

Boys and Girls Homes Strategic Plan 2006

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a residential and foster care program that provides social guidance in conjunction with academic and spiritual education sufficient to give each child the tools needed to become a productive member of society.

History and Future Plans

Boys and Girls Homes was founded at Lake Waccamaw in 1954 as Boys Home, Inc. to provide residential care for boys. It subsequently became a statewide organization accepting boys from across the state and acquired the financial support of all of the major civic organizations in the state. In 1979 Boys Homes of North Carolina merged with Girls Haven of North Carolina to become the current organization of Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. The primary program of care for boys and girls was an on-campus residential program.

In 1998 the Family Foster Care Program was adopted by the Board of Trustees as part of the expanded program of care in the surrounding counties of southeastern North Carolina. In 2004 Boys and Girls Homes became a licensed adoption agency for those children in the foster care program.

The Lake Waccamaw campus comprises 150 acres including a 108-acre working farm. In addition to the residences for children the campus buildings include financial and administrative offices, a gymnasium, school, vocational building, girls activity center, a chapel, and maintenance building. The farm is also the site of The Exhibition Center and is adjacent to The Country Store.

Children who come to Boys and Girls Homes are referred by the local county Departments of Social Services or a “private referral” from a school, church or individual. They come from a wide variety of social situations which make it necessary to remove them permanently or temporarily from their current home environment.

Since its inception, almost 3500 children have been enrolled at Boys and Girls Homes. Our alumni consist of over 100 college graduates with at least a bachelor’s degree and many more who graduated from high school and have gone on to receive degrees from community colleges and technical schools. Many of our graduates have returned to serve on the staff in various capacities and four have served on the Board of Trustees including one who was Chairman of the Board.

Over the next three years we plan to continue our residential care program with a shifting focus toward an emphasis on education. This educational expansion will involve a continuum of care that starts with the residential program of Preparation for Independent Living in the cottage. This will address the particular needs of our older residential

population which has increased as a result of state referral policy. The PIL program is also tied in directly to our expanded program of spiritual development. It is extremely important that our children realize the role that God plays in their lives and it is our responsibility to help them develop that relationship.

By expanding the academic education program we will be providing a unique service for the children of the state and utilizing the particular program and financial assets which we have developed. The result of reaching these goals is that we will have given our children not only the tools to make a living but also the tools to make a life.

I. Program Goals and Strategies

A. Continue to provide a residential program of care for children 9 through 18 years of age and a family foster care program for infants to 18 years old as well.

1. By utilizing the Teaching Family Model we will address the socialization skills of each child on an individual basis.

B. Expand the Development and Implementation of the Preparation for Independent Living Program

1. As the average age of the campus population increases more older children will be added to the program.
2. Children will clarify their life goals and roles by developing a plan for the future.
3. Various career opportunities and the required preparation for entering those careers, i.e., education, training, etc. will be presented.
4. Children will learn about specific, day-to-day requirements for maintaining personal financial stability.
5. Children will be presented with specific rules of conduct needed to present themselves well in a business and social situation.

C. Expand the area of spiritual development and religious education by helping each child to understand his relationship to God and the role that relationship plays in their lives.

1. Provide individualized spiritual counseling for each child through daily interaction with staff.
2. Provide group activities within the chapel program to teach scriptural lessons.

3. Provide a program of individual and group music which will engage each child in the worship experience.
4. Provide training to all childcare staff in ways to teach scriptural values through everyday experiences.
5. Maximize the use of the chapel facility by having visiting youth groups, ministers, and musical services.

D. Expand the focus on Academic Education

1. Continue the utilization of the tutorial program as a major part of the effort to meet the basic academic requirements for the state of North Carolina.
2. Maintain the Boys and Girls Homes School (grades 4 through 8) on the campus for residents of Boys and Girls Homes under the supervision of the Columbus County Board of Education.
3. Help in every way to maintain the on-campus school program and facilities to meet the requirements for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
4. Develop an on-campus program for high school students (similar to an alternative school) to address the particular needs of those students who are temporarily unable to function in a traditional classroom environment.
5. Provide individual counseling and guidance to students in preparation for entering higher education.
6. Provide individual counseling and guidance to those former residents who are students in a higher education program.