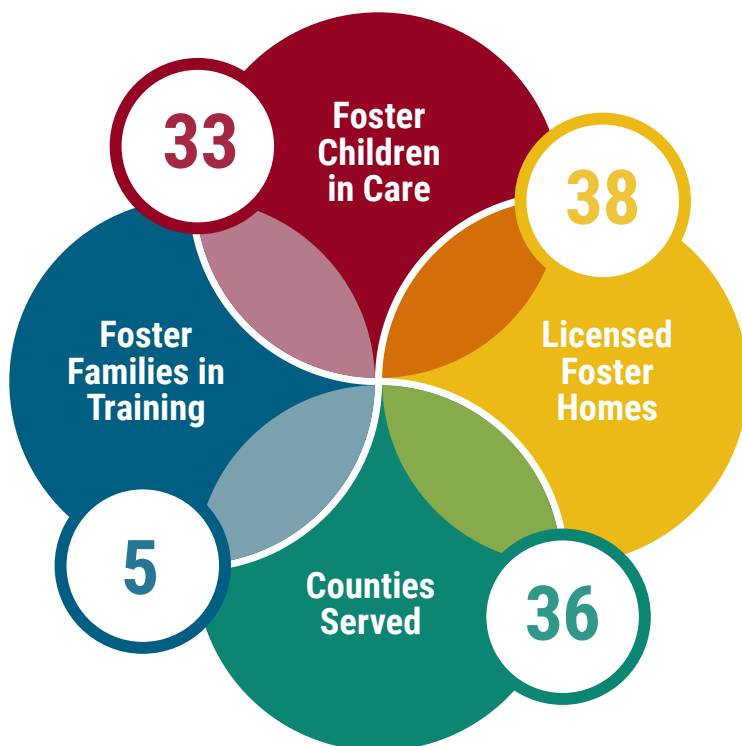




## THE NUMBERS as of November 2022



## WINTER 2022

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# AGAPE OF NC IS **REACHING OUT!**

In our last Newsletter, we introduced the newest members of AGAPE's Outreach Team -- **Leah Hayes, Foster Parent Recruiter** and **Joe Hall, Church Outreach Liaison**. Leah and Joe work closely with AGAPE's Director of Administration and Outreach, Nicole Spickard, and our Executive Director, Kimberly Scott.

Now, we want to let you know a little more about what this **amazing Outreach Team** is doing for AGAPE. Together, they are responsible for making in-person visits with churches and community partners, participating in foster care & adoption events, and attending other meetings or public gatherings where they can provide information about becoming a Foster/Adoptive Parent or Volunteer and raise awareness about AGAPE's mission to help Christians answer that call.



**LEAH HAYES**  
Foster Parent Recruiter

Leah, a former educator, and mother to son, Elijah, is currently a graduate student working on her master's degree. She will "walk the stage" in the Spring of 2023.

**On behalf of AGAPE, Leah visits community locations and leaders, following up on referrals to further enhance our agency's community relationships.** Her AGAPE work includes participating in the development and implementation of Foster Parent retention programs, while creating and designing new campaigns, as needed, to continuously attract new Foster Families.

Sometimes Leah and Nicole present at events dedicated to AGAPE. On other occasions, they represent AGAPE in a joint setting with several agencies from the surrounding area. These group venues allow Leah and Nicole to connect and network with other professionals regarding resources and resolving issues in common. Any opportunity is an excellent time for them to answer questions, offer insights, and share AGAPE's distinguishing attributes with prospective Foster/Adoptive Parents or potential Respite Care Providers (another critical need) and other Volunteers.

**Leah especially enjoys getting out into the community and would love to speak with YOU -- not just about AGAPE and how to become a Foster Family -- but also how you can Volunteer your time to aid AGAPE's mission.** Both roles are vital to make a difference in the lives of children and families. Just let Leah know about any event or occasion where she can tell prospective Foster & Adoptive Parents how AGAPE may help them on their journey and/or recruit and guide supportive Volunteers!



**JOE HALL**  
Church Outreach Liaison

Joe retired as a Lt. Col. following 20 years of service in the US Air Force Medical Services Corps. Joe and Cathy, his wife of 38 years, fostered children in four different states while serving in the military and they adopted four siblings from foster care. Their family currently consists of six kids and six grandchildren. For the last 14 years, Joe guided high school students as an Air Force JROTC Senior Aerospace Science Instructor. He also served on AGAPE's Board (as Board Chair or Vice Chair) for 8 years.

Having now retired from teaching, today **Joe's work with AGAPE focuses primarily on outreach to congregations of the Church.** In that role, **Joe travels to churches to provide updates on AGAPE and to educate them on the continuing need for Foster Parents.** (Because Joe also serves as a Guardian ad Litem volunteer for the Department of Social Services, he can tell interested groups or individuals about that program, as well.) Joe is available to provide sermons, Bible classes, or presentations during a worship service, potluck fellowship, ladies day event, small/connect group gathering, or other type of church meeting.

**Joe is very interested in talking with church leaders and coming to visit any congregation that extends an invitation, welcoming YOUR assistance to share AGAPE's story and encourage more Christians to become licensed Foster Parents.** Just let him know whenever your congregation is ready for an AGAPE information session!

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*"Children must never work for our love; they must rest in it."*

*-Dr. Gordon Neufeld.*

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# AGAPE'S OUTREACH TEAM HAS BEEN BUSY VISITING WITH AND/OR PRESENTING THROUGHOUT OUR COMMUNITY!

## BETWEEN MAY & NOVEMBER 2022

- Wilkesboro Church of Christ
- Hickory Church of Christ;
- Lake Norman Church of Christ
- Abilene Church of Christ
- Carolina Bible Camp's 2022 Bluegrass Festival
- Highland Acres Church of Christ
- Morganton Church of Christ
- Lenoir Church of Christ
- Shelby Church of Christ
- an Adoption and Foster Information Fair hosted by Apex Baptist Church
- the 2022 Homecoming Festivities at North Carolina A&T University
- Roosevelt Drive Church of Christ
- a Foster & Adoption Support Group Meeting hosted by Weddington UMC
- a Foster & Adoption Fair hosted by Summit Church
- a "Chosen" Foster and Adoption Interest Meeting hosted by Mercy Hill Church

## UPCOMING THIS MONTH

- Brunswick Church of Christ (a Volunteer Recruitment Opportunity\*)
- North Raleigh Church of Christ
- Jericho Church of Christ
- Friendly Ave. Church of Christ
- Aberdeen Church of Christ.

*\*Editor's Note: See our separate announcement about this new AGAPE Volunteer opportunity!*



## UPCOMING 2023

- Helen Street Church of Christ
- Archdale Church of Christ
- Kingdom Church of Christ

# CONTACT AGAPE'S OUTREACH TEAM TODAY TO GET ON THEIR CALENDARS!

**Nicole Spickard**

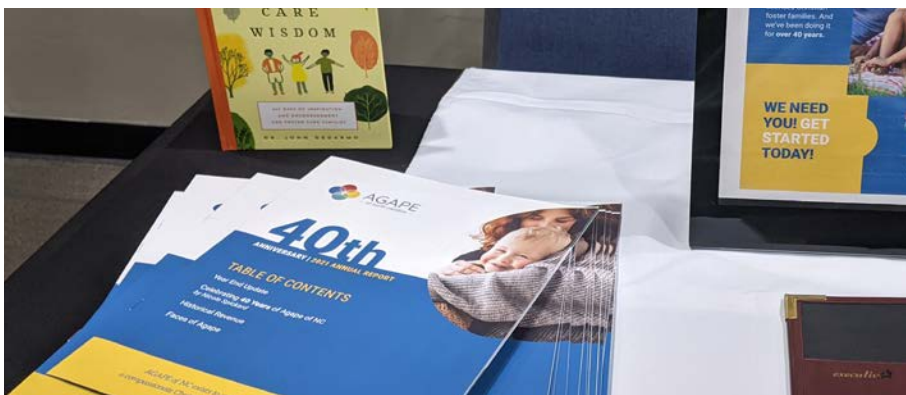
[nspickard@agapeofnc.org](mailto:nspickard@agapeofnc.org) | 336-312-1934

**Leah Hayes**

[lhayes@agapeofnc.org](mailto:lhayes@agapeofnc.org) | 401-996-1469

**Joe Hall**

[jhall@agapeofnc.org](mailto:jhall@agapeofnc.org) | 828-228-2905



# BE AWARE | ACKNOWLEDGE | TAKE ACTION

against the trauma North Carolina's children have endured.

This year YOU can help Agape of NC uplift trauma-responsive staff, children, and families and show them that they are WORTH IT! Help us show them the love of God in these CHRISTIAN FOSTER FAMILIES and equip them to be sensitive and responsive to their Trauma!

**WORTH IT!**  
FOSTER • ADOPT • SUPPORT • LOVE

## DONATE TO AGAPE OF NC TODAY

Online at: [www.agapeofnc.org/donate](http://www.agapeofnc.org/donate)

**Text GIVE** to 919-335-4685

**Mail Checks** to: P.O. Box 985, Wake Forest, NC 27588

For Other Options, **Call AGAPE of NC at: 919-673-7816**

**DONATE ONLINE**

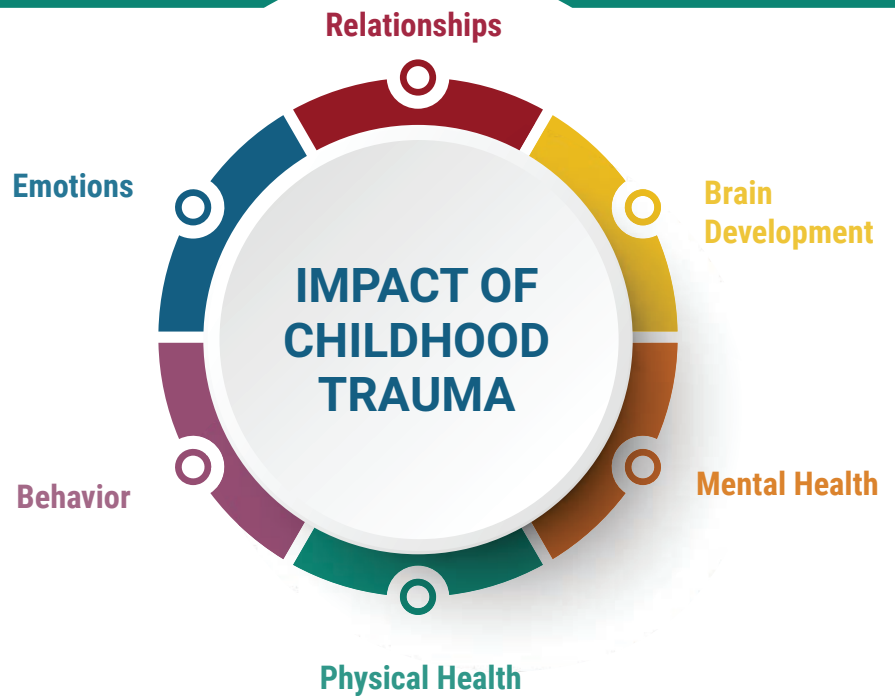
**100% OF YOUR MONEY  
WILL GO TOWARDS ONE OF THESE AREAS:**

- Staff training / Family training • Trauma responsive resources
- Trauma Responsive Programs for our children • Travel expenses for therapy or needed treatment
- Miscellaneous expenses related to the affects of TRAUMA



# TRAUMA FACTS

*Trauma is an emotional response to an intense event that threatens or causes harm. The harm can be physical or emotional, real or perceived, and it can threaten the child or someone close to him or her.*



## SIGNS OF TRAUMA BY AGE



### Ages 0–5

- Irritability, “fussiness”, clinginess
- Startling easily or being difficult to calm, frequent tantrums
- Delays in reaching physical, language, or other milestones



### Ages 6–12

- Difficulty paying attention
- Being quiet or withdrawn, isolated
- Fighting with peers or adults
- Changes in school performance and behavior



### Ages 13–18

- Talking about the trauma constantly, or denying that it happened
- Difiance
- Risky/Illegal behaviors, fighting, drug or alcohol use, running away

## THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

SAFETY	CHOICE	COLLABORATION	TRUSTWORTHINESS	EMPOWERMENT
Ensuring physical and emotional safety	Individual has choice and control	Making decisions with the individual and sharing power	Task clarity, consistency, and Interpersonal Boundaries	Prioritizing empowerment and skill building



## Young Man's Struggle to Survive Childhood Trauma

Far from a holiday heart, I'm a man of God that's the truest form of art, I pray for my enemies, every last one of them who try to play me, the society that I'm surrounded by never shows true support honestly, the love I once knew, left me with memories of the ultimate love of caring which is from God above, I'm observant of the vultures that surrounds me and try to block my destiny they seem to be petrified by my own divine masculinity; It comes with self-acceptance as the man I've grown into and not acknowledging the socially acceptable behavior I was subjected to.

I had to willingly unlearn a behavior that I adopted from psychologically haunting predators just to think I was really loved and favored, the toxic spirituality dismember me mentally, enticing me within all the hurtful things trying to ruin me; Now I stand in my own truth knowing that what tried to destroy is not what God meant for me, I now fully accept myself with the grace of the son of God, who saved me.

By Kylin





# NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!



## AGAPE'S FOSTER FAMILY WRAP-AROUND CARE PROGRAM

We're so pleased to announce that AGAPE of NC is starting a new program and now we need Volunteers! If you're looking for an opportunity to devote some of your time and talents in support of our mission, becoming a **"WRAP-AROUND CARE VOLUNTEER"** is for YOU!

### What exactly is a "Wrap-Around Care Volunteer"?

**Well, think of it as a great, big HUG!** As a Wrap-Around Care Volunteer, we'll ask you to **sponsor one of AGAPE's Fostering Families**. That might involve bringing an occasional meal; sending notes of encouragement, birthday & other holiday cards; providing gift cards for restaurants, shopping, gas/fuel, etc. (really anything you think would help make our Foster Parents and/or the kids in their care know someone is thinking about them, smile, feel extra special, or give them a little break from day-to-day stresses).

**It's important for everyone in a Foster Family to know that they are not alone, and we believe they can benefit from an AGAPE Volunteer providing individualized wrap-around support.**

Such personal contact can help our parents and kids expand their pool of resources and develop a relationship of trust with someone on whom they can rely.

**And who, including a Volunteer, couldn't use another caring connection in their lives?!**

The Ladies Group at Brunswick Church of Christ recently decided to take on this special project in support of AGAPE's Foster Parents and the kids in their care. Our Outreach Team is meeting with the Group this month to kick off our new Wrap-Around Care Volunteer Program.

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***We have a lot of suggestions for how YOU might help support a Foster Family – and we'd love to hear your ideas too! We can help identify some specific needs – and YOU know all the love and creative abilities you have to offer!***

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**Contact Leah Today!**

**Leah Hayes | [lhayes@agapeofnc.org](mailto:lhayes@agapeofnc.org) | 401-996-1469**

She'd love to talk to YOU too about Volunteering to provide a Foster Family with Wrap-Around Care. There are many ways you can pour your gifts into someone who needs YOU!

# Tribute Gifts

May–December 2022



In Memory of

**Mr. Hoyt Lamar Taylor**

Given by  
An Anonymous Donor

In Memory of

**Mr. Steven H. Sell**

Given by  
Mr. Peter Stenbuck  
& Mr. & Mrs. Paul Forrest

In Memory of

**Mr. Alexander Jennings**

Given by  
Ms. Brenda Mullinix

In Memory & Honor of

**Mrs. Marilyn Sova's Family**

Given by  
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Sova

In Memory of

**Mr. Edwin W. Hauser**

Given by  
An Anonymous Donor

In Memory of

**Mrs. Linda E. Kirby**

Given by  
Mr. Kenneth Kirby, Mr. & Mrs. David  
Compton, & An Anonymous Donor

In Honor of

**Mr. Thomas J. Hall**

Given by  
Weddington United Methodist Church

In Memory of

**Mr. Glen H. Walls**

Given by  
An Anonymous Donor

In Memory of

**Ms. Gillie Salter**

Given by  
Mr. & Mrs. Willie Gore

In Memory of Her Son

**Michael**

Given by  
Ms. Margaret Foreman

**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.

\*\*AGAPE of North Carolina is a 501c3 organization. Your gifts are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Please consult your financial, tax, and legal advisors regarding the establishment of any gifting plan, related accounts and investments, and the deductibility of any gift.\*\*



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