



FAMILIES CHANGE TOMORROWS

From Our Director

by Jacob Willis



Spring is a time of renewal, a time of growth. This year has been the same at HCC. We have truly flowered and blossomed as an organization.

We have nearly doubled the number of families we work with in less than six months. Your generous donations have enabled us to provide legal assistance to families, hold activities for our children, and create lasting relationships with other agencies to further aid and assist our grandparents and other caregivers in raising their children.

Please accept our most gracious thanks to all the donors and volunteers who have contributed to The Coaches' Invitational Golf Tournament. We believe this is going to be a tremendous success in

raising funds so that we can provide more opportunities for our families.

Groups like the Kennedy-Herterich Foundation, Chetola Resort, Innovative Ink, Blowing Rock Country Club, Amorem Hospice, Baird, My Mountain Home, Tim and Donna Kearns, Tarbutton Family Foundation, Appnet New Media Studio, Blowing Rock Brewery, and many other sponsors have been so generous in their support of the golf tournament.

All of this could not have been accomplished without the tireless efforts of our Board of Directors, volunteers, donors, grantors, and sponsors! Thank you all for changing the future of so many children throughout the High Country!

With kind regards,

Jacob Willis
Executive Director
High County Caregivers



The High Country Caregivers mission is to provide advocacy, support, and education for kinship caregivers and their families.

FAST FACTS

As of 2018, there were an estimated 2,400,000 grandparents responsible for grandchildren. Here are their numbers.

55%

Over 55% of them are in the workforce.

19%

Over 19% of them live below the poverty line.

25%

Over 25% of them have a disability.

45%

Over 45% of them have provided care for 5 years or more.

46%

Over 46% of them are over age 60.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can learn more about the strengths and challenges of grandfamilies by visiting the Generations United website.

LINK
<https://www.gu.org/>



Board of Directors Spotlight: Jerry Moore

by Nathan Brown

"Always do more than what is expected."

These simple words are more than a motto for Coach Jerry Moore -- this phrase represents the true path of this man's life.

During Moore's 23-year career as Head Coach of Appalachian State University, he led the Mountaineers to the NCAA Division I-AA Football Championship in 2005, 2006 and 2007, achieving the first "three-peat" in NCAA Division I FCS/I-AA history. In 2014, Moore was inducted into the Southern Conference Hall of Fame and the College Football Hall of Fame.

These successes might have been enough for some, but Moore felt he could do more for the community. He has been an ardent supporter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes since the 1960s. Coach and Margaret Moore are very active in their church and other local non-profits in the High Country.

They found a new purpose joining High Country Caregiver's board of directors in 2019. Margaret and Jerry volunteer to purchase and deliver Christmas gifts, lead Bible studies, and assist with any fundraisers. They pray for the success of the organization and the transformation of the children in our program.

Coach and Margaret began "Coach's Kids," a High Country Caregivers

program that sends kids to summer camp, pays for recreational sports fees, music lessons, horseback riding lessons, and any other health conscious youth activities children wish to participate in. This program gives children opportunities otherwise unavailable to them. Their vision was to give children engaging activities in a safe place. HCC provided 64 summer camp scholarships last year. Our program has grown to over 100 families and the need for these opportunities has doubled.

Coach Moore wanted to organize a golf tournament to raise money for the children of HCC. Coach and his friends in the coaching world, Scott Satterfield, Dave Doeren, Shawn Clark, Paul Johnson, Mack Brown, Oval Jaynes, and Sparky Woods are attending the first annual "Coaches Golf Tournament" benefitting the children of HCC.

HCC cannot thank Coach Moore and Margaret, their friends, generous donors, sponsors, players, Blowing Rock Country Club, and everyone helping us to give children life changing opportunities.

Like Coach Moore, now is the time to do more than expected. If you would like to sponsor to change a child's life, give us a call at (828) 832-6366.

The Coaches Golf Tournament

by Jacob Willis

High Country Caregivers and Coach Jerry Moore will host “The Coach’s Golf Tournament” with registration at 11:00 a.m Tuesday, May 24th at the Blowing Rock Country Club. Play a round of golf and make a difference in the lives of children being raised by grandparents and other family members.

“We are thankful to Coach Moore and Blowing Rock Country Club for helping us raise money for the children and families in our program,” Jacob Willis, Executive Director of High Country Caregivers, said.

The tournament will consist of a four-person scramble with gift certificates to the pro shop going to teams finishing first through third place in net and gross scores.

Prizes will also be handed out for closest to pin on all Par 3s, longest drive, and there will be a putting contest.

Teams will have an opportunity to meet and golf with Appalachian State University’s coaching legend Jerry Moore and his coaching friends.

Each player will receive a specialty item bag, golf hat, golf balls, and other specialty golf items.

There will be a silent auction with signed memorabilia from Coach Moore and other coaches.

Lunch will be provided.

An awards reception and heavy hors d’ oeuvres will follow at the Blowing Rock Country Club.

All sponsors will be recognized at the event and on local media outlets. All monies will go to High Country Caregivers, a stand-alone non-profit which serves grandparents who are raising grandchildren in Watauga, Ashe, Avery, Mitchell, and Wilkes counties. All donations are tax deductible.

These families do not receive government funds to assist in raising their grandchildren and often struggle with the financial

Participating Coaches

Entry fee: \$250 per player

1st Tuesday May 24

HIGH COUNTRY CAREGIVERS
The Coaches Invitational
GOLF TOURNAMENT 2022

at Blowing Rock Country Club

Registration
Begins at 11:00am
Buffet Lunch starts 11:30am
Silent Auction
Reception & Dinner provided by Blowing Rock Country Club

Shotgun Start
at 12:30 pm
Four Person Scramble

Awards and Prizes

- 1st - 3rd teams (net and gross)
- Longest drive
- Closest to the pin on all par 3 Holes
- Putting contest

Sponsorship Opportunities

- Hole Sponsor - Tee \$100
- Hole Sponsorship - Green \$100
- Closest To Pin \$250
- Longest Drive \$500
- Putting Contest \$750
- Awards Ceremony \$1,000

Players have an opportunity to meet and a chance to play with Hall of Fame Coaches

burden of doing so while on a fixed income. HCC steps in to help these families pay for legal fees, therapy and counseling, necessities, summer camps, after school care and activities.

You can find out more information by going to www.highcountrycaregivers.com or contacting them at (828)832-6366.

February Program Update

The Avery County YMCA RAPP meeting was an outstanding success. Learn about upcoming program announcements on our website.



Wishes Fulfilled

by Nathan Brown



Summer Fields, Summer Fun

The ladies at Alpha Omicron Pi, our sorority partners from Appalachian State University, hosted a Field Day at Brookshire Park in Boone on March 18th. The sisters helped our kids welcome the warm weather with games, food and friendship. They held a sack race, a three-legged race, and an egg race. They even played in the dirt, rolling down the hill as well as using pizza boxes as makeshift sleds to slide down faster.

High Country Caregivers couldn't be more grateful for the generosity and kindness shown by the ladies of Alpha Omicron Pi.

They also hosted an Easter egg hunt on April 12th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Tot Lot in Boone. For more information on Alpha Omicron Pi's upcoming activities, visit us on Facebook or Instagram under High Country Caregivers.

Snow Tubing Shenanigans at Hawk's Nest

On February 11, Hawk's Nest generously donated snowtubing tickets for 51 our kids and their grandparents for an evening. Our kids teamed up with our staff and some of their caregivers to slide down the hills, drink hot cocoa in the lounge, and catch up with friends.

"We had so much fun with the kids today," said Jacob Willis, Executive Director for HCC. "Some of the kids mentioned that they'd never done anything like this. You can see in their faces how much they enjoyed this adventure."

Much gratitude goes to Hawk's Nest Tubing and Zipline for giving these children such a wonderful experience!



April Spotlight: Diane Bouchelle

by Nathan Brown



Diane Bouchelle and Ella are a perfect pair it seems. Ella, now nearly a year old, squeals with laughter as her grandmother flips her in the air and tickles her making cooing noises as they play.

All in all, it's a miracle that Diane can play with her granddaughter at all. Before she was born, Ella's mother was addicted to some pretty heavy drugs. Ella was born premature and was immediately placed in the NICU for several weeks. It took the hospital a week to wean her off of the substances. Diane never left the hospital while Ella was there.

"They took notes of when her mom was there and when I was there. They couldn't believe I was there so much," Diane said. "I've been there since the beginning."

When Ella was released from the hospital, her mother was unable to care for her and she was placed with Diane on an emergency basis. "I am so lucky that HCC was there from the beginning," she said. "You guys helped me find a better apartment so she could have her own room. Marty helped me get my finances in order and even brought me a recliner so I could rock (Ella) to sleep."

Diane has been ecstatic that HCC has started having meetings in Ashe County on a regular basis again. "I hope more grandparents will come out," she said. "There's just so much camaraderie and it's so important to be able to have that. To be able to discuss the different things you are going through with your grandchild."

Through it all, Diane and Ella have been a dynamic duo, willing to take on any challenges that come their way. Ella is walking cautiously now, though she crawls at light speed most days. "We are just moving forward and doing our best," Diane said as she watched her granddaughter toddle along, giggling with delight.

Thank You, Our Donors

- AMY Wellness Foundation
- Kennedy-Herterich Foundation
- Arthur Family Foundation
- High Country Charitable Foundation
- Women's Fund of the Blue Ridge
- St. Mary's of the Hills
- Valle Country Fair
- Rumple Memorial Presbyterian
- High Country ABC
- Spruce Pine ABC
- Preyer Family Foundation
- Bethelview Methodist Church
- Kathleen Kennedy Foundation
- Women for Women Fund (CFWNC)

About Us

High Country Caregivers is a stand-alone not for profit organization dedicated to relatives, respite, and resources for kinship caregivers, and relatives caring for loved ones with life limiting illnesses and debility. Through a variety of programs HCC comes alongside grandparents to help them improve the lives of these children.

To find out how you can partner with us to change a child's life or to make a donation, contact us at:

HighCountryCaregivers.com

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@HighCountryCaregiver