

OUR MISSION:

To provide a safe and secure home environment for teens in foster care so that emotional healing and development of personal and family living skills may occur.

# Growth... Perseverance... Success

As we look back on 2023 and read testimonies from our girls, we have found a common theme in their stories since coming to Angel's House: **growth and perseverance**. The first line of our mission statement is to provide a safe and secure environment for teens. For 19 years, we have worked to build a home characterized by love, support, and stability. Our goal is for our teens to feel safe in the present, work to heal from their past and begin to plan for their future.

Below are some quotes from our current angels which mean the world to us as they clearly show that staying true to our mission is helping change the trajectory of our girls' lives:

"Since being at Angel's House I have been able to focus on my future and let go of my past to live my life to the fullest. They also taught me responsibility and patience. They once told me that "we can't forget our trauma" but we can learn how to live beyond it. After all that I went through, I have learned that I can still have a life that I love, and Angel's House has helped me see this. They have taught us courage and purpose. I am so thankful for Angel's House." — 13 year-old

"While being at Angel's House, they have helped me open up to the people around me, grow in my faith, control my emotions, and learn how to be a better person overall. I have learned what it is like to have consistency and discipline while also being shown that they care." -14-year old

"Angel's House gave me a home and took me in without any judgment." -16 year-old

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We'd like to take a minute and brag on our residents and their accomplishments — we are SO PROUD of them!

#### Middle Schoolers:

- A/B Honor Roll\*
- Academic Achievement Award\*
- Distinguished Learner Award\*
- Principals Award
- Junior Beta Club
- President's
- Education Award
   Academic Bowl
- 8th Grade Formal
- Highest GPA of the 8th grade
- Student Ambassador
- Chorus
- Library Page
- Band
- Junior JROTC

\*several residents

#### High Schoolers:

- Chorus
- · Drama Club
- Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- JROTC

- · Lion King Musical
- · Kitty Hawk Honors Society
- Environmental Club
- Homecoming Parade participation and Float Building

#### College Students:

- Completed Freshman year of college and successfully launched as sophomores
- · Model UN Participant
- Mock Trial
- Leadership role and mentor with Lettie Pate Scholars
- Leader of a service group at the local food pantry
- · Bible Study leader

- Supervisor in the Athletic Department
- General Production of the Gothic Festival
- Day of the Dead Formal Decorations
- · Allergy Awareness Group
- · Weekly Bible Study
- Foreign Language and Philosophy Offices' Student Administrative Assistant

# Care Provided at Angel's House:

Since opening through September 30, 2023

Number of Children: 278

Days of Care: 46,117

Male: **33**Female: **245** 

Children from

Coweta County: 62%

Avg. Days Stayed: 168 Days

Current Average: 889 Days

Longest Placement: 2,486 Days

#### **Board of Directors**

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## **Angel's House Staff**

Our **Direct Care Staff** are two sets of house "parents" who live at Angel's House with the girls 24/7 on a rotating bi-weekly schedule. **The V's - Erik and Angela Vielhaber** have been with Angel's House since 2009 and employed at GBCH & FM since 2005. They partner with **Chris and Carol Martin**, who joined us last year after returning from the mission field in Africa to guide, support and love on our residents. Both are wonderful role models for our girls!

They are supported by an Administrative Assistant, Debbie Neal who joined us in 2022 and led by a Program Coordinator, who ensures the house team operates smoothly and in full compliance with all state regulations. We are actively recruiting to fill our open Program Coordinator position (see Careers | GBCH&FM (georgiachildren.org) for details). In the interim, the role is being filled by Georgia Baptist team member Sharon Wallace. Thank you Sharon for your help and support!

"Reflecting on the past year, we are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve the girls living at Angel's House. Our hearts are full of joy as we witness their resilience and strength in their healing process. We are proud of the progress they have made academically and personally, and thankful for the dedication of all the other staff, who provide them with a safe and loving home. We look forward to seeing the continual growth and health of these young ladies as they reach their full potential. Serving at Angel's House over the last year has been a very rewarding experience for us." — Chris & Carol Martin







Continued from Cover Page

"Over the past seven years, Angel's House helped me become an amazing student with amazing grades when I was not doing well in school. Not only that, but they helped me grow in my faith in God. Most importantly, **they helped me realize that I could choose my family.** I get to choose Angel's House as my family, and I am eternally grateful for them." - 19-year old

In addition, one of our angels wrote a speech for her public speaking class that embodies what we hope every single one of our angels feel from living at Angel's House. We hope they all grow and overcome obstacles life throws their way knowing we are here for them to provide security and shelter.

"Growing up, I lived with my grandparents. Some might think, "oh wow, how fun." Sadly, it was the opposite. I was always told I would never amount to anything and that I would grow up to be just like my lowlife parents. I was told that I was stupid and dumb. Sadly, I believed it for a long time. I genuinely thought I was nothing. I stopped trying in life, I stopped trying to believe there was hope for me until I was rescued and saved by the grace of God. That is when things changed for me. I was placed in a home called Angel's House, and they helped me overcome the thoughts I once believed. It was hard. But I started to see the brighter side of things. I accomplished so many things and started to believe I was worth something and I am. I am an overcomer; I overcame the horrid thoughts that once haunted me and left me paralyzed with fear. As I am older and I look at how far I have come, I am thankful. I appreciate how far I have come and believe that I can overcome any obstacle in my life. I am now a junior in college and I have done everything I was told I couldn't. Even further, I will graduate with a degree in Criminal Justice and will be an advocate for those who have a story like mine and show them how they can overcome their situations." — Angilina, 22-year old

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We are extremely grateful for the generosity of these dedicated gracious donors. Thank you!

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> In honor of Gina Watkiss Clothes Less Traveled

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Theo Wilcoxon Mrs. Harriett Palmer



If you would like to make a donation in honor of or in memory of a loved one, please be sure to attach a note including his/her name and address along with your check or gift card so those being honored may be notified. We offer printed cards so that you may personally notify your honoree. Call us at 770-251-7050 to request cards. Our address is P.O. Box 657, Newnan, GA 30264. You will find a self-addressed contribution envelope enclosed with this newsletter.

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As we attempt to list all who have contributed to Angel's House in the past year, we risk the inadvertent omission of someone from our list.

If we have neglected to include your name, please accept our apology and contact *info@theangelshouse.org*.



Scan the QR code for a direct link to our current Amazon wish list



Consider making a year end gift to Angel's House







Georgia Baptist Children's Homes and Family Ministries, Inc. is contracted by the Angel's House board and oversees the day to day operations of the home. They provide our outstanding administrators and our loving house parents. The current annual budget to keep Angel's House operational is over \$420,000. The stipends received from the state work to offset these expenses, but we are extremely dependent on monetary and in-kind donations.

Monetary donations in any amount are appreciated and may be sent to PO Box 657, Newnan Georgia 30264. Please contact *info@theangelshouse.org* for more information.

# **GIVING HIGHLIGHTS**



Teenager Landry Wasdin asked for donations to Angel's House instead of gifts for her birthday. We loved this idea and asked her to share why she did it. Here's what she told us: "Since I was about six years old, I have collected donations for different organizations instead of receiving gifts for myself. So why do I choose to donate to Angel's House? Well, the short version is it makes me really happy. But if you want the whole story, it's because I believe all girls my age should get the same chances I do. Where they come from shouldn't stop them from achieving awesome things. It's so cool to think about how they grow and make a positive impact on our future. Knowing that I played a part in that makes me so, so happy. I hope to keep giving and supporting a place filled with love and kindness, and hope my donations get bigger every year!"

Thank you Landry for sharing your heart and your birthday with us!



Board members Kim Ward and Lauren Smith working at the **Kiwanis Coweta County Fair** in September. We are so thankful to be one of the beneficiaries of this wonderful event each year!



Team Leader, Les Lane from Keller Williams Stockbridge presents a donation from Kares for Kids to Board Member Stephanie Searcy. Keller Williams Kares for Kids also sponsored a Costco trip to restock our pantry.



Clothes Less Traveled thrift store donates the proceeds of their sales to local charities. This donation was made in honor of board member Gina Watkiss, pictured right. In appreciation, she and fellow board member Kim Ward took advantage of the opportunities to give back by serving in the store.



Newnan Presbyterian Church was a faithful supporter of Angel's House throughout this year. Their community made a generous donation plus purchase two new freezers for the house and gift cards to stock them. House parent Chris Martin happily assists the team from Clayton Appliance with the delivery!





Our residents enjoyed several cultural events this year thanks to the **Nixon**Centre of the Performing Arts. They attended the production of Midsummer Nights Dream. Several girls got to experience the theater first hand at Theater Camp this summer which include acting in a production of Finding Nemo. We are so grateful for the opportunity to try new things!



We are so thankful for Stingray Gymnastics Cartersville who chose Angel's House as the non-profit beneficiary at their House of Angels gymnastics meet. They hosted almost 700 athletes in a two-day event from all over Georgia and Florida and raised funds for field trips and activities for our residents. Pictured here is Manager & Coach Vickie Mouser presenting a check to house parents Angela and Erik Vielhaber.







The **Starr's Mill High School Girls and Boys Lacrosse** programs chose Angel's House as the beneficiary of their annual Battle of the Bubble games against hometown rival McIntosh. The teams and fans contributed much needed household and personal items plus made a generous financial donation. Thank you to all who participated!



Angels Give Back: In appreciation for all they've received, our Angels pay it forward and look for opportunities to serve others within our community.

One event the girl's participated in was the Rainbow Run put on by Abby's Angels Foundation. This charity is near and dear to our hearts as they play a huge part in the success of our girls at Angel's House. We are so thankful to have our own Abby's closet and to be part of her ongoing story.



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Thank You Sponsors! O'Ca aghan The Reverends David & Darcie Jones KAM, EBERSBACH & LEWIS Andrew McDonald NEWNAN FIRST Cindy & Greg Owens Lauren & Bennet Smith Donna & Don Smith WELDEN Mrs. Jean Thomas ACK PEEK'S SALES INC **Crange**theory ] Piedmont BRONZE SPONSOR D Phillips LLC Karen and Jeff Man: PrintSource Dr and Mrs Chip Cole Rev and Mrs Charles Re The McKnight Family Card My Yard The Ward Family The Wise Family Elizabeth and Clay Williams Knox Furniture Sally and Harris Anderson Edie and Frank Eldride Knov Powell Design 11C Southern Crescent Equine Services Friends of Lynn R. Smith, I Lindsey's Inc. Realtors Unity Baptist Church South State Bank Matrix Insurance Agency, Inc Geeslin Group LLC The Cellar Chophouse & Bay Crain Oil Company I

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Angel's House provides a safe, nurturing home for teen girls in crisis. Some are removed from their homes and placed in DFCS custody because of abuse, neglect or risky behaviors. Some are transitioning between foster homes or are faced with other circumstances that require immediate assistance. The girls who come through our doors receive the shelter, structure, and care they need to maximize their potential for success. Our girls may stay for a night or several months, and thanks to your help we are able to secure their safety and well-being by providing a sense of family that lasts a lifetime.

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