



THE UPSTATE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

impacting the youth and young adults of all ages

Evelyn Deloris Barksdale

Evelyn Deloris Barksdale was born in 1970 in Greenville, South Carolina. She attended Greenville County Schools, receiving her diploma from Carolina High School in 1988. She earned an Associate Degree in Early Childhood and Certificate in Bookkeeping from Greenville Technical College. In December 2004, she earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Southern Wesleyan University. An alumna of Greenville Tech, she worked in Greenville County Schools in Accounts Payable for nine years. She also worked as a budget analyst for three years. During her employment there, she implemented the budget for GCS on CD and on their website. She also analyzed special revenue grants from the State Department of Education for schools that scored below average on their state report card. Lastly, she produced a salary analysis for special revenue grants.



During her second term as director, the staff increased to ten people, including a food service person with enrollment increasing to 65 children. Because of this growth, she redeveloped the employee handbook. During year two, Fall 1999, the after-school program grew to 40 children increasing the number of schools serviced. In 2000, the PACT program increased to 75 children, summer enrollment to 80 children, and she increased the staff to 13 persons, including two food service employees. During years 3-5, the program increased to more than 100 children and 17 staff members.

Deloris has been married to Dexter Bernard Barksdale for 20 years and is the mother of two children-- Aaron Barksdale (16yrs.-with special needs) and Audrey Barksdale (12 yrs.). She had always relied on family members to help with Aaron. However, in April 2006, when she was challenged with finding someone to care for Aaron over the summer, she decided to start a summer program for special needs children. In May 2006, she resigned from Greenville County Schools to start Upstate Circle of Friends. Upstate Circle of Friends is a ten-week summer day camp and after-school program for special needs children ages 5-21.

In May 2006, UCF served 5 special needs children. In May 2007, UCF served 20 special needs children and 50 at-risk youth from Fleetwood Apartments and Aladdin Manor Apartments. Because of this growth, her staff increased from 2 in 2006 to 10 in 2007. In the fall of 2007 she began an after-school program for at-risk youth through a partnership with the Department of Juvenile Justice and served 15 youth. In the summer of 2008, UCF enrolled 130 youth. Twenty special needs children were served, and 110 at-risk youth were served. Having no other programs in Greenville County like this, parents with special needs children have had previously had to give up their careers to stay home and care for their children. UCF brings hope to families by helping with economic hardships that accompany single parent/special needs responsibilities.

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Upstate Circle of Friends is committed to expanding opportunities, enhancing the quality of life, and the progression of at-risk children, children with disabilities, and their families through various educational, recreational, and social programs.

The Upstate Circle of Friends Offer:

Special Needs After-school & Summer Day Camp, Homework Assistance, Tutoring, Community Service Learning Program, Life Skills Curriculum, College Tours, Field Trips, Career Fairs, Karate, GED, Anger Management, Incentives, and More!

Thank You

It is with sincere appreciation that we would like to thank our staff, supporters and sponsors. Our staff is the soul foundation of Upstate Circle of Friends. Thank you for the countless hours, the long days and nights of working and the sharing and teaching of your own personal experiences to the youth as they enter our facilities every day. Because of you, this organization has grown and because of you it will continue to grow.

To our local sponsors, who have believed in us from the very beginning, you truly embrace the mindset of Upstate Circle of Friends.

To our state supporters, you have allowed us to serve more families, provide more services, and provide the assistance when needed. Your support was instrumental to those who were in need of information and knowledge, and you continue to be there to assist those who will benefit greatly from our programs in the future.

Words cannot, and will not, be able to express how appreciative we are for all you do and hopefully what you will continue to do as we grow together. Allowing people to share, believe and dream of what they would like to become is only possible when the opportunities present themselves. The true measure of friends is what they are willing to do when there is a need; you have done this for us time and time again, and we Thank You!

What Upstate Circle of Friends Has Done for Me?

By: Jamie McCauley

That may seem like a selfish title, but for me it's a peace of mind. My son William McCauley has autism. Before I found Upstate Circle of Friends, I could not stand for the phone to ring; it just seemed to be one more problem. William was asked to leave so many day care centers. I would tell the director that he has special needs and explain that he didn't like large groups or lots of noise. Not a problem is what I heard at first; we can handle special needs. But they meant they could handle physical limits. After four to six months, I would get the phone call telling me to come get my son and make other arrangements for him. I tried hiring my niece to watch him at home but that did not work since she liked the money but not the disruption to her social calendar. William would not sit quietly in the backseat of the car while her and her friends did as they pleased.

A friend of mine started to make some phone calls and heard about a new center called Upstate Circle of Friends that opened. I went by, talked to the director and decided to give it a try. I left the meeting in tears because I figured this was my last hope and wondered what I would do after four months when they asked him to leave. It has been almost two years now. William has had some issues, but the staff has worked with me and him to ensure corrections are put in place to stop the unwanted behavior and to encourage good behavior. He has had the option of taking a karate class at the center which has helped improve his social skills. Would this have happened at another center? I do not think so. Will William be the next Jackie Chan or Chuck Norris? Maybe, but without Upstate Circle of Friends, I am not sure where we would be. Upstate Circle of Friends is understanding, kind and forgiving--all the things you look for in a best friend.

Annual Fundraiser

Harlem Ambassadors Basketball Show

Upstate Circle of Friends annual fundraiser is one of most important events of the year. Our focus and purpose is to offer a **holistic** approach to this event by partnering with other agencies and organizations within the upstate. Our target groups are the youth and families who reside in the upstate of South Carolina. We are able to provide a unique fundraising event by having The Harlem Ambassadors, a traveling basketball show, designed to be fun for customers of all ages.



In addition to having a wholesome, entertaining product, the Ambassadors are good citizens who promote the value of staying in school through their “stay in school- stay off drugs” assembly program. This program encourages students to make the correct choices concerning a drug-free lifestyle and stresses the importance of getting a good education, staying off drugs and fostering racial harmony. Their missions mirror our missions of impacting the youth and young adults of all ages.

As an additional part of this fundraiser, we provide every student with literature from our various partners who have agreed to collaborate with us throughout the year. Greenville Technical College provides helpful information such as college applications, college entrance literature and points of contacts for assistance in admission. Greenville Family Partnership also provides information and services to combat the use of alcohol and drugs by many pre-teens and teenagers. The Department of Juvenile Justice “DJJ” provides information detailing the consequences of bad decisions and the long-term effect of those choices.

This annual fundraiser offers many of the components for us to continue to strive to reach our goals of expanding opportunities, enhancing the quality of life, and the progression of at-risk children, children with disabilities, and their families through various educational, recreational, and social programs.

Programs And Services

Special Needs

- ▶ Currently, there are no school aged after-school and average summer day camp programs for special needs children here in Greenville County. Our Special Needs Program began in June 2006 with only 5 children. Their disabilities ranged from autism to mental retardation. Our belief with our special needs is to provide the basic care needs. Since that time our summer camp has more than doubled its size. Summer of 2008 we served 20 special needs children and their families.
- ▶ Our after-school program is held year round. Pick up is 6:00 pm daily. We also offer a 9-week summer day camp program. The times are Monday – Friday from 7:30 am – 6:00 pm. We provide breakfast, lunch, snack, and field trips.

Quest 4 Greatness

- ▶ We provide an after-school program during school year. We provide a hot meal, recreational time, computer lab, academic enrichment, and tutoring.
- ▶ We provide an 8-week free summer day camp for youth ages 8-16. We provide transportation, breakfast, lunch, snack, academics, recreational activities, and field trips.
- ▶ We are a provider of Supplemental Services. This program is the result of the federal No Child Left Behind Act for Title I schools that are in their second year or later of school improvement and their families meet the income limits under the law. We provide free tutoring to students who qualify and we provide tutoring at our two locations. We provide transportation from the school to our center, a hot meal, free tutoring, and transportation from the center to the children's homes.
- ▶ We are a state provider offering family planning (Teen Pregnancy Prevention services) to youth ages 10 – 19. We provide individual and group counseling sessions on medical topics from an approved curriculum from the state on HIV/AIDS, STD's, puberty, male and female reproductive organs, etc. We provide these sessions to all youth we serve who meet the criteria.

United Ministries

- ▶ United Ministries' Learning Center has opened a new location in the Belle Meade community at Upstate Circle of Friends, formerly Sistine Elementary School. If you're ready to get ahead in life, and want to earn your GED close to home, take advantage of Free GED courses on a flexible schedule with one-on-one instruction. When you're ready to take the exam, we'll pay for it; and if you pass, you'll earn a South Carolina High School Equivalency Diploma accepted by employers and colleges.

Community Service Learning Program

- ▶ The Community Service Learning Program (CSLP) is a series of group workshops designed to encourage healthy behavior for participants in social and educational environments. It seeks to assist youth in the acquisition of valuable life skills necessary to develop the competencies and capacities of self-sustaining adults. Finally, the program provides a sense of purpose via authentic opportunities that requires participants to contribute to their communities.
- ▶ The Community Service Learning Program is devised of three components as follows: (1) Community Service component provides youth a sense of empowerment as they are placed in the help-giving rather than help-seeking role; (2) Classroom-based component consists primarily of group activities and discussion on topics of special interest to youth; (3) Service Learning component helps youth connect the community service experience to classroom-learning and ultimately to their lives through reflection.
- ▶ Saturdays 10 am – 2 pm. Lunch will be provided. Transportation provided in 29605 zip code area.
- ▶ Breakdown of Groups: (1) Ages 12-13; (2) Age 14; (3) Ages 15-16; (4) Ages 17-19

Programs And Services

Growing Home Southeast

▶ Growing Home Southeast is a family service agency committed to strengthening lives and promoting healthy communities. Our services are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Children & Family Services (COA), and our Foster Parents receive the most up-to-date and effective training to meet the needs of youth in care.

Kids Café

▶ Founded in 1993, Kids Café is the nation's largest charitable meal service and nutrition education program for children. It is sponsored in the Upstate, Midlands, and Pee Dee areas of South Carolina by Harvest Hope Food Bank and is a licensed, trademarked program of Feeding America National Food Bank, which operates hundreds of sites in the United States.

▶ Upstate Circle of Friends is the first Kids Café/Backpack program in the upstate.

▶ Backpack Program

▶ The Backpack Program provides children at-risk of hunger with food to take home over the weekends and out-of-school times. Backpacks or other containers are stocked with nutritious, child-friendly, easy-to-prepare food. They are typically distributed on Fridays or the last day the children attend the site for the week.

Karate

▶ Upstate Porter's Kajukenbo Karate has been located at Upstate Circle of Friends for 2 years. Sifu Porter, Chief Executive Instructor Youth and Adult 5th Degree Master Black Belt, has been involved in martial arts since he was 7 years old. In his classes youth improve their focus, discipline, and a desire to achieve the best in and out of the classroom. It is also an awesome program for anger management and stress reduction.

▶ He is also founder of Body by Porter Cardio Kick Boxing, Military Pilates, and YOGA program of America.

▶ "Marshal Arts is the ability to adapt to any situation whether it be spiritual, mental or physical."-Sifu Porter

Quest for Technology

▶ We have a computer lab equipped with 16 computers. The computers were acquired with a grant donation through IBM and also through the Department of Juvenile Justice Teen After-School Program.

▶ Explore your options during the summer with Greenville Tech's Hands-On-Technology and Hands-On-Health and Wellness Camp. Get a taste of several industrial career fields that correspond to students' career clusters.

Quest for Health

"Partnering with the Upstate Circle of Friends has increased our exposure to the community. Through them we are able to collaborate with other organizations, thereby increasing the community's awareness of many healthcare issues."

Melissa Black, MSN, RN, FNP

Assistant Professor of Nursing, Greenville Technical College

Programs and Services Numbers Served

Names	2006	2007	2008	Present-2009
Afterschool Program -	-	46	25	
Community Outreach	-	-	-	40
Community Service Learning	-	-	-	17
Special Needs	5	15	20	-
Teen Pregnancy Prevention	-	-	176	42
Summer Day Camp -	-	50	110	
Supplemental Services	-	-	-	28

Upstate Circle of Friends Board of Directors

Deloris Barksdale	Nicholas Dyson	Darius Jones
Ellis Beddingfield	Elton Harkness	George Singleton, Jr.
Sharon Bellwood		

Upstate Circle of Friends Staff

Deloris Barksdale – President/CEO	Porter Muhammad – Outreach Director
Tonyell Bolding – Program Manager	Rushawnda Olden – Marketing
Rhonda Dallas – Director of Special Needs	Willie Peters – Plant Engineer
Eunice Davis - Receptionist	Elizabeth Pinson – Cafeteria Manager
Nita Donald – Tutor	Shirley Robinson – Youth Coordinator
Johnny Jones – Transportation Coordinator	George Singleton – Consultant
Clyde Mayes – Director GED	

Collaborations

Boys Home of South	Greenville Family Partnership
Central Community Ministries	Greenville Technical College
City of Greenville	One Stop
Excalibur Youth Services	Pendleton Place
Fuller Normal Advanced Technology Charter School	Upstate Black Nurses Association
Graduate Greenville	We Stand for Kids
Greenville County Police Department	

Brief History

Upstate Circle of Friends began in May 2006. Deloris Barksdale, President/CEO, had a need and fulfilled it. Finding after-school and summer time care for Aaron (her 16 year old special needs son) was difficult. Having previous experience starting and running a summer day camp and an after-school program for 5 years, Deloris with the strong encouragement of her husband Bernard, began Upstate Circle of Friends summer day program. During the first summer, five parents enrolled their children. To Deloris, this was a success because there was no money for advertising.

The summer of 2007, Upstate Circle of Friends served 15 students in their special needs summer day camp. UCF also expanded and offered a summer day camp to 50 youth in the surrounding community from Fleetwood Manor, Highlands, and Crescent Landing. Through partnerships, Operation GO! provided a bus, Greenville County Schools provided lunches through the Summer Seamless Lunch Program, and Operation GO! SWAT (Sidewalk Action Team) provided free concert with outside activities for the youth for 10 weeks.

In the Spring of 2008, we partnered with the Department of Juvenile Justice and offered a free Teen Afterschool Center for 16 students from Carolina High and Southside High. We offered academic assistance, teen pregnancy prevention sessions, hot meals, and anger management sessions to provide a variety of programs to help the youth cope with the many different situations they face.

This past summer of 2008, we served 130 youth, 20 of whom were special needs, and 110 were youth in the surrounding communities of Highlands, Crescent Landing, Cypress Cove, Sunbelt, and Belle Meade community. Through partnerships with Greenville County Police (Crime Prevention Unit Master Deputy Nathalie Hill), Greenville Family Partnership, and Greenville County Schools (Summer Seamless Lunch Program), we were able to provide lunches, sessions on anger management, sessions on bullying, pool safety, domestic violence, and a tour of the Law Enforcement Center.

We are currently serving 10 youth in our special needs afterschool program and 28 youth in our supplemental services after-school program. We are proud to be the first Kids Café and Backpack program in the Upstate. These programs provide hot meals to the youth enrolled in the program and allow them to take food home so they will have a healthy, nutritious meal at home when school is out.

In-Kind Sponsorship

Pepsi	Chick-fi-la	Furman University
Design Lab	Meals on Wheels	Coach House Restaurant
Greenville Tech	LaQuinta Hotel	Greenville Family Partnership
Bloom	Sherwin Williams	Blood Connection
		Central Community Ministries

Funding Support

Graham Foundation	Scansource Charitable Foundation
IBM Grants Program	Department of Juvenile Justice
Department of Health and Human Services	The Barner Group
State Department of Education	

Other Support

Kingdom Assembly	Growing Home Southeast
Operation GO! – Redemption World Outreach Center	

Sponsors

Department of Juvenile Justice	Francis Produce
Greenville First	Growing Home Southeast
State Farm - Tim Drummond	

Contributors: Middle Schools

Berea	Bryson	Hillcrest
Lakeview	Mauldin	Sevier
Tanglewood	Woodmont	West Greenville Alternative

Contributors: High Schools

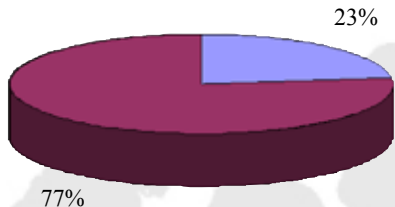
Berea	Carolina	Eastside
Greenville	JL Mann	Hillcrest
Mauldin	Southside	Woodmont
Greenville Tech Charter High		
Braisher Middle College		

Additional Supporters

Bethlehem Christian Academy	Small Impressions
La Petit	Generations Group Home
Fuller Normal Advanced Technology Charter School	

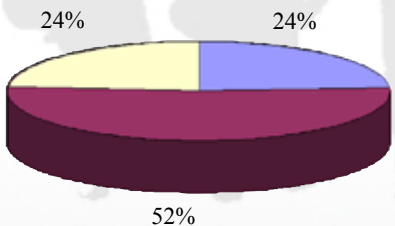
Financial Information

2006 Income



- Programs Revenue
- Contributions & Grants

2006 Expenses



- Salaries
- Rent
- Other

2007 Income



- Programs
- Contributions & Grants

2007 Expenses



- Salaries
- Rent
- Other



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Main Campus

29 Ridgeway Drive ♦ Greenville, SC 29605

864-277-5788

Downtown Campus

813 Hampton Avenue ♦ Greenville, SC 29601

WWW.UPSTATECIRCLEOFFRIENDS.COM