

LEGACY

WINTER 2011 A PUBLICATION OF LENA POPE HOME, INC.

HOME IS WHERE
THE HOPE IS.



Director's Page

"Home for the Holidays" — it's a common refrain we hear a lot at this time of year. Through music, movies, or television, the theme of coming home is all around us. And for many of us, the holiday season brings us back not only to a physical place, but most importantly, to spend time with our close family and friends.



Todd A. Landry, Executive Director

At Lena Pope, "home" is not only part of our name but it's also the central part of our mission. We have a core belief that kids grow best in a home surrounded by people who love and care for them. Success at home is critical to a child's success in life. That's why we invest much of our resources to the essential help we provide to ensure that families and kids can stay together and thrive together in their own homes. Research supports this and so does common sense. If we can help a family stay together and succeed, their long term prospects and the future of our community is much improved. In that respect, home really is where the hope is.

So this year as you head home for the holidays, or your family heads home to you, I ask you to remember our home — Lena Pope Home — in the gifts you give. With your support, we can continue to make sure that all of our kids and their families have hope, happiness, and success where it matters the most – in their homes.

From our family to yours, we wish you a happy holiday season and thank you for your support of our kids, our families, and our community.

Todd A. Landry



Happy Holidays

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Legacy is published by Lena Pope Home, Inc., a non-profit agency. As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

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Holiday Spirit

Each year, Lena Pope Home has dozens of inquiries from good-hearted people looking for ways to help fill the holiday gaps for the children and families we serve. Here are some ways you can help this holiday season.

ADOPT AN ANGEL

Little ones of all ages love the thrill of a holiday gift. Our angel forms make it easy to please a child of any age with his own wishes and sizes.

ADOPT A FAMILY

From single parent families to multi-generational households, adopting a family during the season can address many needs. These lists may include basic needs such as bedding or a holiday meal, as well as special gifts under the tree for everyone. Families with the greatest needs are selected for this special holiday "adoption."

If you would like to support our children and families during this holiday season or during the coming year, please contact Abigail Bebee at 817-255-2662 or abebbee@lenapopehome.org.



Going to the
LINE

by Jerry Murray

Rena Ware, Cardell Hicks



ardell Hicks sat in the big armchair, watching me carefully as he spun his basketball around in his hands. He's got the kind of soft gentle eyes and shy, braces-embellished smile that belies his recent journey through Tarrant County's juvenile justice system. Respectful and confident, he finished most of his sentences with, "yes sir," and his eye contact was direct and piercing. You might have thought this young man was pushing 16 years old, but he proudly declared he will turn 14 a few days before Thanksgiving. Basketball, at the moment, is his life.

Cardell and his mother Rena are halfway through Lena Pope Home's Functional Family Therapy (FFT) program, an evidence-based practice. After a couple of weeklong stays at "Kimbo", Tarrant County's juvenile justice detention center, Cardell was mandated by the court to complete the program. Like many children trailblazing through life at his pivotal age, he stands at the crossroads of success or failure. His "at-risk" behaviors included hanging out with a rough group of friends, truancy, running away, and experimenting with marijuana.

"I just didn't understand where all this was coming from," Rena said. As a single mother, she has pushed her children hard to achieve their potential. Her three school-aged kids, 16-year-old Carneshia, and twins Cardell and Cordell, have always been on the A/B Honor Roll. Cardell's grades naturally plummeted when he started getting into trouble. "Both of my parents were drug addicts, and I've worked really hard to ensure my kids never have to go through what I went through," she continued. "They have no idea what it's like to come home to a house with the power cut off, or hardly any food in the kitchen."

Their FFT counselor, Nicole Flechas, has been working with Cardell and Rena since July, and spends approximately an hour with the two of them once a week at their home in Hurst. Cardell commented, "Ms. Nicole has helped us a lot, I think. I told her when we first got started that I didn't think my mom communicated with me very well." Hearing this, Rena let out a long, loud, contagious laugh. "That was a big shock," she admitted. "I felt like I was with my kids all the time, talking and doing what families do. What Cardell was really asking for, I think, was not just spending time together rushing around, but doing the kinds of things that brings us closer together," Rena said.

"One evening, Ms. Nicole surprised us with a game of Jenga," Rena went on to explain. "For each piece

you took out of the tower, you were allowed to ask a question from a stack of cards. They were really big questions, like, 'How do you feel about me?' There were definitely a lot of tears shed that evening, and we didn't even come close to knocking down the Jenga," she said with another belly laugh. Rena described another session when she and Cardell role played as each other. She commented, "It was both very funny and eye opening to hear each other pretend to be the other person. Ms. Nicole has definitely helped us understand each other better."

Since starting Functional Family Therapy, Cardell's grades have shot back up. He's also made Hurst Junior High's varsity basketball team as starting point guard. His twin brother starts as the shooting guard. I asked him what motivated him to make these significant and substantial changes. Three things came to his mind. "When I spent a week in the detention center, that was not a good experience. I was in a room by myself nearly the whole time, and I don't ever want to go back there again," he said. "I also realized that all this trouble was hard on my family, especially my mom. She had to take off work a lot to come to court and stuff." His last thought left him with a huge grin on his face. "I also wanted to play basketball," he said, spinning the ball faster. "I knew without good grades, I'd never play."



As Nicole nurtures mother and son through the process of better communication and positive family dynamics, she is only as far away as a phone call. "We've met some incredible people through this experience," Rena said, "and Nicole is at the top of the list." Cardell chimed in, "If I'm having a bad day, I can call her." When asked about his dreams, it was self evident that the 29.5-inch orange ball in his hands was going to play a big part. "I really want to play basketball," he said. "But you need something to fall back on, in case that doesn't work out," his mother replied. With the smile that lingered between them, and their unspoken love that filled up the moment, it was clear that Rena and her son have learned to share their thoughts and feelings, and find that perfect blend between hopes, dreams and the rest of life that fills in the gaps.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

18th Golf Classic presented by Nike® Golf

Eighteen years of eighteen holes equals wonderful fun and incredible support for children and families in our community. We are so grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, Nike®Golf for once again contributing their talent and support to our great day at Hawk's Creek. Our friends at Lockheed Martin were also tremendously generous in sharing their awesome F35 Flight Simulator and demonstration at our exclusive pretournament party at Nike®Golf.

We deeply appreciate the sold out field of sponsors and players as Allen Mederos and John Sammons, III led a tremendous committee for another record year. Our heartfelt gratitude to our video producer, Red Productions, our auction donors, and our wonderful food sponsors, Bob's Steak and Chop House, Fuzzy's Taco Shop, Lanny's Alta Cocina Mexicana and Shula's 347 Grill.

Save the Date for 2012 – Friday, October 12!



Marvin Branch, Randy Rhodes, Richard Burt, Jon Thomas



Chapel Hill Academy Golf Club members welcome golfers.



CHA students learn to putt!

Fall Kick Off

The Young Professional Advocates kicked off their 6th year at the home of longtime board member Kaydee and Bill Bailey. For a firsthand look at all the festivities, please check out the YPA Facebook page!

As part of the evening, the 2011-2012 YPA Steering Committee was announced; Chair – Brandon Waits, Vice Chair – Corey Scott, Rooftop Rock – Melanie Jones and Cass Rodgers, Service – Denise Semple and John Sammons, Membership – Allison Miller, Pen Pals – Randi Mitchell and Courtney Summers, Communication – Amy Porter, Volunteers – Lyndsay Greer, Education – Katherine Niederer, At Large – Lauren Kwedar.



John Sammons and Joe Lancarte work the YPA Mega Grill.

Pen Pals



YPA Pen Pal co-chairs, Randi Mitchell and Courtney Summers, have teamed up with Chapel Hill Academy's fourth grade teacher, Macie Warden, to launch something new. Eighteen YPA members were assigned to eighteen students, and in early November began writing letters to one another. Ms.

Warden allows the YPA Pen Pals access to her class website, which includes her curriculum and weekly newsletter. This allows the YPA Pen Pals the opportunity to engage and encourage their students in their studies during the year.

The Pen Pal team kicked off the program by having a contest in Ms. Warden's classroom to create the Pen Pal logo. Two logos were chosen for the stationery that both



the YPAs and the students use for the letters. A Meet and Greet at CHA will take place before Christmas, giving the Pen Pals the opportunity to meet face to face and enjoy lunch together. The year of writing will conclude as the YPAs cheer on their Pals at fourth grade graduation; new friendships and skills built upon sharing and encouragement.

Delicious Results!

The 2011 KRLD Restaurant Week has set another record number of diners, which equals another record donation to Lena Pope Home. Central Market Fourth Course participants were up, and long time supporters of the one- to three-week Foodie dream are convinced that dining out for charity is calorie free!

Our sincere thanks to the 26 incredible restaurants, their hard working staff and the many people who enjoyed the delicious days of dining out. More than \$95,000 net was raised, all to benefit the many children and families served by Lena Pope Home each day. We express our gratitude to all.



Chapel Hill Academy is “Recognized”

Chapel Hill Academy opened its doors this August for its fourth year, welcoming well over 412 students. The sounds of excited children on that first day of school were accompanied by the sounds of construction as the final stages of the renovations continued.

Construction detours and extra fencing did nothing to dampen the excitement as the students and their families entered the new lobby and cafetorium, searching for their cheery, freshly painted home rooms.

The expansion was not the only reason for celebrating. During summer vacation, Chapel Hill Academy received official notice from the Texas Education Agency of its “Recognized” status. The 2010-2011 school year was the first year that Chapel Hill Academy’s student body included third graders. Ninety-one percent (91%) of 3rd grade reading scores met the standard, with 38% reaching Commended Performance. Eighty-four percent (84%) of the 3rd grade Math scores met the standard with 25% reaching Commended Performance. “The students were well prepared and enthusiastic about the testing. I could not be any prouder,” says Victoria Sendejo, Principal, Chapel Hill Academy.



After School Enrichment at Chapel Hill Academy

After school hours for some children can be a time of boredom, excessive TV, or idle waiting for parents to arrive from work. With this in mind, Chapel Hill Academy offers several options for students to fill those after school hours with fun and engaging learning opportunities.

For the third year, CHA has rolled out several after school clubs. With offerings in different grade levels, some of the clubs are led by CHA staff, like the Choir and Art Clubs, as well as the Chess Club. Other activities are led by community volunteers, including a very popular Yoga Club, our first Eagles Flag Football team, and an upcoming Golf Club, sponsored by First Tee. A minimum fee is charged for a few of the clubs, such as the returning Dance and Tae Kwon Do instruction. We are so grateful to the teachers and community volunteers who are offering their time and talents to enrich our students.



CHA Eagles take a breather during a game.



SAVE THE DATE

*Chapel Hill Academy
Expansion Celebration
and Open House*

Wednesday
January 11, 2012
10:00 AM — 12:00 AM

A Gift That Lasts Forever

Memorial and Honorary Gifts through the Circle of Hope

If you have a family member or friend whose life is one you would like to honor, we hope you'll consider making a gift to us in their name. By making a gift to the Circle of Hope, you give a living tribute that allows you to:

- Honor a loved one or yourself
- Support our continuing efforts
- Receive personal financial benefits from your contribution.

You may feel reluctant to condition your gift upon personal recognition. Yet allowing us to use your name or the name of a loved one can inspire philanthropy in others and further a cause that is important to you.

Giving Now or Later

Any charitable gift you arrange can be made in honor of someone. Consider these two basic methods of establishing an honorary gift.

A gift today—An outright gift can help fund our immediate needs or an upcoming project. The financial benefits include an income tax deduction and possible elimination of capital gains tax.

A gift through your will or living trust—You can include a bequest in your will or living trust stating



that a specific asset, certain dollar amount or — more commonly — a percentage of your estate will pass to Lena Pope Home at your death in honor of your loved one.

No matter which basic method you choose, you have the ability to endow your gift so that it lasts forever. Endowments are structured so that a small portion of your gift, rather than the whole amount, is used each year to fund a particular purpose. To perpetuate the fund forever, the majority of the fund always remains intact and is invested for the future.

Your Next Step

Making an honorary gift is a wonderful way to acknowledge your vision for the future. Depending on the nature of your gift, there are a variety of ways we can recognize your generosity.

Please contact Marilyn Sammons at 817-255-2606 or msammons@lenapopehome.org to learn more about ways to recognize yourself or your honoree.

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A Parker County Father Finds Hope in Counseling



Thanks to the United Way of Parker County, Elise, a Lena Pope Home therapist, has been able to experience the success of seeing a family grow stronger together, once given the right tools.

This summer, a single father of three realized the conflict within his home was out of his control, and he needed help. The children's mother has struggled with substance abuse, and it became necessary for dad and his kids to separate from her. Once on their own, their lives were not much easier. By the time he sought help, one child was deeply depressed with thoughts of suicide, while another was angry and getting into fights at school. They were encouraged to attend counseling as a family. It didn't take long for them to find that they had rediscovered hope.

Like most families, they had numerous strengths, but needed support to find the skills to function



successfully and happily again. Spending the time together in counseling motivated them as they learned new communication skills and began rebuilding the bonds they had felt in the past. Today, the father has completed his GED and enrolled in community college. His children are adjusting well to the new school year, and he feels confident that they are all back on the right path.

We are grateful to the community of Parker County to have helped support our efforts and this family. Without generous community support, this family might find themselves another sad statistic rather than finding hope within their home.

Lena Pope Home Family Matters Counseling is available in five locations: Fort Worth, Arlington, Hurst, Weatherford and Granbury.

Issues addressed include:

- School issues
- Relationship Skills
- Parenting Skills
- Aggression Management
- Substance Abuse
- Social Skills
- Depression

For more information please call 817-255-2652.

Contributors

Donations from June 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011

Benefactor \$20,000+

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Donald L. Hutt Trust
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The Sunrise Assisted Living Center loaded up the people mover to donate backpacks to Chapel Hill Academy. Thank you!

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Sweethearts Dessert Fantasy

Presented by
Calloway's Nursery

Save the Date
Sunday February 26, 2012
Fort Worth Club

Fort Worth's Finest Chefs
Amazing Desserts and Fantasy Cakes

Visit lenapopehome.org for more information.



Del Frisco's serves up another record check to Lena Pope Home for Restaurant Week, totalling \$26,250.00! Thank you!

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 Ms. Shanna Hughes
 Ms. Sarah Ingram
 J.C. Penney Co., Inc.
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 Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Jones
 Ms. Melanie A. Jones
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 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sampson
 Mr. and Mrs. Stan

Memorials

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 Ms. Mamie Ellis
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 Lockheed Martin Flight Services



DFW Police and Firefighters volunteer at Chapel Hill Academy

Peggy Markley Fisher

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Thanks for Calloway's Nursery, cyclamens are once again in bloom for Lena Pope Home.





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If you receive duplicate mailings or no longer wish to receive this magazine, please let us know by calling 817-255-2646 or email kniederer@lenapopehome.org.



Calendar of Events

For information about Lena Pope Home's Special Events call 817-255-2616, or visit www.lenapopehome.org

January 11, 2012	Chapel Hill Academy Expansion Celebration and Open House
January 30, 2012	YPA/CHA Math and Science Night
February 9, 2012	Community Connect Luncheon
February 26, 2012	Sweethearts Dessert Fantasy
March 8, 2012	Community Connect Luncheon
April 24, 2012	Fiesta de Oro at Joe T Garcia's



The Marty Leonard Community Chapel is available to anyone seeking a spiritual refuge while on Lena Pope Home's campus. It is also available for weddings and other events.

Please visit the Chapel website for more information: martyleonardchapel.org, or call Katherine at 817-255-2576.