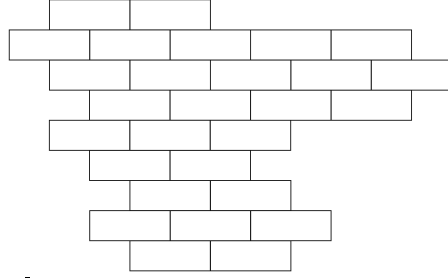


# Brick By Brick

BRICK BY BRICK / SPRING 2023



VOLUME 18

The Haven Newsletter



## THROUGH THE EYES OF A TEENAGER

### Something to Look Forward To

Here we go again. I can't tell you how many places we've lived since I can remember. Five, six, maybe even seven? I am only 15. It can't be that many times. I don't know why my mom can't get her act together. I mean, I get it, she is a single mom, but why did she even have us if she can't take care of us? I love her and all, and I would fight for her, but I don't see why she keeps losing her job and then we lose our place to stay all the time. Having a baby is tough. I help her as much as I can, but I am trying to keep myself together here and manage my own life. Soccer is my dream and if I don't keep my grades up, I am going to lose that. My mom says we are going to stay at the Haven Family House. Great. Now, even more of my friends will make fun of me when they find out I have moved again. Will I even be able to stay in the school that I like? I am glad that there is a place for us to go. Sleeping in my mom's car was rough with all of us. I hardly could stretch out my legs. It has been hard not being able to take a shower. My friends were starting to notice. I will get to take a shower and sleep in a bed. That's at least one thing to look forward to when everything else looks so grim.

## A Look Inside.....

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**Through the Eyes of a  
Teenager**

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**Staff Update;  
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**Cooking with Lisa  
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**Expansion Project**

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**To donate online  
visit  
[havenoftc.org](http://havenoftc.org)**



## COOKING WITH LISA

### HEALTHY COOKING CLASS

The Haven has been fortunate to be blessed at the Haven Family House with a fully operational kitchen that families can share and prepare meals for their loved ones. Over the years, this kitchen has seen its share of dynamics. At times, families choose to only cook for their family. While other family dynamics have proved that some will go in together and cook a meal for the whole house. This brings community together and also different styles and cultures. Recently, a grant from Pisgah Rotary has funded efforts to teach not only the families staying at the Haven Family House, but also the Haven Thomas House guests too! A previous guest from 2016, Lisa Palumbo, has volunteered for the position to teach our guests how to prepare healthy meals. The recipes she uses are simple enough that anyone can follow, and she is thrifty enough to make it affordable for everyone. The Cooking with Lisa class has become a hit and the guests look forward to it every week. Some guests have even provided their own recipes to share and teach others what they know about healthy cooking. What a joy for staff to watch the fellowship, community, and see the enthusiasm they possess when they come in on Wednesday knowing they will get to hang out, eat well, and learn something new.



## Staff Update

We are so happy to welcome Bree Normandin, who joined our staff in December of 2022 as Clinical Mental Health Counselor and a Licensed Clinical Addiction Specialist. Bree is native to the area and has 16 years of experience working with people experiencing homelessness, individuals with mental illness and addiction, and human trafficking victims. She offers therapy to individuals and families, group sessions, parenting classes, as well as life skills.



## Save the Date - It's HoeDown Time - Saturday, Aug 19th

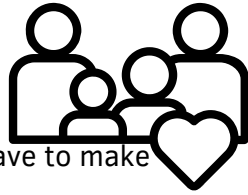
Since the onset of Covid we have not been able to host any in person fundraisers, and we are excited to announce that we will be having a Hoedown this summer. HoeDown for The Haven will be a great time for all, with a BBQ dinner, live music and dancing, contests like "Kiss the Pig", and a silent auction. There will be plenty of fun activities to keep you on your toes and will be a good ole knee slappin' time!

It takes a village to make an event like this happen and we are in need of volunteers to help plan and coordinate events, sponsors for the event, and donations in-kind of items for our silent auction. Please call The Haven to see how you can help.

828-877-2040



## The Gilpins' Story



Sometimes our jobs can be tough. We have to make decisions that are hard and we encounter many difficult situations. Here is one example; it's Friday at 4pm. It's been a long week, and I am ready to go home, but a family just walks up and tells me that their "friends" just dropped them off. They have nowhere to go. Nobody they can stay with, and they have stayed on every couch they could. The intake can't be scheduled, it has to be done right now. Mom can't stop crying and with two emotional teenagers in tow, it makes the situation more challenging. Dad is trying to hold it together for all of them, but I could see the relief on their faces when I tell them we have room for them and we can get them in tonight. After being at the shelter for a few weeks, dad lands a great paying job with benefits. They apply for housing and start working a case plan with our Case Manager. After working their job for 90 days, they get a "working preference" with the housing authority, and coupled with a "homeless preference" because they agree to case management after they leave, their name comes up on the list for a four-bedroom apartment....two days before Christmas. What a great holiday this family got to enjoy! Fast forward three months, they are still doing great, stably housed, and enjoying life once again as a family should. Together, housed, warm, loved, and fed. Sometimes our jobs can be rewarding too.



### ODE TO MISS KITTY

Little Miss Kitty, so black and shiny  
 Came to us showing her hiney  
 Not to be handled, a little feisty  
 A feral cat you see  
 Making her way out on the street  
 Best way she knew how  
 Not sure why she'd come around  
 Especially not being tame  
 Hang around for 11 years though  
 And soon you'll forget that game  
 Wait until she visits the vet  
 Wait for the big surprise  
 Miss Kitty isn't Miss Kitty at all  
 Oh no sister, you see  
 Miss Kitty is actually a he  
 Mr Kitty, it's gonna be okay  
 We all love you just the same  
 The time has come now  
 Not to be on the streets  
 Time to go home  
 A real home with a real bed  
 That's what we all want  
 Isn't it?

## Expansion Project has Begun!

We are so excited to be breaking ground on our expansion project! Site preparation for our build officially began February 16th. This project will take approximately 6 months to complete and will provide us much needed office space for our staff of eight, which is currently sharing two offices. We are excited to finally have the space to accommodate growth, especially in our mental health area.



Our current space that is serving as a shared office will provide us a communal place for gatherings including staff development and meetings, guest group sessions, classes for life skills and parenting, and much more!

We are constantly looking for ways to improve not only ourselves, and our facility, but the way we provide services. This is all a part of growing, maturing, and becoming what our community needs.

# Thank you!



The Haven has many faithful donors and supporters. Our work is not something we could without the support and generosity of our community. Your kindness helps us care for people that have no place to lay their head. They feel your love and compassion as you support The Haven.

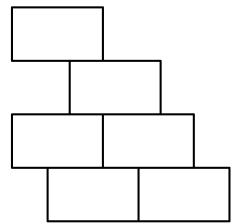
We are very grateful to the many recent grants that fund day-to-day operations and programs: Brevard Davidson River Presbyterian Church, Community Foundation of WNC, Lake Toxaway Charities, Lake Toxaway UMC, Pisgah Forest Rotary, WNC Bridge Foundation, Transylvania County, and St. Philips. And a very special thank you to Transylvania Regional Hospital for their generous donation to our expansion project.



"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." - Melanie Beattie



To help keep printing and mailing costs down, this newsletter is available electronically. If you would like to receive it by e-mail, please notify us: [admin@havenofc.org](mailto:admin@havenofc.org)



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