

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2019

Photo submitted by NEST Volunteer



501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

www.thenestalliance.org

PLEASE HELP GET THE WORD OUT!

We are so excited to announce that we have just opened up *The NEST Alliance RESALE!!!* See our article below right. If you would like more information on how to donate new or gently used items, please text Michelle Dix at (919) 632-5242. She will respond to you within 24 hours. Please help us get the word out about the booth. *Thank you!*

His Best

His Best, young eyes
and hearts

Sparks of light in the
dark.

God transcends in
measureless majesty

All our hearts can ever
imagine.

When we return, when
old

To our young eyes and
young hearts

To be once more,

His Best.

Theresa Church, 2018

*The children we serve
are "His Best," and they
remind each of us to
keep young eyes and
young hearts—always.*

STRENGTHEN & REBUILD "The Universe of Home"

How important is a home? Those four walls, whether they enclose a mobile home, an apartment, a modest house, or a mansion, hold a universe inside. Each of us and every child has an immediate picture formed when the word "home" is mentioned. Some children in our county do not have a safe home to picture. For them, security and peace are not the words that come to mind for home.

As of December 2018, according to an article in

The Ashe Post and Times (December 5, 2018), DSS stated that "51 children are in foster care in Ashe County, an unusually high number—with 28 of the children being kept in foster homes outside of Ashe County." For 51 of our Ashe children, their "home universe" has been shattered, and home is not the **nurturing, establishing, securing, trusting** place they deserve.

Our acronym NEST was formed from these words. The NEST

Alliance strongly encourages county leaders, government, local help agencies and churches to come together to implement a fully staffed and supported ongoing Child Emergency Shelter and Advocacy Center to strengthen and rebuild the "universe of home" for children in Ashe County. This is a part of our Roots and Wings mission that will require our county working together intentionally.

IT IS TIME.

THE NEST ALLIANCE RESALE BOOTH OPENS at Martha Mae's Emporium in West Jefferson



Jan Hershner, NEST Alliance President, (front right) and Pam Payne, Chairperson of The NEST Alliance Resale Booth, (seated) as they work with other volunteers to set up the Christmas booth at Martha Mae's Emporium.

On October 3, 2018, The NEST Alliance Resale Booth officially opened to provide a way to sell new and gently used donations to help raise funds for our missions. We extend a thank you to our generous donors for great items to sell and for all volunteers who stock and restock the booth. We invite everyone to shop with us and find bargains that are often a one-of-a-kind item. Each time you shop with us, you help to continue our programs to serve local children. Rest assured that 100% of all profits from the booth benefit our 3 missions (listed at the bottom of this page) to help Ashe County children.

We appreciate your support!

3 Missions: NEST Kids (Weekly Outreach)

NEST Net (Resources)

Roots and Wings (Safe Homes)

~CHRISTMAS 2018 CELEBRATION~

HOT CHOCOLATE...THE CHRISTMAS STORY...

and a DINNER with GIFTS!



OUR 9th ANNUAL "HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS"

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

was made extra special by two local businesses who opened their hearts and doors to our NEST Kids and leader volunteers on December 17th.

Over 20 children and their leaders arrived to a warm welcome of hot chocolate and The Christmas Story read at the Christian bookstore, *It is Well*, by shop owner, Michelle Hardy, who was prepared just for them. She has graciously worked on projects with them in the past.

Meanwhile, a few doors up the street, the owner of *Sweet and Savory* restaurant, Ms. Velma and her staff prepared a Christmas dinner for the NEST Kids and their volunteer leaders. They know "Ms. Velma" well because she actively supports the NEST Kids program by helping with our meals throughout the year. Tonight she prepared a delicious meal of baked ham, creamed potatoes, green beans, baked apples and rolls. Children gathered around a beautifully decorated "Happy Birthday, Jesus" cake also made by *Sweet and Savory*.

Later, new shoes, clothes, a personal Bible, gifts for each child, and food for each family were made possible by generous donations of so many. Thank you for making this Christmas very special for those we serve.

We extend a special thank you to *Skyline National Bank* and *GE Aviation* for their active support in providing and preparing food-filled grocery bags for each child.

Hot chocolate and The Christmas Story at *It is Well*



GE Aviation employees, Skyline National Bank employees and NEST Board members are ready with filled grocery bags for each NEST Kid and their families.

"Life is never so busy that there is no time to serve." Author Unknown

Thank you, *Sweet and Savory*, for making each NEST Kid feel special this Christmas!



NEST Kids receive a new personal Bible.



Sweet and Savory opens just for NEST Kids Christmas.

NEST Kids surround the Happy Birthday, Jesus cake.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
I'm so glad it's Christmas.
All the tinsel and lights
and the presents are nice.
But the real gift is You.

From lyrics for *Happy Birthday, Jesus*
by Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

100% Volunteers

100% Donor Supported

Your Support: 100% Priceless

WE HAVE LEARNED FROM THE PRAYERS OF CHILDREN

Each week, NEST Kids learn together, play together, create together, eat together and always pray together. They teach us how to pray because...

- They pray dependent on God to listen to them just as they are, with simply what they have to give.
- They pray sometimes overwhelmed and real with emotion that touches other hearts and we know touches the heart of God.

- They pray asking for everything and anything, trusting it will be provided.
- They come back to ask repeatedly for what they feel is important.
- They pray believing they are free to find amazing treasures because they are speaking to the Master of the Universe.
- They pray and begin to see their life for the God-given gift it really is.



"I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread." Psalm 37:25

"We need people who are strong when we're weak. We need people who are full of faith when we're running on empty. We need people who will fight for us on their knees. We all need a prayer circle!"

Mark Batterson,
Praying Circles around Your Children

"Go the extra mile. It's never crowded."

~Author Unknown

JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Some Ways The NEST Alliance Has Actively Mentored Children:

1. Delivered and set up 20 beds and bedding from winter 2017 to winter 2018. Seven of the children who received beds are now part of the ongoing NEST Kids weekly program. A special thank you to Jill Breton for leading this mission.
2. Provided individualized supplies each year that fit the classroom requests to encourage success in school
3. Ensured that children have 2 new pairs of quality shoes during the school year to help encourage success and confidence
4. Helped with expenses that are extra-curricular and difficult to afford for some
5. Provided clothing as needed for children throughout the year
6. Met with children in an ongoing program weekly to consistently encourage them to make each day and each choice matter
7. Helped bring children into a loving, nurturing, life-strengthening relationship with God while actively modeling caring and compassion from all adult volunteer mentors involved in The NEST Alliance

"Research shows young people with mentors are less likely to skip school, less likely to take drugs, and more likely to enroll in college and volunteer in their communities."



"HAPPY NEW YEAR" FROM THE NEST ALLIANCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Hershner, *President*
Kendra Graybeal, *Vice President*
Autumn Cline, *Secretary*
Michelle Dix, *Treasurer*
Stephanie Baker
Theresa Church
Pam Payne
Kari Truax, *A Founder and Former Board Member*

"You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving."

Amy Carmichael