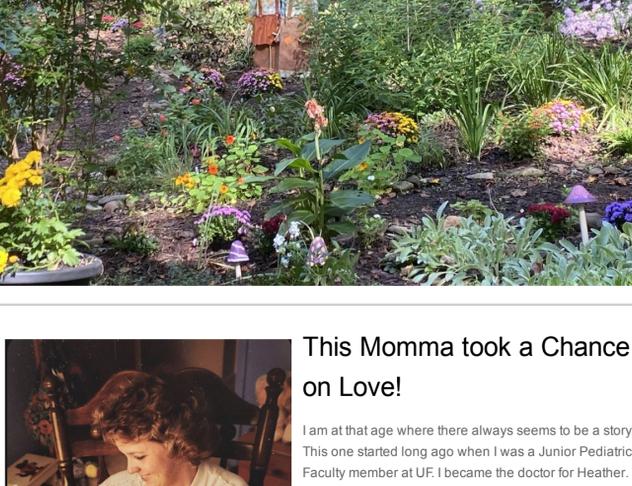




The Still Place

FOR FAMILIES WITH SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN

Happy Fall Y'all So Much TSP News!

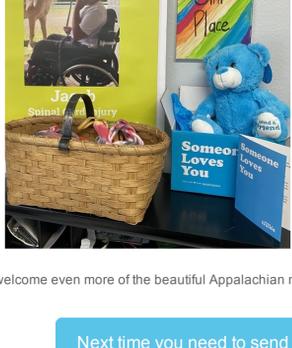


This Momma took a Chance on Love!

I am at that age where there always seems to be a story. This one started long ago when I was a Junior Pediatric Faculty member at UF. I became the doctor for Heather. She was born with a rare genetic abnormality. Her older brother was strong and loving, always his mommy's helper. They had already lost their other brother. Heather's Mommy and Daddy loved her so very much, but as she grew older, she had more and more trouble breathing. It was before the days of routine trachs and g-tubes. I fell in love with Heather and her family. I met Luke, her adopted brother with Down syndrome, and her big caring Daddy. As we journeyed together, it became clear that Heather was starting to suffer with increasing trouble breathing. She was having more very scary crises. Hospice came and cared for her. She passed

away in her sweet home with all her family nearby. It was hard, so very hard. I attended the funeral and burial. We released balloons and it was a sweet blessing, but hearts, of course, were broken. Through the years, I journeyed with this beautiful family. I learned and noticed many joys and many sorrows which were important in the birth of The Still Place.

Send A Friend!



A few weeks ago when I was still jet-lagged from Ukraine, I got a call from Heather's mommy. Several weeks before, she had taken the time to nominate The Still Place for an award. She had seen a truly loving company, Send A Friend, was seeking five nonprofits to which they were going to gift \$10,000 each. She had received an email, The Still Place, had been the top choice. But this company was so taken with all the strong work done by the 1,200 nonprofits nominated that they went on to award another 10 nonprofits \$1,000. I was so grateful I wrote a thank you note to the "contact us" email right away. I received a personal note back from Ashley. She and her brother, Tyler, the owners, love nature and appreciated the role nature plays in The Still Place. We are exploring ways that this amazing gift can be used to

welcome even more of the beautiful Appalachian mountain nature into our activities.

Next time you need to send a little love: THINK Send A Friend

The Power of Nature

Heather's youngest brother, whom she never met, had a very severe sensory processing disorder. When he came to see me in clinic, he was so fearful and off balance that he would tremble, hesitate, and almost crawl or cling to the walls. When he visited The Still Place, I witnessed a little miracle. The first day he would not leave the mudroom and was super shaky whenever or wherever he walked holding tightly to anyone helping him. It was way before we had any rendition of a bridge across the creek. When I came one morning, he had something to show me, and I am not exaggerating here...someone had placed a very dangerous 2 by 4 across the creek...he was able to walk across it! It was that moment I realized nature heals in ways we cannot even imagine. Thanks to Ric Weldon and Kadesh Ellison, we now have an amazing bridge.



Still Your Mom

Thank You Charlie's Heart Foundation

Because of the heartbreak witnessed in so many families, I have always had a wonderment about how to serve families having to go through the death of a child. Two years ago, TSP was awarded a grant from Charlie's Heart Foundation, to pilot a Mom's Bereavement Retreat. As I write this newsletter, my heart is still tender after having hosted and witnessed our first Still Your Mom retreat. Michael and Rebecca Holt have turned the incomprehensible loss of their beautiful son Charlie into this opportunity for The Still Place to partner with KinderMourn. Five beautiful mothers opened their hearts to one another. The love and care for each other was profound. The stories shared precious. We are humbled by this experience and look forward to the journey before us as we continue to nurture and grow this new program at The Still Place.

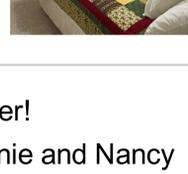
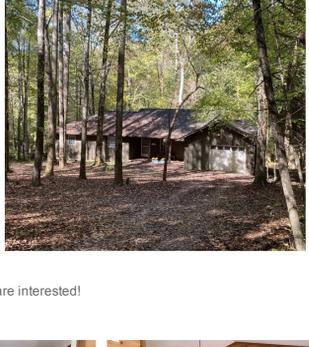


Charlie's Heart Foundation

KinderMourn

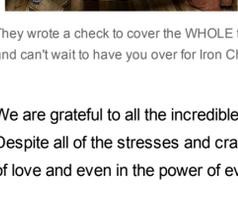
New to Us: The Creek House!

The last bit of news is again a story of loss and the power of love. Sadly, our TSP neighbor passed away in the Spring. Her daughter and son-in-law came to visit their mother's mountain home this summer. They wandered through The Still Place, hearing our stories. Several weeks later, they invited us to purchase this incredibly peaceful home nestled by the creek far below the current crazy market value. We are so grateful as we will be able to expand our programs and hopefully develop a new Host Family program in which a previous Still Place Family will be able to host and play with a new Still Place Family. Email us if you are interested!



Iron Chef is Safer!

Thanks to Johnnie and Nancy McCranie



Johnnie and Nancy McCranie have big hearts. They asked what we needed, and I told them all the appliances were on their last leg. With Iron Chef and kids cooking, I wanted to get an Induction Cooktop to reduce the chance of burns. Well, those babies have a nice price tag, but do you know what Johnnie and Nancy did?

They wrote a check to cover the WHOLE thing. Thank you, Nancy and Johnnie McCranie! WE LOVE YOU and can't wait to have you over for Iron Chef soon!

Family Retreats in the Time of Covid

After a whirlwind summer of serving 21 families from May through August, we served three families in September...two from Florida and one from Tennessee.

During this time of Covid, we have had to modify our retreats to keep families, staff, and volunteers safe...activities outdoors, wearing masks, social distancing, and alternative activities. Many families are opting for minimal contact with volunteers and staff and doing some activities on their own. However, just getting away from their normal, stressful lives is all families really need.

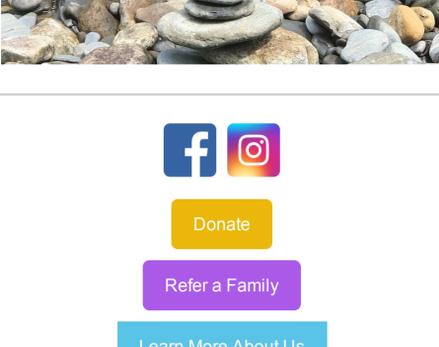
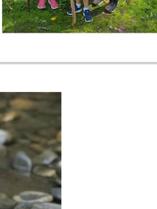
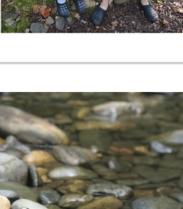
Our families in September enjoyed some awesome adventures. In addition to visiting our natural parks, such as Fires Creek and Clay County Recreation area families have enjoyed...

- hiking on the TSP property and art projects
- visiting the pigs and chickens at [Still Waters Landing](#) (and going home with organic veggies and fresh eggs)
- going gem mining at [Mason Mountain Mine](#) in Franklin
- visiting the goats at [High Mountain Meadows Creamery](#)
- zooming around the track at [Georgia Mountain Coaster](#) in Helen, GA
- enjoying ice cream at [Chinquapin's](#)
- getting brain freeze on Sno-Balls at [Carlotta's](#)
- meeting Big Foot at the [Big Foot Museum](#)
- savoring donuts and coffee at [Better Together Donut & Coffee House](#)
- pony rides at [Chunky Gal Stables](#)
- checking out cars at the [Memory Lane Classic Car Museum](#) in Young Harris, GA
- and, of course, sitting by the creek and roasting marshmallows over a campfire!

Moms and dads are still enjoying a date night at [The Copper Door](#) or [Paris & Co.](#) if they choose to. **BIG Thank You goes out to our adventure partners and volunteers!!! We couldn't do this without them!**

The Still Place is continuing to meet our mission during these crazy times; we're just doing it a little bit differently.

~Heather



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