



SPRING 2024

Unconditional Love to Break the Cycle

Can you imagine a world without abuse and neglect? Did you know Spartanburg County is ranked 34th in the state for founded cases of physical abuse? This statistic is alarming and highlights the need for increased prevention in our community.

Prevention in its truest form is reaching children and families before any abuse and/or neglect takes place. Hope Center for Children's Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) provides such an opportunity as it seeks to reach any and all parents/caregivers in our community. This evidence-based model has proven to reduce abuse and neglect in communities that are saturated with Triple P services. We start to see its effect when a grandmother who has cared for multiple generations of children repeatedly returns to take classes to help her keep pace with the ever-changing challenges of raising children, and when dads walk in, ask for help, and attend sessions on a regular basis.

In any given year, HCFC's prevention programs including **Triple P**, the **Community Clinical Support Services** program (therapy), and the **Family Resource Connections and Preservation Services** program, serve thousands of families in our community. We hope that these services move us towards that dream place of a world free of child abuse and neglect.

April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is a time designated to bring awareness to the prevalence of child abuse and neglect in our communities and the need for prevention. Though ideally prevention would mean intervening before anyone was hurt, we also know that preventing further abuse and neglect is just as important.

HCFC's residential programs are designed to provide a safe haven for youth who have suffered abuse and/or neglect. Though providing a safe place is first and foremost to give children refuge, the secondary impact we strive for is introducing them to unconditional love and care. We want them to learn what healthy families and parenting look like so it translates to their future families.

A few years ago while at the hospital visiting a friend, I ran into a young man I had worked with early in my career. As a child he suffered physical and emotional abuse and was in care for most of his teenage years. He recognized me and shared that he was at the hospital with his wife who had just given birth to their second child. He talked about the wonderful relationship he had with his in-laws and the amazing family that he and his wife shared. He spoke of the miracle of his children, and his desire to provide for and protect them. I know his story and his past. I know in that moment, in that conversation, the unconditional love that he experienced in care was being passed on to his family. The cycle was broken, and the maltreatment of his past did not predict the future for his children and family.

- Vernon Hayes, CEO



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

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April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Have you seen the pinwheels downtown at Morgan Square each April? Pinwheels are the symbol for Child Abuse Prevention Month expressing playfulness, joy, and happy childhoods. Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to recognize the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect. In Spartanburg County, there were 457 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect reported in 2023. Although lower than the previous year, this is the second highest in the Upstate and fifth highest in the state.

In the effort to reduce the number of cases in our community, Hope Center for Children will continue to connect with and educate our community on ways to recognize and prevent child abuse and neglect, and help increase protective factors for families. We believe that **everyone** can play a role in building safe, stable families and environments for children to thrive.

Be sure to like/follow us on social media to learn more about what's happening at Hope Center for Children and how you can help prevent child abuse, not only in April, but all year long!



*Kate Brown
HCFC Volunteer*



*Phylliss Skuba
HCFC Event Planner and
Volunteer Coordinator*

Positive Parenting Success

Phillip*, a father at 17 years old, was referred to Hope Center for Children's Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) by his probation officer for support in raising his baby. At first, he had trouble keeping his appointments with his Triple P Family Specialist, but after several false starts, he became open to the principles of Triple P and amazed at how different it was from how he had been raised. He was excited to learn all of the skills and strategies presented. He was determined to raise his child in better way and teach her to make better decisions than he had. Phillip worked very hard, with noticeable transformation from week to week, and has now graduated the program. "I learned so much from the class, and now I feel like I know what to do when my daughter is old enough to misbehave," said Phillip. We are so proud of him and happy that he is excited to be equipped with the tools he needs to raise a happy, healthy child!



**Name and image changed to protect privacy*

Many Thanks

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our amazing volunteers and community supporters. You are our heroes! You make it possible for us to continue our mission of protecting children and supporting families. Although there are many more, here are a few recent highlights:

- Polydeck Care Committee - Ping pong & air hockey tables
- Subaru of Spartanburg - Operation Warm
- Amy Coker Pascoe - Valentine's baskets & continued support
- SmileMakers Team - Donation closet cleaning
- American Credit Acceptance Team - Building trees for Gala
- Zeta Phi Beta - Z-Hope donation
- Wofford Kappa Deltas - Shamrock n' Run
- Winter Gala Committee and Volunteers



Coming Up ...

- MAY Foster Care Awareness Month and Mental Health Awareness Month
- JUNE 6-7 BMW Pro-Am
- JUNE 18 ACA Golf Tournament
- SEPT. 7 Hope Center for Children Walk-a-thon

HCFC 2023 Outcomes

5,883

Individuals served

4,206 Children served

98% of youth served were through our prevention programming!

1,677 Parents/Caregivers served

RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS

100% of youth in Faucette House and Anchor House attended school regularly, visited regularly with appropriate family, and reported they felt safe.

100% of youth in our Transitional Living Program had safe housing at discharge, were connected with a primary care physician, and improved in life skills.

COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS (PREVENTION)

95% of families who completed Triple P services reported knowing how to handle difficult situations, **94%** regularly give praise to their children.

100% of families who completed our Family Centered Community Support Services showed a reduction in risk factors.

100% of clients in our Clinical Support Services program showed stability and understanding of the implications of their trauma.

hope center for children

WINTER GALA

 AN EVENING IN THE ENCHANTED FOREST

Thanks to all who supported our Winter Gala held on February 24, 2024! Your support at events like this makes it possible for Hope Center for Children to continue to provide care for the families and children we serve.

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