

KEOWEE KEY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP (KKCP)



149th Running of the Kentucky Derby

Time to put on your best Derby Day hat and join us in a Race for the Kids! Wild Hearts Equine Therapy Center presents The Race for the Kids Derby Day Benefit on Saturday, May 6, starting at 4 p.m. Join us to celebrate the running of the Kentucky Derby as we raise funds to help physically and emotionally challenged kids. The Benefit takes place at the historic Wilhite House located in the heart of downtown Anderson. This beautiful home, built in 1858, is a wedding and event venue, with sweeping staircases, vaulted ceilings, and period furniture.

Celebrate the afternoon as we lead up to post time at 6:30 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be provided along with music and a live auction. Dress in your Derby Day finest, complete with a hat, and enter our Hat Competition. Enjoy bourbon tasting, fine cigars, and Pin the Tail on the Donkey!

To buy tickets and view event details, go to: <https://RaceForTheKidsDerbyDay.eventbrite.com>. Don't miss out on this fun event and help support the children of our community at the same time!

The mission of Wild Hearts and its volunteers is to provide a safe and compassionate environment that fosters physical, emotional, and behavioral growth in programs that utilize the intuitive nature of the horse to enrich the quality of life for people of all ages. Thank you for your support!

More Than a 5K Fun Run/Walk

Calling all walkers, runners, and outdoor enthusiasts! Wild Hearts Equine Therapy Center is excited to present an outdoor event for both adults and children! Join us on Saturday, May 13, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. for a special 5K Run/Walk that benefits the people and programs at Wild Hearts. It is not a timed event, just come out and have fun. The route begins at Wild Hearts farm and takes you around the surrounding lake community. You will end at the farm where you can follow the Meditation and Sensory trails that weave around the horse pastures, and the finish line is at the newly covered open-air arena and Enrichment Center. Every adult registered for the event will be entered into a drawing for a door prize. Light refreshments will be served.

Located at 598 Wild Hearts Way in Seneca, Wild Hearts is surrounded by pastures of specially trained therapy horse partners and the natural beauty of the South Carolina countryside. It is an easy thirty-minute drive from Keowee Key. Directions are located on the registration website below. Any questions you have can also be answered on the website.

To reserve your spot, go to: <https://runsignup.com/Race/SC/Seneca/More-ThanA5KFunRunWalk> Registration ends May 10 at noon and is limited. Children are free. You can choose to Race for a Horse, which will provide food and



medical care for one of the many therapy horses. You can choose a horse before the race, or one will be chosen for you. You will be introduced to your horse and have your picture taken with the horse after the race.

The mission of Wild Hearts and its volunteers is to provide a safe and compassionate environment that fosters physical, emotional, and behavioral growth in programs that utilize the intuitive nature of the horse to enrich the quality of life for people of all ages. We share our love of life and horses with everyone and believe in giving back as much as we have been fortuitous enough to receive.

What is Happening at the Foothills Area YMCA

This summer, the Y has two Day Camp (Camp Oconee) sites located at South Cove County Park and at the former Walhalla Middle School. Thanks to partnerships with Oconee County and City of Walhalla, another fun summer at Camp Oconee will begin on June 5. Activities include swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, movies, games and so much more.

With summer just around the corner, the Y is helping ensure that every child, regardless of age, income, or background, has the opportunity to attend summer camp at the Y. Our annual Send a Kid to Camp fundraiser, which started this month and will continue throughout the summer, provides financial assistance so all kids can enjoy achievement, friendship, and memories through our programs. Generous gifts ensure that no camper is denied the best summer ever because of the lack of financial resources. Here are some ways donations will help make a difference:

- \$30 gift provides a day of summer day camp for one child.
- \$150 gift provides a week of summer day camp for one child.
- \$1,200 gift provides all eight weeks of summer day camp for one child.

Our 2nd annual Putt for Parkinson's, fundraiser for Parkinson's programming, will take place on Monday, May 8 at the Oasis Ranch Mini Golf in Seneca with two shotgun starts. This fundraiser will benefit our Rock Steady Boxing and Pedaling for Parkinson's programs. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. To register to play, donate, or sponsor, please visit www.faymca.org.

The Y's Healthy Kids Day initiative aims to improve the health and well-being of kids and families. For over 30 years, YMCAs and their communities have hosted free community events aimed at inspiring kids and families to keep their minds and bodies active throughout the summer months and beyond. This year's Healthy Kids Day will take place on Saturday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Foothills Area YMCA featuring over 20 vendors, games, freebies, and fun! This event is free and open to the whole community.

We believe that being our best means taking ownership of our well-being, maintaining a healthy weight, and having the quality of life we deserve – for ourselves, for our families, and for our community. Join the Foothills Area YMCA beginning April 1 through April 30 and you'll pay no joining fee.

The Y is so thankful for the support they receive from Keowee Key and the KKCP. It is because of caring individuals like you that Oconee County and our non-profit organizations like the Y are able to thrive.

JW Martin Real Estate Becomes a KKCP Partner Supporter!

JW Martin Real Estate, upon hearing about the Keowee Key Community Partnership and the results they have generated, decided they too wanted to be a part of this initiative. Informing themselves about the Partner Charities, in January



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Back row: Kimberly Holland, Amy Adkins, Joseph Martin, Brandon Thomas & Isaiah Gibert. Front row: Tiffany Helf-Porter, Regis Coleman, Sue Brown, Julie Lane-Cox, and Brenda Bonin

they made donations to Collins Children's Home, Safe Harbor and Purple Heart Homes. In addition to supporting other charitable causes during the year, they are now a KKCP Partner Supporter. Thank you, JW Martin Real Estate!

Established in 2011, their first office was in Central. As their business grew, they moved their location to Clemson and with continued expansion opened the Lake Keowee office in Salem two and one-half years ago. Focusing on everything from new construction to luxury homes, they feel that their "boutique brokerage" approach differentiates them from the large big-box realtors. They also do Real Estate development, and coming soon will be JW Martin Custom Home Building. In addition to their local offices and local transactions, they are also licensed in Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida. While all together JW Martin Real Estate reached \$90 million in sales in 2022, they are proud of the fact that they sold 15 properties, nine interior and three lakefront, in Keowee Key last year.

Their founder Joseph Martin has been featured on the HGTV House Hunters twice and has also been awarded Businessperson of the year and Business of the Year by the Clemson Chamber of Commerce in the past.

JW Martin Real Estate "prides themselves on taking care of their clients like family and putting in the time and effort to know you and your needs, from browsing the market to after your purchase and all the steps in between. Happiness is homemade! JW Martin is a Homemade Business Shaping Homemade Dreams."

The Keowee Key Community Partnership welcomes FIRST LIGHT as our 23rd Partner!



Ever wonder who is there to advocate for and heal survivors of sexual assault and child abuse in Oconee County? First Light, formerly known as Foothills Alliance is there. And they have been providing this very important support and service for over 30 years. You say you've never heard of this wonderful organization, please read on.

First Light provides free support for survivors of sexual assault and child abuse and their families through collaboration, education, advocacy, and treatment services in Anderson and Oconee Counties. Advocates are available on our helpline 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 855-810-4882. They have an office in Walhalla.

When an underage victim of sexual assault and or child abuse in Oconee County is reported to the Department of Social Services (DSS) or local law enforcement, the affected individual is in turn referred to First Light as the only organization in the county to advocate on behalf of the individual by providing forensic interviews, pediatric medical exams, and in-house counseling. A First Light Fam-

ily Advocate contacts the family of the individual and schedules an interview with a professionally trained, trauma-informed Forensic Interviewer. Generally, DSS and law enforcement are present to observe the interview. The Forensic interviewer meets with the affected individual for an hour or so to ask the child questions about the abuse they experienced in a non-leading, legally defensible way. After the interview, the First Light team meets with the caregiver to offer continued services including access to their Chaplain, counselors, and their Nonoffender Caregiver Groups. Their Family Advocates maintain contact with the families for at least one year or until the case is closed.

Adult clients are self-referred, meaning they call the helpline and request their services. Resources and support, victim advocates, counseling are also provided for adult clients. If safe housing, transportation, clothing, food, and legal services are needed, First Light works with other local nonprofits, many of which are also KKCP Partner Charity organizations.

For the first 30 years of its existence, First Light was known as Foothills Alliance. The change in name to First Light is meant to remind their community of the soothing feeling associated with the dawning of a new day. Regardless of the nature of a client's previous experiences, First Light's goal is that their first encounter with them marks the beginning of a new chapter of hope and healing in their lives. Sounds impressive, and it is.

And, while the State of South Carolina requires DSS and local law enforcement to seek out National Children's Alliance certified advocacy centers like First Light, the State does not guarantee funding for its continued operation. Instead, First Light is a 501(c)3 sustained largely by federal grants and the generosity of its community.

Please read more about First Light and the incredible service they provide to those in need in Oconee and Anderson Counties by visiting their web site at www.firstlightsc.org or, visiting the Keowee Key website, under Member Central, Philanthropy, Partners.

And when it comes time to do your annual philanthropic giving, please remember First Light. Donations can be mailed to 216 E. Calhoun Street, Anderson, SC 29621. Please write KKCP on the memo line of your check.

Why Do I Need to Write "KKCP" on My Check?

You may have noticed that at the end of the articles about our partner charities, we often state: "Please write KKCP on the memo line of your check." We do that to help ensure that donations from Keowee Key members can be identified. Our partners in turn report back to us the total amount of contributions received from our members.

They do not tell us who donated only the total dollar amount received. We have been able to use this information to highlight to our neighbors in Oconee County Keowee Key's commitment to helping those less fortunate.

It also helps to demonstrate to our business partners the level of support Keowee Key's members provide. This can encourage them to make matching contributions to our partners. This means it is all the more important for our members to write "KKCP" in the memo line of their check, and to annotate payments from Trusts, or Required Minimum Distribution payments from IRAs with "KKCP."

So, friends and neighbors, let's continue to keep up the good work.

Keowee Key Community Partnership (KKCP) partners with deserving, effective, nonprofit organizations that make a difference in Oconee County. These Partners record those donations from Keowee Key, but report only cumulative results back to KKCP, enabling KKCP to seek matching funds. No individual donor names or donation amounts are ever shared with KKCP by Partners, and no money passes to or through KKCP.