



HeartWorks Caring for children is a work of heart.

December 8, 2017

Dear Friend of HeartWorks,

Nine-year-old Devan called Ms. Sue, our afterschool program director, aside on Monday afternoon with a drooping head and an obviously heavy heart. He quietly confided to her that he had been suspended from school because he

had taken \$5.00 from an envelope of money his teacher had asked him to take to the office. When she asked him why, through tears he explained that he wanted to go on a field trip with his classmates, and his mother could not afford to give him the fee. Ms. Sue was stunned at this confession. Behavior like this is completely out of character for Devan. Continuing to cry, he said that this was not the first time he had stolen, and he was scared. “Scared of what?” she asked. “Of growing up to be like my father,” he cried. His father, incarcerated numerous times for theft and other offences, has not seen Devan in over five years – more than half of the child’s life.

Sobbing, this confused nine-year-old begged Ms. Sue to help him. He said he had never told anyone, including his mother, about taking things, and he was telling Ms. Sue because he knew she would still love him. When Mom arrived that afternoon to pick up Devan, she and Ms. Sue met briefly. Ms. Sue recommended that Mom contact StillWaters, HeartWorks’ counseling service.

A week later, Devan asked to see Ms. Sue again. With a huge smile on his face, he said to her, “Ms. Sue, I am so happy. My mom called StillWaters and made an appointment. I am going to get better!”

Without the trust Ms. Sue has earned from Devan and the resources available at HeartWorks, where would this child have turned? While his story has not concluded, he has made a definite move in the right direction. Because Ms. Sue cares and shows her concern for each child at HeartWorks, Devan had the opportunity to make a good decision. It is our job to ensure that all of our children make good decisions and grow in a positive manner.

Stories like Devan’s are common at HeartWorks. Positive outcomes are possible because of the generous contributions made by you, our donors.



Since this time last year HeartWorks has served almost 400 at-risk one to fourteen year-old children and their families through our preschool, school-age, and counseling programs.

- More than 250 kindergarten through eighth grade children attended the 21st Century Community After-School and Summer Program. Not only do the students benefit from structured out-of-school time learning but this program also allows many of their parents and caregivers the opportunity to work and/or attend college.
- Volunteers provided enrichment activities that included mentoring, homework assistance, fishing trips, music lessons, literacy and math tutoring, sailing camp, art classes, drumming and other valuable endeavors.
- StillWaters, HeartWorks' counseling center, provided behavioral health services to over one hundred juveniles and their families. In the not so distant past, families had to travel to New Bern for such services.
- Our five-star developmental day care, Safe Start Academy, served over thirty preschool one to five year-olds with daily nurturing and individualized care.

- With an annual payroll of over \$800,000, HeartWorks provided employment for over fifty teachers, aides, administrators and mental health therapists.
- Over one hundred volunteers worked countless hours to make our largest annual fundraiser, *Harborfest*, a huge success.

Harborfest 2017 was our most lucrative fundraiser to date. Yet, we are still challenged to raise an additional \$100,000 to meet our budget for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Through your financial gifts and volunteer hours, HeartWorks is able to provide the children of our community with focused services that are necessary to successfully break the overwhelming cycles of abuse, illiteracy, violence, and poverty.

You can transform lives right here in Pamlico County. Please give generously.

Thank you.

-karen

Karen Prince
HeartWorks Executive Director

On-line donations can be made by clicking [here](#). If you prefer to support HeartWorks with a check, please mail your donation to HeartWorks, P.O. Box 365, Bayboro, NC 28515. Questions? Call 252-745-9703

HeartWorks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community service agency in Bayboro, NC. Our mission is to address the underserved mental and physical health needs of youth and their families in Pamlico County and surrounding areas.

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