

MEMORIALS:

In memory of Sherry Decker

By: Mr. & Mrs. David Loftin

In memory Willie Mae Waldrep

By: Ann Harper

In memory of Martha Ishee & Dee Kirkpatrick

By: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Colloredo

In memory of Kai Roberts

By: Trina Dendy

In memory of Jeannie Mitchell

By: Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gaskin

In memory of Beatrice Hill

By: Ann Harper

In memory of Willie Mae Waldrep

By: Mr. & Mrs. Bill Reid

In memory of James Cothran, Bob Butler & Gladys Waide

By: Mr. & Mrs. Gary Hudson

In memory of Donald Alexander

By: NMMC-West Point

In memory of Willie Mae Waldrep

By: Mr. & Mrs. John McTaggart

In memory of Mrs. O.L. Hill

By: Velma Caskey

In memory of Kai Roberts

By: Junior Auxiliary

In memory of Mixon Millsaps

By: Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie Brand

HONORARIUMS:

In honor of Thomas L. Graves, Jr.

By: Coldwell Banker SRE Realtors

In honor of Cecelia Ellen Buehler

By: Women of Trinity Presbyterian Church

In honor of Sallie Bell & Diane Edwards

By: Velma Caskey

In honor of Lindsey Slanker

By: Kelly McQueen

SPECIAL THANKS....**Special "Thanks" to this quarter's Cash Contributors:**

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gaskin

Episcopal Church-Starkville

United Way of Northeast MS

Sara Roberts

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Painter

Jamey Ballard

Kiwanis Club of Starkville

United Way of Greater Monroe Co.

Tonda Riley

Houston WMU Mission Group

Maxine Bryan

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Shelton

Floyd McKee

Karen Mooney

Hope Baptist Church

Community Health Charities

Independent Methodist Church

CAFB Chapel

Ann Jameson

Kathy McCoy

Joyce Aycock

Church of God of Prophecy

United Way of Clay County

Special "Thanks" to this quarter's In-Kind Contributors:

Heath Brand

Laura Gaskin

Trina Dendy

Elton Dean

Riverside Chapel Church

Donna Bryan

Elaine Loftin

Center Grove Church

Donna Ross

Michelle Williamson

Mary Ann Briggs

Leann Brown

Tracy Teffeteller

Mr. & Mrs. T.A. Dendy

Kim Hood

Janet Jameson

Mr. & Mrs. Shea Stewart

Edith Garcia

Andrea Jester

Junior Auxiliary

Shriner's

Pamela Bryant

Pizza Inn

Emily Coggins

Central School Teachers

Kentucky Fried Chicken

Pamela Culley

Mae Ford

DeDe Caldwell

Old Waverly Golf Club

Dollar General

**Sally Kate Winters
Family Services**

317 North Division Street

Post Office Box 1233

West Point, MS 39773

Phone: 662-494-4867

Fax: 662-494-0870

Email: skw-sheila@dixie-net.com

www.sallykatewinters.org

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
PAID
West Point, MS
Permit #200

*Empowering children
and families to seek an
improved quality of life*

**UPCOMING EVENTS:****October 2009:**

- Weekly Anger Management Classes
Mondays @ 3:30 pm
Weekly Parenting Classes
- Tuesdays @ 4:30 pm
- Monthly Healthy Marriage
"10 Great Dates"
First United Methodist Church
October 23rd: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

November 2009:

- Christmas Shirts On-Sale at area
Christmas Open House
November 8th - Starkville
November 15th - West Point/Aberdeen
- Monthly Healthy Marriage
"10 Great Dates"
First United Methodist Church
November 20th: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

April 2010:

- Family Fun Night
5k Run and Fun Run
Sally Kate Winters Park
April 10th: 5:30 pm

For more information concerning upcoming events visit our website at www.sallykatewinters.org



Sally Kate Winters Family Services

**Program
News****Newsletter #53**

July - September 2009

Board of Directors

Scott Reed, President

Laura Gaskin, V. President

Shawn Hannah, Secretary

Karen Mooney, Treasurer

Jamey Ballard

Susan Chandler

Gene Childs

Stephanie Craven

Sharon Davis

Kerry Dill

Holly Hitt

Elizabeth Ketchum

Elaine Loftin

Renee Reid

Tonda Riley

Stacy Weems

Staff

Sheila G. Brand,

Executive Director

Georgia Stegall

Counseling Coordinator

Laura Yelverton,

Program Coordinator

Cynthia Mathews,

Case Manager

Paige Lamkin,

Office Manager

Carolyn Quin,

Resource Ctr. Coordinator

Monique Tillman,

Community Educator

Bridgit Webb,

Behavior Specialist

Kizzy Williams,

Behavior Specialist Asst.

Kay Randle,

House Manager

In-house Staff:

Sherry Davidson; Glenda Dean;

Lou Ann Golden; Jessie Lee;

JoAnn Petty; Rosie Phillips;

Parthina Rogers; Antinique Quinn;

Annie Webber

**FROM THE DIRECTOR:**

What do you remember about the needs of your newborn baby the first few weeks of life? Is it the lack of sleep, juggling a feeding schedule, the constant crying, or is it the little socks and cute headbands, the angel-like sleep, the early facial expressions and smiles? Sally Kate Winters Family Services experienced these wonderful remembrances while providing emergency shelter services for a four-week old child. The miracle of life and adult-child bonding continues to be an evident need of children. This is a basic need for all of us that should be established early in life. We have enjoyed caring for this precious infant and hope he is connected to an adult who can share that long-term bonding relationship with him.

Sally Kate Winters Family Services welcomed the new school year that began in August. Serving thirty (30) children within three-months, the routine of school, homework, and scheduled bed-times have helped the children adjust to a new environment. Staff is also able to better focus on the emotional, physical, and educational needs of each child. Collaboration with the West Point School District offers the children one-on-one tutoring, school supplies, and educational support through a daily, on-site afterschool program. This collaboration also allows the Resource Center program to provide character-education, parenting, and healthy relationship skills for local students. A special thank you to the West Point School District for your support of our program and your assistance with a positive school transition for the children we serve.

Sally Kate Winters Family Services has been excited to partner with United Way Agencies throughout North MS as they kicked-off their annual campaigns. United Way sets aside the months of September, October, and November to raise funds for community service organizations that are distributed throughout the year. We are fortunate to be recognized as a United Way agency. United Way funding allows our program to meet the individual needs of children placed in our care. Providing toothpaste, celebrating birthdays, and teaching children to skate are only a few examples of United Way dollars at work within our program. Please support your local United Way Campaign and become a part of the positive difference they are making in the community.

As always, our hats are off to Junior Auxiliary members who continue to provide countless volunteer hours on a monthly basis. JA members worked with the children in the emergency shelter program allowing our shelter staff to participate in a two-day "Managing Aggressive Behavior" training. Training is an important part of offering services to children and families, equipping staff with the skills to address the emotions and behaviors that surround family crisis. Junior Auxiliary has also continued to provide a monthly service project that involves personal interaction with children in the shelter and the purchase of classroom supplies for the Preschool Day Treatment program. We are also looking forward to partnering with them on a fundraising project in the spring.

Thanks to Laura Yelverton, SKW Program Coordinator, a Facebook Fan Page was developed outlining the mission of our agency and upcoming events offered through each program. Currently, a total of 260 fans have joined and the number continues to grow daily. We are excited with all the new technologies available to alert the community and our supporters of daily activities within our program. I am personally equally excited to have someone on staff that has the knowledge to develop and maintain these technologies.

As many of you are aware, the economic struggles of families during the past six months has limited the spending and giving spirit. Sally Kate Winters Family Services has experienced these uncertain times with you. Unfortunately, as stress falls on the family so does the potential for family violence and neglect of children. We are grateful to those individuals who have continued to seek out the needs of others in the middle of their own personal struggles. Those faithful donors have allowed us to offer a sense of hope for children and families in this community. Thank you for your continued support!



PROGRAM UPDATE:

Emergency Shelter Program: Emergency shelter services were provided for 30 children during the months of July, August, and September who received a total of 607 nights of services. The children ranged in age from 4 weeks thru 17 years representing the counties of Alcorn, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Clay, Hinds, Lowndes, Monroe, Neshoba, Oktibbeha, and Winston. The need for emergency shelter placement included 10% physical abuse; 3% sexual abuse; 77% neglect, 3% abandonment, and 7% need of supervision.

Overnight Respite Services: Overnight respite services were provided for five Monroe County children totaling fifteen nights of service. Foster parents throughout North MS are being encouraged to utilize the respite services offered. Respite services have proven to reduce stress within the home environment and renew the commitment of foster parenting.

Resource Center Program: Resource Center activities have been conducted through various partnerships within the community. The activities conducted in this quarter are as follows:

Parenting Classes – 21 classes/153 participants

Abstinence Education – 9 classes/218 participants

Fatherhood Initiative – 16 classes/96 fathers

Resource Library – 505 individuals

Teen Parent Support – 1 class/17 teens

Healthy Marriage – 9 classes/90 individuals

Foster Parent Recruitment: Eight applications have also been distributed to potential foster families within the area. Anyone interested in the foster parent program is encouraged to contact Laura Yelverton at 494-4867.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Members of Junior Auxiliary of West Point have joined our efforts of celebrating birthdays with the children in the emergency shelter program. Providing a "special day" complete with cake, ice cream, and a small gift brings smiles to children of all ages. The enjoyment of birthdays is often an event that most individuals take for granted but for these children, a birthday celebration is something many have never experienced. Whether it is their own birthday or they are a participant in the "celebration", birthdays are always fun for everyone.

Special thanks to each JA member who have been involved with this special project. Your ideas and enthusiasm are truly making a positive difference in the lives of local children.



STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



Pictured: Day One student, Arianna Gibson, plays a competitive game of Connect Four with a shelter resident.

The MSU Day One Leadership Community is a state-of-the-art program designed specifically for incoming freshmen-freshmen that want to be a success, are willing to be challenged, and want to make a life-changing difference from the start of university life. Day One teams plan and implement a "Service-Learning Project" that addresses a pressing need faced by their community partner. Sally Kate Winters has been involved with the Day One program for the last three years and is lucky to have a team of four fantastic freshman this year, Arianna Gibson, Hannah Seymour, Kyle Smith, and Kameca Woodard. They will be assisting shelter residents with homework and afterschool activities, fundraising by selling MSU themed school desks on campus, and providing a fun filled day to include sporting events, a campus tour, and dinner. Thanks Day One for your participation and support to our agency!

POEM WRITTEN BY A CHILD

"A Future For Me"

*There's a future for me, why can't they see.
I'm a beautiful young woman,
That's always going to be something.
I'm on this Earth for a purpose
That's why I'm walking strong on this surface.
I will not, I refuse to settle for less
because I deserve the best.
I will walk around with my head held up high,
while I'm looking in the sky.
I have a future.
Sometimes I'm so confused,
I just don't know what to do.
Very depressed and stressed,
But I've got to remember that I deserve the best.
There's a future for me and a place to be.
Stand strong young men and women,
It won't be long.
There's a future for me!
By Jabriel, 16 year old victim of neglect*

SOCIAL WORK INTERN

Latoya Hatchett is a volunteer intern through the Social Work Program at Mississippi State University. Latoya will graduate from MSU in December receiving a Bachelor of Social Work Degree. After graduation, Latoya plans to take the state licensure exam and pursue a career in the social work profession.

Through her internship, Latoya will volunteer a total of 520 hours of direct-service to SKW. She is providing assistance with Resource Center activities and case management activities with the Emergency Shelter Program. Latoya is very helpful and shares a true caring spirit for others. We are grateful for our partnership with the MSU Social Work Department which allows students to be involved with all aspects of our program.

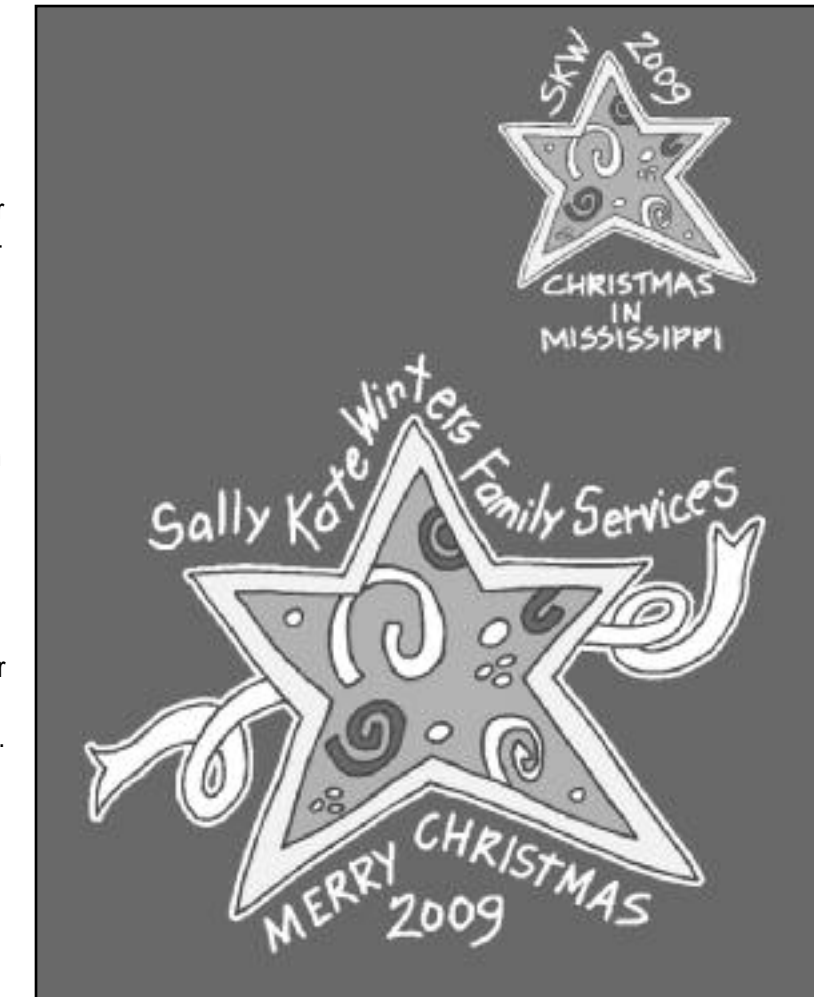


CHRISTMAS SHIRTS

The Christmas Shirt design has been completed and the shirts are currently being printed by Graphic Arts. The design is a colorful, whimsical star on a royal blue shirt. Shirts will be available for sale at the downtown Christmas open-house scheduled in West Point, Starkville, Aberdeen, and Amory during November. Pre-orders may be emailed to skw-paige@dixie-net.com prior to November. All shirts are \$15, available in adult sizes small-2x large and youth x-small-large.

The Christmas trivets will match the star design and are being painted by Tonda Riley, SKW Board Member. A total of 400 trivets are being painted and will be sold for \$12 each. The trivets can be preordered by contacting our office.

The shirts and trivets both make wonderful Christmas gifts and have become a local favorite for many years. This is one of three fundraising projects sponsored by the Board of Directors each year.



RUNAWAY AND HOMELESS YOUTH

Sally Kate Winters Family Services is pleased to announce the addition of Runaway and Homeless Youth Services - Basic Center Program funded through the Family and Youth Services Bureau. SKWFS has modeled the services offered from emergency shelter programs in South Mississippi in an effort of identifying gaps of services for runaway and homeless youth in North Mississippi. The Basic Center Program services began October 1, 2009 through a grant award made pursuant to the legislative authority of the Reconnecting Homeless Youth Act of 2008, Title III of Public Law 110-378 (as amended). The Basic Center Program is designed to provide temporary emergency shelter and support services that assist runaway and homeless youth in crisis, reunite youth with their families, and strengthen family relationships. Youth eligible for the program must meet the following criteria:

- *Runaway Youth* – A person under 18 years of age who absents himself or herself from home, or place of legal residence, without the permission of his or her family. (45 CFR 1351.1)
- *Youth At-Risk of Separation from the Family* – An individual who is less than 18 years of age; and who has a history of running away from the family of such individual whose parent, guardian, or custodian is not willing to provide for the basic needs of such individual; or who is at risk of entering the child welfare system or juvenile justice system as a result of the lack of services available to the family to meet such needs. (Section 387 RHY Act, as amended)

Under this program, Sally Kate Winters Family Services will designate four shelter beds to serve the Runaway and Homeless Youth Population in North Mississippi. An array of services will be offered utilizing direct services, a strong referral system, and various service linkages to meet the overwhelming needs of runaway and homeless youth. Community awareness will also be a strong component of the program to ensure that youth are aware of the services available and community leaders have the knowledge to secure these services for identified youth.