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Trent Hill Center: A Continuum of Care



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by VIP Magazine



A Continuum of Care

Trent Hill Center prepares to launch new program

Scottie Hill, Executive Director of the Trent Hill Center for Children & Families in Hartsville, S.C., remembers with acute clarity the day when the Center accepted its first two residential foster placements in April of 2018. “When the first children showed up, we were excited, nervous, and eager to meet them. When the car pulled up in front of the house with the children in it, I stepped out on the front porch to greet them. As soon as the brother of the sibling group stepped out of the car, he just started bawling. I took him in and held him in my arms as if he were my child crying like that,” she recalls. She says of this inaugural moment for the Center: “It felt surreal that what had been theory for so long was becoming reality. It felt like a prayer had been answered, like the opportunity to care for this child had been placed in front of me. It just validated the reason for creating the Center.”

Three years and 90 residents later, Trent Hill Center’s leading ladies—Scottie and her sister, Becky, THC’s Residential Services Director—will be the first to admit that the work of the grassroots nonprofit has only just begun. Currently, the Center provides two main services: residential care for youth in the foster care system and mental health counseling for residential and community clients. On any given day, the residential home is a bustling epicenter of activity housing up to 13 teenagers. “There’s never a boring day,” laughs Becky.

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Even in the early days of the Trent Hill Center, when the organization and its leaders were still working out the kinks of what was then a brand new operation, the Hill sisters and THC board were already looking out past the existing services and into the future trajectory of the Center's programming potentials. Supervised Independent Living (SIL) is the manifestation of this visionary outlook, which has consisted of years of research and brainstorming, field trips and phone calls. SIL is a residential program designed to equip youth in foster care ages 18-21 with the skills, resources, knowledge, and relationships necessary to achieve self-sufficiency and independence in adulthood. Scottie describes it as "the bridge between foster care and independence" that will intervene in a critical time in the lives of youth in foster care, providing an alternative to the dismal plights that threaten to plague these youth: homelessness, unemployment, incarceration, addiction, and poverty, to name a few.

As with the Center's existing programs, SIL will rely heavily on the involvement of the community and its dedication to the Center's mission. Scottie describes the relationship that has formed between the Trent Hill Center and the surrounding community: "Because the community has wrapped itself around us in so many tangible ways, we feel confident that we can help youth participants accomplish their SIL program goals





The SIL Program equips youth in foster care ages 18-21 with skills and knowledge to be self-sufficient. Here youth are taught how to cook hamburgers.

“Because the community has wrapped itself around us in so many tangible ways, we feel confident that we can help youth participants accomplish their SIL program goals because we know we are not doing this alone. Our community has come together and will come together to see each child through their transition from foster care to independence.”

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In preparation for the launch of Supervised Independent Living, Trent Hill Center is hosting a fundraiser on Thursday, November 11, 2021 that will benefit the startup costs associated with the program. “I Dreamed a Dream: A Night of Broadway with the Trent Hill Center” will feature a selection of local and professional performers, each of which will take the stage at Hartsville Center Theater to bring top Broadway hits to a crowd of THC’s supporters. Tickets are available through the Center Theater at thecentertheater.com or by calling or visiting the Theater. Discounted rates for groups of 10 or more are available upon request.



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