Youth Builders Learn About Holston Home Mentoring Program

Youth Builders of Greeneville Inc. learned about the mentoring program at Holston United Methodist Home for Children at its most recent meeting, held Feb. 28 at Greeneville Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

President Sandi Bible welcomed members and guests before Jo Knabel gave the invocation. The minutes and the treasurer's report were presented and approved. Jeanne Stokes, reservations co-chair, reported 44 in attendance.

Jo Christensen decorated the tables for the luncheon with bird houses in recognition of National Bird Feeding Month.

The guest speaker was Will Martin, director of mentoring and fostering at Holston United Methodist Home for Children, who spoke on their mentoring program.

Martin explained that Holston Home serves thousands of children and is almost always at capacity. There are approximately 110 students at Holston Home, and mentors are needed to serve students from 11 to 23 years of age with a minimum commitment of one hour per week.

According to Martin, mentors provide a positive role model in the life of children. He encouraged members to consider mentoring, and provided guidelines for taking part in the program.

Following the meeting, committee reports and announcements were given.

Library Assistance Co-Chair Beverly Selmeski informed the members the Annual Book Sale sorting process continues from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Monday through Friday, and volunteers are needed.



PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE SUN

Director of Mentoring and Fostering Will Martin speaks about Holston United Methodist Home for Children's mentoring program at the most recent Youth Builders of Greeneville Inc. meeting.

Jo Christensen, Pre-School Committee co-chairman, reminded members that the group's next meeting will be recognized as baby shower month for the CHAD Program. Items for members to bring include: diapers of all sizes, wipes, Safety First Grow with Me Medicine Set, soaps, shampoo, baby wash, lotion, "360" sippy training cups, and more. Members were reminded to remove all price tags, mark through bar codes and to not gift wrap items.

The Scholarship Committee informed the group that applications for the Youth Builders Scholarships have been placed in the Guidance Office in all of the area high schools and some applications have already been received. Applications are due by April 6.

May Luncheon Co-Chair Erica Carter announced that the group's May Luncheon, "Spectacular Spectacular," will be May 9 at the Andrew Johnson Clubhouse. Tickets will be available for purchase at the March and April Youth Builders meetings and at Catalyst Coffee.

Julie Colotti, chairman of the Holston Home Committee, shared with the members that the recent party for the Holston Home residents celebrated Valentine's Day, Easter, Mardi Gras and St. Patrick's Day. The next party will be a spring themed party in April. She thanked Publix for donating sandwiches for the Holston Home party.

Carla Bewley, Greeneville-Greene County History Museum chairman, reminded members that the next project at the museum is the Easter Egg Roll March 24 on the grounds of the Andrew Johnson Homestead. Activities will also be held at the museum.

Volunteer Spirit Awards Chairman Becky Rideout announced the annual event will be held April 26 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Members are encouraged to nominate deserving members of the community and further information will be released at the March meeting.

Bible announced the following donations were made at the February meeting: $1,000 to Junior Achievement of Tri-Cities TN/VA to help fund JA classes in Greeneville and Greene County, $500 to Young Life to sponsor summer camp scholarships, and $1,100 to Greeneville Gymnastics Academy for the purchase of spotting blocks and to support scholarships for students of Greeneville and Greene County.

Members stood and recited the club benediction before the meeting was adjourned.