

Submitted Photo

Stultz Cottage had sat vacant on the campus for 26 years. Members of the Triad Apartment Association renovated the building so it could be reopened to house several local young people.



Ever-growing Children's Home opens new cottage for abused kids

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Children's Home has opened Stultz Cottage to house abused and neglected youth who can no longer live with their parents. The Cottage will initially house six youth. The Cottage will require further renovations to house its aim of nine young people.

Stultz Cottage was renovated by a Triad Apartment Association make-over which in two weekends, repainted, decorated, replaced electrical and plumbing fittings, and out-

fitted the 10,500 square foot building. Stultz had been empty for 26 years. Several alumni that had lived in the cottage helped with the renovation.

Establishment of the Stultz Cottage was the result of the closing of residential services by another youth-serving agency in Forsyth County. The Trustees of The Children's Home decided to help the community by maintaining this service to children in need. Youth Opportunities' Opportunity House was located on

Brookstown Ave. and housed nine youth. The Children's Home took over operation of that facility while the cottage was being renovated.

The Children's Home has increased services to youth in many areas in the last nine months. In addition to Opportunity House moving to Stultz Cottage, homeless teen moms were moved into a newly-renovated My Aunt's House in May. In July, ReStart a residential and school program for youth affected by drugs or

alcohol, was opened. In August, a new private/public school, Kingswood, was opened to serve 150 youth. In October, Peek-A-Moo, a new child development center to serve the community was opened with a farm theme, where preschoolers learn from the garden and farm. Two new independent living studio apartments were opened in conjunction with My Aunt's House. Improvements have also been completed at the Farm on The Children's Home campus.

Nelson

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Nelson and Molly soon fell into a happy routine that includes walks downtown and on the Salem Lake Greenway, weekly Bible studies and church services, and trips to the grocery store and the mall. Molly navigates Nelson around obstacles in his path, from puddles to debris, and helps him cross streets safely. If a car comes as they are crossing, she has been known to push him back onto the sidewalk and to safety, Nelson said.

"She's saved my life many, many times," he related.

The two make occasional trips to places like New York, New Jersey and Virginia, where Nelson grew up. Nelson says the canine has afforded him a sense of freedom that wouldn't have been feasible without her.

"She's made it possible for me to live the life that I live," said Nelson, who lives alone and is completely self sufficient. "I wouldn't have the independence that I have without Molly."

In addition to helping him get around, Molly, now 10, has provided a level of moral support that Nelson says he deeply needed.

"There were times I might have given up in certain circumstances, but I had Molly to think of," he explained. "She kept me focused and determined."

Nelson's disease has caused myriad health issues and he has endured many hospital stays as a result. Molly's quiet presence has been a comfort in those times, he said.

"All the operations I've gone through, I've gone to the hospital with just Molly and I. She's been my emotional support," he related. "Whatever I've experienced for the last nine years, Molly's been right by my side to experience it with me."

Three weeks ago, Nelson learned that his cherished confidant is facing some vision problems of her own. During a recent office visit, Molly's veterinarian discovered that she has cataracts in both eyes and will require surgery to retain her sight.

"I couldn't believe it," Nelson said of receiving the news. "I was more concerned at that moment about the loss of her eyesight than I remember feeling when I was told mine was permanent."

Nelson was told the cost of Molly's surgery and necessary follow-up visits

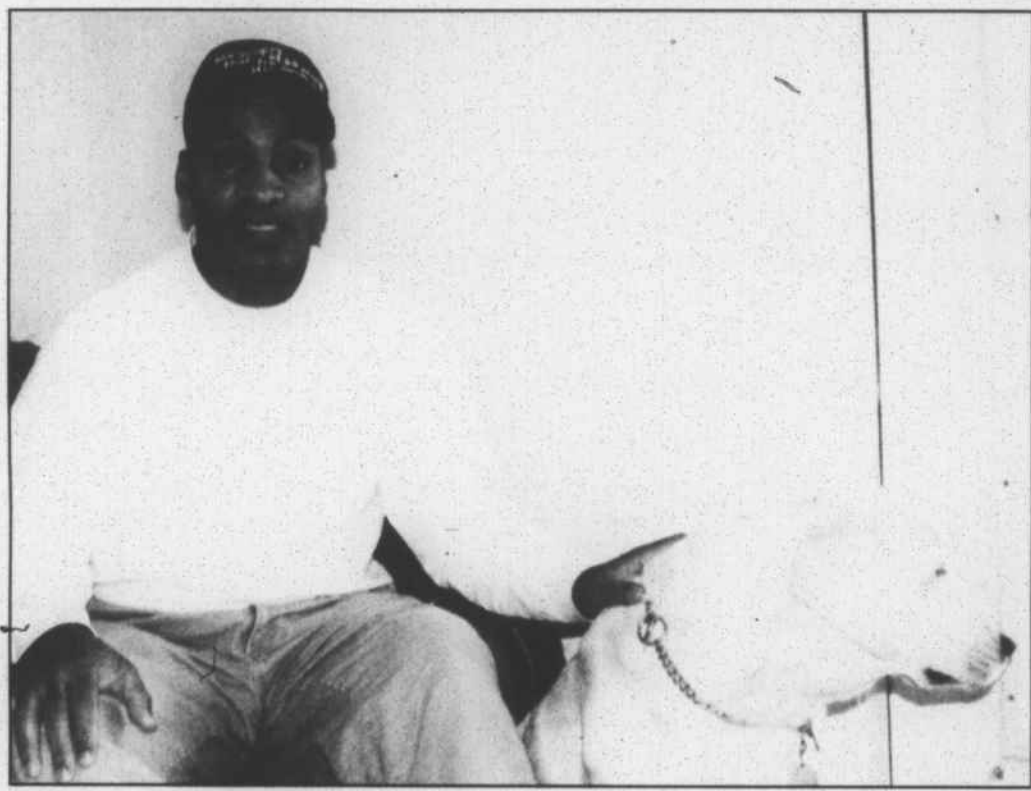


Photo by Layla Farmer

Michael Nelson is determined to save Molly's eyesight.

would be nearly \$3,000, and the vet recommended that Nelson take action as soon as possible, as Molly's advancing age increases the risk of complications from the anesthesia. Nelson, who is on a fixed income, knew the money wouldn't come easy, but he says he was determined to find a way to help his faithful friend.

"I'm going to do whatever it takes to make sure Molly does not go blind," he said. "It's difficult for me to ask for this money, because I generally don't ask for help - I prefer to be self reliant - but this is not about me. This is about Molly."

Nelson began making calls - to Molly's trainer, to the Humane Society, even the ASPCA (The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). None of them were able to help. Finally, Nelson turned to Phyllis Newman, incoming president of the Winston-Salem Twin City Host Lions Club, a service organization for the blind and visually impaired. Nelson and Newman had become acquainted last fall, when Nelson and Molly attended an Outer Banks fishing trip sponsored by the club.

Nelson said Newman immediately pledged her support.

"She said, 'Molly is too good of a dog and too important to you,'" he related. "She said, 'We don't have the money in the (Lions Club) funds, but somehow we're going to raise this money to have this surgery done.'"

Newman, a Greensboro native and Club member for the last three years, said she had witnessed the remark-

able bond between Nelson and his dog.

"I saw how attached he is to Molly," she commented. "They're just the best of buds."

Bylaws of the International Lions Club prohibit the local chapter from engaging in a fundraiser of this kind, Newman said, but she has resolved to help Nelson get the help he needs through other avenues.

"I just thought he was so giving of his time," she said of Nelson, who spends much of his life caring for a former neighbor who is intellectually disabled. "He's such a loving, Christian guy that I just feel in my heart that somebody needs to try to do something for him."

Nelson says he is hopeful that community members will help him raise the money for Molly's operation. Though he could get another guide dog, Nelson says nothing could ever replace Molly. He is adamant that he will find a way to save her sight.

"I would sacrifice myself. If I have to live on \$100 a month, (the surgery is) going to be done," he stated. "She deserves nothing less."

Working in conjunction with husband and wife team Wendi and John Goldflam and Diane Hartman, who attend church with Nelson at Agape Faith in Clemmons, Newman was able to establish a "Molly Wellness Fund" under Nelson's account at Wachovia Bank. Donations are not tax deductible.

To donate to the fund or for more information, con-

tact Main Street Branch Manager John Jackson at 336-732-5391.

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Notice of PRE-HEARING OPEN HOUSE and TRANSPORTATION CORRIDOR PUBLIC HEARINGS for THE NC 109 Transportation Improvements
TIP Project No. R-2568C Davidson and Forsyth Counties
The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold two (2) Corridor Public Hearings for the proposed improvements to NC 109 from Old Greensboro Road (State Route 1798) to I-40/US 311 as follows:
♦ For Davidson County Residents - Thursday, January 27, 2011, Ledford Middle School, located at 3954 N. NC Highway 109, Thomasville, NC 27360.
• Pre-Hearing Open House - 4:30 - 6:30 pm (cafeteria)
• Formal presentation / corridor public hearing - 7:00 pm (auditorium)
♦ For Forsyth County Residents - Monday, January 31, 2011, St. Peter's Church & World Outreach Center (Family Life Center & auditorium), 3683 Old Lexington Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27107.
• Pre-Hearing Open House - 4:30 - 6:30 pm (Oak and Lake Rooms)
• Formal presentation / corridor public hearing - 7:00 pm (Banquet and Triple Crown Rooms)
NCDOT representatives will be available at each Pre-Hearing Open House to answer questions and receive comments relative to the proposed project. The opportunity to submit written comments or questions will be provided at both pre-hearing open houses. Interested citizens may drop-in anytime at the pre-hearing open houses, between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm.
The formal presentations / corridor public hearings will consist of an explanation of the proposed project corridor locations. The hearings will be open to those present for statements, questions and/or comments. The presentations and public comments will be recorded and a written transcript will be prepared. Anyone wishing to speak at the formal hearings may register to do so at the pre-hearing workshops, immediately prior to the formal hearings or by calling Ms. Eileen Fuchs at (919) 431-2000. Speakers will be called in the order they signed up. A five-minute time limit will be imposed for those speaking in order to allow a fair opportunity for all those wishing to do so. Additional spoken comments will be received after those who registered have finished their comments.
Five alternatives are under consideration for the project. Improvements will include a combination of widening existing roads and constructing some new routes. Following the public meetings, we will use your comments to help select the best route, or "Preferred Alternative" for the project. NCDOT proposes the construction of a road with two lanes in each direction separated by a median with parts of this proposed road built on new location and along existing sections of NC 109.
The purpose of this project is to improve traffic flow and levels of service on NC 109 within the project study area.
Maps displaying the location of the NC 109 proposed routes are available at:
http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/hearingmaps_by_county/
and are on public display at the following locations:
1) Wallburg Fire Department
121 Georgetown Road
Winston - Salem, NC 27107
2) NCDOT Division Engineer's Office
Highway Division 9
375 Silas Creek Parkway
Winston - Salem, NC 27127
Anyone desiring additional information may contact Ms. Eileen Fuchs, Human Environment Unit, at 1598 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1598, phone (919) 431-2000, or email eafuchs@ncdot.gov. Additional written comments may be submitted to Ms. Fuchs until March 4th 2010.
NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services under the Americans with Disabilities Act for disabled persons who wish to participate in this hearing. Anyone requiring special services should contact Ms. Fuchs as early as possible so that arrangements can be made.
The Chronicle January 13, 20, and 27, 2011