting along with family and teachers;
- Taking responsibility for your own actions.

For program information call Ruth Richardson, 894-2340.

BELK RECEIVES SECOND WIND HALL OF FAME AWARD



Paul Sutherland, Steps to HOPE Board of Directors President, presented the Second Wind Hall of Fame designation to Elaine Belk at Steps to

HOPE’s Holiday/Volunteer Appreciation Brunch on December 6.

Elaine has been an active Board member for Steps to HOPE for 8 years, serving as Secretary, initiating fundraisers for Steps to HOPE’s Youth Programs, and coordinating volunteers for STH’s Annual Golf Tournament. She volunteers at Hospice of the Carolina Foothills, presently as a Greeter at Smith-Phayer House; is Missions Chair at Jackson Grove United Methodist Church; vol-

unteers for Meals on Wheels; and is a member of the Foxy Ladies Luncheon Club – a group of ladies who have raised money through various projects for Steps to HOPE, Hospice and Relay for Life.

The Second Wind Hall of Fame is an organization which recognizes those who have contributed their time and talents to at least three organizations after retirement. For more information contact Larry Poe, PO Box 711, Tryon, NC 28782.

Steps to HOPE

Office Staff

Rachel Ramsey, Executive Director
 Ruth Richardson, Family Outreach Educator
 Cherie Wright, Victim Services Director/Case Manager
 Connie Orr, Office Manager
 Debra Backus, Publicity/Public Relations
 Drenda Brennan, Receptionist/Administrative Assistant

Shelter Staff

Stacey Moore, Shelter Staff
 Jessica Powell, Shelter Staff
 Cherie Rogers, Shelter Staff
 Cindy Thacker, Shelter Staff

Second Chance Thrift Store Staff

Edith Lance, Manager
 Randy Conklin, Retail Assistant; Driver
 Joyce Neely, Cashier/Retail Assistant
 Alan Pritchard, Warehouse Assistant
 Douglas Wofford, Warehouse Assistant

Board of Directors

2013-2014

Paul Sutherland, President
 Pat Sutphin, V. President
 Heidi Mendez, Secretary
 Larry Wassong, Treasurer
 Michael Bowers
 Elaine Belk
 Helen Gilbert
 Donald Hill
 William Jones
 Lynn Kirkwood
 Sally McPherson
 David Satterfield
 Julie Threlfall

STEPS TO HOPE ANNUAL STATISTICS

2012-2013 Fiscal Year

(July 1, 2012—June 30, 2013)

Steps to HOPE provided support to 2312 callers on crisis line calls.

Safe shelter was provided to 17 women and 20 children.

489 additional client services were provided, to include court accompaniment, advocacy, transportation, information and referral.

There were 264 educational presentations.

6,818 volunteer hours were worked in the agency and thrift store.

MEET THE STEPS TO HOPE STAFF

STEPS TO HOPE ADMINISTRATIVE + CLIENT SERVICES



Back row, from left: Rachel Ramsey, Executive Director; Connie Orr, Office Manager/Bookkeeper; Drenda-michell Brennan, Administrative Assistant; Debra Backus, Publicity/Public Relations. Seated from left: Cherie Wright, Victim Services Director/Case Manager; Ruth Richardson, Family Outreach Educator.

Steps to HOPE serves victims of domestic and sexual abuse and their families in it's centrally located Columbus office from 8:00 am—5:00 pm.

In addition to safe shelter, STH offers many programs designed to break and end the cycle of abuse, many of which are held after hours, ending as late as 7:30 pm.

All of Steps to HOPE's services are strictly confidential and are offered free of charge.

STEPS TO HOPE SHELTER STAFF

Working after the close of the administrative offices, our shelter staff help clients create resumes and complete internet job applications; help children with homework—and listen.



From left: Stacey Moore; Jessica Powell; Cherie Rogers; Cindy Thacker.

SECOND CHANCE THRIFT STORE



From left: Edith Lance, Thrift Store Manager; Randy Conklin, Retail Assistant/Driver; Joyce Neely, Cashier/Retail Assistant; Alan Pritchard, Warehouse Assistant; Douglas Wofford, Warehouse Assistant.

Open 6 days a week, the Second Chance Thrift Store crew is *always* on the move—scheduling and picking up donated items before sorting, steaming, pricing, and displaying the merchandise in it's E. Mills Street, Columbus store.

Edith and her crew are constantly restocking shelves/racks and bringing out seasonal items, so shoppers will find something new every day. Un-advertised sales are frequent, and the advertised ones draw large crowds.



HOPE FOR PAWS



The HOPE For Paws kennel is ready for use by

family dogs belonging to victims of domestic or sexual abuse. This will be an overnight shelter to allow a quick departure from an unsafe situation by victims.

Foothills Humane Society will arrange foster care for

the dogs thereafter.

Thanks to Dr. DeHaven Batchelor and his wife Deborah, who donated the pen, walls and gates and a full day's labor erecting the kennel, and to Board members Heidi Mendez and Larry Wassong for their donations of materials and time.

STEPS TO HOPE'S PRICELESS VOLUNTEERS

The annual Holiday Brunch to honor our dedicated volunteers was held on Friday, December 6th in the STH Community Room. All volunteers received certificates for their generous service to Steps to HOPE in the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

Court advocates, who assist clients through the judicial process, volun-

teered a total of 229.5 hours last fiscal year.

Thank you, Volunteers!



Top 5 Thrift Store volunteers, from left: Sally McPherson, Bernardine Monroe, Tish Jaccard, Liz Quattlebaum, and Don Cobb.

Forty-two volunteers worked a total of 6,588 hours at Second Chance Thrift Store last year. The top 5 volunteers who worked the greatest number of hours last fiscal year were: Bernardine Monroe with 495 hours; Tish Jaccard, 444.5, hours; Sally McPherson, 370 hours; Don Cobb, 295.5 hours; and Liz Quattlebaum with 280.5 hours. This inspiring group worked 29% of the total hours worked by volunteers at the Thrift Store.



From left: Drenda-michell Brennan, STH Administrative Assistant and Court Advocate; Cherie Wright, STH Victim Services Director/Case Manager and Court Advocate with Volunteer Court Advocates Jeannette Schmeichel, Bea Rolla, and Pat Huwlyer.

Second Chance Thrift Store

challenges you to...



Stop by

232 E. Mills Street

to see the myriad of options for buying nearly new— and saving a **bundle!**

Drop off your unwanted treasures, or call 894-2373 to arrange a pick-up.

Join Second Chance's

EMAIL LIST

to receive notifications of Thrift Store sales and special events.

Send an email to pr@stepstohope.org and put "Thrift Store email sign-up" in the subject line.

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give."

~Winston Churchill

PLACAK TEAM WINS 10TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

Red Fox Country Club was host to Steps to HOPE's 10th Annual Golf Tournament on November 8th this year – a week later than scheduled due to inclement weather, but arguably the most beautiful Autumn day since the tournament's inception! The tournament was a sellout this year, with many new players and teams on a waiting list hoping for cancelations. Stott's Ford offered a new Ford Focus as a hole-in-one prize on Red Fox Hole #10 this year – and while no one drove the Focus home after the tournament, a few came very close and vowed to return next year.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

Congratulations to Phillip Placak, Eric Edwards, Barry Foy and Jeffrey Barton who were overall winners of the Steps to HOPE Golf Tournament this year. Randy Mitchell put together the "Flight B" winning team with players Dale

Musselwhite, Jay Stacey and Sue Campbell. Trophies and prizes were awarded to all winning golfers – including "closest to the pin" winners Jessica Justice and Todd Brodie, and "longest drive" winners Audrey Church and Travis Callahan.

Steps to HOPE is greatly appreciative of the overwhelming support shown by golfers, individuals and area businesses who not only offered financial support but made countless donations in the form of snacks and drinks, gifts for door prizes, breakfast biscuits, lunch – and, of course, time – to help ensure the success of this annual charity event.

Tournament Committee Chairs Frank Ortiz, John Brodie and Colleen Abril started planning early in the year and went the extra mile, which resulted in a plethora of door prizes and more tee box sign sponsorships than ever!

Special thanks to Gold Sponsors Dave Hunt of Rutherford Property Management/McDonalds, Jerry Johnson of Tryon Federal Bank, and Patty Otto of Hare and Hound Restaurant for their very generous support, and to Red Fox Country Club, Stott's Ford, Main Street Financial and Tryon Estates/ACTS for their generous tournament sponsorships.



From left: Eric Edwards; team captain Phillip Placak; Barry Foy; and Jeffrey Barton.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE ADDED TO OUR EMAIL LIST?

Simply send your email address to pr@stepstohope.org

and we'll keep you apprised of news, upcoming events and opportunities.

THANK YOU!

SHELTER WISH LIST

- Gift cards—Ingles, BP gas, etc.
- Picnic table for play area
- Dust ruffles for 8 twin shelter beds
- Bottled juice and water
- Breakfast cereals
- Trash bags (33 gallon)
- Pop Tarts
- Pre-paid phone cards
- Canned milk
- Adult frozen dinners
- Quick-fix meals
- Fruit cups

For updates to this list, call Drenda at 894-2340.

Thank you for your continued support!



POLK COUNTY TOY RUN



From left: Michelle Reedy, Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry; Ruth Richardson, Steps to HOPE; Barry Gee, Polk County Toy Run; Kim Wilson, Polk County DSS; Polk County Sheriff Donald Hill.

Thanks to Toy Run organizer Barry Gee, the 2013 Polk County Toy Run’s motorcycle ride was extremely successful again this year!

The mission of this annual charity event is to provide holiday gifts to Polk County children through donated

toys and contributions. This year each of four Polk County non-profits—Thermal Belt Outreach Ministry, Polk County Sheriff’s Department, Polk County Department of Social Services, and Steps to HOPE—received over \$2,800 and countless bags

of toys to help their clients provide for their families this holiday season.

Many thanks to Toy Run organizer Barry Gee and Committee members Michelle Reedy, Ruth Richardson, Kim Wilson and Kim Pack!



Save a tree!

If you would rather receive an electronic version of this newsletter, or read a copy online at www.stepstohope.org/newsletterarchives.html, send an email (from your preferred email account) to pr@stepstohope.org. Please include your name and mailing address.



ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM



Five-year old Tommy Jackson has always donated one of his own toys for every year of age. This year, Tommy went overboard and donated 10 gifts!

Steps to HOPE’s Adopt-A-Family program pairs generous community members willing to share their good fortune with families struggling to make ends meet at Christmastime. Donors purchase and wrap gifts for not only the children but their parents.

Between Toy Run proceeds and adopting families/groups, 28 client families were helped with Christmas gifts this year. As our lobby overflowed with beautifully wrapped gifts, we imagined the joy on Christmas morning as children delight in open-

ing gifts as their parents breathe a sigh of relief.

Thank you, donors!



Linda McDaniel of The Pony Patch in Campobello, with just a few of the school’s donation for two of our client families.



STEPS TO HOPE: SERVICES PROVIDED

- **24-Hour Hotline** – for crisis intervention and assistance.
- **Confidentiality** – all services are guaranteed confidential.
- **Shelter** – emergency safe shelter for victims of domestic violence or sexual assault.
- **Counseling** – individual counseling with a licensed counselor.
- **Referrals** – hospital (staff will transport and assist); court (free legal aid may be provided through Pisgah Legal Services).
- **Court Advocacy** – trained volunteers accompany and support clients through the judicial process.
- **Case Management vs. Crisis Intervention** – holistic support of clients.
- **Youth Group** – character and skills building groups for adolescent girls and boys.
- **Support Groups and Education Programs** facilitated by trained professionals: women victims; male and female abuser; parenting education; and support group meetings, including Women to Women—a support group for *all* women.
- **Family Mediation** facilitated by a trained professional.
- **Community Education** – through schools, organizations and civic groups.
- **Public Awareness** – presentations and workshops.
- **Resource Library** – videos, pamphlets and brochures are available.
- **Advocacy Center** – forensic interviewing of children.
- **Rape Prevention/Victim Services**
- **Second Chance Thrift Store** – outreach to victims; gently used, quality merchandise.

Steps to HOPE, Inc.

Ward Street · P.O. Box 518
Columbus, NC 28722
828-894-2340 · 1-888-968-4283
www.stepstohope.org
E-mail: steps@stepstohope.org



Visit us at
www.stepstohope.org

HOPE Works!

*A Semi-annual Newsletter of
Steps to HOPE, Inc.
Debra Backus, Editor*

Steps to HOPE, Inc. is Polk County's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Prevention and Treatment Center. For all victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in this community, there is:

Help
Oder
Protection
Encouragement

"The mission of Steps to HOPE is to create a community free from the violence of domestic and sexual abuse through education, advocacy and victim assistance."

**BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Columbus, NC
Permit No. 25**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
2014**