



July — Sep 2009

# FAMILY MATTERS...

## ...TO FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY!



VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

A Quarterly Publication for Private Circulation

Dear Friends,

The Family Shelter gave my daughter and me opportunities that other people take for granted. Having stability—a place to call home—brings a sense of security, safety and peace. All of which are essential for bringing wellness to my daughter's childhood years. I am grateful that she could experience the helping hands. I now have confidence in my abilities and I am able to build a firm foundation for my family's future.



I have encountered other residents involved in the Family Shelter's various programs who express the same ever-grateful attitude for the opportunity to be in a blessed environment under the wings of angels. The financial support and hard work that go on behind the scenes to make things happen, expand way beyond just the walls of the buildings we inhabit into our community. The Family Shelter has such a tremendous impact on people becoming self sufficient, that they, in turn become productive members of society. I am living testimony to this.

I currently work, and I am completing courses to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and my daughter is an advanced student and accelerated reader in the first grade. I know, without a doubt, that this has been possible because of my will and the



Cynthia Dew at the ticket counter with Sandra Willis, Director of Town Theatre

### BEAUTY & THE BEAST Fund Raiser at Town Theatre

Town Theatre graciously allowed the Family Shelter to use the final preview of Disney's Beauty and the Beast as a fund raiser. The event was a huge success generating over \$12,000 for the Shelter.

The extraordinary show was a 'standing room only' event, thoroughly enjoyed by both adults and children. What was truly

Family Shelter's ability to make a way.

We wholeheartedly appreciate the support and ask for your continued participation in assisting the Family Shelter to build strength and provide assistance for families in need.

Thank you,  
**Tiffani Ellison**  
A Housing Program Resident

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

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Board Member Shannon with guest Tara Williams at the Town Theatre foyer

remarkable was the production – managing the huge cast must have been quite a task! The sets were ingenious, the costumes dramatic, and the cast frolicked on stage and through the audience much to their delight.

Children from the Shelter were also present and had a great time.

A big 'Thank You!' to our many sponsors and to Town Theatre. We hope to make Town Theatre's summer preview an annual fundraiser for the Shelter.



Carolina Credit Union Foundation presents a generous check



Here's an EASY way to donate to the Family Shelter! JustGive.org connects wonderful people like you to organizations like us.

Please visit the Family Shelter website under the 'How to Help Section' to make a contribution!

Thank you for giving to the Family Shelter, and helping us serve homeless children and their families!

#### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

As advocates for keeping families together, the Family Shelter provides emergency shelter to homeless families with children, while coordinating services to alleviate the conditions that contributed to their individual circumstances.



*Volunteers help our children make gingerbread houses*

## **HOLIDAY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Homelessness is daunting at any-time, but being homeless during the holidays is disheartening, especially for children. That is why we are grateful to individuals, groups and organizations such as yours that participate in the Family Shelter Holiday Assistance Program.

The Holiday Assistance program was begun to spread Christmas cheer to less fortunate families and is

*Photograph on the Masthead: Our children enjoy an evening at Grace Church's Trunk or Treat on Halloween.*

meant to fulfill the immediate needs of the family rather than the 'wants'. We welcome educational toys or books, 30-day bus passes, prepaid phone cards, household supplies, personal hygiene items and gift cards.

You can also help our families throughout the year through our Direct Family Assistance Fund. This fund helps our families as they move out of the shelter to transitional housing. A donation of \$1,000 will provide rent and utility deposit for one family, \$500 will provide utility deposits for three families, and \$150 will fill prescriptions for much needed medication.

To protect the privacy of our families, Family Shelter does not provide the name and addresses of our participating families, and we also do not give out your personal information. You will, however, receive a personal note from the family acknowledging your gift.

**The Family Shelter**  
P.O. Box 7781  
Columbia, SC 29202



## **1st Annual Brews, Bluegrass, & BBQ**

**An evening of Food, Music & Charity**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2009**  
**5:30pm 'til 9:00pm**

*All proceeds benefit The Family Shelter*

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Hellenic Center  
Downtown Columbia  
Corner of Sumter and Calhoun



**\$30 Tickets**

**Beer, Wine & Barbeque**  
**Live music provided by**  
**Papa String Band**  
**&**  
**Black Water**

*Fabulous Door Prizes & Photo Exhibit*

*For Advanced Tickets call 803.771.7040*

*The Family Shelter is a proud partner of United Way*



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