



The Message

VOLUME V

SPRING 2008

Rowan
One Church
One Child
Ministry



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The Director's Pen

Many problems faced by foster children have roots in the life experiences that occurred prior to entering the foster care system. Most have been victims of abuse or neglect. When they come to the attention of DSS, many have changed schools frequently within the school year and have fallen behind academically. Many have not received consistent medical and dental care. They have not learned how to form loving relationships. When older teens come into foster care and cannot be reunited with their birth families, they are likely to age out of care without a family connection or without supports to successfully transition to adulthood. They have a harder time finding employment and are more likely to

abuse drugs and alcohol. What a sad situation for these children. Yet, there is hope for them. The hope comes in many forms --- resourceful social workers, patient and committed foster parents, trained guidance counselors and mentors, judges and juvenile officers.

In Rowan County, hope also comes from the One Church One Child program. Just take a look at the gift list on page three! New shoes, prom dresses, birthday parties, money for a school field trip! Your gifts go a long way in enhancing the emotional well being of children in foster care. You help them to feel positive about themselves, and that is their springboard to success. Thank you for the many kind and thoughtful gifts you have

provided to foster children, as well as to their birth and foster families. Thank you, too, for keeping these children in your prayers. If you are feeling the nudge to get even more involved by becoming a foster or adoptive parent, please talk with Jon Hunter. He will be pleased to walk you through the process. May God bless and keep you in His care.

Rowan County Department of Social Services

Sandra Wilkes—Director

Tom Brewer—Children's Services Program Administrator

ROCOG Coordinator

God continues to bless our ministry to children and families in Rowan county. Thank you for your diligent efforts to continue to meet so many needs. I am grateful to you for drawing attention to National Foster Care Month through your church bulletins, posters that you have

placed in your church and for making a Mission Moment Presentation at one of your worship services.

On May 13— May 15, 2008, it was our privilege to welcome two ministers from Reno, Nevada. The pastors were here

to observe our ministry as they seek to begin a One Church—One Child Ministry in partnership with DSS in Reno. The visit was a great success as we all grew from this experience. I am grateful to our Advisory Board and to some of our member church pastors and coordinators who shared in this



Together We Are Making a Difference in Children's Lives!

Together we grow. Since the last newsletter we are happy to welcome the following new member churches:

- *Freedom United Church of God*
- *Refreshing Springs Christian Ministry*

ROCOC COORDINATOR

experience with us. As others visit Rowan County, I will invite other member church pastors and coordinators to share in the experience.

I appreciate the congregations who have invited me to preach on Sunday mornings about children and to speak to other church groups about this ministry. If you would like for me to speak at your church, please call me to arrange a time.

Please continue to lift this ministry up in your prayers.

REACH OUT! Continue to share this ministry with churches in your neighborhood. Invite someone from a perspective member church to be our guest at our next Church Coordinators Meeting on Monday, July 14, 2008.

Together, we can grow and be equipped to serve more children in Rowan County.

May God richly bless you!

Jon hunter



Events in Adoption and Foster Care

The Foster Care and Adoption Units continue to enjoy the support of the network of Rowan County churches and their energetic and committed members. Our young people have been blessed with assistance for prom and other school events.

We were excited to meet the ministers from Reno, Nevada who are interested in begin-

ning a One Church One Child program there. It was certainly interesting to discuss differences and similarities between foster care and adoption in Nevada and North Carolina.

We are also thrilled about an upcoming event--"end of school bash"--sponsored by Thrivent for Lutherans, which is a direct result of Rowan County One Church One

Child information-sharing. The event is open to foster children in relative and foster care placements.

Thank you for your continued support that comes in so many ways: financial, emotional, and prayerful!

Frances Gallimore, Micah Melton, and Peggy Thorneburg

Prospective Adoptive and Foster Parent Interest



Thursday, June 26, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Crawford Professional Building

310 N. Main Street

Salisbury, NC

Information: 704-216-7914

(Please announce this meeting in your congregations)

Contributions Made by One Church One Child Churches

- New shoes and socks for boys and girls.
- 25 Easter baskets for children.
- Baby clothes, shoes, blankets, maternity closets, elementary age children's clothes and toys from a church consignment sale.
- Birthday party for teenagers in the Links Program. The teenagers who had birthdays in the January—March quarter were given \$20.00 gift cards from Wal-Mart and a Church Cook-Book. Those present enjoyed hot dogs, birthday cake and ice cream. All teenagers present received a \$5.00 gift card for pizza.
- Three boxes and five bags of food, large ham, Easter gift bag and gift certificate for Betty.
- One box of canned food, milk, bread, fresh meat, lunch meat, butter, and other foods for a mother and her birth child who recently returned home from foster care.
- \$30.00 and a magazine subscription to "Faithful Sister" for Betty.
- Twin bed sheets, wash cloths, four pairs of flip-flops, girls jeans, new shirts, tooth brushes and paste, body mist, and brushes and comb sets.
- \$50.00 gift card to Wal-mart, for Betty, \$10.00 gift card to Food Lion for Betty's family, and two bags of groceries.
- \$1,051.98 for the One Church – One Child account to help with prom and graduation expenses for teenagers.
- \$100.00 gift to the One Church One Child account.
- \$102.16 to be used to purchase specialized shoes for summer activities for children.
- Scarves for girls and women.
- Stationary bike for a girl in foster care.
- Nineteen prom dresses.
- Children's clothes and shoes.
- Community Church Youth Rally Day with ROCOC Booth to recruit foster and adoptive parents.
- \$ 50 Food Lion gift card for Brandon's family, \$100 Rack Room Shoe Store gift card for Brandon and a combination lock for his locker.
- Second donation of new shoes and socks for boys and girls.
- Infant girl's clothes, toddler boy's clothes, toddler girl's clothes.
- \$97.50 to send Crystal on a school ROTC field trip to historic sites in Virginia.
- \$50 to purchase book bags for teenagers.
- Clothes donated by students at Hood Seminary.
- Clothes and toys from a church yard sale.
- Necklace for Betty to give to her caretaker for Mother's Day.
- \$600 for rent for Betty's family donated by four churches.
- Twin bed frame, three mattress and box spring sets.
- \$50 gift card for Josey and Stormi.
- Pentecost offering of \$77.50 to the ROCOC account.



- Large food donation for Betty and her family.

Church Coordinators Meeting

Monday, July 14, 2008

First United Methodist Church of Salisbury
Fellowship Hall
217 S. Church Street
Salisbury, NC
12—1 p.m. (Lunch provided)
Or
5:30—6:30 p.m. (Dinner provided)



**Rowan
One Church—One Child
Ministry**

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**For a free Ministry Portfolio
Packet or to schedule Jon
Hunter to speak, please
telephone or email Jon.**

The Rowan County One Church—One Child program is a mission/outreach program between Rowan County Department of Social Services and local churches that is designed to make a difference in the lives of children and families by:

- Identifying families in congregations who may be interested in becoming foster or adoptive parents.
- Helping to meet the needs of children and families served by DSS.
- Supporting families who are caretakers for Rowan County's children in foster care.
- Educating worshippers about the needs of Rowan County children and families who need assistance and support.

Member Churches

Cedar Grove AME Zion

Church of the Word of God

Coburn Memorial UMC

First Presbyterian
Salisbury

First UMC – Salisbury

Freedom United Church of
God

Gethsemane Missionary
Baptist

Grace UMC

Grace Worship Center
International

Lebanon Lutheran

Main Street UMC
Salisbury

Maranatha Bible Church

Milford Hills UMC

Mount Olive Full Gospel
Baptist

Mount Tabor UMC

Mount Zion Missionary
Baptist

New Life In Christ

Oak Grove UMC

Park Avenue UMC

Providence AME Zion

Providence UMC

Refreshing Springs Chris-
tian Ministry

San Mateo – St Matthew's
Episcopal

Second Presbyterian

Shiloh UMC

The Tower of Power United
Holy Church

Thyatira Presbyterian