



MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS FOR GIVING THEIR TIME, FUNDS, AND RESOURCES TO OUR KIDS.

- ♥ Belmont Abbey Soccer Team hosted a charity event and raised \$5000 for Our Home.
- ♥ Men on a Mission worked on our lawn mowers, mowed grass, and did maintenance work in our gym.
- ♥ Operation Sweet Tooth brought Easter Baskets and dinner for our residents.
- ♥ Cabarrus County Queens provided pizza for our residents.
- ♥ Memorial Baptist Church hosted an Easter egg hunt for our residents.
- ♥ Bill Gaby provide dinner from Subway.
- ♥ Mary Frances Wall Center donated pajamas.
- ♥ Franklin Church of God worked on campus, served lunch, and donated \$1500.
- ♥ Lots of Love for the Little Ones hosted a birthday party for residents with birthdays from November-February.
- ♥ Cecil Brooks donated money to purchase a new lawn mower.
- ♥ F3 hosted a game day with pizza and snacks and donated \$500 towards Carowinds passes.
- ♥ Ulah Church of God toured our campus and donated supplies.
- ♥ Crossroads Church of God donated money to repair a truck. Maryland Men on a Mission will provide the repairs.

**Needs List**

**Laundry Products**

Clorox 2 (bleach for colors)

**Household Cleaning Items**

Glass Top Stove Cleaner

Dishwasher Detergent

Glass Cleaner

Bathroom Cleaner

Clorox Wipes

Disinfectant Spray

**Trash Bags**

13 gal. tall kitchen bags

33 & 39-gal. trash bags

**Toiletries & Personal Items**

Feminine Napkins

Men's Body Wash

Women's Body Wash

Shampoo & Conditioner

Hand Lotion

\*\*Size 4 Diapers\*\*

Tissues

Pampers brand diapers & wipes

**Special Needs**

Light bulbs

Shower liners

Gas Mix for Weed-Eater

.95 Weed-Eater String

Tri-fold paper towels for towel dispenser

**School Supplies**

Composition Notebooks

Black Pens

Scotch Tape

**Alert! Alert! Alert!**

Canned food (not commercial size), dressings, condiments, spices, etc. This offsets the food expense in the cottages.

**Gift cards are always a great blessing! We can use them for a variety of things, such as clothes, toiletries, personal items, school supplies, etc.**

**Contact Us**

**OUR HOME**

Church of God Children's

**Home of NC**

3485 Orphanage Cir  
Concord, NC 28027  
(704) 788-1164



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Chairman: Ken Bell	Lisa Strickland David Kimbrell David Shoemake Thurman Jenkins Pat Palmquist	Richard Franklin Boyd Byerly Joe Visalli Patrick Jensen Vincent Tillman
Co-Chairman: Dennis Page		

# OUR NEWS

## A Legacy of Smiles



"You have been my friend. That in itself is a tremendous thing."

E.B. White (*Charlotte's Web*)

As J.R.R Tolkien wrote, "The road goes ever on and on..." and the road for our director of nine and a half years now goes on towards a new, uncharted adventure. Mike and Gwen Walker honored us by the manner in which they lived their lives and their compassion for others. We will never forget them as they graduate to their retirement; we wish them rest, peace, time with family, and a slower pace. As the staff and residents of Our Home wave our last farewell to the Walkers, we hope to follow the advice of Dr. Seuss and not cry because our time with the Walkers is over, but smile because it happened.

Brother Mike and Gwen first brought smiles to our faces upon their arrival at Our Home in September 2008. They wasted no time in setting plans into action that would improve our campus and the lives of our residents. Compassionate hearts toward the specific set of children that need what Our Home provides is an attribute that can be seen in everything the Walkers have touched during their tenure. The many projects and campus improvements over the years were spurred on by Brother Mike's desire to create accommodations that were welcoming, appealing, and most importantly, home, to children who have never truly known the indulgence of a well put together living space. With the idea that our residents deserve beauty and excellence in their surroundings, there has been no wall left unpainted, no floor that has not been replaced, no building that has escaped renovation. In resurfacing the face of our campus, Brother Mike framed a blank canvas for Gwen's expert designs of warmth, comfort, charm, and life in the gathering spaces, living areas, offices, and play places of our campus. The feeling of home she created left us smiling.

**BECOME A PARTNER**

**120 Club:** \$10 per month

**Sponsor a Child:** \$25 per month. Receive a picture of a child, limited information and ability to correspond with him/her.

**Sponsor a Teen Mother/Baby:** \$50 per month. Receive a picture, limited information and the ability to correspond with the mother.

**Sponsor a Cottage:** \$100 per month. Receive information about a cottage in a monthly letter from the house parents. Correspond with and visit your cottage.



(continued page 2)



(continued from page 1) Each fall and Christmas found our staff, with faces (usually) smiling, scurrying to follow Gwen's explicit instructions in the placement of each decoration, down to the last leaf and tinsel strand. Her guidance always led to enchanting displays of the season. Heaven help the person who attempted to alter Gwen's design! She could hone in on a misplaced item like a hawk stalking its prey. One year Dale Cannon decided to test her ability by placing a Charlie Brown Christmas tree among the decorations. She spotted it within the hour!

Campus improvements were not limited to the visual appeal of our campus. The Walkers also implemented change in the services Our Home provided. Programs in Independent Living, Teen Mothers and Babies, and Foster Care commenced with their guidance and support. Their love and passion for our kids led to a yearly end of school celebration. Each resident was honored with a short speech and award commemorating their accomplishments throughout the past year. The festivities included a meal, activities, and varying themes each year, from a Hawaiian luau to patriotic colors, but instilling pride, connection, and the knowledge of being valued into the forever memory of each resident was a perpetual theme; you better believe it left them smiling.

The past nine years have seen the Walkers wearing varying hats depending on the task at hand, yet our favorite hat is the one of friend. Our hearts are saddened as we contemplate the distance that will now separate us, but are cheered by the memories of perfectly timed encouragement, shared frustration when plans went astray, words of wisdom in times of stress, celebrations in success, and of course, all the times they left us smiling. Although no one is perfect and we are sure there may be those who would criticize decisions the Walkers have made, we feel the best description of Mike and Gwen Walker and their legacy over the last nine years can be summed up by the words of Theodore Roosevelt:

*It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and short-coming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.*

Mike and Gwen Walker have spent themselves in a worthy cause and have known victory. And they left us smiling.



## New Director Announced

The Board of Directors is pleased to announce that *Kenneth M. Hudson* has been selected as the new Executive Director, effective May 13, 2017. Reverend Hudson will be assuming this role upon the retirement of Mike Walker. Reverend Walker has served Our Home with distinction these past eight years and is to be commended for helping to secure Our Home's continued existence.

Reverend Hudson served at the Children's Home as Program Director and Social Worker from 1981-83. He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Home from 2004-2012. His experience and educational background has been approved as satisfying guidelines set by the Division of Social Services, NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Reverend Hudson brings to Our Home a wealth of practical ministerial experience, wisdom and a love for the ministry of Our Home. His 34 years of pastoral experience, developing and managing budgets and staff, constructing a 1,000-seat sanctuary in Statesville, his service on the WNC State Youth and Discipleship Board, the State Council and other numerous committees, as well as his connections with ministers in both ENC and WNC make him uniquely qualified to lead Our Home. His wife, Jane, is a state and nationally certified teacher and has spent years in the school system working with disadvantaged children, and will be an invaluable asset to the ministry to the children.

Reverend Hudson states, "Jane and I began our full-time ministry at the home in 1981, and fell in love with its ministry. What a privilege to have the opportunity to serve in this great ministry again. We covet your prayers and support as we endeavor to continue to minister to children who need a home."

**MOTHER'S DAY OFFERING**  
MAY 14TH 2017

"The generous will prosper; those who refresh will themselves be refreshed."  
Proverbs 11:25

The Church of God of North Carolina requests that all churches receive an offering for Our Home on Mother's Day. Our boys and girls are depending on your generous gifts in order for them to continue receiving the care they deserve. God bless you for your kindness.

Donations can be mailed to: 3485 Orphanage Circle Concord, NC 28027  
Donations can also be made online: [www.cogch.org](http://www.cogch.org)