



**For Immediate Release**

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**CHILDREN'S HOPE ALLIANCE TO SERVE AS MANY AS 20,000 CHILDREN  
THANKS TO SALE OF NORTH CAROLINA PROPERTIES**

*- Prestige Corporate Development to Create Live-Work-Learn-Play Community in Barium Springs*

*-Lees McRae College Calls Adjacent Property Vital to Implementing Priorities  
in its 2030 Strategic Plan*

*- Children's Hope Alliance to maintain headquarters location in Barium Springs*

Statesville, N.C. – Children's Hope Alliance (CHA), a nonprofit serving at-risk children and families across North Carolina, announced today it has reached an agreement to sell property it owns in Barium Springs and Banner Elk, N.C., exponentially increasing its ability to serve children and families in need of support, from approximately 2,000 per year to as many as 20,000. CHA will sell approximately 800 acres in Barium Springs to Prestige Acquisitions, LLC as part of a planned development and approximately 475 acres of its Grandfather Home for Children property in Banner Elk to Lees McRae College, enabling both CHA and the college to grow and serve additional constituents.

"This is a great day for at-risk children and families across North Carolina," said Celeste Dominguez, CHA President and CEO. "The sale of this land, much of which has been idle for many years, will enable our organization to enhance our mission, grow our services more quickly and expand our reach more broadly. Instead of caring for unused buildings and property, we can turn these assets into resources that work for children and families."

The Barium Springs property, which includes parcels in both Troutman and Statesville, is being purchased by Prestige Acquisitions, LLC (a division of Prestige Corporate Development) for a mixed-use development, including homes, light commercial, a school and civic center.

CHA will retain approximately 70 acres on the west side of N.C. Highway 21 for its offices, museum and outdoor community spaces. Little Joe's Chapel, the Alumni Museum, and Heartstrings Music and Arts Center will be relocated across the street from their current location to provide a newly constructed community complex for children and families to gather.

“We are thrilled to continue to support Children’s Hope Alliance as we implement our vision for a world-class development in one of the fastest-growing areas of North Carolina,” added Brian Mahoney, Owner of Prestige Acquisitions. “We look forward to creating a live, work and play neighborhood that supports and honors the rich history of this organization and this community.”

Prestige Acquisitions plans to hold community meetings in the coming weeks to share more details about its plans for the development.

Lees-McRae College, a private institution with more than 50 academic programs, provides an innovative experiential education to students at its main campus and online. The purchase of the Grandfather Home facilities, as well as 475 acres of land adjacent to its existing campus, will provide much of the space and resources needed for the college to achieve its goal of having 1,000 students in residence within the next decade. This addition to the campus of Lees-McRae will also be vital in implementing the priorities outlined in the 2030 strategic plan.

“The responsibility to safeguard this property is not one we take lightly,” said Lees-McRae President Lee King. “While the ownership of the land is changing, it will continue to be used for its original purpose—education of and service to our community. Our motto, ‘In, Of, and For the Mountains’ will continue to guide us as we plan for new programs and opportunities that best serve our growing student body.”

The Banner Elk sale brings together two valued institutions who share more than neighboring land. Lees-McRae College and Grandfather Home for Children were founded by Reverend Edgar Tufts in 1900 and 1914, respectively.

While CHA operated residential homes on both the Grandfather Home for Children and Barium Springs campuses for more than 100 years, the organization recently shifted its service model from a physical home for children to serving children in their own homes—whether biological, kinship or foster homes. Today, its in-home and school-based programs are serving more children with better outcomes in less time than in group home care.

### **About Children’s Hope Alliance**

Founded in 1891, Children’s Hope Alliance Headquartered in Statesville, NC, Children’s Hope Alliance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, serving 2,000 at-risk children and families each year. CHA provides educational, prevention and community-based programs and services in 62 N.C. counties with ten office locations. CHA’s staff of 175 counselors, therapists and social workers are committed to creating hope, health and healing for generations.

### **About Prestige Corporate Development**

Prestige Corporate Development (PCD) is a real estate development company founded in 2016 by Brian Mahoney. Headquartered in Cornelius, North Carolina, the company has developments in several towns around the Charlotte Metro area. Their focus is on developing residential, mixed-use and commercial communities that leave a positive and lasting impact. Prestige focuses on treating people with respect, establishing long-term relationships, and keeping its commitments.

### **About Lees-McRae College**

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of western North Carolina, Lees-McRae College is a private, residential college that awards baccalaureate and graduate degrees. At nearly 4,000 feet—the highest elevation of any campus on the East Coast—the college celebrates its location through distinct programming. An emphasis on experiential education inspires students to learn by doing and gain broad knowledge through study across disciplines. To provide opportunities for all, the college offers bachelor's degree completion programs online and in surrounding communities. For more information, please visit [www.lmc.edu](http://www.lmc.edu) or call 828.898.5241.

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