



Stories OF IMPACT

FREEDOM'S HOPE

A 58 year old male with a cocaine addiction who had been a participant since 2020. He had attempted rehab several times. We would welcome him back to the center after being absent for long periods of time. In 2022, we placed him in the IRP (Intensive Restorative Path), assisted him with housing, medical needs, and a job. He relapsed and was removed from the program. In 2023 he went to jail and then was placed in a rehab in Charlotte. He returned to the Center, was placed back into the IRP. In September 2023, he attended a rehabilitation center on the coast. Freedom's Hope paid for 90 days and he graduated in December. He is now a staff member at that rehab center, doing a wonderful job supervising the kitchen. He calls at least weekly, grateful to Freedom's Hope for helping to change his life.



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ALLIED CHURCHES OF ALAMANCE COUNTY

ACAC has been able to end several clients' struggles, being on the verge of becoming homeless. ACAC was able to assist a family of five from being evicted by securing the head of household employment and assisting the family in securing medical coverage (Medicaid). While the family was behind in paying their rent, ACAC was able to leverage its name and reputation to reach out to the landlord and ask them to give us time to get the family back on track and avoid eviction. The landlord agreed and the eviction was stopped. We continued to work with the family and assisted them in creating a payment plan that was fair for the family and the landlord as well. Two months later the family indicated that not only were they current on rent, but they were able to create a small savings, which is something that had never been able to do previously.



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BURLINGTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Pre-K 1 At the beginning of the school year, our Pre-K 1 classroom welcomed 14 new students, all had recently turned 3 years old. Many of these children had never experienced a school setting before and were not accustomed to being away from their parents. This presented a significant social challenge as they struggled to interact with their peers. To address this issue, our dedicated staff implemented daily activities focused on teaching the children how to share and express themselves verbally with their classmates. Over the course of the first month, we witnessed remarkable progress as the students gradually became more comfortable socializing and communicating with one another. **Pre-K 2** One of our students initially grappled with separation anxiety, relying heavily on their parents' presence to navigate through the school day. However, within just a month, noticeable signs of adaptation emerged. Tears became less frequent, and the need for parental support diminished. By the end of the second month, the student confidently entered into the classroom independently, shedding tears of reliance. This child not only conquered their initial hurdles but also emerged as an exemplary figure for their peers, often assuming leadership roles within the class. The progress isn't confined to emotional growth; academically, the strides have been significant. They can now spell their first name and recognize their last name, marking a pivotal step in their literacy journey. Additionally, the student has mastered six letters and actively engages in honing their letter recognition skills. In numeracy, their counting ability has noticeably improved, and they can confidently identify two numbers. Moreover, their speech has undergone remarkable development. Initially struggling with stuttering, they have learned to articulate themselves more clearly by taking moments to collect their thoughts before speaking. This advancement has not only enriched their interactions with peers but has also bolstered their confidence in social settings. Overall, this student's journey epitomizes remarkable progress across many areas; a testament to their resilience and unwavering determination.



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HOPE CLINIC

We currently have a gentleman who is predominantly Spanish speaking. Nine years ago, he was diagnosed with transverse myelitis which caused him to have an incomplete spinal cord injury and he was a wheelchair user for mobility. On the date of his initial evaluation, he required four individuals to assist him in standing. With perseverance of the patient and the students working with him, he began taking steps 3 months into his physical therapy program with total assistance of five people. It was labor intensive, and everyone was fatigued after 10 feet. The HOPE Clinic also partnered with Elon engineering students who built the patient knee braces. The client was able to progress from walking with 5 people needing to help him to walking with supervision of one person only over 200 feet if he had support at his knees. Through this partnership, the engineering students built him knee braces, so he can meet his goal of being able to go to church. He previously was unable to go to church because the bathroom stalls were too small for his wheelchair to enter. After 9 years of being unable to ambulate, this client is now able to walk with his wife by his side. And because of the availability of the certified medical Spanish interpreters, we were able to have robust, culturally sensitive conversations to meet his needs.



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OPEN DOOR CLINIC

At the Open Door Clinic of Alamance, Elizabeth Chioma, NP, Heather Pruitt, LCSW-A, Dr. Phil Lavine, MD, Psychiatric Consultant, and Amanda Shore, SDoH Coordinator, work together in a collaborative care model to provide comprehensive support for patients. In the case of Mr. Jones, the collaborative care model has proven to be highly effective in addressing his complex needs. Mr. Jones has struggled with major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety for years. He was on several psychotropic medications and attended weekly individual psychotherapy at the Open Door Clinic. During one of his sessions with the clinical social worker, Mr. Jones shared that his mother, who lived with him, had recently suffered a stroke. Although she was recovering, she could not return home until a ramp was built to accommodate her mobility issues. This additional stressor added to Mr. Jones' already significant financial burdens. Recognizing the importance of addressing the social determinants of health in Mr. Jones's case, the clinical social worker sought permission to connect him with the SDoH coordinator, who was able to quickly identify a sponsor who helped finance and build the ramp within a week, enabling Mr. Jones' mother to return to their home. Following the response to this SDoH-related issue, Mr. Jones experienced a significant improvement in his overall well-being. His PHQ-9 and Gad-7 scores, which measure depression and anxiety levels, decreased significantly during his follow-up sessions for several weeks. He reported feeling an overall renewed hope for his future and his family's future.



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DREAM CENTER

Success at the Dream Center is the many families and individuals who find their place to belong. Our young men from our Championship team who went to England coming home and being so involved in the lives of the younger soccer players at the DC in coaching, leading camps and clinics and showing up to support at their games is a daily reminder of the amazing investment that has helped them see the world in completely different ways. The support they experienced has given them a zeal to give back and pay it forward daily. The impact of new neighbors from our connection with the refugee resettlement organizations in our community has been beautiful as many have begun to help them in the ESL classes to learn the things they so recently learned.



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WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER

One of our mutual clients with the Family Justice Center was leaving an abusive marriage. She had not worked in the public sector in over 20 years while caring for her family. She had no understanding of the family finances and had not paid bills. She worked weekly with our Executive Director to open, sort, and document their bills learning to understand her family finances, and how to create a bill payment calendar. She was also empowered to call vendors regarding bill payments for the first time, which was something she had never been allowed to do. She found her voice in court advocating for the safety of her children. She worked with our MSW student to create a resume. She practiced interviewing skills with our Associate Director and was hired for the holiday season in retail. She returned to WRC recently to continue to seek employment that fits with her physical limitations. Two of our mutual clients with Benevolence Farm worked on their budgeting skills for 4-6 months while saving money. They were able to purchase a vehicle through our partner, Wheels 4 Hope in 2023.



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YOUNG MUSICIAN'S OF ALAMANCE

At YMA, success in our program manifests in transformative experiences and tangible achievements for our participants. Recently, during our winter concert, we witnessed an exciting showcase of this success. Despite having only three months of practice, our percussion students emerged as the highlight of the evening, captivating the audience with their skill and dedication through their creative music-making. The concert symbolized more than just musical performance; it epitomized unity and collaboration among our participants. Through collective effort and shared passion, our students demonstrated the power of teamwork and the beauty of artistic collaboration. An inspiring moment occurred when one of our older students, Trey, took the reins as a conductor for the younger student groups. Trey's journey from participant to leader embodies the transformative impact of our program, nurturing not only musical talent but also leadership skills and confidence. In essence, the success of our program lies not only in the musical achievements of our participants but also in the personal growth, collaboration, and community engagement it fosters. The parent reactions, community excitement, and students' pure joy in making music are an everyday success story for us here at YMA.



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