



SPRING 2021

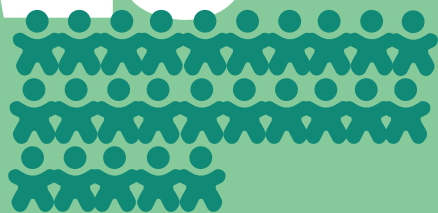
AGAPE
of North Carolina

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ONE CHILD AT A TIME

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.

25 Foster Children
in Care



30
Licensed Foster Homes



7 Foster Families
in Training

8 2021 Anticipated Adoptions



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By Kimberly Scott, ED of Agape

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RECAP OF 2020

by Executive Director,
Kimberly Scott

Thank you again for another amazing year of sharing Gods love in spite of a worldwide pandemic.

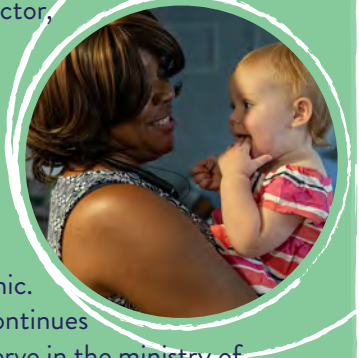
AGAPE of NC continues to be blessed to serve in the ministry of loving children and families in our community. The struggle to provide loving Christian foster homes is still a monumental necessity.

In 2020, we were able to provide an average of 24 children each month with a loving Christian home. We provided management, guidance, support, and education to 58 foster families. We were able to license 11 new foster homes and completed an adoption.

In conclusion, let's talk about finances. AGAPE provided **\$415,000 in foster care and adoption services** and **received \$345,000 in recurring donations** from our generous supporters. We also raised **\$208,808 during our 5th Annual Change for Life** giving campaign.

Let's 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 sharing God's love!



SAMUEL'S STORY . . . UPDATED

SAMUEL'S 2020 STORY

Last Fall, we introduced Samuel, a little boy diagnosed with neuroblastoma back in October 2019. We told about little Sam's year of hospitalizations and treatments (with 2020's COVID-19 restrictions and protocols further complicating his situation). We also shared the journey that brought Sam (who first entered the foster care system when he was only 18 months old) into AGAPE's sphere, eventually being fostered by an exceptional couple with faith that God would prepare and equip them to meet the needs of this precious little tyke.

For those of you who read or heard Samuel's story last October (or since) and might be wondering how he is doing now . . .

Little Sam is doing quite well and thriving in the care of Luke & Deborah! He is currently cancer-free . . . although still not fully out of the woods.

A round of treatments administered in November and December of last year did not go as everyone had wished. Sam had another severe pain reaction and was unable to complete that therapy.

Even so, he is continuing a regimen of special medications over the next four months to, hopefully, decrease chances of the cancer returning. The little guy's team of doctors will re-evaluate his condition at the end of that four-month period to decide what the next course of action may be. Deborah and Luke are prepared to consider additional treatment options, if recommended, because they want Sam "to have the very best opportunity for a long and happy life."

Meanwhile, Sam continues to improve, and he has the temperament of a normal 2 ½ year-old! He loves to play, sing, and prepare pretend meals in a toy kitchen. He is walking and going up stairs unassisted. Luke and Deborah are grateful to have a wonderful nanny, Anna, who now comes to their home during the week to help care for Sam -- this extraordinary little boy who remains special in his spirit.

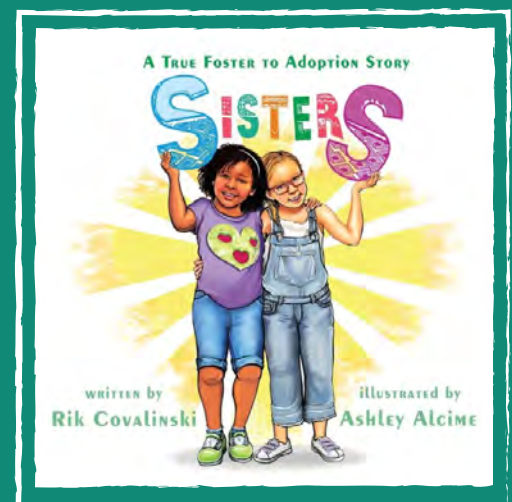
Regardless of all his medical challenges, Sam seems to know he is cherished. He is living the life of a happy, energetic toddler and still tells everyone he sees, "I love you!"

SISTERS: A TRUE FOSTER TO ADOPTION STORY

SISTERS: A True Foster to Adoption Story, written by Rik Covalinski and illustrated by Ashley Alcime, was published in November 2020 during National Adoption Month. Fun Fact – the Covalinski family is also an AGAPE Family!

This true foster-to-adoption story is told through the eyes of Rik & Donna Covalinski's daughters -- two little girls who, even though they have different skin colors and are from different birth families, have become sisters through adoption. Let Alicia and Kylie tell you about their journey!

Purchase their family's book online today -- it's conveniently available through Barnes & Noble and Amazon.com! A portion of the sale from each book will be donated to AGAPE of NC. (If you shop on AmazonSmile and have chosen AGAPE of NC as your charity, Amazon will donate another 0.5% of the price of your purchase.)



AGAPE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S FOSTER/ADOPTIVE SUPPORT GATHERINGS

By Kia Carter, AGAPE of NC's Director of Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention

Our support group's mission statement is to build a Christ-centered community with other foster and adoptive parents that "get it" -- to provide a nurturing and safe place for AGAPE families to come for advice, support, prayer, encouragement, and resources to help them thrive in their fostering and adoption journey.

We were made to be in community and AGAPE's hope is that our families will find connections and friendship with those walking a similar journey. Each month we focus on different topics that we feel would be helpful in that journey.

In January, we held a general gathering just to find out what families wanted to see from the group. In February, we discussed the importance of self-care, and this month we will be discussing biological families and how to navigate through the challenges that come with that.

We are currently gathering on Zoom every 3rd Saturday of the month, but we hope to gather in person a few times a year in the future. AGAPE is excited to be able to offer this resource to our current foster and soon-to-be adoptive families, as well as families who have previously adopted children when they were licensed with our agency.



AGAPE

of North Carolina



WELCOMING NEW AGAPE STAFF: MEGAN PUCKETT

... Or perhaps we should say that we're welcoming her back! Megan Puckett has had a career in Foster Care & Adoptions for over 10 years now, including her previous work with AGAPE of NC (a few years ago). Says Megan, "I feel that it is not just a job for me, but rather, God's calling for my life! I am passionate about both the children and the families I work with. I love being able to be a part of helping to both restore, and build, families through the fostering/adoption process." Originally from Tucson, Arizona, Megan has lived in Raleigh, North Carolina for the last four years. She has a husband of 3 years, as well as a 13 year-old stepson and a 4 month-old daughter.

AGAPE of North Carolina has a
BRAND NEW LOGO! Here's our NEW LOOK
for a FRESH OUTLOOK for this NEW YEAR!
And don't forget to check out AGAPE of NC's
NEW WEBSITE TOO!

Some of our the thoughts behind the logo creation and meaning!

- + Circular, inclusive, unifying.
- + Evolving, growing, spreading.
- + Welcoming, open arms, hugs.
- + Christ, a Cross, a Child at the Center.
- + Many colors overlapping, harmonious despite being different from each other.
- + Community, collaborating, cooperating, working together – It takes a village.

SAVE THE DATE...AND CROSS YOUR FINGERS!

By Lisa D. Brewer, Executive Director of CBC's Bluegrass Festival

Carolina Bible Camp Bluegrass Festival organizers prayerfully hope to hold the 9th annual fundraising festival at the Camp in Mocksville, NC on Saturday, September 11, 2021!

Last year's festival was canceled due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, but at this time it appears this year's festival will be possible.

The event will feature:

- + BackPorch Bluegrass, a traditional bluegrass group from Wilkes County, NC. They helped kick off the festival series by appearing at the Camp back in 2011.
- + His & Hers, the talented husband and wife team of Caleb and Sara Davis from Mocksville, NC. They were fan favorites in 2019, and plan to bring a full band this year.
- + Liam Purcell and Cane Mill Road, IBMA's 2019 Momentum Band of the Year! (They replace Finnish bluegrassers Jussi Syren & The Groundbreakers, whose U.S. tour was grounded by the pandemic.)
- + And returning as headliner, Scythian, a high-energy band performing Celtic music, bluegrass, gypsy tunes, and more!

Write it in your calendars, type it into your phones, and keep it in your prayers: Carolina Bible Camp hopes to team up with AGAPE of NC again to bring you the best in family entertainment, all for a good cause!

For more information about the Bluegrass Festival, visit www.cbcbbluegrass.com and follow our posts on Facebook.



**Liam Purcell and
Cane Mill Road**



SUPPORT AGAPE OF NC

- + You can also donate By TEXT to: (919) 335-4685
Just type in: GIVE or PLEDGE
- + You can give online! You can set up a one-time or monthly donation.
- + You can mail us a check! Made out to AGAPE of NC,
and mailed to P.O. Box 985 Wake Forest, NC 27588
- + Set up your AmazonSmile account! Search for "AGAPE of NC" and
select "AGAPE of NC / Association for Guidance Aid Placement and
Empathy of NC Inc."
- + Please consider becoming an AGAPE of NC Volunteer.
- + Follow, like and share our posts on Social Media

See our website at www.agapeofnc.org for more information!



APPRECIATION FOR HUMBLE DONORS

AGAPE of NC tries to express our appreciation to each Donor who provides financial and/or other support during our Annual *Change For Life!* campaigns and/or other times throughout the year. Sometimes, though, there are a few Donors we do not have an opportunity to Thank personally.

So here, we acknowledge and convey our deep gratitude to the following "Humble Donors":

Facebook Fundraising Donors who are Anonymous to AGAPE because of Facebook's Privacy Policies.

AmazonSmile Donors who have chosen to support AGAPE of NC so that Amazon donates .05% of their eligible purchases. (We received \$465 from AmazonSmile Shoppers in 2020!)

Donors who purchased goods on AGAPE's AmazonSmile Charity Shopping & Wish Lists and had those goods delivered directly to us for our Backpack Ministry and other initiatives.

Corporate Employers -- like **Duke Energy, IBM, Wells Fargo, and Willis Towers Watson LLC** -- who offer Payroll Deduct, Matching Gift, and Volunteer Service Programs . . . along with the individual Employees who participate in those programs to send funds and/or serve AGAPE.

Anonymous Donor(s) who give to AGAPE via Donor Advised Funds like **Fidelity Charitable**.

Anonymous Donor(s) who send funds to AGAPE through their local **United Way organizations**.

"Humble Donors,"
AGAPE appreciates your
spirit of humility and does not
wish to disrespect your privacy.
We know HE already knows who
you are! Paraphrasing 1 Thessalo-
nians 5:18, though, AGAPE seeks
only to "give Thanks in all
circumstances; for this is
God's will . . ."



TRIBUTE GIFTS

December 2020 through February 2021

In Memory of Mrs. Novella F. Safley
Given By Mr. & Mrs. William O'Neal
and Mr. & Mrs. James Webb

In Memory of Mrs. Barbara Groce
Given By Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Holland

In Memory of Mrs. Martha Moore
Given Anonymously

In Memory of Ms. Kristen Taylor Ginsberg
Given Anonymously

In Memory of Mr. John Lucas
Given Anonymously

In Memory of Ms. Karen Diane Case
Estate Plan Bequest

In Memory of Mr. Robbie Tindol
Given By Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Mays

In Memory of Mr. James Condon
Given Anonymously

**In Memory of Mr. Tim Padgett,
Mr. Eugene Edwards,
Mr. Coy Weatherington,
Mr. Kenneth Cox & Mrs. Shirley Cox**
Given By Mr. & Mrs. Sam North



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