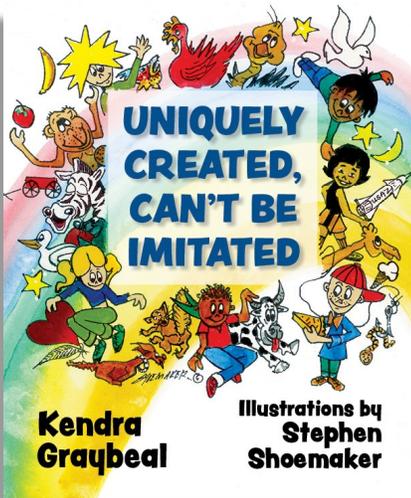




501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

www.thenestalliance.org

# THE BOOK IS HERE !!! UNIQUELY CREATED, CAN'T BE IMITATED



The way a childhood should be for every child is captured in this joy-filled book with a feather hidden to be found by the reader on each page.

**PLEASE SHARE THE NEWS WITH ALL!**

Kendra Graybeal, a speech language pathologist who currently serves as president of The NEST Alliance Board of Directors, has written a children's book that connects children in a delightful way to the fact that they are created to be one of a kind. The title of the book is **Uniquely Created, Can't Be Imitated**, and the words of the title capture the essence of this unique book illustrated by the well-known local Ashe County artist, Stephen Shoemaker. The book is designed by graphic designer, Kim Hadley. Written in colorful rhyme or near rhyme with whimsical and creative illustrations, **Uniquely Created, Can't Be Imitated** will find a warm place in the hearts of audiences of all ages. "It has been a pleasure to work with Stephen Shoemaker to bring this book into existence," said Kendra Graybeal. "What a special person he is, and how much I've enjoyed watching my writing come to life in his illustrations. I want this book to remind adults of their own childhoods and the importance of the opportunity for all children to experience the magic of childhood, where anything is possible with a bit of imagination to make it happen. I want this book to make each child who reads it laugh and enjoy finding the feathers that Stephen Shoemaker has hidden on each page. I want each child to understand how truly special they are and that they are uniquely created by God." All profits from the sale of this book will benefit the missions of The NEST Alliance.



## Where to Buy This Book for the Children in Your Life and the Child in You

### In Local Businesses

Carrington Design  
Martha Mae's Emporium

McB's Mercantile  
Stephen Shoemaker's Studio

### Contact a NEST Board Member

or online at

[www.thenestalliance.org](http://www.thenestalliance.org)

# A PARKING LOT CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR!

Due to the pandemic, our usual indoor “Happy Birthday, Jesus” Christmas celebration was not possible. As we worked to meet needs and to practice safe social distancing, we asked families to give us a list of Christmas wishes for the children we serve, and we placed online orders to purchase some of those wishes. The West Jefferson Methodist Church was gracious in allowing us to meet in their parking lot to distribute these gifts safely in an outdoor setting.



**Gifts Are Ready**



**Unloading Begins**



**Sun is Still Shining**



**A Blessed Day!**

**“Be still and know that I am God.”  
Psalm 46:10**

**Thank you volunteers, donors, and directors for believing in quiet Christmas miracles!**

## Highlights of Blessings of Our NEST Christmas, 2020

**“A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25**



**Nicolette Gilbert, Foster Home Licensing and Adoptions Social Worker, receives gift cards and a Christmas appreciation card for 27 foster families from The NEST Alliance.**



**“THE BEST GIFT OF ALL IS TO ALLOW YOUR LIGHT TO GIVE LIGHT TO A CHILD.”**

*From The NEST Twig Collection*



**Thank you, Skyline National Bank, for the collection of food bags and boxes for children and their families this Christmas. Pictured are bank staff and directors of The NEST Alliance.**



**Kendra Graybeal, president of The NEST Alliance, accepts a new coat for each NEST Kid from The Knights of Columbus of Saint Francis of Assisi Church. Thank you!**



**Thank you, Laurel Knob Baptist Church Youth Group for the care bags and gift cards.**



**Melodie Rector with Shoes for Kids supplied new, comfortable shoes to add to the Christmas presents given to children by The NEST Alliance.**



**Each of the children in the NEST Kids Program received art supplies from the Florence Thomas School of Art. Thank you!**

**100% Volunteers**

**100% Donor Supported**

**Your Support: 100% Priceless**

# CELEBRATING WAYS TO HELP CHILDREN

“Encouraging words fill the hearts of children like water to a sponge.” [crosswalk.com](http://crosswalk.com)

## Celebrating Those Who Are Mentors

### JANUARY IS NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

#### *Why Mentor a Child?*

**Answer: It matters to the child.**

Some statistics taken from the mentoring.org website include:

Students who meet regularly with their mentors are 52% less likely than their peers to skip a day of school and 37% less likely to skip a class.

Young adults who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are 55% more likely to be enrolled in college than those who did not have a mentor.

In addition to better school attendance and a better chance of going on to higher education, mentored youth maintain better attitudes toward school.

They are 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking.

They are 81% more likely to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities than those who have no mentor.

“Do for ONE kid what you wish you could do for ALL kids.”

**Josh Shipp, Youth Motivational Speaker**

These are Josh’s suggestions for effective mentoring:

**Step 1: Find out what they’re into.**

**Step 2: Spend time doing what matters to them because they matter to you.**

**Step 3: Your investment of time will lead to influential conversations**  
[joshshipp.com](http://joshshipp.com)

*How has an adult positively impacted your life? In what ways can you pay it forward?*



## Celebrating 3 Christmas Seasons at The NEST Alliance Resale Booth at Martha Mae’s Emporium

Since the opening on October 3, 2018 of The NEST Alliance Resale Booth at Martha Mae’s Emporium in West Jefferson, our donors and shoppers have been consistent in their support. We continue to sell new and gently used donations to help raise funds for our missions. We extend a sincere thank you to our donors who supply great items to sell and to those who buy those items. You will continue to find bargains and often unique and useful items each time you shop at the booth. When you buy from the booth, you will hopefully have something you can use or will enjoy, and you will definitely provide funding as we continue our missions to help local children as 100% of all profits from the booth go to those missions.

## Celebrating a Great Children’s Book

(see front page)

1. Funny and joyful
2. Increases a child’s vocabulary
3. Wonderful to read to, with, or by a child again and again
4. Can’t be put down until all feathers are found
5. A great gift for any child or adult
6. Beyond inspiring!

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

### THE NEST ALLIANCE 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*

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