



The Church Connection

Grandfather Home for Children

Grandfather Home Ambassadors

I would like to invite your congregation to name one of its members as a Grandfather Home Ambassador. This individual would become a special friend to our ministry and the primary communication liaison to your church. We will offer our ambassadors special informative and fun opportunities to learn about our ministry in more depth and provide resources that can be shared with your church members and mission or outreach committees. Ambassadors from many congregations, as a group, will explore together how we can build a stronger and more dynamic partnership in ministry serving children who have survived severe family trauma.

If you know of someone in your church who is committed to or interested in the ministry of Grandfather Home and who is committed to the welfare of children who have survived abuse, ask if they might be willing to serve as a Grandfather Home Ambassador. Once that special someone says yes, please send their contact information to Mae D. Weed, Director of Church Relation, m.weed@grandfatherhome.org or call 828-260-7584. Thank you. I look forward to working with all of our ambassadors in the future.

Mae D. Weed



The annual Family Picnic on the Banner Elk Campus. The ambassadors can help plan this kind of fun event for churches!

The Child Now Before Us



Michael is 16 years old and one of the first two children residing in the new Campbell Cottage on the Banner Elk campus. However, he is not new to Grandfather Home. He had previously been placed in one of our Level 3 cottages in spring of 2010. He struggled there at first but began to feel at home here and made progress in his

treatment. He attended Arbor Dale Presbyterian Church with his cottage and built some meaningful relationships with people in that congregation. He accepted Jesus as his savior and was baptized at the church.

The state of North Carolina currently mandates a maximum stay in Level 3 residential care of 120 days. That time went by very quickly for Michael, and he had to be placed in a therapeutic foster home, probably prematurely. We placed him with one of our well-trained and loving therapeutic families where we believed he would have the greatest chance for success. Unfortunately, his behavioral problems resurfaced and he had to be removed from the home. He has been placed in the Campbell Cottage where a longer term placement and more intensive treatment opportunities should enable him to deal with his problems. Pastor Tee from Arbor Dale has been visiting him regularly and the church sponsored him for Christmas. Please keep Michael in your prayers.

Michael is only one example of how the state's policy changes that were designed to save money are negatively impacting deeply traumatized children. Please write your legislators with the message that children are too important to be sacrificed, that there are other places to cut budgets!

Please keep our children in your prayers!

Celebrating Adoption

In January 2011 Grandfather Home finalized its 156st adoption. One of Grandfather Home's adoptive



families is Pastor Robert Westlund and his wife Fran. They serve at Englewood Presbyterian Church in Rocky Mount, NC. Their personal story of

success and heartbreak is not only a powerful witness to God's faithfulness but also to the life changing ministry taking place at Grandfather Home.

The Westlunds adopted Kaleigh and Jacob believing this to be their "yes" to God's call to care for the orphans in our time. Kaleigh has adjusted well and is now happy and confident in her forever home. Jacob, however, has continued to have serious problems which have escalated to the point that he has needed to be temporarily placed into the Banner Elk residential program to receive needed intervention and treatment.

I would encourage you to use the following web links to hear more about the Westlund's story:

www.inglewoodpres.com for the audio version of the presentation they made in worship for their congregation for National Adoption Month in November or <http://robwestlund.wordpress.com> or <http://franwestlund.wordpress.com> for their blogs.

Destined for Adoption

*"He destined us for adoption
As his children through Jesus Christ."
(Ephesians 1:5)*

What a gift adoption is. When my daughter was born, I experienced a deep sense of gratitude toward my parents, who adopted me when I was relinquished at birth. It was then that I realized the importance of the gifts my parents gave me: a name, a family, a community, a history, and a heritage. Along with love these gifts were given without merit on my part. I realized I would pass these gifts to my daughter because of the sacrifice my parents made. In Christ, God offers us a place in the family of God through the gift of faith in Christ. We are adopted through the Spirit and given a place in God's family and its history, tradition, and mission. This inheritance begs to be passed on to others, especially those who have been abandoned.

(By: Sandy Scott, Kandahar, Afghanistan, first printed in "These Days: Daily Devotions for Living the Faith," Oct. Nov. Dec. 2010 issue; Reading for Monday December 27th, Presbyterian Publishing Corporation, 2010)

Dates to Remember:

April 1, 2011
May 6, 2011

Circle of Courage, Noon - 1:30 pm
Circle of Courage, Noon - 1:30 pm



**Thank you to everyone
whose gifts, stockings,
gift cards,
and financial contributions
helped to make Christmas
a joyful time for the
children at Grandfather Home!
In This New Year
May God Bless You Every One!**

Grandfather Home for Children

PO Box 98

Banner Elk, NC 28604

828-898-5465

www.grandfatherhome.org

(Click on "Connect" tab for church information)

Mae D. Weed, Director of Church Relations

828-260-7584

m.weed@grandfatherhome.org