



GHAzette

JULY 2016

GHA Enters Educational Partnership with Pfeiffer University

GHA Autism Supports and Pfeiffer University are pleased to announce an agreement that provides GHA employees access to Pfeiffer's degree completion and graduate programs at a reduced tuition rate. The cooperative agreement, signed on January 14th by GHA Autism Supports CEO Dawn Allen and Pfeiffer President Dr. Colleen Keith, strengthens

Pfeiffer's Partnership Program launched last fall, which offers specialized academic programs and financial incentives to businesses and organizations with a shared understanding of furthering the educational attainment of current employees.

Pfeiffer's mission is to provide programs that will be widely accessible and affordable throughout the region for employees of partner organizations wishing to continue their educations. "Pfeiffer University is proud to partner with GHA Autism Supports, a high-quality local employer dedicated to the professional development of its staff," said Dr. Colleen Keith. We look forward to working with them and the other corporations and nonprofit organizations participating in the Partnership Program as a strategy to meeting the demands of global competitiveness," said Dr.

Keith. "Our partnership with Pfeiffer University allows GHA employees a great incentive for them to continue to expand their knowledge and expertise so they become more productive employees. Pfeiffer's partnership with us also demonstrates their commitment to the community and willingness to support our local economy," said GHA Autism Supports CEO Dawn Allen.



Dawn Allen and Dr. Colleen Keith signing agreement



GHA Second Street Sundries employee Logan celebrates after her recent graduation from Stanly Community College. Logan is now enrolled at Pfeiffer through the new partnership.

Second Street Sundries Gift Shop Offers Handmade Products to Customers



In addition to buying coffee and food at Second Street Sundries located at 221 North Second Street in Albemarle, customers can support GHA Autism Supports when they visit the gift shop featuring handcrafted glass works made by individuals served by GHA. "The gift shop was developed to give the people we support an opportunity to market and sell their products," said Beth Olivieri, Chief Development Officer at GHA. "Each product is unique in the design and color the individual chooses," said Anna Walker, a vocational coordinator for GHA who works with individuals to create items for the gift shop. Included in the gift

shop are vases, sectional trays, coasters, candle holders, necklaces, soaps and much more. "This is a very rewarding and meaningful job for our individuals to have, because it allows them to see the project from when they begin with two sheets of glass all the way to the finished product," Anna said. In addition to the glass works of art, greeting cards are available for a wide range of special occasions. With advance notice, gift baskets can be designed including several handcrafted items. The hours of operation for the Second Street Sundries Gift Shop are 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Monday through Friday.



Carolina Farms Participates in Cooking Camp for Kids



This summer, some children took a break from swimming in the pool to participate in a cooking camp sponsored by First Presbyterian Church in Albemarle. On one of the days of camp, the group of children visited Carolina Farms to learn about day to day responsibilities in



operating a farm. In addition to learning about autism and the services GHA Autism Supports offers, the children heard from Carolina Farms staff about organic gardening, as well as composting and pollinating a greenhouse where there are no bees to do so. Participants harvested squash, zucchini, basil, kale and blueberries to use for camp activities. Thank you to the Carolina Farms staff for providing such an insightful tour, and to camp organizers at First Presbyterian Church for allowing GHA to continue forging such valuable partnerships in the community!



"GOLF FORE AUTISM" Raises Over \$38,000! More than 100 golfers gathered at Cape Fear National Golf Club at Brunswick Forest in Leland, NC for the 5th annual *Golf Fore Autism* tournament on June 13th presented by Anlyan&Hively. The golf tournament raised over \$38,000 to fund GHA Wilmington operations. This event would not have been successful without the support of sponsors including the following: **Presenting Sponsor**; Anlyan&Hively, **Hole In One Sponsor**; Cape Fear Land Rover, **Patron Sponsors**; Goldman Sachs, Live Oak Bank, J.P. Morgan Asset Management and Carole Morrison; **Corporate Donors**; Alger, American

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Like us on Facebook—GHA Autism Supports

Janet Banks, Chief Professional Services Officer, represented GHA at the International Meeting for Autism Research (IMFAR) in Baltimore, MD in May. In collaboration with peers from the Specialomrade AUTISME program in Denmark, GHA was presented in a poster session to over 2,000 people from 40 different countries. There was significant interest in GHA programs and all of the feedback received was very positive. GHA is pleased to continue collaborative efforts with the group of autism professionals in Denmark.



Lars Jensen, Headmaster at Hinnerup Kollegiet in Denmark and Janet Banks, GHA Chief Professional Services Officer

Congratulations

Robbie! Several GHA Autism Supports individuals attended the 2016 Volunteer Recognition Dinner at the Stanly County Senior Center in Albemarle on April 14th. This year's Clarence D.



Hinson Volunteer of the Year Award for the Senior Center was awarded to Robbie. He has been a volunteer at the Senior Center for many years. Robbie volunteers his time three times a week where he organizes the library room and helps prepare for Senior Center events. His dedication and positive attitude has gained him the respect and admiration of co-workers and patrons of the Senior Center. Robbie received a plaque during the award recognition which he proudly showed to his parents and his long time staff Chemega Peoples.



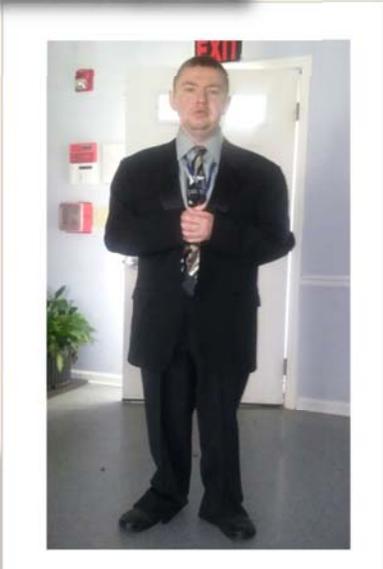
Hundreds gathered at the Stanly County Family YMCA Park in Albemarle on Saturday, May 21st for the **8th Annual GHA Autism Supports Rubber Duck Derby**, which raised over \$30,000 for GHA Autism Supports! A special thanks to the Stanly County Family YMCA for allowing GHA to use their facilities and move inside due to inclement weather. A record number of 5,800 rubber ducks were dumped into the YMCA Olympic-size pool facility on event day. Dale Stittgen was the proud owner of the "Lucky Duck", the first duck to cross the finish line, winning \$3,000 cash. Melanie Nelson won \$1,000 cash as the owner of the "Runner Up Duck". Other winners included the following: "Hungry Duck" owner Jeff Chance took home a \$100 Harris Teeter gift card courtesy of Harris Teeter of Albemarle; "Yummy Duck" owner S. Nelson enjoyed a \$50 Dairy Queen gift card courtesy of Albemarle Oil Company; "Cookout Duck" owner Colleen Keith won her own charcoal grill and smoker courtesy of Lowe's Home Improvement of Albemarle; "Dining Duck" owner Kent Cooke picked up eight free meals courtesy of Second Street Sundries at 221 North Second Street, Albemarle; "Keep Me Movin' Duck" owner Ramon Sunquist won a \$50 BP gas card courtesy of Albemarle Oil Company and "Thrill Seeker Duck" owner Bea Pardo won two tickets to Carowinds courtesy of Cedar Fair Parks.



Prior to the rubber ducks taking the plunge into the pool, those in attendance took advantage of several free family-friendly fun including inflatables sponsored by All 4 Fun Inflatables of Albemarle, numerous children's games, balloon art by Dr. Colin Moffett and face painting by Vicki Galloway. Representatives from the Albemarle Police Department, the Albemarle Fire Department, Alcoa Power Generating Inc., Stanly County Sheriff's Office, The OT Clinic, Stanly Regional Medical Center, Stanly County Health Department and the Stanly County Family YMCA offered activities for children. GHA would also like to thank the following sponsors that helped make the day a success: **Presenting Sponsor;** Tim Marburger Honda, **Platinum Sponsor;** Uwharrie Bank, **Gold Sponsors;** Albemarle Pediatrics, All For Fun Inflatables, South Central Oil Company & Professional Propane, Southern Pharmacy, **Silver Sponsors;** Bear Insurance Service, Crook Motor Company, Davidson, Holland & Whitesell & Co. PLLC, **Bronze Sponsors;** Simply Home, Stanly Appliance Parts & Services, LLC and The Stanly News and Press, WSPC/WZKY Radio, **Media Sponsors;** .

Joy Prom April 2016

The Joy Prom is a full-scale prom for the special needs individuals in the greater Charlotte community hosted by Carmel Baptist Church. Several individuals supported by GHA were in attendance on April 29th where they arrived on the red carpet and were escorted by volunteers who helped them with make-up, shoe shines and photo opportunities! A dessert buffet was served for all guests and was followed by an evening of dancing the night away with their friends. Special thanks to all of the Carmel Baptist Church volunteers who made this event possible for hundreds of attendees!



Scenes from the Super Bowl Party at Second Street Sundries—Despite the Panthers losing, fun was had by all!



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GHA Autism Supports provides quality, community services to meet the unique needs of individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

SCCF Grant Received for Second Kiln

GHA Autism Supports was recently awarded a \$5,000 grant from the Stanly County Community Foundation (SCCF) towards the expansion of the creative arts initiative by installing a second kiln. The initiative gives GHA Autism Supports individuals the opportunity to create one-of-a-kind works of art including glass pieces and pottery. According to Anna Walker, a vocational coordinator for GHA, the process of making clay and glass pieces in the kiln can take

around 17 hours, so a second kiln will make it easier for individuals to complete more pieces at a time. The SCCF has been assisting GHA Autism Supports since 2006 to fund a variety of projects at Carolina Farms, which includes funding for the construction of the barn, the therapeutic horseback riding ring, the roaming chicken coop, one of the greenhouses and the produce processing center. The Foundation has also invested in an Automated External Defibrillators (AED) for the Central Office and for Carolina Farms. GHA appreciates the continued support of the SCCF and for the impact that has been made to numerous nonprofits throughout Stanly County.

Staff Spotlight**Melinda Graham**

In April 2016, GHA Autism Supports welcomed a new member of their team to the Central Office, Melinda Graham who as the Director of IT. This Stanly County native graduated from Stanly Community College with a Micro Computer System Technology degree and Computer Operations diploma. After graduation, Melinda started working at Stanly Regional Medical Center, then the City of Albemarle, followed by a remote healthcare company. "I find extreme satisfaction in knowing that I can help somebody as a whole," said Melinda. With her experience in information technology, Melinda believes that she will be a valuable asset in the operations of GHA and by making everyone's job more efficient, she hopes GHA employees can improve the communication within the office and throughout the organization. Since she was hired in April, Melinda feels she has found a family at the GHA Central Office. "I look forward to coming to work now," said Melinda, "It's a positive place." She hopes she can strengthen and secure the data and electronic communications for GHA. One of the tools she hopes to implement is the use of the Microsoft OneDrive which allows people to upload documents to the cloud on the internet in a secure way so people within the organization can see and edit one document together. When Melinda is not at work, she enjoys cooking and spending time with her husband, Paul, and her two children, 26-year-old Christopher, and 16-year-old Dylan.

GHazette Snap Shot Corner



Temika brings home the gold for bowling!



Check out Charles as the Special Olympics Torchbearer!



Maria takes home the gold for bowling and celebrates alongside Karcin!



Gearing up for aquatics competition at the Triangle Aquatics Center!



Chris sports his red nose at his job at Walgreens as part of the "Red Nose Day" initiative!



Eric celebrated his birthday this year by taking a train trip from Salisbury to Greensboro and back with his friends. Good food and good times were had by all!



Katie staying busy working at Queensboro Shirt Company in Wilmington



Greg enjoys a little art therapy at Coastal Endeavors Day Program in Wilmington!