

4-1-2000

The gift of hope

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Recommended Citation

Heller, Max (2000) "The gift of hope," *Furman Magazine*: Vol. 43 : Iss. 1 , Article 10.
Available at: <https://scholarexchange.furman.edu/furman-magazine/vol43/iss1/10>

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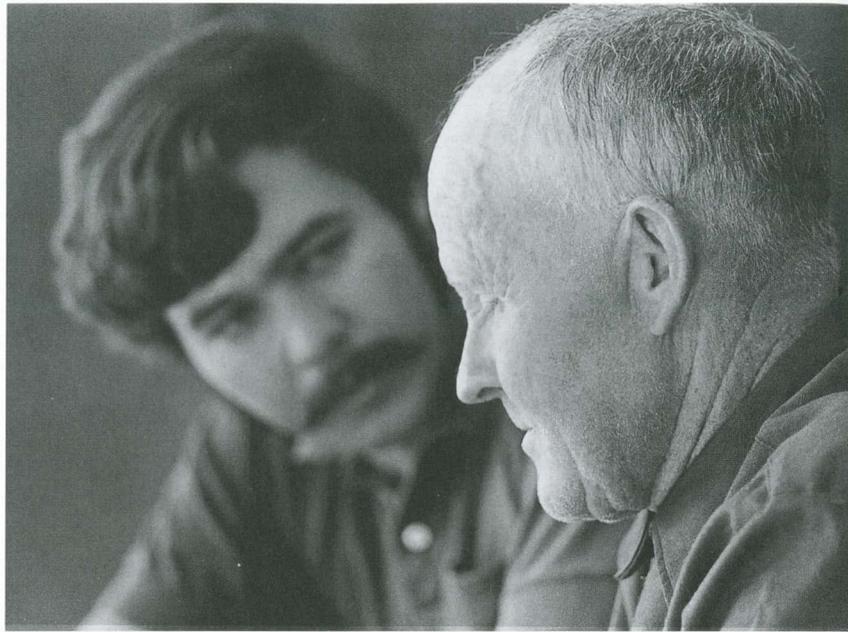


DAVID CROSBY

Trustee Alester G. Furman III (right) and Joe Vaughn '68 (now deceased) worked on a Habitat for Humanity project in 1990.



DAVID CROSBY



The gift of hope

Some things are difficult, if not impossible, to measure, especially when they involve feelings, attitudes and thoughts. How do you quantify something so personal? You can't put it on a scale. You can't draw a chart. What you can do is "sense" it.

I am talking about the life of Betty Alverson and her contributions to thousands of Furman students — and especially to the lives of so many people in Greenville who have had the good fortune to know the wonderful group of young people who comprise the Collegiate Educational Service Corps. Over the last 34 years, these students have become deeply involved with the Greenville community and with people who needed to believe that the world has not forgotten them. It was and is Service Corps that remembers them daily and gives them hope and care.

At the heart of Service Corps stands Betty Alverson — Miss A.

Betty has always believed that people are good and that there is something decent and caring in all of us. She has been able to instill

this understanding into the hearts and minds of Furman students — and because of their efforts, Greenville is a better place.

CESC's impact can be expressed in a few simple words: "It has made all of us better people." When students go into the community and teach young and old to read, when they assist with the sick, when they play with children in parks, and when they tenderly care for those who cannot care for themselves, they receive as much as they give. When they offer others hope, they have that same hope for themselves.

And the remarkable thing about Service Corps is that so many of those involved during their student days continue to work for others after leaving Furman.

Today, when society is so caught up in technology, when we often spend our days talking to recordings, pushing buttons, e-mailing and relying on information fed into machines, we have a tendency to forget about people. Programs like CESC insure that people are not forgotten by

touching their lives in a very meaningful way.

Under the guidance of Betty Alverson, CESC has made all of us just a little better, a little more caring. It has truly enhanced the lives of many who thought, "Does anybody care?"

— Max Heller

Max Heller is a former mayor of Greenville, a member of the Furman board of trustees and a longtime supporter of CESC.