



2014

Helping Hands, Inc. Annual Newsletter



Here's How We See It: Our Journey to a Brighter Future

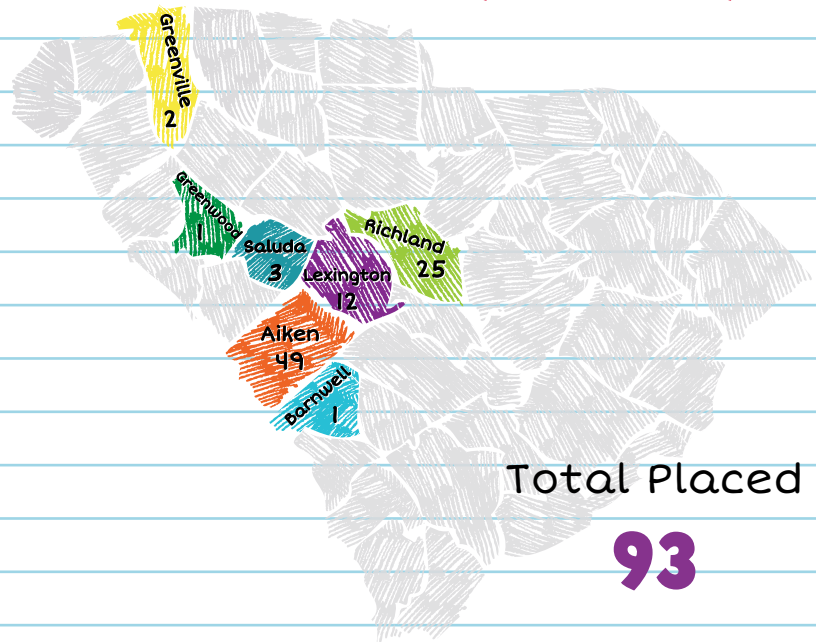


+ aiken youth
EMPOWERMENT™



Have you ever looked at your child and wondered “what are you thinking?” Well, I have those thoughts daily. So, this year we decided to show you the world through our children’s eyes. This newsletter was done from our children’s perspective, using their own words. After reading the journal entries, I hope you realize how much our programs and you, our supporters and volunteers, impact the lives of our community’s youth. If you do nothing else, please take it PERSONALLY. You are embedded into the reason for the joy they experience, new interests they are exposed to and new adventures upon which they embark. By asking them about their thoughts, we discovered that when they are daydreaming about horseback riding or the beach, they are really thinking of YOU! Both directly and indirectly, you are present in their dreams and are helping to shape their futures. Thank you so much for being a part of our lives and helping us to shape brighter futures for our community’s children!

Placement by County



2013

Revenue	\$1,254,404
Expenses	<u>- \$1,356,225</u>
	(\$101,821)



Being a Better Man

I used to be a jerk. I was rude and nasty and I started a lot of fights. Mr. Kevin and the Wise Guys program helped me change. I realized I didn't really like me when I was being mean. Honestly, I felt like crap afterwards, too. Today was our last group so I've been reflecting on what I've learned. Now I know it's okay to talk things out instead of trying to fight all the time. I'm a better man than I was because I feel better about myself and because I'm making better decisions. I really hope I get to be in the program again next year!



WISE GUYS



Did you know that Aiken Youth Empowerment programs can be found in most Aiken County schools? In 2013, our Community Educators had more than 1,200 contacts through their educational programs and services. Want to find out more about what we do? Visit us online at www.aikenyouthempowerment.org today!

A Brighter Future



REAL CARE

I got no sleep last night because the baby kept crying. I couldn't tell if she was hungry, wanted to be rocked, burped or needed a diaper change. I don't get how adults have the energy to do this, much less how someone my age does it! I'm exhausted and it's only day two of the Real Care Infant Simulator program. Ms. Kandace warned us, but I didn't think it'd be this hard! My grandmother has laughed at me while I've had the baby, but we've also talked about me making better decisions for my future. Over the past few days, I've learned I gotta be more responsible and that I should live by the quote, "Books before boys because boys bring babies!"



Today was one of the best days of my life! I got to see the ocean for the first time ever. I mean, I'm 15 and had never seen the ocean until today. Can you believe that? I can't even tell you how amazing it was. The coastal smells, the way the sand felt under my feet, the waves hitting my body were all so awesome! I was really nervous to get near the water, but little by little, my friends talked me into sticking my toes in. I walked in the water and let the waves hit my ankles, my knees, then before I knew it, I was all the way in there! I heard people saying that the current wasn't too strong so we actually got to swim and stuff for a while, too.

Fun in the Sun



I've gone on a bunch of fun trips and participated in lots of awesome activities while living here and I'm even having my very first Christmas this year, but the trip to Myrtle Beach and getting to play in the ocean is something I will always remember!

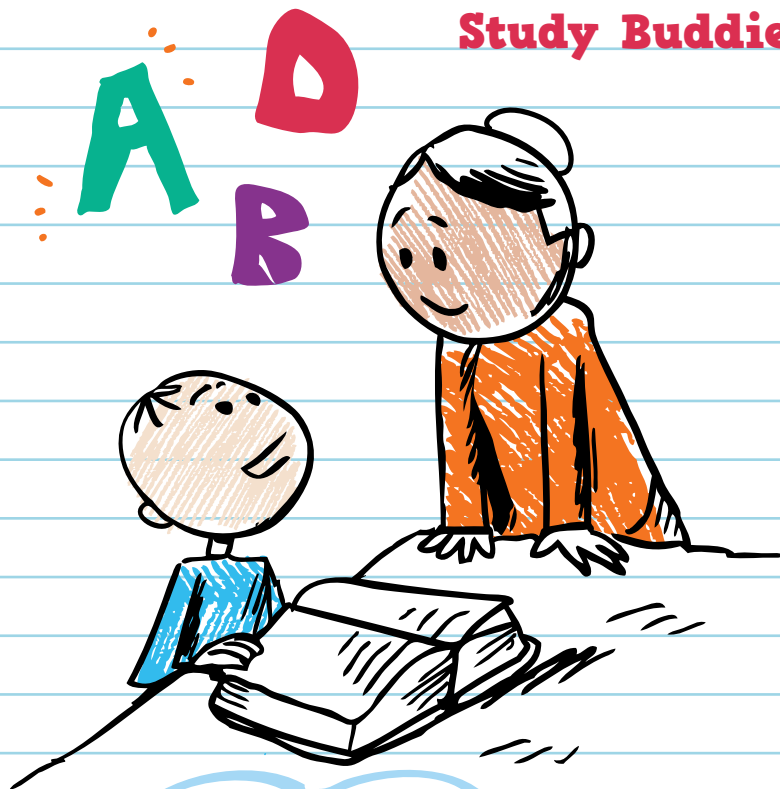


In 2013, we participated in approximately 304 off-campus trips and events. Want to help send us on future trips? Mail us a donation or click our "Donate" button online today! Check it out at: www.helpinghandsaiken.org.



Study Buddies

So my teacher gave me my interim today and I was like "yes!" But then I looked below the A's and B's and saw a D and it kind of stands out, but it's actually better than what it was. Our after-school routine is pretty lame - come home, eat a snack, do homework - but it keeps me on track and it's helped me get my grades up, which is great. Having someone here ready to help me when I get in from school is pretty cool. I didn't have that kind of help at home which is why I think I slacked off more. I used to zone out a lot while working on homework and studying, but here, my tutors make it easier for me to do my work. I think I get the information better when Ms. Stephanie, Ms. Deri, Mr. Richard or Ms. Jackie demonstrate it for me and my grades keep improving which is awesome! Anyway, I better go; I've got more physics studying to do before my quiz tomorrow! I hope I don't fail it!



In 2013, we had four tutors on staff who provided approximately 9,360 tutoring hours to our residents. Do you excel in a certain subject and want to help our children succeed? Call us today to get started tutoring: (803) 648-3456!



Our volunteers are so cool! Different groups come all the time to visit us and bring fun activities for us to do. I don't know about you, but we love cookouts around here! Not only do we love food, but being outside and meeting and playing with new friends is so much fun, too. Whether I get to learn fun, new games from the Kornreich and Pretorius families, worship with members from Big Stevens Creek Baptist Church or play with the moms and kids from Mommy and Me Missions, I always have an awesome time with the volunteer groups that come visit us and those are just a few of them! This weekend someone told me I should "look on the bright side of

The More, The Merrier



things" and I really think I'm gonna try to start doing that because I know these people are here to help me have fun and that they really do care about me. I really hope we get to hangout with more volunteers soon!



Did you know that our residents volunteer, too? In 2013, our residents brought in a total of 366 volunteer hours. How awesome is that? We also have extremely loyal volunteers who continue to brighten our days! Last year, 157 volunteers participated in various activities which resulted in over 1,800 hours of service. Help us continue to shape brighter futures! Call us today to get started volunteering: (803) 648-3456!



Earlier this morning a boy in my program said some stuff I didn't like. Before I got here, I used to blow up when I was mad; I would just start fighting and destroying everything in my way. Before, I would've just seen red and gone all crazy on him and anyone in my way. Luckily, I've changed. I'm glad my staff in the school-age program have patience and give us second chances. Everyone here really tries to help me with my behavior so I won't be separated from my brother because that's the last thing I want. My friends and my staff help me wanna be a better person and honestly, I think I'm getting there. I laugh and smile more and see less red now and my temper has gotten a whole lot better. And since I'm better at talking about how I feel, I told the boy that he hurt my feelings. He apologized then we played basketball together. Today was a pretty good day.

A Chance to Change



We try to educate and empower our youth while they are here by offering various life-skills classes. We logged a total of 138.5 life-skills hours and offered 45 life-skills courses in 2013. Have an interest, hobby or knowledge on a topic that would benefit our youth? Come speak to us! Give us a call today to set up your presentation: (803) 648-3456!





20th Annual

**Triple Crown
Golf Classic**

Monday, March 30, 2015
Woodside Plantation Country Club
Aiken, South Carolina

To benefit: Helping Hands and Tri-Development Center
 For information, call us at (803) 648-3456



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A Chef's Extravaganza ^{12th Annual}

A Chef's Extravaganza is a unique night of fine wine and food. The event will feature some of the CSRA's finest chefs, an auction, and live entertainment.

Friday, November 13, 2015
**Woodside Plantation
Country Club**

*For information, call us at
 (803) 648-3456*