



SPRING 2022

**AGAPE**  
of North Carolina

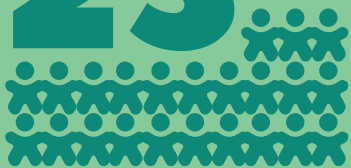
## STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ONE CHILD AT A TIME

**OUR MISSION** AGAPE of NC exists to provide professional social services as a compassionate Christian outreach to strengthen children and families.

**OUR VALUES** Children deserve Christian families, care and compassion, excellence in the provision of services, best interest of clients, financial integrity, responsible stewardship and ethical Christian standards.

### THE NUMBERS AS OF FEBRUARY 2022

23



Foster Children in Care

30

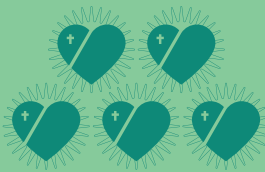
Licensed  
Foster  
Homes



11

Foster Families in Training

5



Anticipated 2022 Adoptions

### IN THIS NEWSLETTER

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# HOLIDAY HELPERS

from Cary Church of Christ

We're not sure how long the members of Cary Church of Christ have been serving as "Holiday Helpers," to provide Christmas gifts for families in need. But since at least 2017, they've assisted "Santa Claus" in bringing Joy to quite a few children and teens in the care of AGAPE families!

Over the years, these Holiday Helpers have generously purchased new toys, books, games, crafts and art supplies, sports equipment, bicycles and scooters, clothes, coats, hats,

gloves and mittens, and gift cards for shoes and boots that were on some of our kids' Wish Lists. Gifts for each youngster are lovingly wrapped in colorful Christmas paper or bags and tied up with ribbons or bows. Then, the decorated packages are carefully sorted for pick-up by AGAPE of NC - so our social workers can deliver the presents to grateful parents for placement under their Christmas trees.

AGAPE wants to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has served as a Holiday Helper over the years! Our Foster Parents always report back that their kids had an amazing Christmas morning - thanks to your wonderful donations!



## FROM OUR FAMILIES:

### ***The clothes, coats, shoes, and boots:***

"fit perfectly!" "were really needed because he's outgrown everything we had!" "were a huge hit!" "were exactly the color and style she wanted!" "were so much fun to shop for together!"

### ***The crafts and art supplies:***

"give us an opportunity to work together on projects!" "really allow our kids to express themselves in positive ways!"

### ***The games, toys, and books:***

"are played with almost daily!" "we read nightly!" "provide good family fun and we love that time spent together!" "help the kiddos learn new skills!"

### ***The bikes and scooters:***

"provide excellent exercise!" "gave me a chance to help him learn to ride and he was soooo excited!" "allowed her to keep up with brothers, sisters, and friends!"

So, we deeply appreciate Cary Church of Christ's Holiday Helpers for their kindness, understanding, and willingness to support AGAPE Families in this way. Holidays can bring on additional stresses for everyone, especially Foster Parents and the young ones in their care. Thank you for relieving those who've needed it by lifting the "Santa Bag" off their shoulders and fulfilling some Christmas Wishes. Blessings to YOU ALL!



# Appreciation for AGAPE's **HUMBLE DONORS**

AGAPE of North Carolina tries to express our appreciation to each Donor who provides financial and/or other support during our Annual Giving campaigns and/or other times throughout the year. Sometimes, though, there are Donors we do not have an opportunity to thank personally. So periodically, we like to acknowledge and convey our deepest gratitude to "Humble Donors" who share their resources with AGAPE of NC.

*AmazonSmile Donors who have chosen to support AGAPE of NC so that Amazon donates to our agency .05% of all their eligible purchases. (We received \$1,499 from AmazonSmile Shoppers in 2021!)*

*Churches and Community Partners who share events and resources with AGAPE to raise awareness and lift up the families serving North Carolina's foster and adoption community.*

*Donors who designate AGAPE of NC as a beneficiary in their estate plans.*

*Universities who encourage Interns and Volunteers to contribute their time and talents to help others through AGAPE of NC.*

*Supporters who make cash donations, online credit card donations, or send checks Anonymously or decline to provide personal contact information.*

*Donors who give to AGAPE via Donor Advised Funds like Fidelity Charitable but opt not to have their name disclosed.*

*Facebook Donors who contributed through Facebook's Charitable Foundation. (These Donors are Anonymous to AGAPE because of Facebook's Privacy Policies.)*

*Donors who send funds to AGAPE through their local United Way organizations.*

*Donors who purchased goods on AGAPE's previous AmazonSmile Charity Shopping and Wishlists and had those goods delivered directly to us for various initiatives.*

*Corporate Employers - like Duke Energy, IBM, Wells Fargo, and Willis Towers Watson LLC - who offer Payroll Deduct, Matching Gift, and Volunteer Service Programs... along with the individual employees who participate in those programs.*

*Other Fundraisers - who set up their own personal Fundraising Campaigns for AGAPE and invited their family and friends to contribute - and the Donors who did!*

"Humble Donors," AGAPE appreciates your spirit of humility as well as your giving hearts. Respecting your desire for privacy, we just want you to know that, paraphrasing 1 Thessalonians 5:18, AGAPE seeks only to "give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will..." We know HE already knows who you are!



# THANK YOU



## Gift from **BURNSVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

In February 2022, a small congregation, formerly known as the Burnsville Church of Christ, gave a generous gift to AGAPE of North Carolina.

Sadly we were informed that the Burnsville congregation has ceased to meet in that location due to several factors, including challenges of the COVID pandemic and an aging membership. Concluding that they could no longer carry on the work of the church as a body, themselves, remaining members of Burnsville Church of Christ made the difficult decision that the best way they could serve the Lord now in their "autumn years" was to distribute the congregation's assets to other mission works, like AGAPE. The gift we received came out of proceeds from the sale of their building.

**We want to thank those Saints who still reside in and around Burnsville, NC for their work in God's vineyard, their sacrifices, and the blessings they have bestowed on kids and families to be served by AGAPE of NC through their caring gift.**

## December 2021 - March 2022 TRIBUTE GIFTS

### **In Memory of**

**Dr. Thomas A. Ledbetter**

Given by

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Audia  
Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Blake  
Ms. Carolyn Borman  
Mr. Phillip Carland  
Mr. Morgan Chapman  
Mr. and Mrs. Alan Collins  
Ms. Martha Davis  
Mr. and Mrs. Murray Fant  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Franklin  
Mr. and Mrs. William Frye  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Greene  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henderson  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson  
Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Merritt, Jr.  
Ms. Faith Pace  
Mr. and Mrs. Talmadge Penland  
Ms. Harriet Sterling  
Mr. and Mrs. Brenton Trigg  
Ms. Kay Williams  
Hendersonville Church of Christ

### **In Memory of**

**Ms. Mary Helen Darnelle Chatman**

Estate Planned Bequest

### **In Memory of**

**Mr. William Ernest "Ernie" Harrison, Jr.**

Given by Anonymous Donor

### **In Honor of**

**The Webb Family**

Given by Mr. Matthew Webb

### **In Memory of**

**Mr. Alton Holland**

Given by Mrs. Clarice Holland

### **In Memory of**

**Mr. Steven H. Sell**

Given by

Anonymous Donors  
Ms. Sandi Bowman  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Holland  
Ms. Letha Jones  
High Mountain Hay Fever Association



# GETTING BACK OUT THERE!

As venues and circumstances have allowed, AGAPE of North Carolina is getting back out there to raise awareness about the tremendous need for additional Christian families who are willing to foster children in North Carolina!

AGAPE Board Member, Joe Hall, visited with Jericho Church of Christ on December 5, 2021, to present a **Worth It!** giving campaign appeal, share AGAPE family videos, and provide an update on AGAPE's initiatives.



KIMBERLY SCOTT | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AGAPE OF NC



On December 3, 2021, our Executive Director, Kimberly Scott, presented at Loop Creative's BIG GIVE Holiday event regarding the increased number of kids in foster care and AGAPE's efforts to meet needs throughout the pandemic.

<https://www.facebook.com/agapeofnc/videos/882889779095196>

Cary Church of Christ hosted a great Ladies Day event on March 5, 2022!

We regret that, due to crowded calendars, an AGAPE representative could not attend. But we sincerely appreciate event organizers who helped us invite attendees to join AGAPE in celebrating our 40th year of providing services to kids and families in North Carolina, expressing our gratitude for all support shown over the years, and calling out for more Christians to become foster parents today! We thank everyone who shared information about AGAPE's services and communicated our goal to license 40 families as foster parents this year!

AGAPE Staff member, Jerry Sprague, introduced a compilation of AGAPE's **Worth It!** giving campaign videos at Brooks Ave. Church of Christ on December 19, 2021. Kimberly Scott and several AGAPE board members attended that congregation's special AGAPE collection Sunday.

On December 12, 2021, at North Raleigh Church of Christ, Kimberly Scott also made a **Worth It!** giving campaign presentation and shared updates on AGAPE's recent activities for that congregation's special AGAPE collection Sunday.



## STAY TUNED!

for more on AGAPE of NC organizing regional Play Dates for our families to get together at local parks or other fun venues. Besides our families sharing their journeys together, it's also an opportunity for us to invite potential new foster parents to experience the AGAPE Way!

# WE CAN TALK ABOUT IT

Book by Whitney Bunker, Review by Kia Carter

Whitney Bunker is an author, adoptive mom, and social worker who has written a wonderful children's book for the foster and adoptive community - ***We Can Talk About It***.

Whitney's book is a guide and ongoing conversation starter for families who need support in talking about honest feelings and thoughts surrounding their child's journey. It leads parents and caregivers through various scenes of familiar expressions of children experiencing foster care or adoption. As added support, there are nine parental tips at the back of the book.

***We Can Talk About It*** helps families with kids ages 4-9 find more intentional dialogue.



Kia Carter, AGAPE of NC's Director of Foster Parent Recruitment and Retention, met Whitney through Instagram.

In her [video review](#), Kia talks personally about how useful Whitney's book can be for recognizing and addressing questions that kids may have while they're navigating foster care or adoption.

<https://www.facebook.com/agapeofnc/videos/459646655903081>

Whitney also offers a few downloadable coloring pages from her book. You can get them by clicking on the pictures to the right!

In a recent blog, Whitney pointed out that "There are different forms of talking... before we learn to talk, we share things with sounds and body language. Sometimes, before we learn to share with our mouth, kids learn to share with our hands. One way of 'sharing' information (a.k.a. talking) is through drawing! Even though many kids this age are technically 'talking' and reading - this doesn't always come easy to them." Whitney believes art can lead to healing. So she encourages parents and professionals to use these coloring pages to gain insight, to prompt, and to lean into creative discussions!

## We Can Talk About It

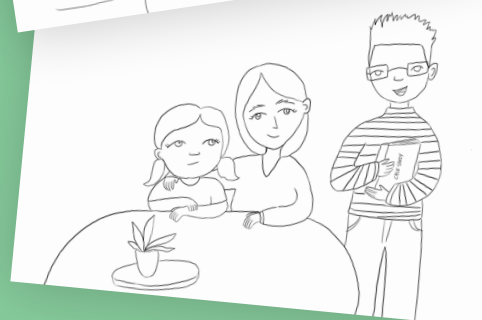
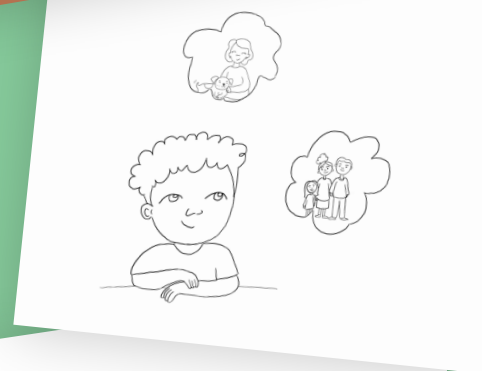
*Includes nine talking tips for parents*



By Whitney Bunker

Illustrated by Jena Holliday

COLORING PAGES





## Staff Spotlight: CIS Investigator

# LAURA MATHIS



We are so pleased to introduce Laura Mathis as AGAPE's current CIS Investigator.

Since 2008, licensed child-placing agencies, like AGAPE of North Carolina, have been allowed to act as Confidential Intermediaries between birth parents and adult adoptees, adult lineal descendants of a deceased adoptee, and/or parents of adoptees under the age of 21.

Such persons may contact AGAPE for Confidential Intermediary Services (CIS) and, when appropriate, AGAPE can share information and facilitate contact. As our CIS Investigator, Laura conducts the research necessary to verify identities and relationships and to collect other desired details.

About joining AGAPE's staff, Laura says that, "As a former elementary education teacher, my heart has always been drawn to helping children. When I heard about AGAPE of NC and the wonderful work they do, I knew I had to be part of it! I am blessed and honored to have the opportunity to work with AGAPE to unite those who have been adopted with their birth families."



## 40TH ANNIVERSARY

AGAPE is celebrating 40 years of providing adoption, foster, and counseling services to North Carolina families and children!

To celebrate, we will be sharing some amazing stories of impact and highlighting AGAPE's rich history. Please follow along on our website and social media channels as we share with you the "Faces of AGAPE".



[AGAPEOFNC.ORG](http://AGAPEOFNC.ORG)

And we want to hear from you! Please fill out the brief form on our website and help us mark this important milestone for our organization.

[SHARE YOUR STORY](#)



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