

SPOTLIGHT ON HOPE TEAMS

When you serve on a Hope Team, you form relationships, provide support, create community, and build understanding.

Members of Hope Teams provide advocacy support, serve as role models, build trust among persons from different economic backgrounds, and enjoy spending time together with their partnering family. Each team is usually comprised of four to six volunteers who are matched with one family. The team works closely with a Charlotte Family Housing Social Worker and Hope Team Manager who provide guidance and support.



A Hope Team from Myers Park Presbyterian Church and their partnering family walked together in last year's Yellow Brick Road event

"Being a part of a Hope Team started out as a volunteer experience but truly became an extension of my family. I love that Rsheena brought her children to celebrate with my family at my son's baptism."

– Libby Bell, Hope Team Volunteer

Interested in learning more about Hope Teams?
Contact Lisa Howell at LHowell@CharlotteFamilyHousing.org.

 Charlotte Family Housing

Working to solve family homelessness

300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, NC 28204

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

save the date

Come follow the Yellow Brick Road to help solve family homelessness!

PRESENTED BY



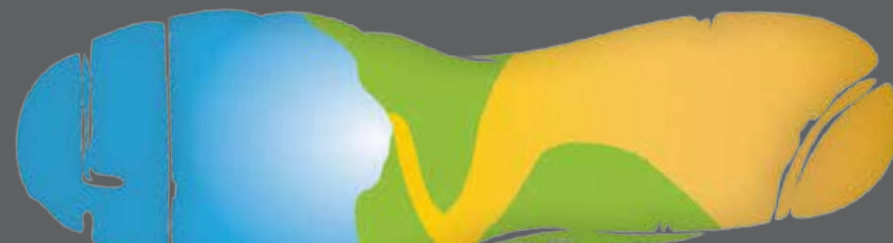
**Sunday,
April 14, 2013**

CFH's Plaza Place Shelter
2410 The Plaza
Charlotte, NC 28205

Registration opens at 2:00 pm
Walk begins at 3:00 pm
Celebration begins at 4:00 pm

For more information or to register visit:

CFHYellowBrickRoad.org

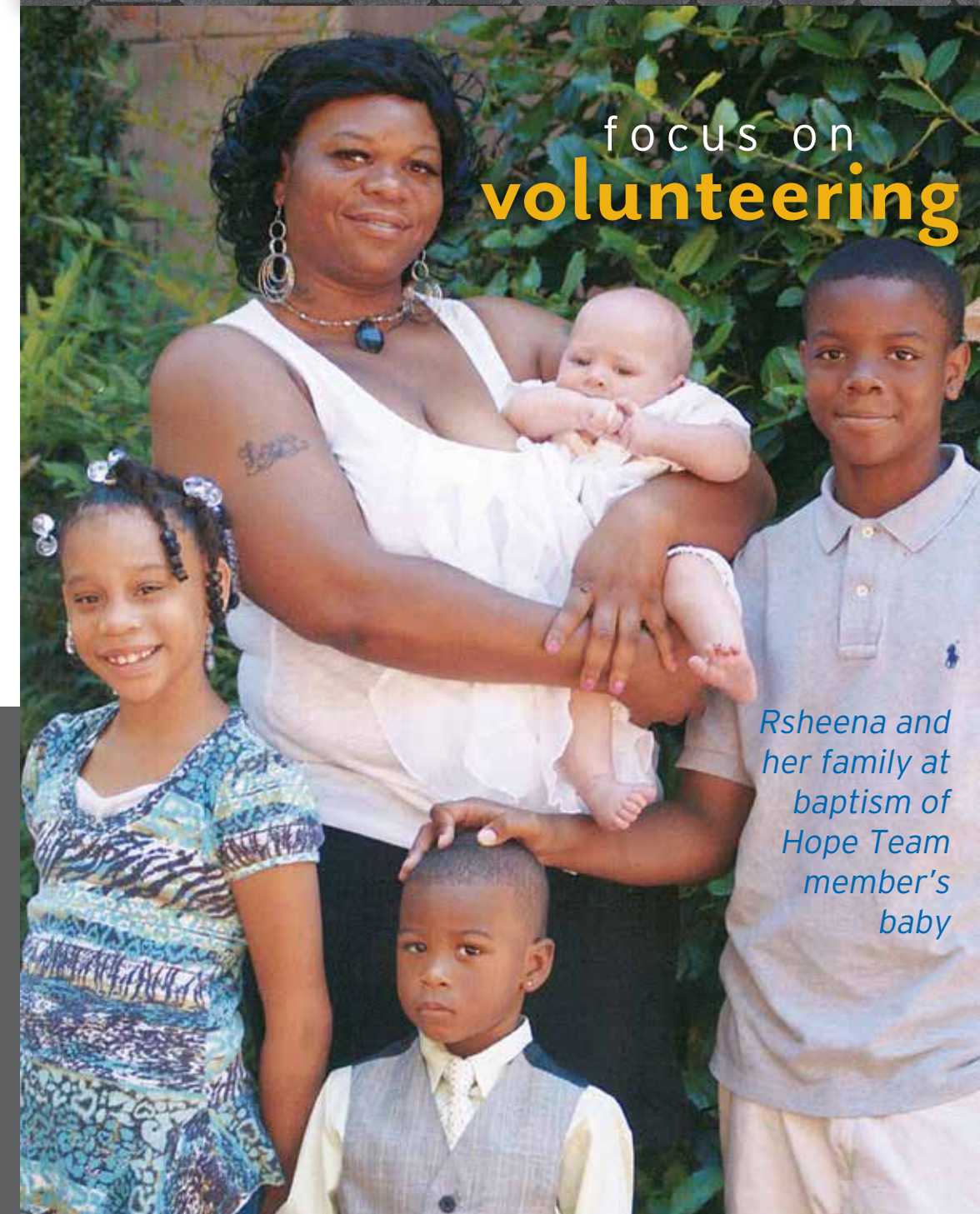


Charlotte Family Housing

Working to solve family homelessness

WELCOME HOME

focus on
volunteering



Rsheena and her family at baptism of Hope Team member's baby

WINTER 2013

As a board member and volunteer at Charlotte Family Housing over the past three years,

I've had the pleasure to interact with the fantastic staff, other board members, fellow volunteers and client families. My wife Cambey and I are now beginning our second Hope Team relationship and are looking forward to the experience. Soon after we joined our first Hope Team three years ago, our daughter and son-in-law joined a team too. Their Hope Team is now going strong in its third year. Our two grandsons have attended several Hope Team gatherings. We love the idea of families serving families and think it's great for our grandsons to be a part of this.

I have also volunteered at the Hawthorne Place shelter as an overnight host and am looking forward to helping at Elizabeth House, the newest shelter located at 715 Hawthorne Lane, opening on March 3. Thanks to Myers Park United Methodist Church and other partners for their generosity in helping to make this home a reality.

Throughout these experiences, our family has seen firsthand the challenges that CFH families deal with on a daily basis. We have learned to appreciate and embrace the empowerment model of helping the working poor to create a strong foundation for future success. This experience has helped us to be stronger relationship partners and to provide advice, assistance and compassion in a thoughtful way.

Charlotte Family Housing is doing great things in the Charlotte community for the working poor, but we have many more families that we need to reach. I encourage each of you to continue your current volunteer involvement and/or take that "giant leap" into a Hope Team relationship.



Jim Gallagher
Board Member

VOLUNTEERS AS ADVOCATES

It's been quite a journey for CFH volunteer Tom Foster. Several years ago, he stepped forward to volunteer on a Hope Team through Providence United Methodist Church.

After serving on his first Hope Team (including assisting as a financial coach and tutoring the second grade boy in his partner family), Tom was asked to assist another Hope Team. He readily agreed to help by driving the teenage boy to work each afternoon, allowing the young man to arrive at work on time. Through providing transportation, Tom began to build relationships with every member of the family. Soon he learned about the fees charged to the oldest daughter by the debit card facility where she deposited the money she earned. Each time she used her debit card a fee was charged, creating mounting fees that were depleting her account. By educating her regarding the fees and presenting her with an alternative that would save her money, Tom assisted her with making the decision to transfer her money to a bank without debit card fees.

Concerns then began to arise regarding the loans that had been taken on by the family in order for the oldest daughter to attend a for-profit college. Tom gathered the details regarding the loans and the debt incurred. Once presented with the specific details regarding this educational debt, the decision was made by the daughter to transfer to a local community college, thereby drastically reducing the cost of her education.

Tom has moved forward to work with other families in Charlotte Family Housing to assist with exploring educational, financial, and health care options that are affordable for them. He has become a general advocate available to all of our families, willing to tackle difficult situations with a strong attention to detail.

What are the lessons learned by Tom? "Once the facts of a situation are presented, most people are very motivated to get out of the situation and move forward to make a change." Tom has also learned that advocating with a family is not possible without first building relationships with them and then working together to solve the problem. We at CFH are grateful for the commitment of Tom and other volunteers that are willing to learn, grow and serve!

Tom Foster with Laura Furgeson,
Hope Team Leader



SERVING AT HAWTHORNE PLACE

What is Marilyn Wright's favorite part of volunteering at Hawthorne Place? "The kids," she says. Her eyes light up as she talks about the children with whom she's spent time. "How can you not love those kids?"

As Hawthorne Place Coordinator for Forest Hill Church, Marilyn is responsible for supplying sufficient volunteers to bring three meals and cover five nights at Hawthorne Place for one week every month. As a single woman with children and grandchildren living in other states, overnight volunteering is a perfect fit for Marilyn. "I just take off, take my hair brush, my toothbrush, and go!" she says. Marilyn usually spends two or three nights a month at the shelter. She says she would love to go more frequently, but wants to ensure that other people can experience it as well.

While Marilyn's favorite part is playing with the children at Hawthorne Place, she recognizes her visits make an impact on all shelter residents. She talks to the families and listens to their stories seeing, herself as a mentor to the families. "It's about tearing down those walls and letting people know that there are good people out there who want to help them," she says, "Until we tear down those walls, we won't be able to make an imprint on their hearts," Marilyn says.

Whether organizing meals, spending the night in the shelter, or entertaining the children, Marilyn takes her volunteer job seriously, and others are following her lead every day.

Want to volunteer at Hawthorne Place, Plaza Place or Elizabeth House?
Contact Tammy Medlock at TMedlock@CharlotteFamilyHousing.org.