



GHAzette

DECEMBER 2015

Season's Greetings~ As we navigate through another season of thankfulness and joy, we at GHA want to thank you for your continued support and dedication to our agency. As we evolve and provide person directed services, we anticipate a New Year which will bring even more fulfillment to the individuals and families we support. We will continue to explore various avenues to ensure our agency thrives and that person centered services remain our highest priority.

Remember, we are Team GHA; a unique tapestry of beautiful threads, woven together for a common cause. May your season be filled with peace~

GHA Receives Grants to Expand Carolina Farms Sensory Garden

Upon receipt of a \$2,000 grant from Speedway Children's Charities in 2014, GHA began the first phase of the development of a sensory garden at Carolina Farms. This process has included laying out the bed space and installing a crushed rock base for walkways. Throughout the spring season, the area was excavated for a large fish pond complete with several sensory water features. In addition, a colorful outdoor xylophone has been constructed for individuals to utilize.

Additional grant funding has been secured this fall to begin the second phase of the project that will include numerous plants and accessories to stimulate the senses and provide experiences for seeing, smelling, hearing, touching and tasting. A grant in the amount of \$5,000 was received in early December from the Charlotte Motor Speedway Chapter of Speedway Children's Charities in Concord. The mission of Speedway Children's Charities (SCC) is "to care for children in educational, financial, social and medical need to help them lead productive lives." The SCC was founded in 1982 by Bruton Smith, who serves as the Chairman of Speedway Motorsports and Sonic Automotive, as a memorial and legacy to his son, Bruton Cameron Smith, who passed away at a very young age.

Another \$5,000 grant was received by The Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation in early November. The Jack Fanning Memorial Foundation was founded in memory of FDNY Battalion Chief, Haz Mat Operations, Jack Fanning, who perished in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001. Mr. Fanning understood, first hand, the desperate need for research and educational requirements for families dealing with autism because he left behind two severely autistic sons, Sean and Patrick. Based in New York, the Foundation is run by volunteers, many of whom are friends and family members of the late Jack Fanning.



GHA hosts a number of international visitors throughout the year including a group from Denmark this past September. As part of the tour of Carolina Farms, Director of Operations John Fields describes the plans of the further development of the sensory garden.



Special thanks to Charlotte Motor Speedway Hospitality Coordinator Elizabeth West for supporting GHA throughout the year with tickets to various events. John and Chris enjoyed "Pole Night" with Speedway mascot "Lug Nut" as part of the Bank of America 500 race festivities in October.

FOCUSING ON STAFF AT APPRECIATION EVENTS

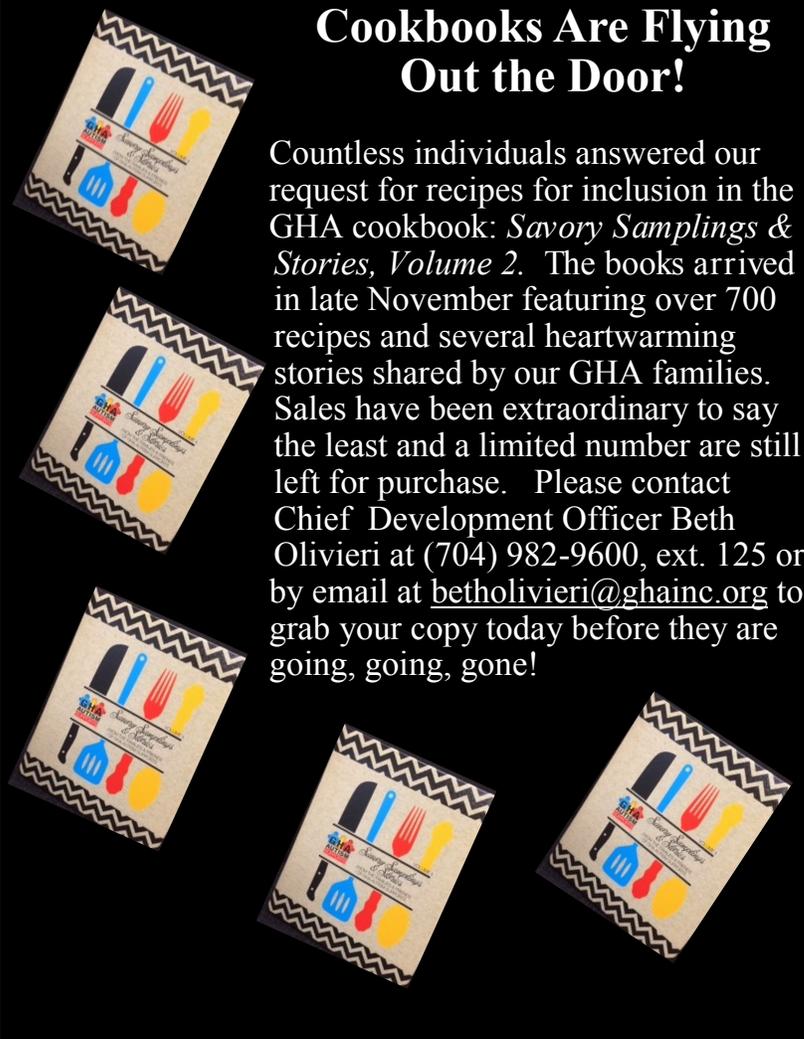
During the month of November, all GHA staffers were honored at appreciation events in both Albemarle and Wilmington. Both groups enjoyed food and a wide array of prizes. Thanks to the generosity of the GHA Family Network, all GHA employees received Wal-Mart gift cards just in time for the holiday season. On behalf of all of the GHA employees, we send special thanks to the GHA Family Network for the gift cards and for your show of appreciation throughout the year!



Fun in the photo booth at Albemarle and Wilmington Staff Appreciation Days!

Cookbooks Are Flying Out the Door!

Countless individuals answered our request for recipes for inclusion in the GHA cookbook: *Savory Samplings & Stories, Volume 2*. The books arrived in late November featuring over 700 recipes and several heartwarming stories shared by our GHA families. Sales have been extraordinary to say the least and a limited number are still left for purchase. Please contact Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri at (704) 982-9600, ext. 125 or by email at betholivieri@ghainc.org to grab your copy today before they are going, going, gone!



2016 Upcoming Events

8th Annual GHA Rubber Duck Derby
Saturday, May 21st
YMCA Park—Albemarle, NC



Anlyan&Hively
Golf Fore Autism
Monday, June 13th
Cape Fear National
Leland, NC



GHA Gala Auction
Saturday, November 12th





GHA is pleased to work with a number of high school and college student volunteers to complete service hours. Chief Development Officer Beth Olivieri recently accepted a contribution from Stanly Early College student Gracien Treece who organized several fundraising events as part of her senior service project.



Lyndy does a great job caring for Chico at Carolina Farms!



The fall weather was perfect for building and painting chicken feed shelters. Tommy and Scott painted several of the structures to help preserve the chicken feed for our prized animals at Carolina Farms!



GHA was well represented at the Special Olympics Fun Day on October 16th where participants enjoyed a variety of games and fitness activities.



Fun was had by all at the skating party in December.



From Our
GHA Family to
Yours,
we wish you a Happy
and Healthy
Holiday Season!