

WELCOME HOME ANGEL, INC.

SPRING 2009

Meet Christina

Christina was born with Spina Bifida, curvature of the spine and was a fetal alcohol baby. As an infant she was found lying near her mother's dead body after the mother had over dosed. Luckily there are people like Betty who took her in, adopted Christina and loved her as much as her own two children.

Outside the home Christina uses a wheelchair. Inside she holds onto the furniture and shuffles along because the home did not accommodate a wheelchair.

Besides creating a whole new bedroom butterfly world the Design Team redesigned her bathroom and front entry to meet ADA standards. This allows Christina to move about safely and comfortably. A ramp out front, provided by Waccamaw Baptist Church, means that Betty no longer has to strain to lift Christina up and down the steps.



A constant smile and a giggle you will never forget definitely defines Christina much more than her disabilities.

Unfortunately, the makeover won't be finished before we go to press. Please



check out our new updated website for the pictures of Christina's new beautiful butterfly garden room and of other children's fantasy bedrooms.



DENISE, our latest child, suffers from Leukemia. She will soon be at UNC-Chapel Hill for a bone marrow transplant. The family of six children lives in a 3 BR house. The mother has given up her room and sleeps on the couch. When Denise comes home after the procedure she will be confined to the home for months. With your help we will provide her a comfortable and fun environment in which to recover.

WHO IS WELCOME HOME ANGEL, INC.?

Imagine the feeling and experience of a parent bringing home their child who has been hospitalized suffering from a devastating illness or injury. The parents see the child's relief to be home and hear the unspoken question "Will things ever be the same as before". The whole family whispers, *I hope so.*

There is so very much for the parents and guardians to do, to worry about, so much to consider, what happens now? There are medications to administer and monitor, special meals to prepare, appointments to make and keep, other children to look after, bills to pay and work to do.

We provide a "Makeover" of the child's bedroom creating a healthy and cheerful environment in which to live and recover. It is amazing how renovating a sick child's room can have a therapeutic effect on the child's recovery. It allows them to take their minds away from their problems and dream happy dreams in their new fantasy healing space. If the child has special needs we address other areas of the house that also may need our attention.

Assistance and guidance is offered to the parents and/or guardians to help them deal with the many issues the situation may cause. Our Guardian Angels look for other organizations and agencies that offer goods and services that can make this traumatic time in their lives a bit easier to handle.

Lastly Welcome Home Angel, Inc. does a minor makeover in the sibling's rooms to remind them that they are loved and cared for too. This unfortunate situation affects the whole family.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Meet Christina</i>	1
<i>Who we are</i>	1
<i>Denise</i>	1
<i>Guardian Angels</i>	2
<i>Meet Rashone</i>	2
<i>We Need Help</i>	2
<i>Annual Luncheon</i>	3
<i>Meet Zack</i>	3
<i>The Design Team</i>	3
<i>Board of Directors</i>	4
<i>Letter From Founder</i>	4

WELCOME HOME ANGEL, INC.

HELP US FIND HELP

Families going through the trauma of dealing with the health problems of their children have issues that we can only imagine.

As much as we would like to solve all the financial and psychological problems we can't.

What we can do is discover the offerings of agencies, Federal, State, Private, Non-Profit and Religious that can provide additional benefits to cover some of the needs. Does your church or civic club have special programs that our clients could take advantage of? Are you aware of a national or regional agency that could help?

We are developing a list, with contact information, that our Guardian Angels can use to give further assistance to these families.

IF YOU KNOW OF ANY

ORGANIZATION

WHICH CAN PROVIDE

SERVICES PLEASE

EMAIL THE

INFORMATION TO

JOHN.KAISER@INDOFF.COM

GUARDIAN ANGELS

One of the most important components of Welcome Home Angel, Inc. is our Guardian Angel program.

For each case two volunteers are assigned as Guardian Angels for the family. The GA's are our liaisons to the family. They meet with the family to discuss what our mission is and to do an assessment of needs and how we will go about "making over" the rooms. The GA's will then bring in the Design Team and get the ball rolling.

Another extremely important aspect of the Guardian Angels

is to offer comfort and information to the parents based on the needs assessment. We cannot be all things to all people but we can find other organizations and agencies that offer goods and services that can make a huge difference in the families' lives during this traumatic period.

One family was found to have qualified for addition money from the state of NC to provide equipment. Another family was referred to a patient advocacy organization to help make sense out of the pile of medical bills. We found a generous donor who transferred his used car to

a single mother who had no car so she could get to work and take her son to the rehab and the doctor.

Melissa Wilson, LCSW is the director of the Guardian Angel program and has set up guidelines and training to insure professionalism.

Giving a sick child a wonderful environment is great and a huge part of our focus. Providing support for the parents and guardians is an equally important aspect of Welcome Home Angel, Inc. They are suffering maybe more than the child.

RASHONE'S A TV STAR

WWAY was there to meet Rashone when he arrived home after 6 operations for a brain tumor and a long recovery in rehab at New Hanover Hospital. The piece was on the 6 and 11 o'clock news and he was a hit.

As he was taken up the new ramp, provided by St. Andrews Covenant Church, his smile and eyes got bigger and bigger. The first reaction, "I have never had such a beautiful room before."

To teenage boy who loves basketball it was beautiful. Even his sisters liked the full size poster of Dwyane Wade of the Miami Heat.

His sisters also liked his new laptop computer and furnishings. They each got a minor makeover in their rooms. Mom received a special surprise also. Since Daphne had spent so much time away from work and her expenses had gone up greatly she lost her car. The Guardian Angels from Welcome Home Angel, Inc. found an extremely nice and generous gentleman who was willing to part with the beloved van that he had babied and cared for. He donated it to Rashone's family so Daphne didn't have to worry how to get Rashone to the Doctor's office or rehab.

Rashone is back at school but still in recovery and dreaming HOOP Dreams in his wonderful basketball room.



MEET ZACK

Zack is a 15 year old at Laney High School who has a 4.5 grade point average. He loves to read and has awards for academic excellence.

Zack also has a recurrence of Leukemia. He was first diagnosed when he was 7 years old and thought he had defeated it. He now faces a 14 month treatment process that includes daily medication.

There will be good days and not so good ones. There will be time away from school, and unlike a lot of 15 year boys, Zack loves school.

When Zack got sick

again he could not continue to share a room with his brother so the family renovated a small storage/office that was big enough for Zack's bed, books and pet snake. The design team is converting this room and a dining room next to it into a new bedroom with new furniture and bookcases and desk

and of course room for the pet snake.

Construction begins the week of April 12th so check the web site for before and after pictures. It will be a space designed just for Zack and the things he loves and a great place to heal



THE DESIGN TEAM

It is so important that a renovation and makeover for a very sick child goes smoothly and that all aspects of the child's healthcare needs are addressed. That is the reason we use professional Interior Designers and Architects to lead each makeover. The professionals volunteer their time, talents, and experience to insure that the projects go off perfectly.

Our Director of Design is Jay DeChesere, AIA and he is assisted by our Founder John Kaiser who is a professional Interior Designer. Each project these two select a new Design Team made up of professionals from the Wilmington area. This Team then coordinates with the family and most importantly the children to discuss what their fantasy is for their very special room.

If there are construction issues a licensed General Contractor is brought in to handle these is a timely manor keeping dust and interruption to a minimum.

The result is a fun and fantastic environment that is also practical and conducive to healing.

FRIENDS OF WELCOME HOME ANGEL LUNCHEON



On April 22nd Welcome Home Angel, Inc. will hold it's second annual luncheon at the Holiday Inn Sun Spree from 11:45 to 1:15.

This event will celebrate one full year of operation and will highlight the projects completed, in process, and the growth of our organization from the conception of an idea in November of 2007 to today.

We are very proud of where we are.

It has been a learning experience. Each family brings a new dynamic. Each child has a new story of struggle and pain and, maybe not too surprisingly, an optimistic outlook for the future.

If you would like to join us at the luncheon to help us celebrate call 910-515-4242. We would love to have you.

Board of Directors



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Letter from our Founder By John Kaiser, President

Every time I look at the faces of the children that we have served and hear the “thank you ” from the parents my heart races. What we bring is not just new beautiful space, but a new beginning. For most of these families the life they knew is gone and replaced by struggle and worry. Our contribution is to give regeneration and renewal. We are proof that the old can be revived and that there are wonderful possibilities hidden from view. It’s the realization that people care and caring people can do wonderful things. It is the knowledge that these children are special and deserve special attention.

Our beginning has be slow and deliberate. Like most newborns we have had to learn to crawl before we walk. We have learned so much and continue to learn from each family and each special child. This next year we will reach out to more who need a smile on their face and fun comfortable place to fight and hopefully win the battle. We are there for these kids. Join us.

**CONTACT US AT
910-515-4242
OR GO TO OUR
NEW WEB SITE
WWW.WELCOME
HOMEANGEL.COM**

**WELCOME HOME ANGEL, INC
1028 S. COLLEGE RD.
WILMINGTON NC 28403**

