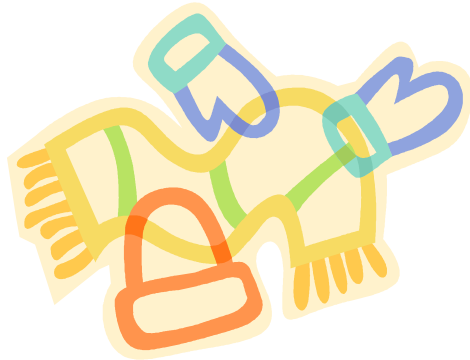




... uniting families ...

**Fall 2008**

**Annual "Hats Off to the Kids!" Celebration  
Sunday, November 2**



Please join us for "Hats Off to the Kids!," Our Children's Place's (OCP) annual fall celebration.

**Sunday, November 2, 2008  
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Siena Hotel  
Chapel Hill, NC  
Tickets: \$25**

Last November, close to 100 people – ongoing supporters and new friends - gathered to celebrate and support the work being done to create a better life for young children whose mothers are incarcerated.

We are looking forward to sharing another great afternoon filled with handcrafted items, delicious food, updates on OCP's development and the renovation of Deerfield Cottage, and the premiere of OCP's DVD.

We'd like to offer a heartfelt "Thank you" to our generous event sponsors:

***Circle of Caring***

Mary and Mike Andrews  
Dorothy Cilenti and Jim Griffin  
Carolyn and Lynn Ikenberry  
Ernest and Eunice Kraybill  
Beth McAllister  
Mary Norris Preyer Oglesby and Patrick Oglesby  
Rebecca Slifkin and Rich Rosen

***Circle of Compassion***

Alice Dietz  
Kim and Tim Hoke  
Florence Peacock  
Meg Scott Phipps  
Kathleen and Todd Shapley-Quinn

***Corporate***

Siena Hotel  
Yarns, etc . . .

For more information or tickets, please contact OCP at [ourchildrensplace@gmail.com](mailto:ourchildrensplace@gmail.com) or (919) 843-2670.

**OCP Welcomes Community Liaison  
Coordinator**

The OCP team continues to grow as we welcome Kamira Jones, our new part-time Community Liaison Coordinator. Kamira, a Cincinnati native, moved to North Carolina

eight years ago to serve as an AmeriCorps VISTA (Volunteer In Service To America). She has worked with several area non-profits including Triangle United Way and Triangle Community Foundation. In addition to her position at OCP, she currently works at Battelle, a non-profit research and development organization, where she manages federal government contracts for the National Security Division.

Kamira serves as a mentor to 22 girls at her church, the scholarship chair and webmaster for the Raleigh Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and president of the RTP Chapter of the National Contract Management Association. She enjoys dancing and surfing the Internet, and recently has deemed herself a "political junkie."

When asked about her new position with OCP, Kamira said, "It's very rare to find an employment opportunity that doesn't seem like a job, and it's even more rare when your personal and professional beliefs align as one. I feel like the Community Liaison Coordinator position is 'handcrafted and totally special' - allowing me to do my part to help unite families and the North Carolina community."

Look for Kamira's picture in the next edition of our newsletter.

Also joining us are Linda Washington as a child care consultant and Mia Burroughs as a contract grant writer.

We would like to thank Jeremy Crouthamel who worked as our Assistant this summer.

### Honoring and Remembering Mothers

Mother's Day, along with other special occasions, reminds us of the important bond between children and their mothers. However, for too many children in our community, such

memories are difficult, if not impossible, to create because their mothers are incarcerated.

We thank the following Mother's Day donors for their show of support for the children of incarcerated women.

Catherine Alguire  
William Allee  
Arthur and Janice Anderson, *in memory of beloved mothers, Avis and Evelyn*  
Sarah Andrews  
Rita Berman  
Mike and Melissa Bishop  
Georgia Bizios  
R. Alan and Irene Briggaman  
Paul Cush  
Mary Cash  
Laura Clark  
Lucy Daniels  
Alice Dietz  
Judge and Sid Eagles  
Ruth Efird  
Audrey Evarts  
Kim Hoke  
Mark Hollins and Eleanor Leung-Hollins  
William Johnston  
Kathleen Joyce, *in memory of Noel Joyce*  
Patricia Kiesow  
Kathryne Lockhart  
Frank and Carol London  
Ashley Lucas  
Beth McAllister  
Edith and James McEntire  
Charles and Marilyn McNamara  
Norma Mitchell, *in honor of Mrs. Marie M. Taylor*  
Rena Norwood  
Sam Odom  
Florence Peacock  
Robert and Jean Phay  
Lucy and Bob Pryor  
Robert and Waltraud Reeber  
Philip and Margaret Rees  
Katie Reily  
Paula Sims

(list continued on page 3)

Nancy Sitterson  
Catherine Smith  
Anne Thomas  
Mary Thomas  
Cookie Thompson  
Helen and Paul Umberg  
Daniel and Genene Uyesato  
Carolyn Van Sant  
Kay White  
Andy and Nancy Zeman

### **Deerfield Cottage Renovation *Making a Building a Home***

The schematic design for the renovation of Deerfield Cottage is nearly complete, and OCP staff and Board members are delighted with the plans! The architects, Rhonda Angerio and Rob Anastes, have brought increasingly refined drafts to the Facility Committee\* for review and suggestions. We have worked to create a design which ensures the maximum flexibility and efficiency in use of the space, as well as reuse of spaces that fit well with our long-term needs. We have sought input from our Program Committee members, Department of Correction staff, child care consultants, as well as looked back to the many site visits we've done over the past two years to create a facility which is functional, beautiful, and efficient, and that will enhance the lives and work of the children and women we will soon be serving.

Beyond the above factors in planning for the facility, we are committed to an environmentally responsive sustainable design. We believe the OCP program will serve women and children of North Carolina for decades to come and, by the choices we make in our renovation, hope to convey to our residents, staff, and community, a commitment to social, environmental, and economic sustainability. If any of you are aware of donors, grant-making agencies or businesses which may be willing to help us in this

venture, please contact our OCP staff at (919) 843-2670.

\*We are extremely fortunate to have experts in design, architecture, and project management serving on our Facility Committee, in addition to staff and Board members. Thank you, Katie Wakeford and Michael Hutchinson!

### **Program Committee *Starting with Evaluation***

Much of the last two months has been spent learning more about best practices in child and family work, women's substance abuse treatment, and literacy training. We have developed a network of able practitioners who are interested in the singular opportunity that OCP offers to a particularly vulnerable group of women and children and who are offering ongoing support in program development.

In order to assure that all components of the OCP program maintain the highest level of competence, an evaluation plan will be implemented when the first mother and child are admitted into the OCP facility. The Program Committee is working intently (thank you, Wayne Foster, for leading the discussion!) on development of goals for the women's and children's programs at OCP which will be the basis for an evaluation plan. Our next steps are Board discussion and adoption of the goals, then development of a set of indicators by focus groups for the women and children programs. When this phase is complete, the anticipated next step is to issue a Request For Proposal (RFP) to secure a professional (team) to plan and implement evaluation of OCP programs.

### **Faith Community Leader Writes Letter of Endorsement**

In mid-June we were pleased to receive a letter of endorsement from Bishop Michael Burbidge of the Catholic Diocese of Raleigh. Our thanks

goes out to the Bishop and his staff for writing the letter and for offering additional thoughts on ways to involve the faith community in OCP's work.

Letters of endorsement provide yet another example of the support OCP has in the community. If your organization is interested in writing one and would like some additional information, please contact OCP at (919) 843-2670 or ourchildrensplace@gmail.com.

### From Kim's Pen

OCP has made enormous progress in the last year under the leadership of former chair Kathleen Shapley-Quinn and Executive Director Melissa Radcliff. Through a combination of their efforts and the efforts of Board and staff members and community supporters, we have been able to focus on just what our name says: children.

We aim to open and operate a facility for North Carolina to keep preschool children with their mothers who are incarcerated for non-violent offenses and to provide a therapeutic and enriched environment for both. Our vision is even more ambitious: to reduce the intergenerational cycle of violence and keep the children of incarcerated mothers from entering the prison system themselves.

OCP's work comes at a time when the nation's female inmate population is rising. Also rising is the number of children who are cared for by relatives, placed in foster care or assigned to social services. The number of women imprisoned in the United States grew last year at a rate more than 1.5 times the rate of growth for men, according to the Women's Prison Association.

"Over two-thirds of women in prison have children under the age of 18," said Sarah B.

From, Director of Public Policy and Communications for the Association.

When OCP opens its doors in early 2010, it will likely become the eighth state in the country to offer a program for young children and their incarcerated mothers. New York has had prison nurseries for more than a century. California, Washington, Ohio, Nebraska, and Illinois have opened their programs in recent years. West Virginia is planning to launch a program soon.

Clearly, our work and your help are needed now more than ever before as women are entering prison in record numbers and more and more children are bearing the burden of fractured families. Researchers note that the children of prisoners are not only at risk of substance abuse, they also are more likely to experience depression, anger, shame, and self-loathing. When their parents are arrested and jailed, some view it as abandonment. Others experience "survivor guilt" and consider themselves to blame. Reversing these risk factors takes all of us together to make a positive difference in the lives of these children and their mothers.

Kim Hoke  
Chair, OCP Board of Directors

*Source: Center on Crime, Communities and Culture of the Open Society Institute, Nell Bernstein, Media Fellow*

### H.A.T.S. – Handcrafted And Totally Special

Alternative holiday market season will be upon us very soon. Our H.A.T.S. project displayed at these markets has proven to be a very successful form of outreach and awareness. We display hats and other items that are handcrafted by women at the North Carolina Correctional Institution for Women (NCCIW) using yarn and other supplies donated by community members. Folks who

stop by our display can make a donation in exchange for items.

If your organization is hosting a market and is interested in having our display there, please call or e-mail Kamira at (919) 929-5105 or ourchildrensplace3@gmail.com.

### Don't Forget!

Ways to help support OCP:

- Make a **PayPal** credit card donation via our website, [www.ourchildrensplace.com](http://www.ourchildrensplace.com). Click on "Donations."
- Use **GoodSearch.com** as your internet search engine.
- Use **Goodshop.com** for your online shopping.

### Board of Directors

Mary Andrews, MEd., *Secretary*  
Mark Breakfield, CPA, *Treasurer*  
Karen Chapple, MA, CCJP  
Dorothy Cilenti, MPH, MSW  
Kim Hoke, MEd., *Chair/President*  
Valerie Johnson, Ph.D.  
Joseph Jordan, Ph.D.  
Beth McAllister, MSW  
Florence Peacock, MA  
Meg Scott Phipps, JD, LLM  
Rich Rosen, JD  
Kathleen Shapley-Quinn, MD, *Past President*  
Mary Stowe, *Vice Chair/Chair-Elect*

Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ, *Honorary Board Member*

### How To Reach Us

Phone (919) 843-2670

Fax (919) 962-3725

#### Mail

P.O. Box 1086 • Chapel Hill, NC 27514

#### Office

Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History at UNC-Chapel Hill  
150 South Road  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

#### E-mail

Melissa Radcliff  
Executive Director  
[ourchildrensplace@gmail.com](mailto:ourchildrensplace@gmail.com)

Carolyn Ikenberry, LCSW  
Program Director  
[ourchildrensplace4@gmail.com](mailto:ourchildrensplace4@gmail.com)

Kamira Jones  
Community Liaison Coordinator  
[ourchildrensplace3@gmail.com](mailto:ourchildrensplace3@gmail.com)

JoAnne Morris  
Bookkeeper  
[ourchildrensplace@gmail.com](mailto:ourchildrensplace@gmail.com)

Cassie Smith  
Assistant  
[ourchildrensplace2@gmail.com](mailto:ourchildrensplace2@gmail.com)

#### Website

[www.ourchildrensplace.com](http://www.ourchildrensplace.com)

If you wish to be removed from our mailing list or if your contact information has changed, please call our office at (919) 843-2670.

---

*OCP is a residential initiative allowing young children (babies and preschoolers) to live with their mothers while the women serve out their sentences for non-violent offenses. OCP is designed to break the intergenerational cycle of crime, poverty, substance abuse, and family violence. It will empower the child with the mother's help to enhance cognitive, social, physical, and emotional development. OCP plans to open its doors in 2010.*

(10/22/08)