

Merry Christmas



www.ncRefuge.org

252.746.4766

Friends of The Refuge,

Greetings in the name that is above every name, Jesus! 2016 has been a year filled with tremendous growth and excitement as we continue to serve others with the hope that can only be found in Christ. This year we added Lennie Furlough to our full time staff, as Program Director, and are grateful for the many gifts that he brings to this ministry. We also continue to operate a ministry that has never seen a day of debt, and continues to multiply every gift in order to bring more glory to God.

We have learned over the years that God has plans that we often can't comprehend. He has often placed campers in our lives that forever changed our concept of ministry, and even tested our commitment to serve Him. I could quickly give you a list of many campers that I have encountered over the years who we will never forget. None of them however, would impact The Refuge or my family as deeply as a young man named Dillion did this past summer.

Early in the Spring, a friend called me who works as a counselor for children who have experienced profound trauma, and have been removed from their homes because of worst case scenarios. She began to share with me about a young man, 14 years old, who had experienced multiple traumas that no one could comprehend ever happening to a child. She told me that for the previous three years he had been living in a group home situation to keep him safe and far away from those who had abused and neglected him. Despite all that had happened to him, she said, "He was miraculously protected from being filled with hate, anger, and rage." He now, just simply wanted a place to belong.

She asked if Dillion could come to The Refuge for a week of camp and experience time with caring counselors as well as other campers his own age who had not been through such trauma. We quickly agreed to accept Dillion to our one week Adventure Camp, and were able to scholarship him right away because of the support that we had received from so many. Dillion was quite scared when he showed up on the first day, and was very hesitant to initiate conversation with anyone. It didn't take him long, however, to fit right in and become a part of his new camp family. From catching a fish or paddling a canoe, to cooking over a fire and singing songs about Jesus, everything Dillion experienced during this one week of camp, he did so for the first time. His counselors enjoyed watching him discover so many new things, very much like parents watching their baby take first steps. He was truly a camper that none of them will ever forget.

None of us were quite prepared, however, for how hard it would be for him to leave and head back to the group home. It can be hard for any camper to leave after a great week of fun and new friends, but most children go back to a home, and a family of their own. On the final day of camp, Dillion pulled his counselor aside and quietly asked him if he would become his dad. He simply wanted a home of his own. None of us were expecting this, but God certainly moves in ways that we will never understand. The real question we had to deal with is... are we going to be obedient to the ONE who made everything?

I am excited to share with you that Dillion will be moving into a new home this Thanksgiving season...mine. Desta and I, along with our two girls, are making room for a new family member who very simply...wants a place to belong. Deep down, that is what every child wants when they come to The Refuge. It is our passion to introduce them to a family that will endure forever. Please help The Refuge continue to share and model the hope of Jesus as you consider where to give this Christmas season. God Bless!

Humbled and Amazed,

Sammy Hudson

Executive Director

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6*

Project List for 2017-2018



Project #1: Complete Orchard Farm House: **Est. \$70,000 - \$23,500 in hand**

- This house was built in the early 20's in Ayden, NC. We were blessed to move this house onto the property last year. With the completion of this house we will have overnight capacity for more than 80 campers, as well as small group meeting space. If you have a team that would like to join us as we work to bring new life to it, please give us a call.

Project # 2: Swimming Pool

Est: \$165,000 - \$7,000 in hand

- An in-ground pool will provide a much safer swimming experience for the children. The front lake has been used for swimming each of the last three years, but does not allow the lifeguards to see the bottom. It is our prayer that this could be installed before the coming summer.



Project #3: "The Refuge Seed Company"

Est: \$650,000 - Just starting

- This building, while resembling an old time seed company building, will allow us to hold evening worship services for 250 students as well as feed them. It's 12' wide porch will wrap around the building and overlook the swimming pool and lake.



Sharing Hope...Changing Lives

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Checks payable to:

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1380 Lower Field Rd.
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OR

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