



GROWING HOME SOUTHEAST

WINTER ISSUE, VOLUME 10

FOUNDATIONS

Tips on Surviving the Economy

None of us have been able to escape the news about America's economic problems. For several months we have been bombarded with reports on the housing crisis, credit crisis and the dramatic drop in the stock market. We have all read and heard the dramatic challenges facing our own state government and the massive budget cuts that have occurred.

News like this is unprecedented. Most of us have not experienced such difficult economic times as we are experiencing today. But as we look and listen to the frightening news I believe there are also great opportunities and possibilities for us during this economic crisis. I believe there are things we all can do, simple things that will help us through these tough times.

I challenge each of you to consider the tips that I found while surfing the internet. One article caught my eye, it was entitled *Devote 15 Minutes a Day to Being Cheap*. It suggested the following:

- Clip coupons
- Write a grocery list (and stick to it when you shop)
- Hang clothes up to dry instead of using the dryer
- Go through the house and turn off all electrical devices you're not using
- Make your own meal instead of buying takeout or eating out
- Replace light bulbs with CFL's (compact fluorescent light)
- Drive 65 or under, even on the interstate
- Seek out garage sales instead of going to the mall
- Have your own garage sale of unused items or clutter around your house
- Plant and maintain a small vegetable garden
- Do your own routine maintenance tasks around the house and for your car (changing filters and oil)
- Take care of small financial tasks that you've been putting off (requesting lower interest rate on your credit card, switching to a better checking account, setting up a retirement account)

The article challenges readers to spend 15 minutes a day for the next 30 days doing one or more of the things on the list and see how your money is doing at the end of the month. You should give it a try.

It is important to get your kids involved in implementing these changes. Many times the money we spend or our excesses involve our children. It is always great to clarify our "wants" versus our "needs" with our children. This can go a long way in accomplishing our money saving goals.

If you want more information you can go to MSN.com **Money** and type in **saving money**. You will find lots of great money saving ideas. Feel free to share any ideas you have in your support groups or training meetings.

2008 Regional Holiday Parties



This year we had parties in Columbia, Greenville, Charleston, Florence, Walterboro and Beaufort. Our Growing Home Southeast staff were really busy this year making certain that all the details were perfect. Because of the generous contributions of several supporters all of our youth in care received several gifts. Additionally, our treatment parents received BP Fuel Cards and 2009 calendars that included all of our 2009 training dates.

*See additional holiday parties photos on page 2



NEW GHSE TREATMENT PARENTS



LOWCOUNTRY
Martha Bella Church

PEE DEE
Bobbie Davis
Willie & Barbara Finley
Jerome & Shirley Jones
Mamie Landreaux
Rhunette Little
Roy & Neto McLeod

PEE DEE
Leroy & Renee Muldrow
Ella Mae Reddick
Ronald & Diane Tyndale
Annie Wells

UPSTATE
Kathy Richardson Wiley
Theodore & Marthena Williams
Stacy & Montago Wright

Welcome to the GHSE Family!

"There is no greater joy nor greater reward than to make a fundamental difference in someone's life" - Sister Mary Rose McGeedy, Children's Advocate

BRAG CORNER—WE LOVE TO BRAG ON OUR KIDS!!

Billy has all A's in his classes prior to exams. Way to Go!!
Shelby has been registered early for kindergarten.
Shamara is back in High School, completing Alternative School with flying colors!
Tra excels in reading and doesn't need a reading mentor anymore!
Reva has been accepted at Leaphart Place, and will move in January
Geoffrey will be graduating from High School in January.
Billy has been invited to attend the University of Kentucky Male Chorus Day with his middle school. Great Job!!
Felicia recently got a job at the local Food Lion as a cashier.
Devon is doing excellent in care and keeping a super clean room!!
Alisha has earned the community service ribbon for JROTC and participated in the Christmas Parade with JROTC.
Joshua passed his GED and has enrolled at Horry-Georgetown Technical College. Congratulations Joshua!!

Chanequa passed her GED exam! Way to go!
Geonary was recognized as student of the week at his school. Keep up the good work, Geonary!
Khadija has completed the Phase II of the RtFC Program and is moving back home. Congratulations!
Jasmine received a customized wheelchair. Awesome!
Cody made A/B honor role.
Nicolette was selected to be an Ambassador for the People-to-People Organization.
Montrail made the honor roll and received a certificate of achievement.
Rebecca will be inducted in the National Honor Society at her High School. Great Job!
Samuel celebrated his 18th Birthday in January. Happy Birthday, Samuel

WHAT A GREAT GROUP OF KIDS!!

Treatment Parent Advisory Committee Meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 7th at 10:00 a.m.



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