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NEW BEGINNINGS

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SUMMIT HOUSE GRADUATE STILL SUCCESSFUL AFTER 15 YEARS

True success meets the test of time. Summit House graduate Sharon and her son Darrien have truly been successful!

Pregnant and looking at prison time, Sharon was accepted into Summit House in 1995. "I was apprehensive, not knowing if Summit House would work, and I was leery of all of the other women there," remembers Sharon. However, she was fully committed to working hard to make real, lasting change in her and her son's lives. After two years, Sharon and Darrien graduated in 1997.

"I learned how to be a mother, I learned how to love," says Sharon. "I learned self discipline, how to handle money, to accept the word no, and most of all, I learned self respect." Sharon applies all of the things she learned at Summit House to her life today. She stays out of trouble and has stayed away from drugs.

Darrien's life is very different than his older brothers, who were teens and not eligible for Summit House. Both brothers are incarcerated but at 13, Darrien is choosing a very different path. "He's an A,B,C student," says his proud mother. "He strives to do well and wants to go to college," she said. Darrien's ambitions include singing, dancing, art, and architecture. "He's a joy!"



One of the most amazing parts of Sharon's story is where she is currently employed. "I called Summit House 1½ years ago to ask for help buying Christmas presents for Darrien," said Sharon. But instead of a hand-out, the Summit House program director told Sharon she had a job opening that suited her skill set. Sharon applied for a transportation aide position and has worked for Summit House ever since.

"I love driving, I really love giving back," said Sharon. She loves the Summit House children and so does Darrien. "He visits the Summit House children often and they adore him," she said. "I get up every morning, excited to be working at Summit House and to be able support my son. Life is good, I have no complaints."

Congratulations on your successful life Sharon & Darrien! Great work! ■

The re-incarceration rate for Summit House graduates over the past five years is 6.5% compared to 36.2% for prison inmates.

MEET THE BOARD

DAN BLUE III TRIANGLE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Blue, III, a member of the Summit House Triangle Board of Directors, is a lawyer who recently left his position as Executive Director for the Pharmaceutical Institute, a company that specializes in training programs for the pharmaceutical and biotech industries. He now works closely with emerging to mid-size companies on legal and business matters. Prior to founding the Pharmaceutical Institute with Campbell Alliance, a management consulting firm, Dan worked as a healthcare investment banker on Wall Street where he advised clients on corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions.

Is it a stretch to juxtapose finance, pharmaceuticals, and startup companies with advocating for a non-profit alternative to prison? Not if your father is Dan Blue, Jr., a senator in North Carolina's General Assembly, and your mother, Edna, is a tireless civic community leader. Dan's parents' belief that politics and community service go hand in hand and their involvement in the Raleigh community were integral influences in his life.

"I guess I'm genetically predisposed to serving in this sort of capacity; no matter what I do, I have to be active in my community," said Dan, who realized early on that politics, community service, and charitable organizations are all symbiotic. "There are limitations on what government can do, for both political and operational reasons, but a positive legislative environment can help charitable organizations meet those unmet needs."

As the number of mothers who become part of

the judicial system increases, so, too, does the adverse effect on their future families.

"When I find good ideas that can fix the unintended consequences of legislative policies by presenting alternatives, I have to support them," Dan said. "That is why I joined the Summit House Board. Summit House provides better outcomes for families, for children, for the community, and for North Carolina taxpayers. There is not a single loser in the Summit House program."

You might say Dan has an innate need to be part of solutions, and Summit House is the beneficiary of his talents.

When Dan isn't reading everything he can about current events, he enjoys cooking with his wife, playing the piano, and exploring his downtown Raleigh neighborhood. "We can take Raleigh's new downtown R Line to a number of great music establishments and restaurants," he said. A big advocate of downtown living, many of Dan's favorite haunts (and now his office) can be reached by walking or riding the R Line.

Dan is a triple graduate of Duke University, completing his undergraduate work in biomedical engineering and public policy, and graduate work in both law and business. He lives in downtown Raleigh with his wife Traci, who was born and raised in North Carolina. Traci is a graduate of ECU for undergraduate work in elementary education and graduate work in clinical counseling. She currently works for Easter Seals as a counselor serving children in the Wake County school system. ■

"I was very fortunate to have been raised in a household with a loving mother and father who were dedicated to our family. Unfortunately, there are many children in our society who have not been as fortunate or have been placed in the system because the parent that would have raised them has been incarcerated. [DocuSource](#) chose Summit House because it helps to put families together again by keeping children with their mothers during the process of rehabilitation and teaching the moms how to accept responsibility while beating their addictions."



*Kathy Murchison
President/CEO
DocuSource of NC*

Winner of the Triangle Business Journal's 2009 Women in Business Award

SPOTLIGHT ON CHARLOTTE

On May 30th, Summit House had another great success story when J. graduated from the program with her toddler, Ashton. J. spent 17 months with our program and while here she completed her substance abuse classes, in addition to many sessions of parenting training to help her with issues and skills necessary to raise Ashton in a safe, loving manner. J. also attended individual therapy sessions to work through many personal issues from her past. She was employed full-time in a local doggie day care salon where she was responsible for dog grooming – and became so good at grooming that many dog owners now request that she be responsible for the grooming of their pets.

J. was able to accumulate over \$2,000 in her savings account prior to her graduation. She was able to have her driver's license restored, obtained a car and after graduation, she moved in with her elderly grandmother to assist with her medical care. J. has a very supportive family and many of them attended her graduation and testified as to what a changed person J. is because of the Summit House program.

Another success story took place on July 16th when E. and her toddler, Evan graduated from Summit House. E. spent 12 months at Summit House. Evan was born while E. was working hard putting her life back together again. E. completed her substance abuse treatment, parenting skills classes and individual counseling sessions. She had \$1,500 in her savings account and plans to return to school to complete her Certified Nurses Assistant certificate.

Summit House is proud of everyone who has graduated from our program. The Charlotte site proudly employs two past graduates, pictured below with their children and our new graduate!



One of our moms delivered a baby boy in April. It is always exciting to see the joy a mother experiences when her child is born and she is safe, has support, and is able to care for her baby. The children living at Summit House Charlotte now range in age from 10 weeks to 7 years old.

We are looking forward to our next Charlotte graduation which will take place this autumn. You are invited to attend! ■



The Summit House program 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.



Donate Now

Button available at summithouse.org

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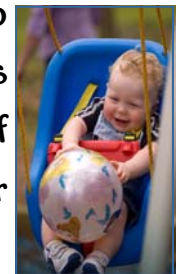
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rick@summithouse.org



PO Box 27284, Raleigh, NC 27611
 Phone 919.329.9214
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Summit House families have the same needs as every family. If you would like to help our families in their day-to-day lives, please contact one of our sites nearest you to arrange for a donation delivery. Our babies need every size of Huggies diapers, wipes, and sealed baby food. Our moms need toiletries, paper products, cleaning supplies, trash bags, and linens. Thank you!!



KILPATRICK STOCKTON LLP
 Attorneys at Law

FIRM PROVIDES OVER 260 PRO BONO HOURS TO SUMMIT HOUSE

In March 2008, attorneys from Kilpatrick Stockton LLP contacted Summit House to ask if the moms in our program could benefit from a roundtable discussion. The roundtable would be with attorneys from their firm, who could answer questions on legal issues the moms might have. At the same time as the roundtable, other attorneys and staff members wanted to go to each of the Summit House locations and complete service projects. That was the beginning of a Summit House/Kilpatrick Stockton relation-



Emily Moseley

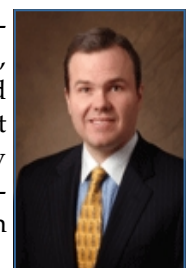
ship that has been growing ever since!

For a nonprofit, costs related to legal advice and representation can be incredibly expensive, often to the detriment of its ability to serve clients. But, when you need legal counsel, there is no substitute. To date, Kilpatrick Stockton has provided over 260 pro bono hours valued at \$95,300. Partner Jeff Benson and past partner Deborah Fletcher and associates John Livingston and Emily Moseley have provided significant hours of assistance.



John Livingston

Kilpatrick Stockton has advised, represented, and assisted Summit House in many areas of law, including human resource policy, real estate, corporate, and employment. We are grateful for the expert advice and professionalism we have received and for the incredible generosity of the legal staff at Kilpatrick Stockton.



Jeff Benson

Thank you Kilpatrick Stockton!! ■