Holston Happenings
newsletter

Summer, 2017



Providing Hope
and Healing for a Brighter Future...

A publication of
Holston United Methodist
Home for Children

From the President



HOLSTON HOME'S MISSION:

Holston United Methodist Home for Children provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life's challenges.

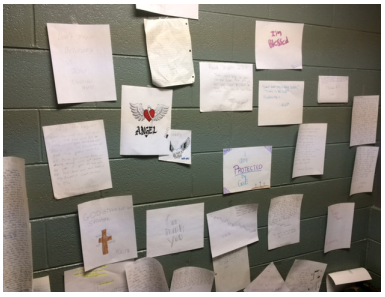
BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
Jeff J. Monson, Chair
Bryan A. Jackson, Vice Chair
Wesley P. Robbins, Treasurer
Frederick W. Crabtree, Secretary
Debra B. Oldenberg, Member at Large
Bradley S. Williams, President/CEO*

MEMBERS:
Rev. Thomas T. Ballard *
J. Kent Bewley
Bradley J. Bower
Stephen W. Brumit
William Campbell
Carolyn H. Ingram
Ronald Jones
Rev. Nicole Krewson*
Ivy M. Leonard
John B. McGuffin
Debra O. Miller
James D. Moody
Jaime G. Oakley
Peter L. Palmer
Tracy D. Solomon
Brenda T. Stevens
Barbara B. Street
Bishop Mary Virginia Taylor *
*denotes ex-officio

We want the very best things for every young person and their families at Holston Home. Even though we may not know what's best in every situation, for more than 120 years we have been sure of one thing – our Heavenly Father does and He is ready to heal and deliver. The Lord is blessing this approach, and kids are meeting Him and forming a relationship with the One who will never leave or forsake them.

We encourage a real and everyday relationship with Jesus where we spend time with Him sharing life and all of its ups and downs through prayer. We created a prayer room in our school for our youth to use when they want to talk with a Friend who is closer than a brother, even if it's in the middle of an Algebra test so long as the conversation doesn't include a calculator or cheat sheets lol.



Oftentimes, they will write their prayers down so that their friends can know what to pray for them when they go and pray. You are their friends too, and I wanted to share some of the recent prayers that they have hung on the walls:

- *Dear God, I'm weak not from drugs, family, love, or friends. I'm weak because the devil keeps pushing me down. I'm not the type to pray because I was mad at You for things, but You make me stronger. When I lost my dad I blamed You, but now I'm with You forever because You are with me forever even when I'm mad at You. Thank you God.*
- *Dear Lord, thank You for helping me through everything and showing me that I have potential and greatness. Thank You for keeping my family safe. Thank You for not giving up on me. I love you Father.*
- *Lift me up Lord I am tired of fighting this war. I want to be blessed and call out to You. I know You will help me through the bumpy road. You are my savior Lord. You are the healer.*
- *Dear God, I want to thank You for this day. I want to pray for all these amazing kids. I want to pray that my mom is doing okay Lord. I want to pray for my brother that he is doing okay. Lord, just help me through this. Keep me in the right direction Lord. I want to thank You for all You have done. I need You to help me with my anger Lord; keep it in control. In Jesus name I pray. Amen. GOD IS GOOD!*
- *"Even if my father and mother abandon me, the Lord will hold me close" Psalm 27:10. I pray to understand this.*
- *Forgive me for pushing you away, like I do everyone else. Thank You for staying through it.*

Their words hurt me as I wish they didn't have these issues to deal with, but I am immediately joyful because they are having beautiful conversations with the God who loves them indescribably and who can bring healing and restoration. You are incredibly important to this ministry and in helping change young lives. As kids are sorting out so many hard things in their lives and the great opportunities ahead of them, I want to ask you to pray earnestly for them and their families as you read this newsletter and as you pray for your family this year.

Thank you for your commitment to changing children's lives. I pray God's very best for each of you and your families in the name of the One who is always good and always uses things for our good, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Bradley

Summer Camp






"Together alone." This phrase is used to describe those moments when two or more are gathered in the same room, but completely engaged with their electronic devices. We are all guilty of this to some degree, but being "together alone" has become a social norm for this generation of young people. The art of locking eyes and engaging in real conversation can often seem like a thing of the past.

The teenagers who come to Holston Home are temporarily set free from the pressures of cell phones and social media, but many of them still struggle to feel like they are "together alone." They may spend every hour of the day with friends and adults who care for them, but they feel desperately alone in their shame, in their circumstances, and in the memories of the past. At Holston Home our goal is to break down these walls with the message of Jesus Christ and welcome teenagers in to real togetherness.

> "Sometimes a week of summer camp is all our kiddos need to be reminded that they are not alone."

Sometimes a week of summer camp is all our kiddos need to be reminded that they are not alone.

"It began with boys just being boys, goofing off and laughing, during our cabin time at camp," said Abel Carrico, director of Christian Life at HUMHC. "As the evening went on, the conversation became deeper in nature. The boys shared questions they had about Christ, and then one by one expressed their desire to fully devote themselves to Jesus." Cabin time is offered every night at summer camp. It is a time for the students to process what they have heard during the day. "That night, every young man gave his life to the Lord," said Abel.

This year, we are excited to give our students at Holston Home several opportunities to be a part of summer camp. We believe that hearts will fall open and lives will be changed when these precious young people are given the chance to look each other in the eyes and discover that they are, in fact, never alone.






Holston Highlights

Graduation 2017



Congratulations to our 2017 Beacon School graduates! It was a big day for the students who walked across the stage and received their high school diplomas on May 18th. Students were excited to hear from Holston Home alumni, Cory Walker, who will be graduating from Carson Newman College in December. In his speech, he encouraged students to keep working hard and pursuing their dreams.

Prom





Prom 2017 was a blast for our Beacon School students. Thanks to everyone who made this a night to remember!

Guatemala



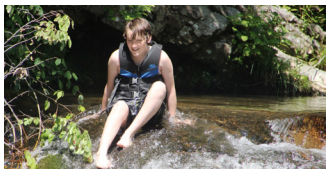


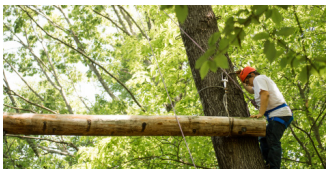
Students and staff from Holston Home will be leaving for their summer mission trip to Guatemala where they will serve in local churches, schools, and an orphanage.

ABC Activities









The Adventure Based Counseling program at Holston Home is celebrating it's 20th anniversary this summer. They kicked off the celebration with a bicycling trip and picnic with each class. Some of the other activities they have planned for the summer include a canoe trip on the Nolichucky River, camping out, and working through the high ropes course on campus.

Beach Trip





The boys and girls at Holston Home will be taking two separate trips to the Myrtle Beach Christian Retreat Center in August. Many of them have never been to the beach and are really looking forward to this new experience.



Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

You play an important role as Ambassador to Holston Home from your church – probably greater than you think.

I wish you could be here for graduation from Beacon School and share in the excitement of the young people who many times are the first in their family to reach this goal; there are high-fives and expressions of appreciation to teachers and school personnel. I know you would be blessed to witness the celebration of 21 youngsters, who now know about the love of Jesus Christ and have chosen to follow Him. You would smile, as I do, when you hear a teenager say



"This is God's place. They loved me even before they knew who I was," or "This is the best day of my life because I just graduated from high school."

You can help by making sure your church displays the Fifth Sunday posters and places the inserts and envelopes in the bulletin to receive the Fifth Sunday offering.

These children need your help. They are depending on you. On their behalf, I ask you to be an active Ambassador, coordinating with your pastor to make sure that we can care for any child who needs us.

If I can help you in any way, do not hesitate to contact me.

In the name and service of Christ,

Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Director of Church Relations
and Estate Planning
James 1:27

Wills and Bequests

Dear friends of Holston Home:

- ☐ Please send me information about "Wills and Bequests."
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit.
- ☐ I have provided for the Children's Home in my will or other estate-planning document.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

Mail to: Holston United Methodist Home for Children
Attention: Development
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

For more information and help with your Estate Planning please call us at (800) 628-2986

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 309

We want to be good stewards!
Help us update our records for the most efficient mailings. Please make any corrections to the above label and send it back to us.

- ☐ Name change
- ☐ I receive duplicate copies
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ I want to receive the newsletter by email
- ☐ Please remove me from the mailing list

Editor: Alli Drinkwine
allisondrinkwine@holstonhome.org
(423) 787-8704

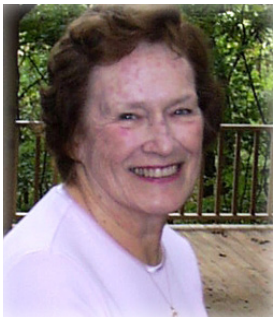
To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

Cover photo by Bonnie Widmaier

Next 5th Sunday is July 30, 2017

A Glimpse Of History

Fifth Sunday offerings to support the work of Holston Home was initiated by J.W. Crumley, a member of Munsey Memorial Methodist Church in Johnson City. Mr. Crumley visited the Orphanage in 1905 and was so impressed with what Mrs. Wiley, its founder, had accomplished and the promise of the institution for the future if supported by the Church.



He shared the story with the Sunday School at Munsey, and his hearers were so enthused that a very liberal offering was made to the Orphanage.

Mr. Crumley, being a member of the Sunday School Board of the Holston Annual Conference, succeeded in having the Conference adopt the First Sunday Plan, recommending that all Sunday Schools of the Conference receive an offering for the Orphanage each month that contained five Sundays. The Conference regularly reported these contributions, church by church, in the Fifth Sunday Bulletin, which also kept local churches informed about life at the Orphanage.

For more history...
Visit us online!
www.holstonhome.org
or
www.facebook.com/HolstonHome.FCA/

The tradition has continued throughout the history of Holston Home, without exception so far as this author can tell. About two-thirds of the Conferences continue to support Holston Home in this manner. Not only is this an important source of support, but it keeps us connected with the churches.

- Eva Gray Hutchins