

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Festiva Employees Participate in Day of Caring

Asheville, North Carolina – September 1 2011 – On Thursday, September 1, 19 employees from Festiva Hospitality Group's corporate office in Asheville, N.C., dedicated half of their day to [Hands On Asheville-Buncombe's Day of Caring](#). Hands On is a part of [United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County](#) that provides a link for individuals, families, corporate, and civic or faith-based groups to volunteer in support of nonprofits in Asheville and Buncombe County.

This was the fourth year in a row that Festiva has participated in Day of Caring, which allows businesses, individuals and organizations to go out into the community and help local nonprofit organizations with specific projects. Festiva sent a morning group and an afternoon group to the [Cornerstone Transitional Living Program home](#) to complete an interior painting project of the entire second floor of the house.

Cornerstone, part of [Caring for Children, Inc.](#), is a residence for up to eight young women ages 16 to 21 who have long-term problems, are too old for adoption or whose family situation is such that remaining or returning home is either impossible or would be counterproductive. To learn the skills needed for independent living in the community, each girl follows a program that teaches decision-making, goal setting, household management and money management. The girls also learn skills in health, educational and vocational areas. Throughout the program, the girls are expected to be involved in volunteer work in the community and/or to have regular employment.

To help welcome several expected new residents at the home, Festiva volunteers took over the bathroom, two hallways, two bedrooms, a recreation room and several doors and closets and gave everything several coats of crisp white paint. The improvement made such an impact that the Cornerstone Program Director, Lynn Petersen, sent a gracious thank-you letter to Festiva:

"All of us at Cornerstone want to extend our gratitude for your time and commitment to United Way's Day of Caring. We appreciate both morning and afternoon painting crews helping to give our girls' home a much needed freshening. We recognize that your contribution to this project will make an impact in our girls' and our staff's experience here. The girls will have brighter, cleaner rooms. Our four staff members will not feel that they must complete an overwhelming task. You all helped us so very much. A heartfelt Thank You to everyone!"

This year's Day of Caring served several purposes for those who participated. Not only did they demonstrate the hardworking nature of Festiva's employees by accomplishing all of the tasks planned that day (and more), but they also they made a positive impact on an important non-profit organization in our community.

Festiva's involvement in Day of Caring was organized by Debbie Shroyer and Tammy Stone. Participating employees: Chuck Lockwood, Corina Violette, Janet Mathis, Nicole Osborne, Robin Bradley, Nicole Jamison, Traci Weisner, Cathy Braddock, Tara Elliott, Kevin Wray, Tammy Bryson, Sara Little, Scott Carson, Ini Eiset, Aaron Hodges Angela Norville, Andie Williams and Mary Anne Craver.

Last year, 19 employees went to Ira B. Jones Elementary school and completed several projects including painting parking, bus drop-off and handicap space lines in several parking lots and assembling and moving 200 student desks.