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Miracle Hill takes aim at SC foster care crisis

GREENVILLE, SC – Miracle Hill Ministries has rolled up its sleeves, donned fighting gloves and delivered a crushing blow to South Carolina's foster care crisis, a stunning victory for abused and neglected children.

Amid cheers, blue ribbons and a bell-ringing parade, the non-profit celebrated a significant milestone in July after licensing its 200th foster family, the result of a six-month aggressive campaign to lower the number of children waiting to be placed in local homes. **A CELEBRATION PRESS CONFERENCE WITH SUSAN ALFORD, STATE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, WILL BE HELD AUGUST 10TH, 10 A.M. AT MIRACLE HILL MINISTRIES, LOCATED AT 490 S. PLEASANTBURG DR. IN GREENVILLE. PHOTO/VIDEO/INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE.**



Brenda Parks, Miracle Hill's Director of Foster Care, leads staff in a celebration parade.

In a statement about the accomplishment, Alford said, "Miracle Hill has been an outstanding partner supporting our efforts by not only recruiting new foster parents but also supporting existing parents and children in care."

"But the fight is not over," said Brenda Parks, Director of Miracle Hill Foster Care. "Currently, the SCDSS reports needing approximately 1500 additional foster homes in the state, with 540 of those homes in the 10 counties served by Miracle Hill Ministries, which include Anderson, Abbeville, Cherokee, Greenville, Greenwood, Laurens, Newberry, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg." Miracle Hill's new goal for the coming year is to license 100 additional families by August 2017.

"The need for foster parents in South Carolina is critical...DSS will not be able to create a strong foundation for foster homes in this state without ongoing assistance and help from the community," added Alford.

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A Miracle Hill foster care success story

Thanks to the quick action and cooperation of DSS and Miracle Hill staff, a 14-year-old teen living at the Miracle Hill Boys' Shelter for the past two years was placed in a loving foster home in only three weeks. His new foster mom, Carey Paudler, said, "In a short time, he has shown us that teenagers need and deserve love just as much as younger children."



Foster care teen vacations with his new family.

Want more details? For more information about this story and/or foster care needs, contact Brenda Parks, Director, Miracle Hill Foster Care, at 864.605.6089 or bparks@miraclehill.org. You may also visit Miracle Hill's website at <https://miraclehill.org/children/foster-care/>

About Miracle Hill Ministries

Miracle Hill helps hurting people become whole. Services across the Upstate include rescue shelters for the homeless, addiction recovery programs, shelters for children, family support services, and foster care. Our nine thrift stores provide employment opportunities for guests in our programs and the community at large while offering savvy shoppers a way to spend and give at the same time. For more information on Miracle Hill, please visit www.MiracleHill.org or call 864.268.4357.

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