



GHAzette

GHA, INC.

ISSUE 78A—2010

GHA Receives Grant From Fiddle Foundation and Speedway Children's Charities

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Dr. Mike Taylor

GHA, Inc. was recently named a recipient of a 2010 *Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation* Community Seed Grant in the amount of \$5,000 to assist in the construction of a second greenhouse at Carolina Farms. "We are excited to help Carolina Farms develop this entrepreneurial endeavor for adults with ASD and view the program as a role model for the creation of similar programs throughout the United States," said Linda Walder Fiddle, Executive Director of The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation, a national autism organization with the mission to develop, advocate for and support residential, vocational, recreational and educational programs throughout the United States for adults with ASD. Founded by Linda Walder Fiddle, The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation is named in memory and honor of her son Danny whose life inspired the volunteer-run organization's mission to focus exclusively on adults with ASD. "Mrs. Fiddle realized first-hand that there was a serious lack of residential, recreational, vocational, educational and family-oriented resources available to adults with autism. Her vision to honor the individuality of each person with autism throughout his or her life became a reality when the first grants were awarded from The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation in 2002," said Dawn Allen, Chief Executive Officer.



Along with support from the Fiddle Foundation, GHA also received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from the *Lowe's Motor Speedway Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities* in Concord. The funds will be used for an augmentative speech-generation communication device for the children served by GHA. The computer, with touch-screen technology, will provide a variety of motivating and engaging communication opportunities which will enable individuals with Autism to communicate in diverse situations. GHA, Inc. was one of 93 regional non-profit agencies that received a total of \$854,000 in grants during the 2009 funding year. The mission of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC) is "to care for children in educational, financial, social and medical need to help them lead productive lives." The SCC was founded in 1982 by Bruton Smith, who serves as the Chairman of Speedway Motorsports and Sonic Automotive, as a memorial and legacy to his son, Bruton Cameron Smith, who passed away at a very young age. Given Mr. Smith's personal experience, one of his focuses became assisting children in need in the communities surrounding the speedways owned and operated by Speedway Motorsports. "We are extremely appreciative of the support we have received from Speedway Children's Charities this year and in years past," said GHA Chief Executive Officer Dawn Allen. "This has enabled our organization to expand services that have such a lasting impact on the individuals we serve."



Bruton Smith is joined by GHA Chief Executive Officer Dawn Allen and GHA Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at the grant recognition event.

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GHA, Inc. P.O. Box 2487 Albemarle, NC 28002



From the Chief Executive Officer
Dawn Allen

As we enter our 32nd year of service to individuals with autism and pay tribute to Autism Awareness Month, we have much to celebrate as we reflect upon our accomplishments.

With the continued uncertain economic times, our organization has experienced the same budgetary concerns that come with government cuts. Expanding our internal fundraising efforts has become all the more important, as seen by the hiring of our Agency's new Chief Development Officer. I continue to be amazed at the generosity of the families and friends of GHA. They are such an integral part of the puzzle and continue to be such a strong source of support. Currently, we have two upcoming signature fundraising events in which we will be soliciting your support. On June 5th, we are excited to be hosting our second gala auction, "A Night in N'awlins", which will include live and silent portions. Our first event raised over \$43,000 in 2008 thanks to the support of individuals and companies from throughout the state. On September 18th, we will be hosting the second GHA Rubber Duck Derby at City Lake Park, also located in Albemarle. We hope you will consider joining us at both of these exciting events!

Fitness Focus with Fields

As the weather warms, we throw on the shorts and flip flops, and often times our skin shows the results of a long, dry winter. You can soothe and help prevent dry skin by taking these easy steps:

*Bathe with comfortably warm (not hot) water, using a soap that either has a high fat content or contains glycerin. Avoid scrubbing.

*If you are an athlete, shower off quickly after a workout or game. Use warm water, and bring your own mild soap, since heavy-duty "gym" brands may be too strong.

*When you finish your bath or shower, pat dry and immediately apply moisturizer. An unscented moisturizing lotion is easy to apply and will help maintain skin moisture.

*Cover exposed skin when you play outdoors. If you can not wear protective clothing because of hot weather or game regulations, apply a sunscreen with a moisturizer. If you are a swimmer and have problems with dry skin, apply a light layer of petroleum jelly before you enter the pool. Shower when you are out of the pool, pat dry, and immediately apply a moisturizer.

*As necessary during the day, apply a moisturizer that contains at least one of the following ingredients: glycerin, urea, pyroglutamic acid, sorbitol, lactic acid, lactate salts or alpha hydroxy acids.

*Avoid overusing antiperspirants and perfumes, since these products can dry the skin.

A Message from GHA Board President John Lowder



I consider myself very fortunate to be a member of the GHA Board of Directors. It is indeed a privilege to be associated with such a wonderful organization. The more I am involved, the more I realize just how very fortunate our community is to have such a professional, caring and compassionate vehicle advocating for individuals and families coping with autism.

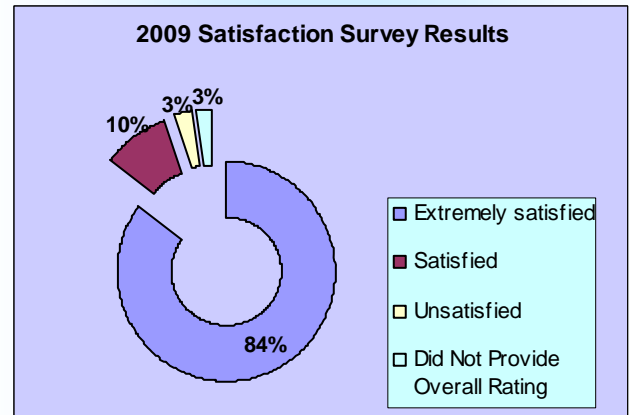
I have had the opportunity to get to know and to work with some incredibly skilled professionals and volunteers through GHA. In my opinion, the staff at GHA sees their job as much more than a vocation. I have seen sufficient proof to confidently say that GHA staff sees their job as a calling. There is just no limit to the compassion, the professionalism and the care that is delivered on a daily basis to our wonderful and deserving individuals.

April is National Autism Awareness Month. Thanks to GHA, we can confidently say in our community that autism awareness is in the forefront every day in Stanly County.

2009 Satisfaction Survey Results

Each April, we survey parents and legally responsible persons to ask how satisfied they are with GHA's services. This information is important to us and helps us fulfill our commitment to providing the best possible supports for the individuals we serve. This year 71% of those who received a survey returned it, our highest response since the survey's inception.

Fifteen "extremely satisfied to not satisfied" questions asked participants to rate many different aspects of GHA's services. In 2009, 98.6% of answers to these questions were positive compared to 90% in 2008. The last survey question asked participants to rate overall how satisfied they were with GHA's services. Those results are summarized below.



GHA, Inc. will continue the annual survey to stay attuned to the needs, hopes and dreams of the individuals we serve as well as those of their families and their natural support systems. If you have additional comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact Janet Daniels Breeding at 704-982-9600 or through email at janetbreeding@ghainc.org.

CSA Shares Now Available For Purchase At Carolina Farms



Would you be interested in enjoying the freshest of produce without all of the hassle of working in a hot garden all summer long?

GHA is pleased to announce the addition of a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) Program at Carolina Farms for the 2010 summer growing season. Essentially, a CSA is an opportunity for you to purchase a "subscription" to a farm's harvest. A limited number of shares are available at a cost of \$300.00 each. Weekly, your investment could provide to you a dozen eggs and a variety of veggies free of pesticides. Pick-up times will be every Friday starting June 11th through Friday, September 10th. Bags may be picked up from 2pm to 5pm each Friday at the GHA Administrative Office or at Carolina Farms.

Through your investment in this project, you share in the risks of farming which may include, but are not limited to, poor harvests due to unfavorable weather or pests. A limited number of shares are available by contacting Chief Development Officer, Beth Olivieri, at (704) 982-9600 ext. 125 or by e-mail at betholivieri@ghainc.org.

ASNC Set To Host Annual Conference

The Autism Society of North Carolina (ASNC) hosted its annual conference at the Sheraton Chapel Hill on April 23rd and 24th. GHA participated with a booth display throughout the conference. On Friday, Dr. Scott Bellini presented at the pre-conference workshop titled *“Building Social Relationships: A Systematic Approach to Teaching Social Interaction Skills to Children and Adolescents on the Autism Spectrum”*. Highlights for Saturday’s conference activities included keynote presentations from Chantal Sicile Kira and Dr. Aubyn Stahmer. GHA’s CEO, Dawn Allen, served on the *“Quality in Service to Adolescents and Adults with ASD: Where Do We Go From Here?”* panel.



GHA Welcomes Japanese Visitor

A resident of Tokyo, Japan, teacher Sachie Sudo visited GHA on March 4th and 5th. She currently works at URAWA, a special support school, where she will be developing a new program to serve individuals with Autism. Prior to her visit to GHA, she studied at The Charlotte TEACCH Center for one month.


Sachie is pictured with GHA teacher Sandra Shankle.

Martin Apartments

For many years, the GHA Central Office facility was housed at 1519 East Main Street in Albemarle. Last summer the headquarters relocated to its Second Street location in downtown Albemarle. The 1519 location was then renovated into several apartment settings for the individuals we support. Services began last November and with that came an opportunity to honor Gina Martin of Albemarle. The site is now known as “Martin Apartments”. Gina has been an avid volunteer at GHA having served on the Board of Directors for over 18 years.

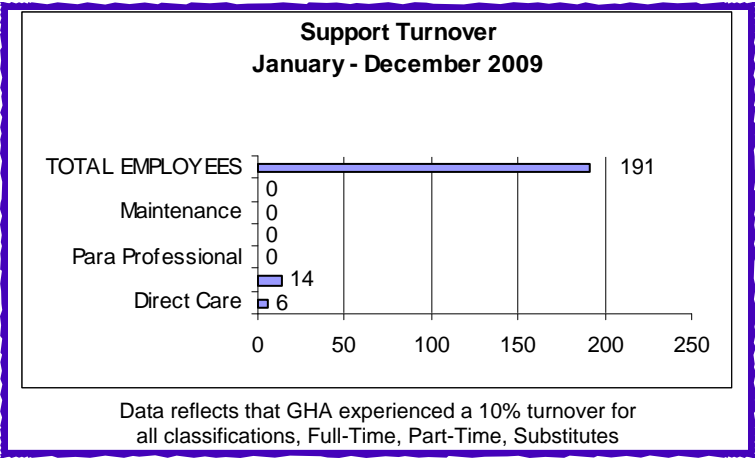
GHA Family Support Network Creates Holiday Excitement

A special thanks goes to the GHA Family Network for funding the holiday drawings for cash for GHA employees! For more information or to get involved in the GHA Family Support Network, contact Terri Meyers at heyterrimeyers@gmail.com.



A Night in N'awlins

The GHA Auction Planning Committee has been hard at work securing items for the Agency’s next fundraising event. The event scheduled for 6:00 pm on Saturday, June 5th at the Stanly Regional Family and Education Center will feature spectacular silent and live auction items, jazz music and fabulous New Orleans style cuisine. Are you willing to sponsor an item or would you solicit a business to donate an auction item? If so, please contact GHA Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at (704) 982-9600, ext.125. Invitations will be mailed under separate cover in early May.



Allen Named to Stanly County Community Foundation Board

GHA Chief Executive Officer Dawn Allen was recently named a member of the Board of Trustees for the Stanly County Community Foundation (SCCF). Established in 1999, the SCCF is a permanent endowment organized by local leaders to benefit a broad range of charitable purposes in Stanly County. GHA has received a number of SCCF grants over the years including assistance for the construction of the barn, the second greenhouse and therapeutic horseback riding ring at Carolina Farms. Dawn will serve with sixteen other members of the Board of Trustees responsible for conducting Board and committee operations, communications, development, finance and grant making in Stanly County.

Savory Samplings

Call for Recipes and Stories for the GHA Cookbook

It’s time to break out the family recipes and submit them for publishing in the GHA Cookbook: *Savory Samplings—A Collection of Recipes and Recollections Compiled By Families & Friends of GHA*. Slated for availability in September, just in time for holiday purchases, the cookbook will feature recipes from GHA families, friends, employees as well as the communities we serve. The collection of recipes will continue through June 1st. To submit your recipes via computer, visit the website www.typensave.com. Use the group login “gha” and password “u4cq7” to start the process. If you would prefer submitting a hard copy of your recipe, please contact Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at (704) 982-9600, ext.125 to request a “Recipe Collection Sheet”.

In addition, the GHA Cookbook Committee needs your stories for consideration for publishing in the cookbook. In 250 words or less, share what GHA has meant to you and your family or memories through your Autism journey. We will leave that up to you! Limited spacing is available. You may email your stories to betholivieri@ghainc.org or mail them to GHA, PO Box 2487, Albemarle, NC 28002.

Support GHA While Shopping at Harris Teeter

For those that have a “VIC” Savings Card to receive weekly discounts at Harris Teeter grocery store, you may now shop and support GHA at the same time! The GHA operated classroom at Badin Elementary School is enrolled as a participant in Harris Teeter’s *Together in Education* program. When customers purchase select Harris Teeter brand products using their VIC card, Harris Teeter contributes a percentage of those purchase dollars to the schools of their choice. If you have already linked your VIC card to GHA, it will remain linked through May 31st of each year. Do not forget to re-link your card each year or sign up by visiting www.harristeeter.com.

Scenes from GHA



GHA Clinical Coordinators hosted a Cultural History Day on February 25th at First Baptist Church in Albemarle. Sites created displays representing numerous countries around the world, as well as delicious food authentic to different regions.



GHA hosted a skating party on January 26th at Wayne's World Skating Center complete with food, games, music and of course, lots of skating!

Upcoming Events

April 23rd - 24th
ASNC Conference

May 14th
GHA Family Support Network

June 5th
Auction
"A Night in N'awlins"

September 18th
GHA Rubber Duck Derby



The Women's Fellowship Group of Pine Grove United Methodist Church in Albemarle hosted the 3rd annual Sweetheart Dance on Saturday, February 13th. All attendees enjoyed lots of music, dancing and scrumptious food provided by the church volunteers.

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 **April**
National Autism Awareness Month



pbh Provider
Performance Profile
Gold Star Status