



FALL 2024

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# Jackson's Journey

Jackson had a difficult childhood, beginning with birth parents whose poor decisions led to addiction, prison, and the inability to care for him. He lived with his grandmother for a few years, and when she unexpectedly passed away, Jackson entered the foster care system at 9 years old, moving from home to home. At age 11, Jackson was adopted by a family, but the father became verbally and mentally abusive. After running away from that situation several times, Jackson stayed at the Department of Juvenile Justice for a few months before being placed at Hope Center for Children.



While at HCFC, Jackson made friends with some of the other boys and was introduced to their mentor, Todd Forringer. "I knew right away that Jackson was a good kid," says Todd. He became a mentor for Jackson as well, including him on fun outings, church services, and holidays. After meeting Jackson and spending some time with him, Todd's wife Andrea said, "To know Jackson was to love him. He never met a stranger. If you met him one time, he would consider you a friend." Soon after, the Forringer family made the decision to foster Jackson, and pursue adoption. When they told him, he was so happy that he just wanted to hug them. Jackson came home with them, and finally found the family he always dreamed of. After many hurdles and with much perseverance, Jackson's adoption was finalized one month before his 18th birthday and he got to graduate with his new family name.

During all of his time in foster care, Jackson developed resilience and determination. From a very young age he knew that he wanted to join the Marines and help people. This desire did not lessen over time, and he was determined to join as soon as he graduated from high school. Todd and Andrea knew that he had all the qualities that would make him an excellent Marine, like determination, grit, and loyalty, and supported him in his dream to join the military. Sadly, after two years of living his dream, Jackson lost his life in a deployment training accident.

*Story continues on page 2 ...*

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



*Building stable, healthy families and providing children a safe place from abuse and neglect.*

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# Jackson's Story (continued)

Jackson is remembered by his family for saying, "Even though I had a terrible childhood, I was blessed with a true family who loves me, and I want to help other kids who are in the same situation I was in."



To honor Jackson, his family created a charitable initiative called Jackson's Gift to reward youth aging out of the foster care system and entering a branch of the United States Armed Forces, providing the support, resources and assistance they need to succeed.

To learn more or get involved, visit [jacksonsgift.com](http://jacksonsgift.com).

## Coming Up ...

**Save the Date! December 3, 2024**

**#GIVINGTUESDAY**

Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday ... Giving Tuesday!

Giving Tuesday is a global movement that encourages people to use their individual power of generosity to collaboratively support their communities. Be sure to like/follow Hope Center for Children on Facebook or Instagram and celebrate Giving Tuesday with us!

Want to get involved? Contact Phyliss Skuba at [pskuba@hopecfc.org](mailto:pskuba@hopecfc.org).

# HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**YOU can make the holiday season special this year for a child in need!**

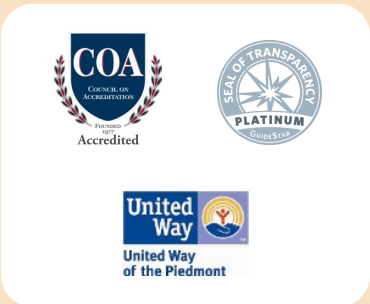
- ❄ Sponsor a holiday wish list
- ❄ Donate a meal
- ❄ Donate gift cards
- ❄ Volunteer for holiday activities

**Holiday wish lists:**

Obie Hewitt | [ohewitt@hopecfc.org](mailto:ohewitt@hopecfc.org) | (864) 583-7688 x136

**Holiday volunteer opportunities:**

Kate Brown | [kbrown@hopecfc.org](mailto:kbrown@hopecfc.org) | (864) 583-7688 ext. 153.



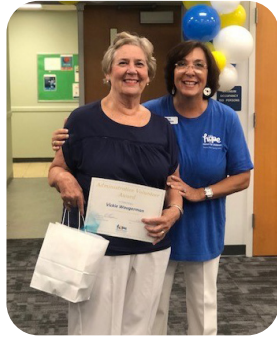
# Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

Hope Center for Children hosted a dinner on August 22, 2024 to acknowledge and show our appreciation for our wonderful volunteers. We are so grateful for their care and dedication to our organization and the children and families we support!



*Outstanding Volunteer  
Aimee Cheek*

*Also awarded Julie Bevil (not pictured)*



*Outstanding Administrative  
Volunteer*

*Vickie Waugerman*



*Team Hope Award  
Eugene Exford*



*Outstanding Group for  
Business Involvement  
American Credit Acceptance  
Kaycie Miller*



*Outstanding Group for  
Program Involvement  
Church at the Mill*

## Introducing Kate Brown

Hope Center for Children is happy to introduce our new Volunteer & Social Media Coordinator, Kate Brown. Kate is a Spartanburg native and graduate of Wofford College.

*"I am so excited to be a part of the HCFC staff and work alongside them to support all of our youth!"*

If you're looking for ways to get involved with HCFC, please don't hesitate to reach out to Kate at [kbrown@hopecfc.org](mailto:kbrown@hopecfc.org) or (864) 583-7688 ext. 153. Also, be sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn!



## Hope Center for Children Young Professionals



Want to get involved in a group of young professionals who have a passion for philanthropy? Join us for a social on **October 17** at 6 p.m. at HCFC to learn more.

Questions?  
Contact Kate Brown.



# FAMILY FUN 5K

On September 7, 2024, Hope Center for Children held our first Family Fun 5K on the Wofford College campus, partnering with the Wofford Kappa Delta sorority. In addition to the walk/run, we had the Knowledge Perk bus offering yummy breakfast and coffee, a pop-up shop for HCFC shirts and water bottles, and a fun bracelet making station with Miss SC Palmetto Teen, Lillian Pellegrino.

Many thanks to all who sponsored, volunteered, walk, ran, and supported our Family Fun 5K!

### Presented by:



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Save the Date  
February 22, 2025

hope center for children  
**WINTER GALA**  
AN EVENING IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST

5K photos credit: Mark Olinki