Boiling Springs

Johns Family Take Year's Challenges in Stride Best Version Media October breast cancer



Cover Photo By Marian Ashley Photography

Thrift Stores Give Hope to Families Battling Cancer

Debbie Atkins

wenty years ago Carol Moeller saw firsthand the struggles faced by a friend whose child had cancer and she was moved to act.

"I was reading 'Purpose Driven Life' at that time and decided maybe this was my purpose to help these families because I saw the struggle that she had while her child was going through cancer," Carol explains. "I took it on myself to make it my mission to try to help these families and I've been doing it ever since."

Carol and her husband Jack had moved to South Carolina from Indiana for his job. She was working full-time for a company when she began raising money through various fundraisers, poker runs, auctions and the like to support her

new nonprofit Carol's Hope for Childhood Cancer. When Carol retired in 2014, she opened the first thrift store in Boiling Springs that allowed her to continue to help families and stay in one spot. A second thrift store opened May 12 on the eastside of Spartanburg.

The Thrift Stores accept all donations, except mattresses and old TVs; they have even received a sailboat! All proceeds from the thrift stores go to help families with expenses including gas, food and lodging as they travel near and far for cancer treatments. Carol points out often the cancer battle can last years, and they have been able to assist upwards of 150 families. This past year, they were even able to provide three \$1,000 scholarships to help young cancer survivors attend college.









Carol Moeller (and Fred) with a few of the children her organization has been able to help.

Seeing the families receive the help they need and knowing their child doesn't have to feel their illness is a burden is reward enough for Carol. "Every case is different and there are ups and downs. Every day's a struggle... it's very

much needed and all funds stay in Spartanburg County and three years ago we added Cherokee County," she says.

Jack and their Havanese dog named Fred, the store's mascot, have remained by Carol's side as the mission has taken shape and expanded. Their grown children are stepping up to ensure the mission their mom started carries forward. Their son J.C. Moeller, who lives in Raleigh, N.C., travels to Spartanburg every week to help. Daughter Paulette Calloway lives in Spartanburg and also assists in the work of Carol's Hope. Cyndi Williams manages the Boiling Springs store. They are all appreciative of the community's support. Everyone has the opportunity to participate in the good work of Carol's Hope Thrift Stores by donating, shopping,

volunteering, and spreading their hope to others. The stores are open from 12-6pm Tuesday-Saturday at 3225 Boiling Springs Rd. (Hwy. 9) in Boiling Springs and 2600 East Main St. in Spartanburg.

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