



+ aiken youth
EMPOWERMENTSM

HEROES

START HERE



HELPING HANDS, INC. ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2013

Up in the sky!

It's a bird!

Look!

It's a plane!

It's YOU!!!

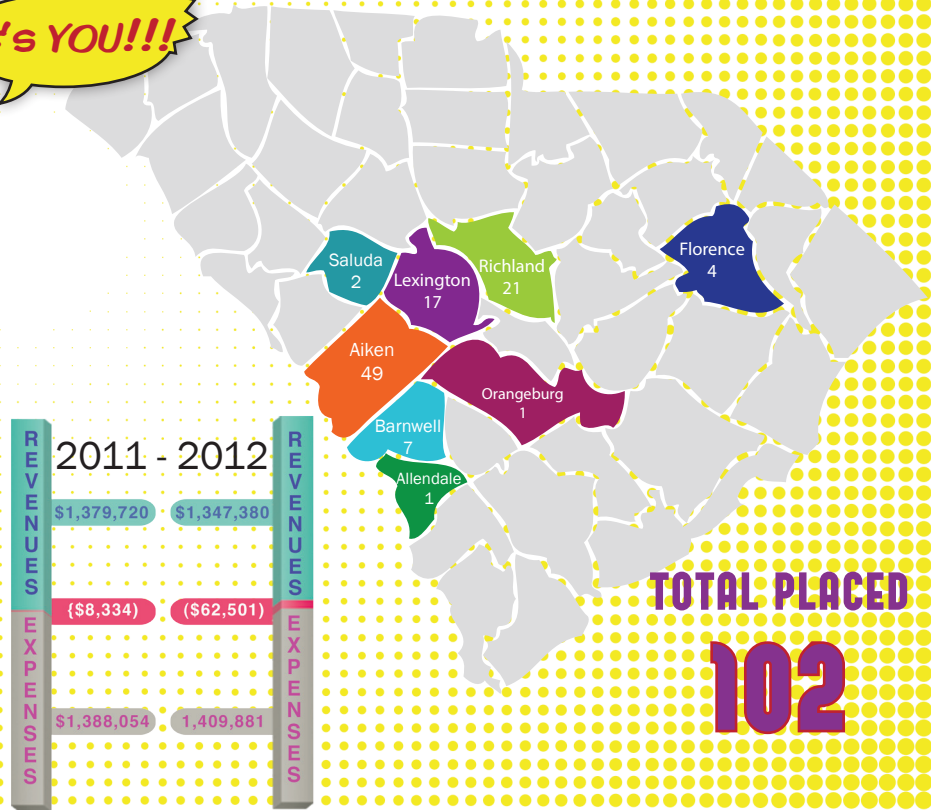
This year's newsletter highlights our heroes.



The idea came from a video that I saw earlier this year. A comedian who was raised in foster care mused on how many of our childhood heroes would be considered foster children. Superman, Batman, Harry Potter, Luke Skywalker, even Moses in the Bible, were

all raised by people who were not their biological parents. It made me think about the superheroes that we have among us at Helping Hands; not just our children, but our volunteers and staff, too. And so, this year, we are spotlighting some of the champions who have stood out in the past year. Make no mistake, they aren't the only ones. There are heroes all around us, even YOU! We are eternally grateful to you and ask you to continue to devote your time, talent, and treasure to our community's children. You help make it possible for the young people involved with our agency to discover their very own superpowers and reach new heights. So, enjoy this edition of our newsletter and UP, UP AND AWAY!!! See you at Headquarters!

PLACEMENT BY COUNTY



THE “JUSTICE LEAGUE”



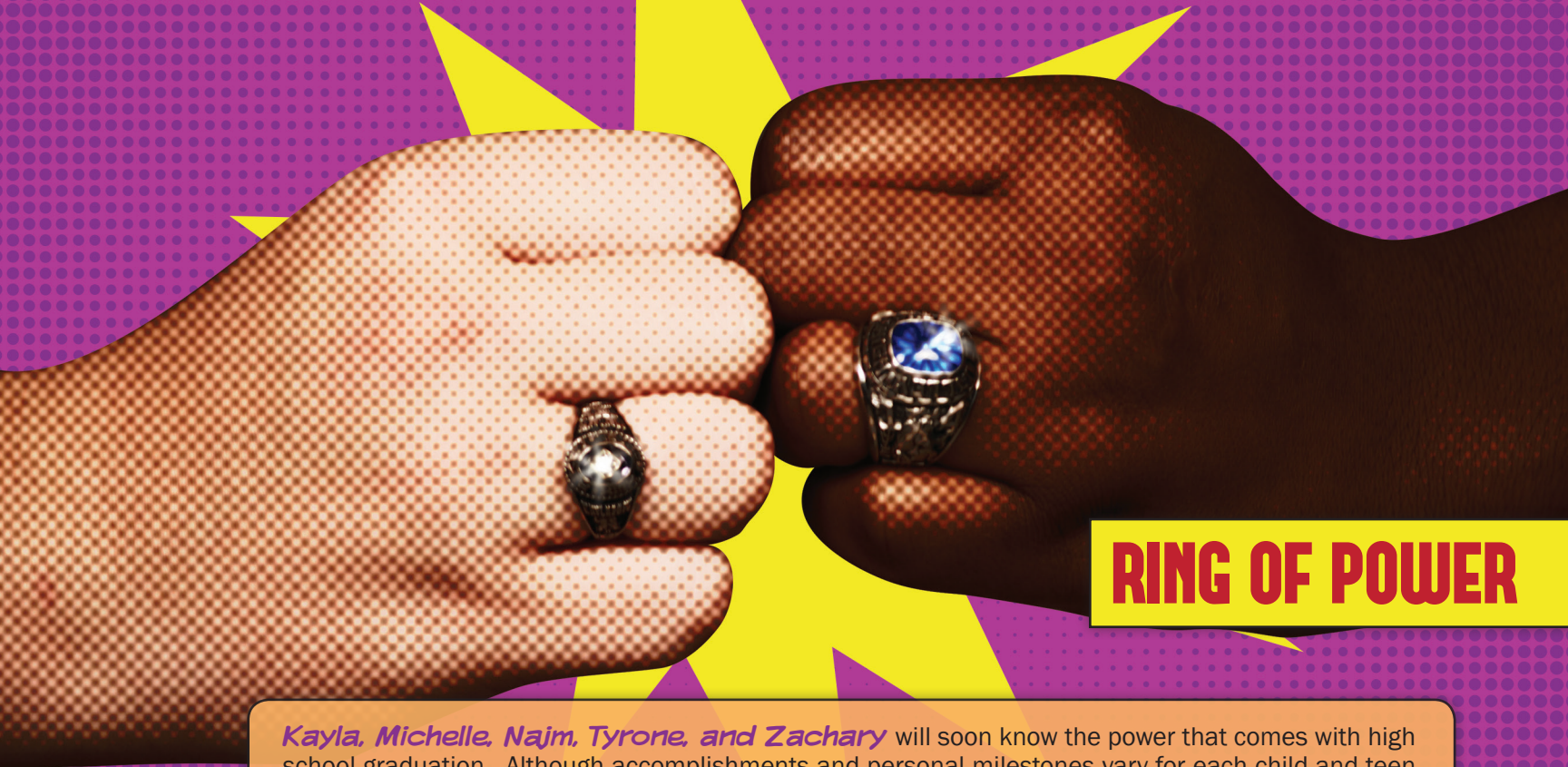
Heroes sometimes come in groups! Tripp is a young man who, along with his father, uses the power of fun to teach our children life skills and encourage them to enjoy their childhoods. Silver Bluff High School's Ms. Dandridge, uses the power of holiday excitement to get her Key Club students to give to our residents. Ms. Brown and the Sand River Women's Club use the power of planning to make every teen's birthday special. Sherri and the Midday Lions Club members use their

creative powers to do arts and craft projects with residents. The power of numbers has helped Mike and other ABATE members to hold successful annual Christmas and school supply drives for 30 years. We count on these groups to return and enrich our children's lives year after year. Together they make an immense impact. They may not be able to fly, but the talents of these heroes help save the world, one child at a time.

AIKEN YOUTH EMPOWERMENT



Meet Kandace and Kevin. They don't fight crime on the streets or wear masks or capes, but our Aiken Youth Empowerment (AYE) Community Educators are truly crusaders for our community's children, youth and families. They strive to educate and empower youth to make healthier decisions in order to decrease risk-taking behavior and teen pregnancy in our area. They work hard in schools, churches and other youth-serving organizations to change the way young people view themselves and their peers. They also teach parents to have "the talk" with their children through an ongoing dialogue, not just one conversation. Visit the AYE website for a list of all the programs and services these "risky behavior eliminators" offer. AikenYouthEmpowerment.org



RING OF POWER

Kayla, Michelle, Najm, Tyrone, and Zachary will soon know the power that comes with high school graduation. Although accomplishments and personal milestones vary for each child and teen we serve, we are always proud when they work hard to achieve their goals. Sometimes the goal is to learn their ABC's, sometimes social skills or independent living skills. Our teens learn that earning a high school ring is a symbol of power – and with that power comes the ability overcome the past and look toward the future. This year, with a little help from our tutors, our Community Educators and volunteers, five of our teens have pushed themselves to overcome obstacles, all the while never giving up. Congratulations to the graduating Helping Hands superheroes from the class of 2014!

THE TRANSFORMER

James Cross wasn't always motivated to succeed.

His past made it difficult for him to see the light at the end of the tunnel. He saw the advice offered by caring adults as challenges to his own ability and knowledge. Fortunately, James started to view the guidance and support that he was being offered as an advantage and began to use it. He, just like many of the other young men and women that we serve, experienced personal difficulties and triumphs which transformed him from who he was to who he is becoming. James continues to transform his life. He is now a successful freight-line driver, who visits us often. Even more importantly, our very own "Optimus Prime," uses his visits to encourage other teens in residence that they should not view the caring adults at Helping Hands as "archenemies", but as "trusty sidekicks" who will work tirelessly to help them "transform and roll out" into a brighter future.



CAPTAIN “PLANT IT”

Joshua Enochs was a resident at Helping Hands two different times.

He was actually one of the first residents to live in the Hope Haven building when it was constructed. Like many superheroes, Joshua lost a parent at an early age. During his time at Helping Hands, he and several other residents planted trees in memory of their deceased parents. Later, he remembers another resident destroying the trees in anger. Joshua quickly intervened and prevented the child from destroying the tree that he planted. He saved his tree and it still stands on campus today, blooming each spring to remind us all of the new opportunities that blossom on our campus every year. Our “Captain Plant It” now works year round with the members of the South Carolina Misfits MC, to volunteer and donate to our children in need. He shares his life story and its truths with residents and delivers the message that “the Power is Yours!” to change your life and the world.



19th Annual



**Triple Crown
Golf Classic**

Monday, March 31, 2014
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 ^{11th 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.

November 14, 2014
**Woodside Plantation
 Country Club**
 Aiken, South Carolina

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