



## Minute for Mission 2011

Grandfather Home for Children was founded as an orphanage in 1914 by the Rev. Edgar Tufts, a Presbyterian minister. Our mission has always been to serve children in need. Thus the nature of our work has changed over our nearly 100 year history to respond to changing needs in our society.

Today, Grandfather Home for Children serves children who have survived significant family trauma including emotional, physical, and sexual abuse and extreme neglect. We offer a comprehensive continuum of care that includes residential treatment, education, therapeutic foster care, family foster care, intensive in-home treatment, and adoption services. We currently serve 300 children daily in our various programs and will serve over 600 children this year.

The residential campus in Banner Elk provides children with a safe environment, loving caretakers, and necessary medical and psychological treatment. Grandfather Academy provides education for children on the Banner Elk campus as well as local community children, with a curriculum customized to meet the needs of each individual child. The PLATO on-line learning system provides remediation and credit recovery for both our residential and foster children.

Campbell Cottage opened in December of 2010 and offers treatment for the most traumatized children requiring a secure facility for their own safety. Harris and Hickory Cottages re-opened in the summer of 2011, also providing secure treatment facilities.

Grandfather Home also has six Community Resource Centers across the state of North Carolina that provide care for children with special medical and psychological needs through our foster family ministry. Most are in our care because of unsafe or unsuitable home environments. We provide a broad range of support services for those families who answer the call to become a family for a hurting child. This year our foster family retention rate was 89%, one of the highest in the nation.

Brittany is seventeen and in her senior year of high school. She is under the care of Grandfather Home and lives with her foster mother, Momma A. She was removed from her birth mother's home two years ago when her mother had thrown her out of the house for the fifth time. Her birth mother has since terminated her parental rights, as had her father when she was age eight. She is now permanently placed with Momma A. Brittany said that being in foster care has changed her life. She has become involved in church again and her spiritual life is better than it has ever been. "I still mess up sometimes but the people in my life have helped me grow closer to God and to love myself more." Brittany is being home schooled and has made up for deficits in her studies from when life was hard. She now makes good grades. Recently she was accepted to Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. She said, "I am so excited to go! I can't wait to go start my new life and get my education. Thank you to Grandfather Home for giving me a better life and opportunity."

This and all of our success stories are because of your support and prayers!

To date, we have completed 187 adoptions. Most of these adoptions have been of elementary age children or adolescents with special needs who are often overlooked by prospective adoptive families.

The congregations of Holston Presbytery have supported the work of Grandfather Home for Children throughout its history and for this we sincerely thank you. Your gifts are one way the Christian community can answer God's call to serve "the least" and most vulnerable children among us. Thank you.