



AGAPE of NC

*Strengthening Families
One Child At A Time*



FIRST QTR 2020

AGAPE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S COVID-19 RESPONSE

These are challenging times for everyone, but we want you to know that things are going well with AGAPE of NC. We are here to continue our mission of serving children, youth and families in North Carolina!

Over the past few years, you have heard us talk about “going paperless.” Well, gaining experience with those electronic capabilities is serving us well in these days of “social distancing.” Actually, we prefer the term “physical distancing” because embracing technology has allowed AGAPE to remain socially, as well as spiritually, connected to our AGAPE families and you!

Besides phone calls, we are able to email, Facebook, Tweet, Instagram, and hold “virtual” meetings via several different types of video-calling and/or internet web-conferencing applications. When this season of distancing and quarantining started, we had families in the middle of training to become licensed foster parents, as well as licensed foster parents who need continuing education credits to maintain their licenses. In both situations, going digital has allowed AGAPE to continue providing online training to all of them!

We have already scheduled monthly stipends to AGAPE families with children or youth in

their homes for timely delivery in April. Essential medical and mental health care will continue so long as providers remain available. As other needs may be identified, we will do what we can to offer additional support to those AGAPE families and the kids in their care.

Unfortunately, children and youth in need of fostering did not go away just because our society is experiencing the corona virus pandemic. Sadly, some experts predict that more foster placements may become necessary soon as families suffer the strains of illness, job loss, closed schools, other interrupted services, and simply being confined.

AGAPE is here to diligently continue our collaboration with state agencies to provide the care needed. Please do not hesitate to call (919-673-7816) AGAPE's office or [Contact Us](#) online anytime you have questions or are moved to serve Him by fostering His young ones in need.

AGAPE appreciates your continued support, both financial and spiritual, for our ministry! Despite today's concerns . . . Be well, Shine in the darkness, and Stay Strong in the Faith of His Plan!



*“May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us;
establish the work of our hands for us
-- yes, establish the work of our hands.” ~Psalm 90:17*



YOUNG ADULT FOSTER HOME HIGHLIGHTS!

Enjoy this list of some of the “milestones” experienced by residents of AGAPE’s Young Adult Foster Homes in Raleigh and Wilmington. Some of these “gifts” were given by foster parents, mentors, case workers and others -- some (we’re proud to say) have been accomplished by the young people for themselves!

Aptitudes & Competencies:

- ~Cooking and cleaning skills.
- ~Time-management techniques.
- ~How to share and cooperate, taking on responsibilities that impact, not just self, but others.



Education:

- ~Meeting with counselors about options to complete and/or further his/her education.
- ~Going back to high school as an older student when he/she was previously held back or dropped out. (This can be challenging when age, experience and/or level of maturity do not match.)
- ~Taking classes online or attending a different school.
- ~Achieving passing grades and getting promoted to the next level, including graduation from high school or obtaining a GED certificate.
- ~Applying and enrolling at a community college, or other school, to study a trade or take courses towards a college degree.

Employment:

- ~Filling out applications and interviewing for employment.
- ~Getting, and keeping, a job.
- ~Receiving a promotion at work, including additional pay and responsibilities.



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Tarnosha Burns -- Social Media Coordinator

Tarnosha is AGAPE of NC’s new Social Media Coordinator! She currently works as Administrative Assistant for the NC Department of Administration in the office for Historically Underutilized Businesses.

Tarnosha says “I’m so excited and glad to join the staff at AGAPE of NC!”



She is a graduate of North Carolina Central University, receiving her Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education with a concentration in Exercise Science.

Prior to her current job, Tarnosha was an education consultant at a private school in Durham, N.C. for 7 years – and an after school physical education coordinator at Fun Works (also in Durham) for 5 years. Tarnosha gained additional experience employed as a processing assistant at the NC Department of Justice.

She loves working with people and helping others in need. Hailing from Tar Heel, NC, Tarnosha enjoys cooking, traveling, fishing and helping her parents host family gatherings (she’s the youngest of 3). Tarnosha worships at Southside Church of Christ in Durham.

APPRECIATION FOR HUMBLE DONORS

Although we try to express our gratitude to each Donor, there are still a few who support AGAPE of NC during our annual *Change For Life!* campaigns and at other times during the year, who we are unable to Thank personally. So here we acknowledge the following Humble Donors:

- The kids from Raleigh Church of Christ who provided Birthday Party supplies for AGAPE Foster Families.
- The members of Cary Church of Christ who provided Christmas presents, coats, hats & gloves for AGAPE Foster Families.
- The All State Insurance Agent who served as Santa’s Helper to deliver those Christmas gifts last December.
- The Girl Scouts from Greensboro who made/collected blankets for AGAPE’s Backpack Ministry and delivered them to our office in Raleigh.

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AGAPE UPDATES

as of March, 2020

17

FOSTER CHILDREN
IN CARE

3

YOUNG ADULTS
18-21YEAR OLDS

22

LICENSED
FOSTER FAMILIES

13

FOSTER FAMILIES
IN TRAINING

4

PENDING
ADOPTIONS



INTRODUCING AGAPE'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER!

SHELTON PRICE, SR. was born in New Orleans, LA. At the age of ten years old, his family relocated to Memphis, Tenn. where he first heard the inspiring words of the great Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech. Being inspired by Dr. King, Shelton knew he would one day stand in front of people to help bring souls to Christ.

After years of running from his calling to preach, he obeyed the gospel and was baptized in 1996. Bro. Price is currently the Minister at Cross Creek Church of Christ in Fayetteville, NC, with his wife, Rosalind.

Shelton and Rosalind have been blessed with two children -- daughter, Ray'ven and son, Shelton Jr.



Bro. Price says his most inspiring bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11:
"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

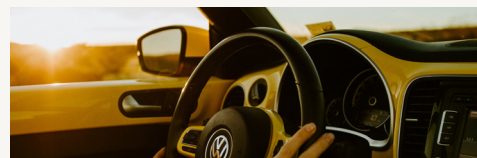
Humble Donors . . . con't from pg.2

- The Rolesville Kiwanis Club who collected and donated backpacks for AGAPE's Backpack Ministry.
- Anonymous Facebook Fundraising Donors.
- Anonymous AmazonSmile Donors who choose AGAPE of NC as the charitable organization to whom Amazon sends .05% of their eligible purchases.
- Anonymous AmazonSmile Donors who purchase goods from AGAPE's Charity Shopping & Wish Lists and have them delivered directly to AGAPE for our Backpack Ministry and/or our Young Adult Foster Homes.
- Anonymous Donor(s) who give to AGAPE through Donor Advised Funds like Fidelity Charitable.
- Corporate Employers--like Duke Energy, Willis Towers Watson LLC, IBM and others--who offer Payroll Deduct and Matching Gift Programs . . . and the individual Employees who participate in those programs to send Donations to AGAPE.

Young Adult Foster Homes! . . . cont'd from pg.2

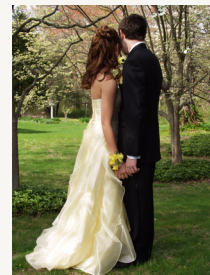
Personal Transportation:

- ~Learning to call Uber and becoming comfortable to ride alone.
- ~Taking Drivers Education in school or by private lessons.
- ~Dreaming of owning and maintaining a car; saving money towards that goal.



Entertainment:

- ~Getting dressed up and going to Prom.
- ~Taking a group trip to a large amusement park, including a Christian music concert.
- ~Going to the movies and enjoying a live theatre performance together.

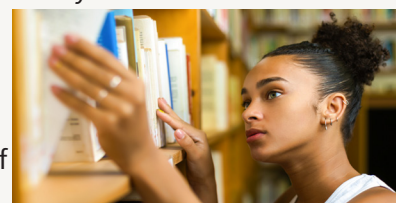


Service to Others:

- ~Helping a foster parent who's providing respite care for other foster families.
- ~Volunteering weekly at the Library and earning good reports from the Library Staff.

Self-Improvement:

- ~Gaining confidence in self; making good eye contact and holding conversations with others--both inside & outside of the foster home.



- ~Participating in group sessions held in the foster home -- and opening up in peer group support sessions outside of the foster home.
- ~Making and hanging out with new friends from the foster home, school, work, church, etc.
- ~Continuing professional therapy to manage triggered by issues from his/her past.
- ~Restoring certain family relationships.
- ~Being offered access to various foster care resource programs and opportunities to attend youth empowerment conferences.

Transitioning to Independent Living:

- ~Leasing and moving into his/her own apartment, while maintaining relationships with foster parents, mentors, case workers, and other young adult residents from AGAPE's Young Adult Foster Homes.



GIFTS December 2019 to February 2020

In Honor of

Neal & Brenda Essic

given by
Mr. David Essic

Mr. Eric Thanos

given by

Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Holland

Ms. Bernice Smith

given by

Jr. Hurricanes 06 AA

(Her grandson's hockey team)

Mr. Stephen Chaffin

given

Anonymously

Mrs. Dot Shamblee

given by

Mr. & Mrs. John Storms

Ms. Ruby "Mitchie" Jones Shaw

given

Anonymously

Mr. Hildreth Seaver

given

Anonymously



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FIND US @ AGAPEOFNC

OUR MISSION

AGAPE of NC exists to provide professional social services as a compassionate Christian outreach to strengthen children and families.

OUR VALUES

Children deserve Christian families, care and compassion, excellence in the provision of services, best interest of clients, financial integrity, responsible stewardship and ethical Christian standards.

If You Are Reading a Printed Copy of this Newsletter,
Please Help AGAPE Save Resources By Subscribing at:

www.AGAPEOFNC.ORG

To Receive Our Communications Via Email



DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Kimberly Scott

Thank you again for another amazing year to Live Jesus & Give Jesus. AGAPE of NC continues to be blessed to serve in the ministry of loving children and families in our community. Unfortunately, the struggle to provide loving, Christian foster homes is still a monumental necessity.

In 2019, we were able to provide an average of 25 children each month with a loving home. We provided management, guidance, support and education to 47 foster families. We were able to license 15 new foster homes and managed to squeak in 4 adoptions before the end of the year.

AGAPE recognizes it is essential to continue raising awareness about the needs of our

foster care system. During the year, we doubled our reach to Facebook followers; upped our Twitter reach by 40%; increased our reach on Instagram by 70%, and we continue to have a strong following on the AGAPE website.

In conclusion, let's talk about finances. AGAPE provided \$423,000 in foster care and adoption services and raised \$214,000 in funds from our generous donors. We also raised \$97,000 during our 4th Annual Change for Life campaign.

Let us remember that what God gives us by his grace is His gift to us. How we live our lives is our gift to God. Thank you for Living Jesus & Giving Jesus.