

## Crossnore School - Did you know?

Crossnore School, located in Avery County, is a special place for children in crisis. Their special niche is keeping sibling groups together. Their mission is to 'provide a safe, stable, healing, living and learning environment'. Last year Crossnore provided care for 243 children from 24 counties. (The average stay is 13 months)

- Crossnore School follows a year round school calendar.
- All Cottages try to go a 'Family Beach Vacation' each year. (Many of the children have never been on a vacation – much less to the beach!)
- Every child's birthday is celebrated with a cake and gifts from the Bird Cage.
- Every child 12 and up has a job – and a percentage of their earnings is held back and deposited in a savings account for them.
- Crossnore is licensed for 102 clients.
- Stepping Stones is a program for those over 18 who have graduated and are going on to college. This serves as a transition for them as they continue their journey to adulthood.
- In PAL, (**Preparation for Adult Living Program**) - students learn all the skills necessary to begin life on their own. They learn how to find a job and apartment, how to budget, shop and save.
- On average, the students are 2 years behind in school when they arrive at Crossnore.
- Pillows are always needed!
- Sheets, towels, blankets and such are also needed. (Imagine caring for 250 -300 kids a year!)
- Crossnore Academy adopted a school uniform in 2001. (Khaki pants or skirts and polo shirts or sweaters in certain colors.) Children are very conscious of their own clothes in relation to what others are wearing. With a uniform policy in place, a child can come into care one day, and join his or her new school mates the very next day, dressed just like them. \$200 provides a complete uniform set for a young person at Crossnore.
- The Bird Cage is always in need of things for BOYS!
- The proceeds from the Art Gallery in Linville goes to 'Stepping Stones'.
- Miracle Grounds Coffee Shop and Used Book Store opened July 2006. This hands-on curriculum and classroom provides Crossnore students experience in entrepreneurship, inventory control, marketing and customer service. Miracle Grounds offers a variety of gourmet coffees, Danish, ice cream, desserts and a soup and sandwich of the day.
- Every cottage has a pet to help teach the kids responsibility.

For more information and for the Bird Cage or Cottage Wish Lists, please visit the Crossnore website <http://www.crossnoreschool.org/> or contact Melynda Peple at Crossnore.

## Crossnore School – Other Opportunities

Crossnore School, located in Avery County, is a special place for children in crisis. Their special niche is keeping sibling groups together. Their mission is to 'provide a safe, stable, healing, living and learning environment'. Last year Crossnore provided care for 243 children from 24 counties. (The average stay is 13 months)

For as long as most of us can remember, we've heard Crossnore and Campbell Soup labels mentioned in the same breath.

Guess what! We've discovered there are other ways to help. Here are a few examples of what we can do – beyond soup!

### **Be a Cottage Pal**

The children live in cottages in a family type atmosphere, even to the daily 'chores' which just might include walking the dog! There are 10 cottages. Some are coed, others may not be depending on the needs and ages of the clients. Crossnore children could range from age 2 to 18. One 'family' touch is that every child gets a gift, a party and a cake on their birthday. For some, this is the first time they've ever had a birthday cake! Cottage Pals can adopt a cottage and plan the birthday parties for each child.

Or, if anyone is interested in having a 'cottage experience' – consider holding a craft session or baking cookies on a Saturday at one or more of the cottages. The kids would love that!!

### **Support the Bird Cage**

You (or your church or circle) can provide items for the Bird Cage. (It's called this named because the original was in an attic surrounded by chicken wire and the little ones said it looked like a bird cage!) The Bird Cage holds NEW gifts for the children that are needed year round for birthdays and other special celebrations. Note: There is always a need for items for the boys. We girls must be easier to buy for!

### **Support Blair Fraley Thrift Store**

This is the largest resale shop in the High Country. Operated by The Crossnore School, the store offers treasures to locals and visitors alike. Generous friends donate quality new and used goods that are used by children in care, or sold at the store, with income going toward the Crossnore School operating budget. We can either donate to the store, or visit and find a treasure or two! Clothing, household goods, books, toys, sporting goods, furniture and seasonal decorations are always needed.

These are just a few of the opportunities we have to help in the ministry and care of these children – in addition to our Campbell's Soup UPC's!

For more information on these and for the Bird Cage or Cottage Wish Lists, please visit the Crossnore website <http://www.crossnoreschool.org/> or contact Melynda Pepple at Crossnore.