



**Miracle Hill**  
MINISTRIES

# Miracles in the Making

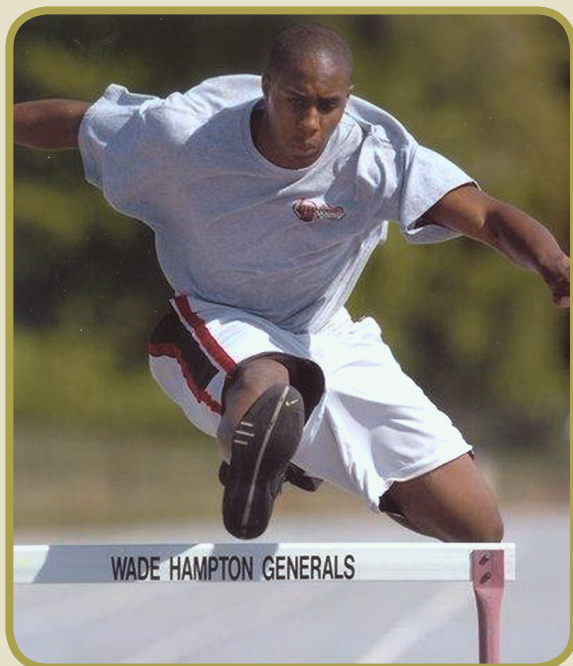
Fall 2008

A publication of Miracle Hill Ministries, Inc.

## Overcoming Tough Hurdles

By any standard, Jesse is an exceptional young man. At the public high school he attended, Jesse excelled in the classroom and at sports. He was a member of the track team and was the 110-meter hurdles champion in both Greenville County and Peach Blossom AAA Region meets. He scored 1530 on his SAT, and will attend Furman University on a full academic scholarship.

Jesse has also lived the last eight years of his life in foster homes. Before entering the DSS system, His parents prepared him for life and taught him spiritual lessons that he never forgot. When Jesse went into foster care at 10 years old, he determined to make the best of living without his parents. "I've seen other people in the same situation not try to make the best of it," he said. "I've been around people being supportive, telling me that I could make a difference. I don't have to be another statistic. I just took that to heart."



Growing up without a mother and father, Jesse has had some tough hurdles to overcome. However, just as he soars over the physical hurdles on the track, Jesse has learned not to let adverse circumstances defeat him in the real world. Home schooled until he finished the curriculum offered at Miracle Hill Boys' Shelter, Jesse then transferred to a local high school, to continue his education. He excelled there as well, maintaining a 3.6 grade point average in addition to being a valuable contributor to the track team.

When he completed high school, Marquis, the coordinator of the Boys' Shelter, encouraged Jesse to apply to colleges, taking him to eight different campuses. Jesse applied to five and was accepted into all of them. He finally decided on Furman, and was granted a full academic scholarship. He will be entering Pre-Engineering in the fall. Jesse will also be running track while attending Furman.

Marquis says Jesse is a joy to work with because he is self motivated and only needs to be pointed in the right direction. "He tends to get excited over things, like acceptance letters and scholarships", said Marquis, relating a few of the great things about Jesse. "Jesse came at the right time to remind me why I was here. For a period, we had some rough kids, and I wondered if it was worth it, but then you get a kid like Jesse and you see the difference that you make."

During the summer, Jesse worked at Camp Greenville, helping other children from similar circumstances. As a counselor to children between the ages of 13 and 15, he taught horseback riding. He says he loves working with kids because, "Kids, especially the young ones, are crazy and funny and care free." Jesse can relate to their situations, and says he hopes to make a difference in their lives.

With a positive attitude and God's help, Jesse is a miracle, succeeding in spite of the many obstacles in his past.

**Give Locally. Help Locally.**

# The Heart of our Donors

by Frankie Powell, VP of Development

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:21

Visiting with those of you who support our ministry is one of the great joys of my job. Recently, I have been blessed to meet several wonderful individuals who have been investing in our work for many years. Their giving stories and involvement with our work are so interesting. Let me share some of my recent experiences with you.

Last Monday, Betty welcomed me into her home. She began her journey with us in the early 60's. Her husband opened a medical practice down the street from our Children's Home. Each day she and her husband would see our "girls" outside playing or sitting on the porch and they knew God was calling them to be involved. Although her husband is now in heaven, Betty still supports our work, not only because she loves the children, but also because she loves Christ, who touched her heart years ago.

Then, there's Bill, 88. Janet Yusi and I visited with him last week. Bill says of Janet, "You are the first person since my wife died 20 months ago who has listened to me and reached out to me. I believe I'm starting a new life now, thanks to Miracle Hill and the outings and friendship you're offering." What a privilege it is for us to be able to minister to the donors God sends our way.

And, there's Marilyn. She is delightful. Greenville is her hometown. I asked her how she learned her spirit of generosity. "It was modeled in my home. My dad once passed a sale table of shoes and purchased them all. He gave them to the needy in our community. I learned by watching my parents." Recently Marilyn made a gift to help us with our elevator project at Miracle Hill Shepherd's Gate, our facility for women and children. "I know how important that elevator is for the women. I can't imagine women with small children navigating those steps, not to mention those who have physical limitations. I like giving to projects like this one."

These are only three of the stories I've heard this month and I've visited at least 10 different donors. Our donors are givers. Each has a story. We would love to hear yours. If you would like to share it, please email it to us at [info@miraclehill.org](mailto:info@miraclehill.org).

*Do I have a great job or what?*



# No One Even Knew His Name

by Elizabeth Davis, Staff Writer

It's the little things in life that count. I remember the morning my dad brought a homeless man home for breakfast. My mom was making waffles that morning, when an old man, very dirty and looking as though he had just woken up came through our back door. As a child, I had no idea what to say to him, but my dad's kindness stuck in my mind.



Of course, I recognize that bringing strangers into your home isn't always the wisest thing to do. Despite that, I did learn a valuable lesson about compassion that day. It was easy for me to overlook the needy people my parents worked with, and if they did talk to me, it was easier to run away or look at the floor. It took a lot more courage to give a smile or buy a meal.

That morning as I watched that man eat our food, off of our plates, I thought, "Even if I could do something for him it would be so insignificant." I didn't know how to relate to him or what to say. My understanding of his world was so limited that I didn't think bridging the gap was possible. Not knowing what else to do, I just smiled at him and thanked him for coming. I was embarrassed as his eyes filled with tears. I hadn't realized the impact a smile and a kind word would have on a man who had become invisible to most of society. I didn't know that no one even knew his name.

For more insight on Miracle Hill Ministries, or

## The Family Book Project

Books offer people a chance to dream, encourage them to be more than what they are, and let them dare to hope for better reality for themselves. Seeing the people living in our shelters reading, illustrates the vital importance books can have for their emotional well-being. By giving those without a home a chance to experience a different life, or to read their kids a bedtime story, you give them more than a book, you give them a chance to believe in happily ever-afters.

The Family Book Project, started by Lucy and Gary Ault in December 2005, was created to establish libraries at Miracle Hill Shelters and to provide homeless people with access to books and reading material donated by the surrounding community. Families and individuals are also encouraged to take books with them as they leave the shelters.

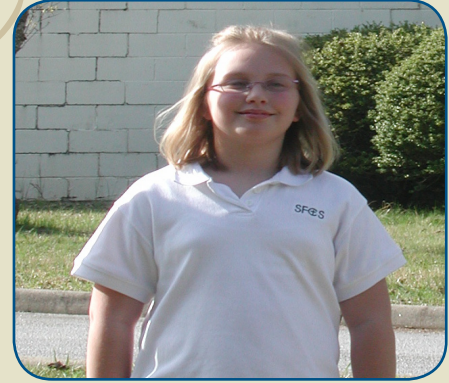
Support from the community has been outstanding. Last spring, a donation of \$4,000 from the Kelley Foundation went toward building a library for Miracle Hill Children's Home. Shannon Forest Christian School's silent auction added another \$1,500 towards the children's library. Then, in December 2007, the project was selected by Barnes and Noble to be the recipient of their Christmas book drive. The Family Book Project received over 5,000 new books that were distributed between Miracle Hill shelters. The Community Foundation awarded a \$2,000 Community Enrichment Grant to buy books needed for the Greenville Rescue Mission's reading room.

Thank you Lucy, Gary and everyone who made this project such a success.



To learn more about The Family Book Project, please visit [www.thefamilybookproject.org](http://www.thefamilybookproject.org).

## Caroline Kredensor - "Little Give"



Could you really make a difference with \$100? What if you were only a kid? Caroline Kredensor is a little girl making a big impact. "A lot of people don't think kids can make a difference," says Caroline, but at nine years old, she has inspired the community.

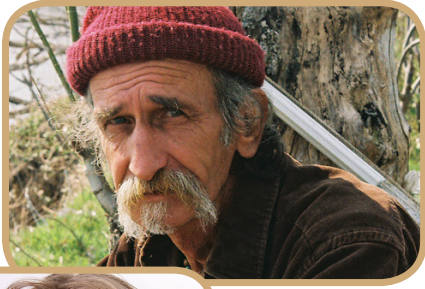
Caroline wanted to show that even little kids can do big things. When she found out she had been chosen to receive \$100 to help someone in need from TK and Monnie's "Little Give", sponsored by Liquid Highway and Magic 98.9, Caroline began raising additional funds immediately. Everywhere she went, she saw people as potential contributors.

She began by recruiting her mom and dad as laborers, both of whom gave time and effort to transport Caroline and provide resources. Next, Caroline went to the principal of her school and asked about throwing a school wide bake sale. He said yes, and the sale brought in \$432.63. She also wrote a letter to the manager of Bloom grocery store asking them to donate supplies for the sale, which they did. Caroline called all of her family and friends, some as far away as Connecticut, California, Florida, and North Carolina. She knocked on every door in her neighborhood and the area where her grandma lives, asking for donations to raise money for Miracle Hill Children's Home. Through her tireless efforts, Caroline brought in \$1180.63 in one week.

Because of her hard work, she was interviewed on Magic 98.9, but she says the most exciting part of the whole experience was helping those less fortunate. Thanks to Caroline, the Miracle Hill Children's Home will be able to purchase some much needed furniture. "Sometimes people think kids can't do anything," she said. "I wanted to show them that we can."

# Little Miracles

Sometimes God brings about a change in our lives through a process of little miracles.



They aren't the big ones that will cause other people to halt in amazement, but to us they make all the difference in the world. These miracles are another testimony to the fact that Christ loves us and is actively caring for His children. Sometimes that little miracle is as simple as having a bed to sleep in at night or food for your next meal.



In the city of Greenville alone, there are nearly 1,000 homeless individuals. Approximately half of them find a bed, food, and clothing at Miracle Hill each night. Another 2,000 worried moms or dads are able to feed their families this month with a little help from our Relief Ministry. It is a terrible thing to have to choose between paying rent and buying groceries, but for many in our community this is a choice they will be forced to make.

Jim, an Overcomer working in the Relief Ministry, sees folks making this choice every day, the children imprinted with poverty; the elderly on a fixed income with too many needs for their funds to cover. Each morning that the doors of the Relief Ministry are open, people are able to come and receive the help, prayer, and counsel they need. Having food supplied and being able to share their story are just two more examples of the daily miracles that happen at Miracle Hill.



As people walk out with a banana box filled with the food that will feed their family for another week, you can see a look of hope on their faces, the blessing of a little miracle in their lives. They have shared their troubles with someone who cares, and they have seen God provide for their needs through His children.

Those like Kevin, who was diagnosed with cancer. While he was in the hospital, a tornado demolished his home, along with the majority of his belongings. With assistance from the Relief Ministry, we were able to supply him with a few pieces of furniture, some clothes and food items. It is only enough

to live on, but the little miracles God places in our lives to show us His love just keep adding up.

At Miracle Hill, it only takes \$35.06 to shelter, feed, clothe and care for one man, woman or child for a night. A night they won't spend on the street. A night that becomes a little miracle attesting to the faithfulness of a loving Savior.

Thank you for your help, and your care for our ministry. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we reach out and touch lives.

Administrative Office	877.558.4357
Miracle Hill Boys' Shelter	864.292.0552
Miracle Hill Children's Home	864.878.9987
Miracle Hill Relief Ministry	864.242.2911
Miracle Hill Rescue Mission	
• Cherokee Co.	864.488.0376
• Greenville	864.242.6933
• Spartanburg	864.583.1628
Miracle Hill Shepherd's Gate	864.268.5589
Miracle Hill Thrift Operations	864.242.6931
Miracle Hill Auto Sales	864.268.1960
Overcomers Program	864.242.6933
Renewal Program	864.242.2166



## Miracles in the Making

Miracle Hill does not discriminate with regard to race, color, sex, national origin, marital, veteran, handicap or any other legally protected status.

\*Names and photos of clients may have been changed to ensure their safety.

Miracle Hill Ministries, Inc. is a member of the  
Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

