



Photo by Judith Brown

**A SPOT OF TEA** — Connie Daniels, right, smiles at her granddaughter, Joyce Foggie, who's face is almost covered by the large china teacup Sunday at the Laurens County Museum's Christmas Tea. The Laurens County Museum Association has been using Christmas Tea for many years as a way to raise funds for the museum.

## Christmas stresses offer opportunities to help for Safe Home clients

By Judith Brown  
Staff Writer

The excitement ahead of and during the Christmas holidays comes with a degree of stress in almost every family, but often that's heightened in families with an abusive partner. One of the results this year, like almost every year, is an increase in families coming into the Laurens County Safe Home.

"We have just had new families come in," said Safe Home Executive Director Dawn Ardent, "and that adds to the needed items that we are filling to make sure the children have presents to open at Christmas."

Each year the Safe Home staff gets in contact with the women who have received either in-shelter or out-of-shelter assistance during the year and they are offered the opportunity to receive help with Christmas presents for their children. Not all those contacted take them up on it, and those who do so understand they'll need to provide some volunteer hours either

with an agency of their choosing or by helping a neighbor as a way to "pay it forward," Ardent said.

It's a way to increase gratitude, she said, as well as expand the social network of women who might have needed to move away from their former support systems.

"We've had a woman come back and tell us they helped at their children's school for the first time and met a mom they could carpool with," Ardent said. "One mom helped her neighbor out, and her neighbor now offers to watch the kids for a few minutes if she's ever running late."

Ardent said the holidays are very unpredictable in the home with an abuser, and a family once arrived on Christmas Eve after the abuser destroyed every gift under the tree.

"Even this close to Christmas we never know who will come in," Ardent said, adding that the agency works with other departments to prevent gifting overlap. The 8th District Solicitor's Office just provided gifts for teenagers of

clients.

"David Stumbo's office took many of the teenagers on our list which was a huge help because they're always the hardest to fill," Ardent said. "But we still need to fill coats and winter shoes for different ages."

Christmas in a shelter often involves the lack of traditions, but gifts on Christmas morning can help ease the turmoil for children and relieve stress for moms.

"Material things aren't everything," Ardent said, "but for children, opening a stocking and finding a gift under the tree can give them a distraction for a little while."

Those who would like to assist the Laurens County Safe Home can send a check to P.O. Box 744, Clinton, S.C., or call 864-682-7270 for specific items or stocking stuffer and either staff will make arrangements at a convenient location for pick-up, or the designated items can be taken to "Our Little Shop" thrift store at 1500 Western Square Plaza near the Bi-Lo in Laurens.

## Guilty pleas heard in General Sessions

The latest term of General Sessions concluded in Laurens County as prosecutors with the Eighth Circuit Solicitor's Office presented pleas before Judge Donald B. Hocker.

The following defendants pleaded guilty between Nov. 27 and Dec. 1 at the Hillcrest Square Judicial Complex:

Troy Nelson Gillian of Clinton pleaded guilty to possession of less than 1 gram of meth/cocaine base and was sentenced to six years with credit for time served since June 18, 2017.

Anthonino Navarro Golston of Columbia pleaded guilty to possession of less than 1 gram of marijuana or less than 10 grams of hash and was sentenced to three days time served and court costs.

Ephraim Guadelupe of Laurens pleaded guilty to failure to stop for a blue light and resisting arrest and was sentenced to one year to run concurrent to SCDC sentences.

Timothy Edward Henderson of Gray Court pleaded guilty to second-degree assault and battery and was sentenced to three years, with 124 days time served, and two years probation.

William Terrell Holmes of Greenwood pleaded guilty to unlawful carrying of a pistol and was sentenced to one year, suspended to 50 days time served. Also, he pleaded guilty to possession of a controlled substance and was sentenced to six months suspended to 50 days time served and nine months probation. Sentences to run concurrently.

Christopher Lee Huckabee of Laurens pleaded guilty to ill-treatment of animals and was sentenced to two years with two days time served, balance is suspended to two years probation with public service and \$300 donation to Laurens Animal Shelter.

Tony Brandon Hunnicutt of Joanna pleaded guilty to resisting arrest and was sentenced to one year with credit for 82 days in jail, concurrent to two-year probation revocation.

Stacy Lynn Roennpapel Jones of Ware Shoals pleaded guilty to receiving stolen goods, sale or delivery to and possession by unlawful persons, stolen pistol, failure to stop for a blue light, and was sentenced to three years with credit for 276 days in jail. Sentences to run concurrently. Also, she pleaded guilty to unlawful neglect of a child or helpless person and was sen-

tenced to five years with credit for 276 days in jail.

Dupre Martin of Greenville pleaded guilty to failure to stop for a blue light and was sentenced to 65 days time served, license suspension and court costs.

Jonathan Blake Matthews of Ware Shoals pleaded guilty to possession of less than 1 gram of meth/cocaine base and was sentenced to 18 months suspended to time served and 18 months probation.

Donna Marie McCarthy of Laurens pleaded guilty to two counts of cruelty to children and was sentenced to one day time served and court costs.

Walter Lee McFadden of Mauldin pleaded guilty to failure to stop for a blue light and driving under suspension and was sentenced to one year, suspended to 14 days time served, nine months probation and public service.

Kevin Terrell Mclean Jr. of Roebuck pleaded guilty to discharging a firearm into a dwelling and was sentenced under the youthful offenders act to a term not to exceed six years.

William Maurice Mosley of Laurens pleaded guilty to third-degree domestic violence and was sentenced to 90 days time served and court costs.

Ryan Lewis Owens of Gray Court pleaded guilty to receiving stolen goods and was sentenced to 90 days time served and court costs.

Sharon McRay Rhinehart of Clinton pleaded guilty to cruelty to children and was sentenced to one day time served.

Kaitlyn Shaw Rice of Laurens pleaded guilty to cruelty to children and was sentenced to four days time served. Also, she pleaded guilty to failure to stop for a blue light and was sentenced to three years with 42 days time served, balance suspended to three years probation.

Aaron Tyler Simmons of Greenville pleaded guilty to possession of less than 1 gram of marijuana/10 grams of hash and giving false information to law enforcement and was sentenced to 30 days time served.

Reginald Keith Spearman of Clinton pleaded guilty to possession of less than 1 gram of meth/cocaine base and was sentenced to 54 days time served. Also, he pleaded guilty to second-degree domestic violence and was sentenced to three years with 54 days time served suspended to probation for four

years, counseling and public service.

Don Edward Townsend of Joanna pleaded guilty to malicious injury to animals/personal property and was sentenced to 30 days time served.

Charles Mike Utley of Taylors pleaded guilty to receiving stolen goods and was sentenced to two years time served.

James Robert Walker III of Summerville pleaded guilty to trespassing and disorderly conduct and was sentenced to 30 days time served and court costs. Also, he pleaded guilty to third-degree assault and battery and was sentenced to 30 days time served, court costs and anger management class.

James Thomas Walker of Woodruff pleaded guilty to second-degree domestic violence and was sentenced to 22 months with credit for 106 days in jail and mental-health counseling while in SCDC.

Spring Yvonne Walker of Lyman pleaded guilty to aggravated breach of peace and was sentenced to 169 days time served. Also, she pleaded guilty to grand larceny and was sentenced to five years with 169 days time served suspended to three years probation.

Gerald Jermaine Williams of Laurens pleaded guilty to breach of peace and was sentenced to four days time served and court costs.

Anthony Lee Wilson of Laurens pleaded guilty to manufacture/distribution of cocaine base and was sentenced to 15 years with 14 days time served on the balance, suspended to five years probation and litter pickups.

To see additional guilty pleas see the December 13 edition of *The Laurens County Advertiser*.

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