

NEW BEGINNINGS

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Hon Ripley Rand

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"We feel that Summit House is vitally important to our community ... Fairway applauds your service to the community and hopes our support will help you extend your reach and magnify your voice."

Dan O'Shea

Fairway Outdoor Advertising of the Triad

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Bill Shelton joined the Summit House team in July as the organization's new Executive Director. He works closely with each of the Summit House board of directors, on-site staff, and volunteers to implement effective ways to reach development and program objectives. With more than a decade of experience as a senior-level executive, Bill is ready. "I am enthusiastic about and humbled by my new role with Sum-

mit House," he said. "It is prime time to challenge ourselves to grow in ways that benefit all North Carolinians, both sociologically and financially. I look forward to partnering with the North Carolina community to help create new lives for mothers and children who are most in need."

Bill is comfortable in every setting and has held executive-level positions with Penn Atlantic Broadcasting, 2XSALT, and Easter SealsUCP (as Charlotte regional director of development and business affairs),

and has also worked with the NBA and Central YMCA in Charlotte. NBA All-Stars and 2XSALT board members David Thompson and Bobby Jones said, "Bill is greatly respected as a forward thinker in the Charlotte region. He used his talents as a youth advocate for those residing in communities of greatest need. We were fortunate to have him on our team."

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BUILT BY THE COMMUNITY

We are so grateful to the residential and the business communities in North Carolina, especially Charlotte and Greensboro, that donated both



time, energy, and sweat to get the new Summit Houses completed and open to serve families. We cannot provide the valuable services that we do without the partnership and dedication of our communities. It seems so inadequate, but

THANK YOU!

ON SITE

In Charlotte, one of the Summit House moms has a baby due at any time! This baby will join the other Summit House children, living and bonding with their mothers rather than losing them to prison. In December, one mom and her two children graduated and



re-entered the community. P accomplished a tremendous amount during her 24 months in the program, from obtaining her GED and securing employment, to saving \$1,500 and purchasing a car. P is now enrolled in a higher-education program and keeps in touch with Summit House regularly. We're proud to report she and her two children, now ages 2 and 4, are doing well. Congratulations P!

The new Piedmont house celebrated its first anniversary this month! The moms are working hard and enjoying time with their children. We are especially pleased to announce our oldest child, who is 6 and in first grade, has joined the Girl Scouts. She and her mom attended their first sleepover last week and we're sure it was an experience neither of them will forget!

In the Triangle, we are moving forward with relocating our facility. We are considering Chapel Hill and have applied to the planning department for a zoning ordinance. In order to ensure we service the eastern part of North Carolina during this transition, we continue to send all Triangle client referrals to Piedmont for evaluation. Stay tuned as we shoot for a grand opening in late 2010!

MEET THE BOARD

Starting with this issue, we will be running an interview series to highlight each member on our Board of Directors. We hope you enjoy getting to know our members a bit more personally.

SPECIAL SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RIPLEY RAND

Ripley grew up in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Although his parents divorced when Ripley was in grade school, they maintained a positive relationship and made "team" decisions about his upbringing, including enforcement of the same rules wherever Ripley was at any given time. Perhaps it was his parents' constructive consistency that sparked his interest in the law.

Upon completing law school at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and finishing clerkships in two different court systems, Ripley moved to Raleigh in 1997 and joined the District Attorney's office, whereby he discovered a passion for being in the courtroom. When a Special Superior Court Judge position became available in 2002, he applied for and was appointed the seat by Governor Mike Easley. He was later reappointed to another term, and his current term expires in 2012.

So why would a judge who did not set out to do a lot of volunteer work, seek to serve on the Summit House board of directors? You might say it was in his genes. "My parents believed - and still believe - that people should be active participants in the things that are important to them. My father was always very involved in public service and my mother was very active in the community. Both of my parents lead by example."

Two things steered Ripley in the direction of Summit House. First, a relative was leaving the board and wanted her successor to have experience in the court system. And Ripley, who was beginning to take a keen interest in public service, was in the right place at the right time.

The second was more organic. As an Assistant District Attorney, Ripley ran the office's Domestic Violence Unit and became involved with Interact - an organization that provides safety, support, and awareness to victims and survivors of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault - and so was sadly familiar with the struggles that many women,



Mother's Day Tea!!
Bring your mom and support the moms and children
of Summit House Piedmont.
Check summithouse.org for upcoming date and time.

GO GREEN!!!!

Being good stewards of the environment is a responsibility we all share. In an effort to help resolve the environmental challenges we face, you now have the option of receiving your Summit House newsletter via e-mail.

If your answer is yes and you would like to keep the planet green by receiving your Summit House newsletter by e-mail, go to newsletter@summithouseenc.org to enter your email address, which we will keep confidential. Thank you!

NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR continued from page 1

A self-proclaimed "talker and people lover," Bill enjoys helping people from all walks of life. Perhaps it's because of this trait that he has been able to meet and interact with social and political luminaries like Whoopi Goldberg and former President George H.W. Bush, Sr. Bill's short-lived silver-screen career – and opportunity to pontificate with Ms. Goldberg – was on the set of the 1996 movie "Eddie" when Bill was asked to suit up as a basketball player. He now leads a quiet, but always busy life in Charlotte with his family.

Bill and Tavie, his wife of 23 years, have four children. Their oldest two sons, Evan and Elec, are honor students and athletes, focusing mostly on basketball. Talia, their only daughter, is a cheerleader, plays the violin, and is interested in drama. Noel, their youngest is very active and into everything. Tavie, a former social worker and current third grade teacher, supports Bill's joining Summit House because she believes it's important to help families stay together. She said, "I support Bill's choice to join Summit House. It is so important to help families stay together and to give the support needed to allow growth and opportunity. The lives of generations to come will be affected by touching the life of a mother."

JUDGE RAND continued from page 2

both with and without children, endure. Putting two and two together made him think, "This organization is a necessary resource for assisting this growing population."

Today, Ripley continues to feel strongly about the need to find effective substance abuse treatment for women and the importance of helping women with young children become better parents. But resources and education are necessary to help these women, and the lack of resources particularly affects the women who could benefit from these services the most.

These issues are of great concern throughout the court system in general. When asked about the greatest challenge to the criminal justice system, Ripley replied, "Resources. In order for someone to be admitted to Summit House, the judge, the district attorney, and the defense attorney all need to know what's going on in the case so that everyone can make informed choices. With no money, it's hard for everyone to get that information." Fortunately for Summit House, Judge Rand continues to work to educate those in the court system about Summit House, in effect becoming a resource himself, and has become a steadfast part of the long-term solution.



Summit House strives to break the multi-generational cycle of crime, poverty, and substance abuse by intervening in and strengthening the lives of mothers who have committed non-violent crimes and their children.



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CHILDREN NEED THEIR MOTHERS; THEIR MOTHERS NEED YOU

How many more women's prisons can we build? How many more children will suffer the loss of their mothers? One of the most pioneering programs in



the country, Summit House is the prison alternative our families need.

Summit House is an alternative-to-prison program for women with children, who have com-

mitted a non-violent felony. This intensive residential program offers both women and their children a new lease on life. For the first time, these mothers have a real chance to receive the comprehensive counseling and training they need to attain the life and parenting skills they have not learned. These skills, coupled with bonding with their children and developing self esteem, help break the multi-generational cycle of incarceration—foster care-incarceration. Mothers build a new foundation upon which they construct their lives, to become productive citizens and successful parents.

Summit House gives families a fresh start.

TEDDY BEAR PICNIC

Sunday,
April 26, 2009
3-5pm



For Children of All Ages!
Decorate your t-shirt
& your bear's t-shirt

Local children's musician Mr. Kenny,
face painting, BBQ, hot dogs, beverages,
and other picnic fare

Benefiting Summit House
Location TBD, check
summithouse.org