

# Local HERO

Some People Just Deserve to Be Recognized



Lindsay Rust  
Executive Director  
Jesse's House, Inc.

### Describe your organization.

Jesse's House is a non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter and long-term care to girls between the ages of 7-17. In collaboration with state agencies such as the Department of Family and Children's Services and the Department of Juvenile Justice, Jesse's House offers a safe haven for girls who have been removed from their homes due to abuse, neglect, and/or delinquency. While residing at Jesse's House, girls receive a variety of services including, individual, group and family counseling, academic tutoring, mentoring, recreational therapy, medical and dental care, life skills training and vocational preparation. Our primary goal is to help these girls heal from the wounds of their past and begin to focus on preparing for successful futures.

### What has been one of your most rewarding experiences?

The most rewarding aspect of working at Jesse's House is witnessing first-hand the amazing growth and development of the girls in our care. In one such instance, a young teen was placed at Jesse's House by the Department of Family and Children's Services. She had suffered years of horrendous abuse before the authorities were alerted and able to remove her from her home. She arrived at Jesse's House a timid, depressed, self-loathing young girl who rarely smiled or laughed. After several months, she began to adjust to her new, safe surroundings and within a year's time, she had blossomed into a happy, boisterous, healthy girl who was full of confidence. She left Jesse's House to live with a loving foster family, who has plans to adopt her. I love receiving wonderful updates of her progress from her foster parents!

### What can readers do to help?

Three major ways readers can support Jesse's House is through monetary contributions, donations, and volunteering. Readers can access our current Wish List on our Web site at [www.jesseshouse.org](http://www.jesseshouse.org).

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*Photography by John Haigwood of Haigwood Studios.*

Do You Know Someone Who is Making a Difference in Forsyth County?  
Visit [ForsythLiving.org/hero](http://ForsythLiving.org/hero) to tell us about them!