



# 2023 Winter Newsletter

## Expanding Homes For Youth

2022 was an exciting year. We paid off the mortgage on our first house and partnered with Crossnore Communities for Children to embark on a new model for Foster Care in our community - Professional Foster Care parents. Foster Care, as currently implemented relies on volunteers from the community to take care of our Foster Children. Foster Care is the only government service that relies on volunteers to provide the service. They are given a basic amount of training and are compensated for the extra expense of hosting children in their home. But as many foster parents will tell you, the training does not always cover the many difficult situations they encounter and the compensation does not always cover the costs. Consequently, 50% of Foster Parents quit during the first year. This leads to a chronic shortage of Foster Parents and instability for the children.

Crossnore is piloting a new model for Foster Care where the Foster Parents are professionally trained and professionally compensated for taking care of our foster children. The Professional Foster Care program that Crossnore is piloting is called Bridging Families©. Bridging Families© is based on the belief that children belong with their birth families. Bridging Families© helps birth parents and their children nurture and grow their family relationships while children are placed in care. As part of Bridging Families©, children in care receive professional mental health services, medical services, case management, educational assistance, recreational opportunities, and a strong support network. Birth Parents receive an organized structure for collaboration with Bridge Parents, parenting skills curriculum and coaching, psychoeducation on trauma, nurturing relationships with team members, and service access assistance. The whole family will enjoy enhanced family time in a natural environment and family therapy. Bridge Parents are trained in trauma-informed care and bridge the gap by caring for children in a Crossnore home. Additionally, the Bridging Families© team walks alongside families during the reunification process. As part of the team, birth parents participate in planning and decision-making all along the way.

How does Homes For Youth fit into this picture? We are partnering with Crossnore to provide the housing appropriate for Bridging Families to operate. We currently are providing a home for this pilot project at minimal cost to Crossnore. This will maximize the amount of support Crossnore will be able to give the Foster Parents.

In order to expand this program to its full potential, we at Homes For Youth, Inc. are looking to purchase or build more foster care houses in Henderson County. This is where we need your help. In order to purchase another home of sufficient size to house the foster parents and 5 foster children we will need a combination of private contributions, grants and interest free loans. To jump start that process we are asking our supporters donate either money, land, a fixer-upper, a smaller house that can be expanded or a house that we could use with with little renovation. If you or someone you know has a property that they might contribute to this project please let us know. Email us [davel@homesforyouth.org](mailto:davel@homesforyouth.org) or call us at 828-551-0534.

## **H4Y Gold Level Contributor Awards**

We have been blessed to have many very generous contributors since our founding in 2014. For our most generous contributors we have made small plaques to commemorate those individuals and organizations -



Pastor Jeremy accepts the Gold Level Plaque on behalf of the First Methodist Mission Committee

Kimberly Cathers  
First United Methodist Church  
Missions Committee  
Dennis & Ada Gough  
Grace Lutheran Church  
Grace Lutheran Church Foundation  
David & Kathleen Lambert  
Providence Baptist Church  
The Lawrence and Florence  
Vanderberg Foundation  
Thursday Thrift Shop

Our deepest gratitude to all of our contributors.

## Welcome Club of Henderson County chooses Homes for Youth for their 2023 charity to support

Recently we hosted the Welcome Club of Henderson County (<https://hcwelcomeclub.org>) for a tour of the house and discussion on how we can better support the Foster Parents in our community. They also dropped off a very generous check. We are looking forward to working with the club members in the future.



Pictured from left to right: Lynn Huskes, Anne Maliff, David Lambert, Dick Kauffold, Barbara Loomis, Tony Armocida, Lisa Fort. Not pictured: Carol Dembeck, Michele O'Connor, Cynthia Chapman.