



Changing Hearts

OPEN ARMS SHELTER

Changing Lives

April 2012

Volume 1 Issue 24

Dedication and Open House of New Long-term Wing

The OAS Board of Directors wants to invite you to an open house to show our appreciation to the people in Arkansas that have so generously helped in the construction of the new long-term wing at the shelter.

Open Arms has provided emergency care for 26 years, and in that time we have seen an increased need for long-term care. There have been many situations over the years where children would have been greatly helped by living in a stable environment for more than the 45 days allowed in emergency care.

“We knew there was a need in Arkansas for long-term care, and we are pleased the shelter is now funded for three long-term beds by the Department of Human Services (DHS),” says Merritt Holman, President of the Board of Directors. “We are thankful for the support many have shown in the community, and we hope that support continues as we work to pay off the loan for the building. We also anxiously await the day we can get the funding for the other nine beds in the new wing.”

The dedication and open house is for anyone who wants to come see the shelter and learn about the welcoming and home-like environment offered to the children that stay at the shelter. Children come to the shelter from situations of abuse or neglect, not because of anything they have done.

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“This is a great opportunity to see the new facility. We are not debt free and still need help getting it paid off, but we feel this is a great investment toward helping abused and neglected children that need a safe and loving place to live when circumstances at their own homes don’t allow that,” says Rhonda House, Secretary of the Board of Directors.

The dedication will recognize special contributions to the construction with an open house to follow. Join us as we celebrate a new phase in helping children across the state of Arkansas.

We cordially invite you to a dedication and open house celebrating the completion of the new long-term wing at the

Open Arms Shelter

Thursday, the 24th of May, 2012

5:30-7:00pm

Open Arms Shelter
1500 Navajo Trail
Lonoke, Arkansas

Dedication ceremony from 5:30-5:45, followed by an Open House till 7 pm.

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“Serving abused and neglected children for 26 years”

OPEN ARMS SHELTER

From the Director's Desk

It's hard to believe I am about to celebrate my sixth month anniversary as Executive Director of Open Arms Shelter. It has been a very busy six months that have seemingly flown by so quickly. The staff at Open Arms has made me feel very welcomed. They are all hard-working, awesome women who love the children that pass through Open Arms. The support from the Lonoke community and surrounding areas makes my job much easier. I want to say thank you to the Board of Directors for their support and guidance. I am blessed to be allowed to serve as director of Open Arms. May the next six months be just as great!

Highlights of the last six months include:

- * Thanksgiving with all the delicious donated food items.
- * Christmas and the visits from Santa, along with invitations from special people to come share the Christmas spirit with their groups.
- * Being able to share our mission with groups such as Lonoke Chamber of Commerce, the Lonoke Leadership Training Class, Cabot Retired Teachers Association, Cabot ACE Program, and Cabot High School Key Club.
- * Ms. Kersey's third grade classroom's visit to the shelter. Jackson stopped back by later with a donation of his very own money.
- * Bikers Against Child Abuse (B.A.C.A.) visited the shelter and adopted us for the next year by planning monthly visits with activities to share with our children.



Nancy Hamlin, OAS Executive Director



Jackson Turner

Bikers Adopt Shelter

Biker's Against Child Abuse (BACA) is a national organization that was created with the intent to provide a safer environment for abused children. The Toadsuck Chapter of BACA out of Conway has adopted Open Arms. They come by to visit the kids, spend time with them and support them once a month in order to help them to be more comfortable with the world around them.

The bikers in BACA all go by their road names and they get down on the kids' level, playing games and bringing snacks.

Halfpint, the public relations director of the BACA Toadsuck Chapter, says, "We basically become kids ourselves for a couple of hours. When we leave seeing the smiles on their faces and hearing the laughter of kids being kids, our reward is knowing that for a short period of time we helped make a difference in a child's life by allowing them to just let go and be a kid."

When 55 and Halfpint, along with other members of the Toadsuck Chapter, learned about the shelter, they came to visit and knew they could help.

"We work to empower these children not to be afraid of the environment in which they have lived, and to be role models for them to teach them that the situations that have happened to them does not have to dictate what their life is going to be in the future," says Halfpint.

The staff and kids at the shelter send a big "Thank you" to the Toadsuck chapter of BACA!



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Eagle Scout Helps Shelter

Looking for a good service to do for his community, Eagle Scout Tyler Shock from Cabot, decided to do something for Open Arms. After working with the staff at the shelter to see what needs they had, Tyler decided to build picnic tables for the kids to enjoy eating outside.



The picnic tables have been a huge success and offered the kids at the shelter a great place to enjoy the beautiful spring afternoons. Thank you Tyler!



Upcoming Events:

*Open Arms BBQ Supper and Auction
August 7, 2012

*The Great 5K Pumpkin Run / 1 Mile
Family Run and Pumpkin Patch
September 29, 2012
8:00-Noon at the Lonoke Depot

*Scary-oke Celebrity Karaoke Bash
October 20, 2012 at Argenta Theater

Memorials and Honorariums from Nov. to present:

In Memory of:

Charles Pritchard: by Shelley & Danny Maynard
Jeff & Pam Jones
Bobby & Beverly Jones
Bill Brightwell: by Charlotte Cerrato
Laveta Calwell: by Dan & Marty Terry
Bessie & Valmer Verboncoeur: by Bettie Tyson
Mike Hardke: by Lonoke County Co-op
Brad Shoup & Mimi Johnson
Raymond Smyth: by Bart Foster
Jean Sanders: by Phylis Wujs
Joe Melton: by Jim & Doretta Malone
Jim & Louise Malone
Bobby & Beverly Jones
Ray Lackie: by April Anderson
Joseph & Gloria Rochelle
Ronnie and Peggy Anderson
Johnnie Knox: by Rick & Susan Bransford
Dr. & Mrs. B.E. Holmes
Troy & Carolyn Evans
E.W. McCrary
Jarrett McFarlin: by Jean McFarlin
John Morton: by Dean & Misti Morris
Delbert Lewis: by Michael & Betty Wilson
Geneva Edmondson: by Ronnie and Peggy Anderson
Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller: by Tommy & Shelby Hillman
Emma Bridgeman
Alpha Gann: by

Carla Underwood
Ben Patterson: by Phillip & Dana Murray
Gene Carpenter: by Susan & Rick Bransford
Johnnie & Dick Bransford
Jacques Parker: by Amelia and Richard Muse
Glen "Tony" Sloan: by Michael & Betty Wilson
Don Lewis: by Michael & Betty Wilson
John A Cantrell Jr (Sonny): by Frances Oyler
Clotine Pennington: by Amelia & Dick Muse

In Honor of:

Bill & Sherry Sandage: by John & Sara Shaw
Mike Henley: by Gordon & Lisa Gondek
The Tip Millard Family: by Rob & Kathy Millard
Betty Wilson: by Kevin & Lisa McKenzie
Rob & Kathy Millard: by Dorothy Hogue
Teresa & Robert Bailey: by Dorothy Hogue
Rick, Susan & Sara Bransford: by William & Rebecca Paxton
Sara Shaw: by Hardy Winburn
Susan Bransford: by Barbara & Robert Shults
Cynthia & Bernie Leahy
Kaye & Neal Anderson
Jesscia & Linda Anschutz
Polly & Laudies Brantley
Gail Call
Don & Judy Compton
Neil & Debbie Compton
Amanda Curtright
Martha Feland
Hayden Finley
Bart & Meghan Foster

Darlene & Jennie Gates
Marsha Goings
Amanda Gumtow
Trisha Hagge
Sandye Hedges
Sandra Hill
Casey & Cliff Keeney
Beth Leverett
Lindsey Lingo
Christy Lyons
Susie Magie
Harriet Meadows
Vicki Msall
Derek Oberle
Carol Randolph
Becky True
Mary Ann Woodworth
Sarah SS class of FBC England
The Way SS class of Cabot United
Methodist: by Jana & Ben Foster
Lisenne Rockefeller
Hal Hillman
Trip Hillman
Caroline Hillman
Chris Hillman
Emily Hillman
Rich & Tina Hillman
Collin & Caroline Torian: by Tommy & Shelby Hillman
Mr. & Mrs. John Tull Jr
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Marthann Bennett: by Kevin & Daina Newcomb
Pat & Sarah Hagge
Patrick & Trisha Hagge
Ben & Jana Foster: by Sherry Bryan & Michael Hagge
Mike Dolan: by Jillian George
Mr. Milburn Adams
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Baker
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Ms. Francille Turbyfill
Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Silaski
Mr. Buddy Sutton
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Walden
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Sims
Mr. Bill Thompson
Dr. Laura Wilson: by The Ashley Group



Changing Hearts

Open Arms Shelter

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Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

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(501) 676-6174

Website:

www.openarmsshelter.org

The Open Arms Shelter Team

2012 Board of Directors

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Gary Canada, Jr., V.C.

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Lonoke

Jamie Anderson
Carrie Holt
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Amy Hill

Carlisle

Kristel Petrus, V.C.

Open Arms Shelter Needs List

FOOD ITEMS

Apple Juice
Kool-Aid
Tubs of Butter
Bread and Buns
Canned Fruit
Spaghetti Sauce
BBQ Sauce
Ketchup
Pickles
Canned Vegetable
Canned and Fresh Fruit
Hamburger Helper
Mac-N-Cheese
Instant Potatoes
Canned Vegetables
Jelly
Peanut Butter
Mayonnaise
Rotel
Chili
Oatmeal
Pancake Mix
Syrup
Cooking spray
Spices
Salt
Pepper
Chili Powder
Taco Seasoning
Gravy Mixes
Taco Shells

Cereal
Fresh garden produce
Cooking Oil
Chips
Spaghetti Noodles
Cream of Chicken Soup
Mushroom Soup
Green Beans
Onions
Bell Peppers
Tomatoes
Lettuce

PAPER PRODUCTS

Toilet Paper
Divided Styrofoam plates
Styrofoam cups
Paper Towels
Napkins
Ziploc Bags – Sandwich,
Quart, and Gallon
Aluminum Foil
Tall Kitchen Garbage Bags
AA Batteries

MISC

Acne wash
Shampoo
Conditioner
Hair brushes
Deodorant
Disposable Razors

Give a Gift to Open Arms

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: () _____ EMAIL: _____

__ My donation in the amount of \$ _____ is enclosed, and is in honor/
memory (circle one) of

__ Send notification of gift to: _____

Address: _____

Open Arms has full 501-(c)3 status. Your gift is tax deductible.
For large gifts, please contact the shelter.

Lonoke, Arkansas
P.O. Box 161
Open Arms Shelter