



501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

www.thenestalliance.org

**SUMMER
2020**

"The experiences of our lives, when we let God use them, become the mysterious and perfect preparation for the work He will give us to do." - Corrie ten Boom

Many changes have occurred since our last newsletter. Due to COVID-19, our 7th annual golf tournament was cancelled, our NEST Kids Program cannot meet on Mondays, our board meetings are held with Zoom online video conferencing, and food bags are delivered to families while practicing social distancing. The pandemic is having its effects, but someone who lived through difficult life experiences, Corrie ten Boom, reminds us that we can still allow God to strengthen us through these experiences for the work He will give us to do.

COLLEGE STUDENTS FROM PHILADELPHIA PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR THE NEST ALLIANCE

Thank you for becoming a part of our community!



Theresa Church, Jan Hershner, and Pam Payne (standing) pictured with the 10 students (seated) at the end of a successful day.

"TIMING COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER"

On March 11, The NEST Alliance had a group of students from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia to help with the organization of donated items for our clothing closet and resale booth. These students took their spring break to give back to others at various non-profit agencies in Ashe County. We were honored to be chosen as one of those nonprofits. What a difference these students made! We were so impressed with how hard everyone worked and with their enthusiasm for and interest in our missions. We know their timing could not have been better. If their trip had been scheduled later in the month, this day could not have happened due to the Stay-at Home order put into effect the following week. Thank you to Tracy-Lynn Schuster and others who helped to make this day possible!

HIGHLIGHTS OF *STRENGTH* AND *STABILITY* IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

NEST Kids School Supplies

In our last personal contact meeting in March with our NEST Kids, we gave out school supplies that included notebooks, pencils, markers, notebook paper, sharpeners, art supplies, etc. We had no way of knowing this would be the last time we would be able to meet in a group setting with children, as we have done for the past ten years. Yet, as we look back, we know that the timing of this distribution could not have been better. Schools closed so quickly that having these items allowed our NEST Kids to have them at home to use when

the Stay at Home orders and remote learning came into effect. We thank God for this timing that supplied a need of *stability* in learning supplies we could not foresee when they were distributed.



The Gift of Handmade Quilts



Beautiful handmade and reversible lap quilts were made by a donor whose talents provided comfort and warmth for three girls enrolled in our NEST Kids Program, who have now completed their sixth or seventh grade school years. These were delivered, along with their food bags during the Stay at Home orders. Our prayer is that these quilts, made just for them, will wrap each girl in a reminder of the *stability* of love during this time of change.



"Love is the thread that binds us." -Gary Bentley

What a wonderful donation as we isolate ourselves in order to protect ourselves so that we can come together again.

Board Members Learn to "Zoom"



The timing for Zoom to be in place for video conferencing could not have been better for The NEST Alliance. Pictured at the right is our Board of Directors President, Kendra Graybeal, who set up our spring quarterly board meeting on Zoom, as well as our NEST planning meetings throughout these months when we have been unable to meet together in person. We are grateful for the *strength* of technology that allows us to continue the planning necessary to proceed with what has been placed before us. When we count our blessings, seeing this face at the beginning of our meetings, as she brings us together each time online, is definitely one of those blessings.



100% Volunteers

100% Donor Supported

Your Support: 100% Priceless

MORE HIGHLIGHTS...

Donations Strengthen NEST Net Outreach



Donations of storage containers made it possible for the volunteers from St. Joseph's University (story on front page) to sort and organize children's clothing into various sizes and provided a way to easily find what is available for a child in need of clothing.

We are grateful to the donors from the community who generously donated these containers in response to our request on Facebook. We appreciate the students (shown on the left) working to fill these containers. We are grateful for the donations shown on below of new infant's clothing, nursery supplies, and new cuddly stuffed animals. These donations will help us meet needs as they arise.



Thank you,
donors, for
your continued
support of The
NEST
Alliance.

The NEST Program Continues Stability of Food Bag Distributions

The NEST Alliance continues the individual food bag distributions that have been in place for the past 10 years for each child in our NEST Kids Program. The food bags are delivered by board members of The NEST Alliance. This also provides the opportunity for brief, social distancing encounters that help us stay in touch with the children in our NEST Kids Program. Through the **stability** of continued donor support to help with the cost of the food and the additional support of The Ashe County Sharing Center staff and volunteers, this part of our NEST Kids Program has not been disrupted. Also, we continue to be made aware of dates and times for food distribution lines when our NEST families can pick up food from the Sharing Center.

"Many things are possible for the person who has hope. Even more is possible for the person who has faith. And, still more is possible for the person who knows how to love. But, everything is possible for the person who practices all three virtues. -Brother Lawrence

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

The NEST Alliance
PO Box 684
West Jefferson, NC 28694
Contact: *Michelle Dix, Treasurer (919)632-5242*

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. Automated bank drafts are also available upon request. *Thank you!*

**"He will cover you
with His feathers,
and under His wings
you will find refuge;
His faithfulness
will be your shield
and rampart."**

Psalms 91:4 NIV

Missions: NEST Kids, NEST Net, Root & Wings Children's Homes