



The Family Effect
Heal a family and we all get better

Volunteer Opportunities

Serenity Place

Serenity Place is a residential treatment center for pregnant women, young mothers and their preschool-age children. Each year, about 120 mothers and children find hope, healing and transformation in the program, with each family living on-site for about six months.

When a young mother and her children enter Serenity Place, the family has already been down a long and dangerous road. The mother is struggling with addiction, and without help, she is just about to lose her children to the foster care system...possibly forever.

The children have suffered through no fault of their own, and often come to us traumatized and confused. Their daily lives have veered from chaos to deadening neglect, without rhyme or reason. They are often delayed on several developmental levels and emotionally unable to connect. Without help, they will be unprepared for any kind of classroom environment. Through the work of an excellent clinical staff, lives are changed every day at Serenity Place. You can play a part in the transformation of families by volunteering your time, talents, and energy in the following ways:

1. **Childcare** ~ Spend time with the children at Serenity Place and you'll be hooked! Assist child development specialists in the classrooms on weekday mornings or come in the evenings to provide childcare while the mothers attend support group.
2. **Tutors** ~ While at Serenity Place, many of our mothers earn their GED. Tutors are needed on Monday evenings to assist with a variety of subjects and skills. After graduation, women interested in earning their college degree may participate in the Women and Children Succeeding program and also need tutors to assist them.
3. **Mentor** ~ Serenity Place graduates participating in the Women and Children Succeeding program need your support as they experience a variety of life transitions, from living on their own for the first time to attending college and pursuing meaningful career options. We're looking for women who are willing to be supportive and walk alongside our mothers as they pursue their dreams and break the cycle of poverty.



4. **Skills & Services** ~ Are you great at balancing a checkbook? Do you work at a hair or nail salon? Do you love aerobics? Are you an artist? Our young mothers love to learn new things, and have likely never had the opportunity to learn the skills you can teach them. Special classes are the perfect opportunity for volunteers who cannot commit to a regular schedule over time.
5. **Provide a Special Meal** ~ Our women and children miss home-cooked food, and nothing makes them happier than special dishes from the community. This is a great opportunity for church or social groups. Your group can plan and prepare a meal and serve it to the families at Serenity Place. You will see lots of happy, grateful smiles.
6. **Special Events** ~ Who doesn't love a good party? Get together with some of your friends, co-workers, or members of your organization and plan a great event for our women and children. Some ideas include hosting an ice cream social, game night, field day, or a special holiday party.
7. **Donation Drive** ~ With 16 families at Serenity Place, we are always in need of something, whether it's diapers, wipes, toilet paper, toiletries, or craft supplies. Get your church, company, or neighborhood in on the fun and lead a drive to help us meet our needs. *Please contact us first to see what our specific needs are!*



White Horse Academy

White Horse Academy is a residential treatment center for boys age **13 to 17**. It is only the second facility of its kind in South Carolina, and the program will not turn away any family based on an inability to pay for services.

The boys at The Academy have experienced significant problems with addiction, and outpatient counseling has not halted the behavior. Often, they come to us with little else in their lives besides drugs or alcohol. They are nearing the end of the road, before their lives have really even begun.

These young men need a full-time, holistic environment of education and healing, and full engagement by their families. They also need the support of their community. You can volunteer your time, knowledge, and energy in the following ways:

1. **Provide a Special Meal** ~ Our young men miss home-cooked food, and nothing makes them happier than special dishes from the community. This is a great opportunity for church or social groups. Your group can plan and prepare a meal (in our kitchen, or yours) and serve it to the boys at The Academy. You will see lots of happy, grateful smiles.
2. **Special Events** ~ Who doesn't love a good party? Get together with some of your friends or social group and plan a great event for the boys at The Academy! Some ideas include game nights, field days, sports scrimmages, and holiday parties.
3. **Helping Hands** ~ Our young men love working with their hands and always have a project. You can help by providing supplies and working alongside them to complete maintenance projects, such as sodding the playing field, cutting trails along the ropes course, or building benches.
4. **Skills & Services** ~ Do you know how to navigate the college financial aid process? Are you passionate about nutrition? Could you practice mock-interviews? Do you have a green thumb? Our young men love to learn new things, and have likely never had the opportunity to learn the skills you can teach them. Special classes are the perfect opportunity for volunteers who cannot commit to a regular schedule over time.
5. **Community Engagement** ~ Like all teenagers, the young men at White Horse Academy love to participate in community activities. You can help by providing tickets and chaperoning a sports game, community festival, or other activity.
6. **Donation Drive** ~ With 16 young men at White Horse Academy, we are always in need of something, whether it's socks, gas cards for families, or school supplies. Get your church, company, or neighborhood in on the fun and lead a drive to help us meet our needs. *Please contact us first to see what our specific needs are!*