

Hearts of Our Heroes

by Ogeechee Operations Coworkers



Dr. Mary Green and Apex nurse Barbara Sconyers make a great team! They have worked together tirelessly for over a year now, building up our APEX program in the Ogeechee division. These two have traveled many a mile in the APEX van from school to school and county to county: planning, creating, scheduling; building relationships with families, school officials and county officials; crying, laughing, venting, rushing to the aid of APEX kids in crisis or in need; but in all things - advocating for the precious children they serve. This dynamic duo does not just focus on the mental health or emotional needs of the APEX kids; but uses a holistic approach in the care they provide. It is nothing out of the ordinary to see these APEX angels buying school supplies, clothing, or going out of their way to meet other physical needs of the children and families they work with.

COVID-19 has posed many challenges in their day to day mission, as they continue to serve troubled and at-risk children in our communities. Having mostly telehealth communications during this pandemic, it has been especially difficult and concerning for Mary and Barbara not to be able to lay eyes on “their kids”. With the stress and worry over the current state of affairs in our nation, schools being closed and children quarantined at home with their families - kids are at a greater risk for abuse, neglect, self-harm, destructive behaviors, and exacerbation of their mental health conditions.

Mary and Barbara are finding this to be evident in their work every day. Several times since COVID, staff have seen Mary and Barbara bolt out of the clinics to rush to assess and aid a child in crisis, or in need. They work closely with our APEX counselors to ensure the kids are as safe and well as possible during this time of uncertainty.

Mary and Barbara are ready for things to get back to normal, as are we all. They cannot wait to see “their kids” in person; see the smiles on their faces or the tears in their eyes; to help them face their challenges and celebrate their successes face to face. Dr. Green and Barbara long for the day when they can get back in that APEX van; to cry and vent, or laugh and rejoice about the day behind them; and to plan and prepare for the days ahead, as they continue to make a difference with every mile traveled.