

**Socks**  
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The group contacted Pruitt Health and Ridgeway Manor to ask how they could assist the residents in the two healthcare homes.

"Rose Harris, the director at Pruitt and Admissions Director Frances Maddox of Ridgeway Manor Healthcare, both said that many of their residents needed socks," Trapp said.

"After we learned what was needed, we came together and purchased hundreds of pairs of socks," she said. "We had boxes and boxes of socks in assorted sizes and colors for both men and women."

Tara Minmons of Ridgeway Manor Healthcare helped arrange delivery of the socks to the homes. Harris and Maddox will then oversee the distribution of the gift socks to the individual residents at Christmas time.

"It gives us great pleasure to share the holiday joy and the spirit of giving with the residents of Pruitt Healthcare Ridgeway and Ridgeway Manor Healthcare Center," Trapp said after the group distributed the boxes of socks to the health care facilities.

Silver Hill Worshipful Master is Demetrius Chisolm.

**Council**  
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tacting a WIS-TV reporter, who attended and covered Monday's special meeting.

"I asked him [the reporter] why each time Saving Fairfield or The Voice calls him, he comes with a wrecking ball to hurt this current council," Bell said.

Councilman Clarence Gilbert voted for the ordinance after voting against it last week during second reading.

Gilbert said the ordinance was hastily assembled, but noted his affirmative vote was strictly to show support for employees.

"While I think this ordinance has been made in haste and not well-thought out, it's also my understanding employees have been notified they'll be receiving this bonus," Gilbert said. "I hope that all employees are included."

Councilwoman Shirley Greene, who voted for the allocation of the employee bonuses, asked how the county is able to fund bonuses now amid dire budget predictions six months ago. She said numerous constituents have asked her about the apparent paradox.

County Administrator Malik Whitaker

was unable to provide an explanation other than to say there are sufficient funds in unrestricted fund balances.

"We can get you the exact numbers. We have been working on getting that," Whitaker said. "It was there, it is there to cover this. We can get you the details on exactly what that looks like."

Bell interjected to say that during the second half of 2022, the county has been depositing money into the fund balance. However, he also didn't provide any detailed financials that would explain the sudden availability of money for employee bonuses.

"Our fund balance from June 30, instead of taking money out, we were able to put money into it," Bell said. "We've been able to use grants and other government funding to help us along. That enabled us to spend that money versus revenues from the county."

Most citizens speaking during public comments continued to voice opposition to the ordinance.

Ridgeway resident Randy Bright said he

supports employee bonuses, but added the ordinance as written was woefully scant on details.

"Strong leaders don't look for legal loopholes to gain from ordinances. Strong leaders look to do the right thing," he said. "I'm against hastily drawn up proposals just to make yourselves look better."

Winnsboro resident Yvette Howard, however, supported the ordinance.

Most of her support revolved around the Teacherage monument and memorial wall in Jenkinsville, though she also thought employees would appreciate the bonuses.

The payouts will come after Dec. 31 to employees on the payroll as of Dec. 19.

Monday's meeting was the last meeting Bell and Trapp will attend as council members. Both were defeated in the November election. Bell was unseated by Dan Ruff, and Trapp lost his seat on council to Peggy Swearingen.

Ruff and Swearingen will be sworn into office on Jan. 9, 2023, along with returning Councilmen Clarence Gilbert and Douglas Pauley.

# Strengthening Families Program

## Cycle 11 Graduation

### FBHS Celebrates the 11th Cycle of the Strengthening Families Program

by Alana Rabb, Community Health Specialist, FBHS

Fairfield Behavioral Health Services (FBHS) congratulates 8 families during Cycle 11 graduation from the Strengthening Families Program on Thursday, December 15th, 2022. Mrs. Veronica Edmonds, the SFP Site Coordinator, hosted our in-person graduation at Fairfield Middle school which was attended by the family's guest and Strengthening Families Program (SFP) staff.

The graduation started off with a traditional opening ritual done by the Camack Family. Everyone joined in singing "RESPECT" with an SFP remix. Mrs. Edmonds proceeded to kick off the graduation with a welcome to the families and their guests with the theme for the night being "Be Better Together". Mrs. Edmonds thanked the families for all their hard work over the past 14 sessions & recognized the SFP staff members for all their work over the past few months as well. Mrs. Diana Stevenson and Mrs. Sylvia Camack gave a touching testimony stating how the Strengthening Families Program has helped their family and how "Thankful" they were to be able to participate in the program and how much of a difference this program has made within themselves and their family. Mrs. Edmonds presented the Gray and Owens family with the perfect attendance award for showing up and making it on time to all 14 sessions. All families were then recognized for completing the program. The crowd applauded with joy as each family received a family portrait, certificate of completion, monetary incentive, and a Christmas bag full of goods for the families to continue implementing the SFP skills they

learned. The Strengthening Families Program (SFP) is an evidence-based family skills training program for high-risk and general population families that is recognized both nationally and internationally. SFP is unique and the most effective family skills training program because it involves the whole family with children ages 6-11 participating in three classes run on the same night once a week. Parents and youth attend weekly SFP skills classes together, learning parenting skills and youth life and refusal skills. They have separate class training for parents and youth in the first hour, followed by a joint family practice session in the second hour. Evidence shows that SFP can teach families how to...

- Build stronger relationships in family
- Listen more and yell less
- Prevent behavior problems
- Better manage stress
- Enhance Parenting Skills
- Improve youth's social and life skills
- Reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect

Special thanks to all 8 families who graduated from the program joining the other 73 families. Collective impact for Fairfield County includes 85 families graduating with 96 parents, 117 children ages 6-11, 14 children under 6, and 49 teens ages 12-17 for a total of 276. The Strengthening Families Program continues to help families in Fairfield County with 3 cycles a year to build skills for both the children and their parents. Our twelfth cycle is scheduled to begin tentatively on January 23rd, 2023. If your family or a family you know may be interested

in participating in future cycles, please give us a call at (803) 635-2335.

Thank you SFP Staff! Coach Karen Dukes-Smith, Children's Trust of South Carolina; Veronica Dadzie-Edmonds, Site Coordinator; Ashley McLaughlin, Parent Facilitator & Former Graduate; Alana Rabb, Lead Child Facilitator; Erica Mack-White, Child Facilitator; Dwayne Robinson, Child Facilitator & Former Graduate; Queen Robinson, Child Facilitator & Former Graduate; Douglas Johnson, Administrative Support; and Vernon Kennedy, Sr., Program Manager.



Gray and Owens Family- Perfect Attendance



Star Students Cycle 11



Camack Family



Gray Family



Stevenson Family



Jones Family



Owens Family



Johnson Family



Thompson Family

#### 3 Things SFP Helped Me With

- Communicate better not only with my child but my family
- Correct unhealthy behaviors in my family
- Coping with problem-solving in my family/with my child

#### 3 Things I Learned

- How to give clear direction
- Giving them positive feedback when my child did something well
- Positive practice (Have them redo what they did wrong the correct way)

Fairfield Behavioral Health Services

