



NEWSLETTER HIGHLIGHTS

Fletcher Youth Continue to Inspire NEST Kids

NEST Kids Speak About
Summer Camp Experiences

Golf Tournament Brings Needed Support

Foster Parents Receive Filled Coolers

Kids Visit ASU, Mystery Hill & Outback

Kids Enjoy Story Telling & Book Distributions



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www.thenestalliance.org

"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?" John 6:1-13 They feed a multitude.

Robert Brault once said, "Enjoy the little things for someday you will realize they were the BIG Things." Our sincere "Thank You" to everyone who helped turn each of our efforts into BIG blessings for children this summer.

4TH ANNUAL "NEST CAMP" ~

FLETCHER YOUTH MEMBERS MODEL LEADERSHIP

Seeds of faith and strength were planted for the 4th consecutive year as the Fletcher Youth, supported by their church and its leaders, placed the needs of others before their own during the month of July. NEST Kids developed skills and confidence through fun outdoor activities, creative crafts, music, faith-strengthening lessons, and sharing food and friendship. This is a major highlight of the year for the NEST Kids as well as for the NEST Leaders. We are grateful for:

- all church members who prepare wonderful meals to serve children and leaders
- the work of the youth leaders and youth who prepare well-planned programs centered around "Kids Inspiring Kids."
- the beautiful, sincere and welcoming atmosphere.
- the birthday celebration for NEST Kids who have July birthdays.

A special thank you to Rev. Cory Halsey, Rev. Doug Halsey, Tonya Halsey, the Fletcher Youth, and Fletcher Memorial Baptist Church.



Left: Fletcher Youth work with a group of kids as they carefully craft something that never existed before.
Below: A child is intent on her creation.

**"KIDS HELPING
KIDS" DEVELOP
SKILLS &
CONFIDENCE**



20 SPONSORED FOR UPLANDS REACH SUMMER CAMPS



NEST Kid double high 5's leader



Enjoying the Slip and Slide

What did you like most about camp?

"Making friends and swimming." (Age 6) "Seeing some old friends." (Age 9) "I like camping because of the rocket in the pond." (Age 8) "I like the whole entire thing; I love it!" (Age 6) "I love playing, and I love God." (Age 5) "I like swimming the most." (Age 10) "Swimming and doing crafts." (Age 6) "How my relationship with God grew." (Age 14) "The fun activities to help us learn that we can do anything with God." (Age 14) "We got to talk to people about God...and even watch someone get saved." (Age 14) "The praise and worship music was awesome!" (Age 15)

Overheard quizzing each other about their scripture key chains in the van on the way back from camp:

"Hey, what's John 3:16?" (Age 9) "What's Romans 6:23?" (Age 7) "What's that one again?" (Age 6)

**THEY SPEAK...
WE LISTEN**

What did you learn about Jesus?

"He loves us, and He cares for us." (Age 6)

What was your favorite song?

"The one that goes, "Whoop, Whoop." (Age 7) "All of the songs!" (Age 6)



Older Group spent 3 days & nights at camp.

100% Volunteers

100% Donor Supported

Your Support: 100% Priceless



THANK YOU

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Women of Bethany



Autumn Cline and Michelle Dix, tournament coordinators, registered the golfers.



Some of the 150 golfers who supported us. Thank you, golfers, for being there!

GOLF TOURNAMENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Carl and Pearl Hagel 22nd Annual Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit The NEST Alliance was held on April 29, 2017 at Mountain Aire Golf Club in West Jefferson, NC. A beautiful spring day brought 150 golfers to the course to enjoy Mountain Aire's opening tournament of the year. The tournament was a success and netted a profit of \$11,634.87 for the missions of The NEST Alliance.

We are so grateful for:

Each person who played and for each sponsor and donor.

The support of The Carl and Pearl Hagel Tournament and for Mountain Aire Golf Club.

The ASU Educator Group volunteers who arrived at 6:30 AM to help in so many ways throughout the day, and for each director and volunteer who helped make this tournament a success.



Directors (wearing light blue) are with some of the volunteers (wearing darker blue) bringing attention to "WEAR BLUE" in April which was Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue reinforces that no child should ever suffer abuse.

ASU, MYSTERY HILL AND OUTBACK



THE NEST LEADERS OF THE OLDER GROUP TRAVELED BACK IN TIME WITH THE KIDS DURING THEIR VISIT TO MYSTERY HILL.

On Monday, June 12th, the older group of NEST Kids had the experience of visiting the campus of Appalachian State University with their NEST Leaders. This had a special significance since students from the Appalachian Community of Education Scholars (ACES) group served as mentors for the NEST Kids during the past school year. The kids also had a great time as guests of Mystery Hill and enjoyed a delicious meal as guests of Outback. *Thank you, Mystery Hill and Outback!*

Story Telling and Book Distributions



On Monday, June 5th, Mrs. Judy Morris, retired teacher, shared her entertaining stories with all NEST Kids. What an amazing treat for them to listen and become engrossed in the stories. Following the stories, books were distributed that had been donated by ASU students for each child to take home to enjoy this summer and beyond.

Thankful for the stories and books!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SUMMER MEMORIES

FOSTER FAMILIES RECEIVE COOLERS FROM THE NEST ALLIANCE

Nine foster families in Ashe County were honored with the gift of a large, filled cooler from The NEST Alliance to enjoy using as they spend outdoor time during the summer months. Fostering a child can be overwhelming. Meeting the needs of a child whose needs have not been met provides a challenge to the strongest of individuals, yet the impact of meeting that challenge can be life changing in many positive ways for a child and for the foster parent. A phrase that encourages the heart of The NEST Alliance outreach to foster children is, "And live in the overwhelm with God" which reminds us that God makes what sometimes can seem impossible, possible. The value of each foster parent's gift of a secure and nurturing home, indeed a beautiful place, is beyond measure.

To all who are now foster parents, to all those who are becoming foster parents through the necessary trainings, and to all who will ever foster a child, we say, "Thank You." The NEST Alliance continues to seek ways to support and strengthen foster care and help facilitate the growth and success of children. If you would like information about foster parent training, please contact The Ashe County Department of Social Services at 336-982-7811.



Hand-in-Hand Swinging



"Listen to children even when they are silent." NEST Twig



"Go Higher" Help

A BIT OF EARTH, SUN AND SKY

NEST Leaders transported the NEST Kids this summer to fresh air and wide places for the them to enjoy. Our meetings at the West Jefferson Park were filled with sharing summer fun, paper-bagged filled evening meals, ice cream cones and cold water. Our younger group continues to expand as we have recently enrolled some who were not with us last summer. The park serves as a measuring stick of growth in so many positive ways from year to year. One way is how they grow to care for each other as seen in pictures taken when they weren't aware they were being taken. Whether it's jumping the branch, helping each other swing, or running the football, they are all in it together! May they always be there for each other!

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We welcome ANY donated amount, and on-going donations are greatly appreciated. The NEST Alliance is a local 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Please make checks payable to The NEST Alliance. PayPal is available for donations online at www.thenestalliance.org. Thank you!

Blue Pinwheels twirl on the bank at the golf tournament with a reminder that "Preventing Child Abuse is Essential."
Pinwheels provided by Ashe Partnership for Children

