

PLANTING BY THE SEASON

My husband is a grower, always thrilled by the simplicity of the life cycle. Watching his efforts each season, I see that we at Heroes Helping Heroes are growers as well. Through our Seeds of Hope programs, we prepare meticulously for each growing season. We first use proven method & then apply new techniques for propagation & increased yields. Every season we plant tiny, & sometimes fragile seeds, eagerly awaiting the emergence of tender green shoots. We nurture them through attentive & thoughtful care, always taking great joy in watching them turn into vibrant, fruitful plants. Heroes Helping Heroes is dedicated to planting hope in the hearts & minds of our most precious gift, our children.

Recently, I met a man at a state park in Virginia on that surreal day of the solar eclipse. He spoke to me about the "dash"...that season between our birth & our passing. In grammatical terms, a dash is used to represent a span or range of numbers, dates, or time. The span between birth & passing, he stated, was the evidence of our heart, our passion, & our commitment to the things we treasure.

It will be that span that defines us when others speak of our life & our contributions. Were we students that eagerly sought knowledge & delighted in the wisdom new lessons yielded? Were we wise in our choices & flexible when we needed to change based on the season we

entered? I am reminded that wise farmers plant by the season.

As the fall season brings bursts of vibrant colors, most folks believe the farming season is ending. All the while, my husband smiles as his cold weather crops grow contently beneath the white protective hoops in our garden. I am grateful for his tenacity & determination to embrace each season...to make the most of the time he has.

As 2018 approaches, my heart dwells on this concept. How will my dash speak to the seasons that spanned my life? I feel I may have met an angel that fateful eclipse day. For me, it was certainly a divine appointment. Every day, I must give pause as I think of the words of Mordecai as he counseled Esther..."who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"

Every summer we provide foster, at-risk, or adopted children two weeks of day camp. We also provide these children & their parents & guardians an opportunity to enjoy a beautiful spring & fall day enjoying the Lord's open spaces. Each time I anticipate a new season of camp, I am filled with the certainty that I was born for just this purpose. I was destined to fall in love over & over again with each child who walks through our door; to do my best to make sure each of those precious babies know that they are loved, they are treasured, & they are perfect just as they are.

We work hard to convey that neither their current circumstances nor their past determine their

In 2018, we are excitedly preparing for a spring family celebration, a youth rally & 3 weeks of summer camp! We are grateful for your prayers & support. We are grateful for those warriors who make "love" a verb. If you would like to join our team of volunteers, contact Jana Elliott at 336-972-5266 or janak313@surry.net Come walk out your faith alongside us!



Program Growth Year to Year

Enrollment Year	Unduplicated Children
2017	226
2016	204
2015	181
2014	179
2013	109
2012	59
2011	49
2010	39

First Name Last Name
Street Address
City, State Zip

future. **Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT)** “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good & not for disaster, to give you a future & a hope.”

All Seeds of Hope camp participants pay nothing to attend. We are so blessed & grateful to operate with a completely volunteer-based staff, utilizing facilities at local middle & high schools, funding the programming overhead through the generosity of community supporters who recognize the investment in our youth is vital & necessary.

Would you be willing to invest an hour, a day, a week of your time working with foster, at-risk, or adopted children? Would you be willing to provide access to meaningful life experiences & skills training that ultimately enhance the spiritual & emotional wellness of a vulnerable child while promoting their joyful futures through your financial support?

Summer camp operational costs average approximately \$115.00 per child. Mentor programming costs an average of \$8.00 per child per event.

Programs that develop the strengths of the family & provide practical strategies to overcome challenges are in great need. In the primarily rural communities we serve, mentoring programs are extremely rare to non-existent. Abuse, neglect, & dependency often become generational.

According to the latest reports from the Child Welfare League of America, in 2015, there were 2,288,050 children under the age of 18 living in North Carolina. Of these, 23.5% lived in poverty. 7,857 children were victims of abuse or neglect. This same year, 10,324 children lived apart from their families in out of home care. Of these, 2,739 were waiting to be adopted. In 2015, an estimated 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 were alcohol dependent in the past year & 242,000 adults age 18 & older were dependent on alcohol

or used heroin. In 2014, approximately 18,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year. In 2014, approximately 26,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year. In 2015, health care costs related to opioid abuse in North Carolina reached \$582,486,663. (<http://www.cwla.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/NORTH-CAROLINA.pdf>).

Reducing social isolation; creating supportive social networks; teaching appropriate behaviors & stress responses; developing relationship skills; providing a platform of faith or inner peace; & developing an awareness of self & individual worth are core elements of Seeds of Hope programming developed to combat the perpetuation of the cycles of abuse, neglect, dependency, & poverty. Since our inception, this continues to be our driving objective. It is our goal to teach our children we are each made for greatness.

Our programming is intrinsically designed to promote health & wellness on a three-prong level: mental, physical, & spiritual. Arts & education are intentionally addressed in tracks that feed the mind, stimulate new ways of thinking, & provide opportunities for growth & skill development. We have many opportunities for local community members to volunteer their time, talents, skills, & feedback as we work toward continued growth & sustainability. As you can see below, we reach a wide ranging cross-section of our community. We continue to grow.

Parent & guardian feedback regarding the Seeds of Hope programs has been extremely positive. One parent said, “He truly needed this program to voice his problems & concerns...to revive his little soul, give him hope, encouragement, & enjoyment for life.” A struggling mother said, “Seeds of Hope camp has been

an answer to our prayers. We have had a lot of challenges with our son & realize that as parents we have a lot of growing & learning to do.” & another said, “They loved being here but most of all, they loved coming to a place where they felt safe, loved, & a part of!” Will you help?

If you can help grow our staff with your service, please contact Jana Elliott at janak313@surry.net or 336-972-5266. If you are willing to help grow our storehouses, donations by check should be made payable to Heroes Helping Heroes with Seeds of Hope in the memo line. Please mail them to 1010 Pine Forest Drive, Pinnacle, NC 27043. Financial gifts may also be made under the donate tab: www.heroeshelpingheroes.net

2017 Demographics

Program Growth	
New Campers	84
Returning Campers	142
Status	
Adopted	41
At Risk	126
Foster	46
Other	13
County of Residence	
Forsyth	25
Stokes	129
Surry	49
Yadkin	12
Davidson	2
Rowan	1
Wilkes	4
Unknown	1
Aiken, S.Carolina	1
Patrick, Virginia	2
Gender	
Female	107
Male	119
Ethnicity	
Hispanic	24
Caucasian	174
African American	28

