FOR RELEASE
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Building Dedication to Celebrate Mother of Former Greeneville Sun Journalist

GREENEVILLE, TN – Children and people of all ages will soon have opportunities to benefit from a recent gift of love in memory of a special mother. The real estate gift to Holston United Methodist Home for Children (HUMHC) will be celebrated at a building dedication event scheduled for Thursday, May 10 at 12:30 p.m. – just prior to Mother's Day Weekend. The property at 208 Summer Street is the site of William "Bill" Anderson's childhood home. The building most recently functioned as a bank, and Bill says that is fitting in that this location has always housed treasures of his childhood memories. The building will be named after Bill's mother, Fuschia Stines Anderson, and was donated in her loving memory.

Mrs. Anderson was widowed after giving birth when her husband was killed in an unfortunate accident. She raised a family during the Great Depression, as a single mother finding strength from her Christian faith and an incredible resolve to care for her children. She rented out part of their home, worked clerical jobs, and eventually put herself through college to become a teacher. Her first professional teaching position was at HUMHC with first and second graders including young Bill, although it was then called the Holston Orphanage. She lived her life with a passion to see her son and all students gain a quality education with practical applications. She passed away in 1989 at the age of 83 and was buried with her cherished family Bible.

Bill Anderson, who now resides in Lexington, Virginia is 91. He is no stranger to adventure as he snuck off and made his way from Greeneville to New York City for the 1939 World's Fair as a 12 year-old. Mrs. Anderson was not happy with her young Billy's resourcefulness at the time, but she learned to appreciate it as she watched his life unfold. He attended Greeneville schools before enlisting in the Navy in 1943. He served his country in World War II and then attended The University of Tennessee where he was manager and publicity director of its "Pride of the Southland" marching band. His journalism career began at The Greeneville Sun and took him to the Chicago Tribune where he held various positions including Washington Pentagon correspondent, city editor, and national correspondent.

Bill wanted to leave a gift that would honor his mother and her love of children and families for years to come. It seemed only appropriate to give this property to the organization that gave his mother her teaching start and has been ministering to children and families since 1895. Dedicating this building for Mother's Day makes this even more special, according to Bill.

“We are so grateful that Bill would partner with Holston Home,” said Bradley Williams, Holston Home President. “And we are thrilled to see how the Lord will use this building to help youth and our neighbors as a tribute to Mrs. Anderson and her life of service.”

To honor the values that Mrs. Anderson and Bill have held so dear, youth from Holston Home learned construction skills and have been actively renovating the building to prepare for its future use. Further, a group of Holston Home residents were selected to form an advisory board to evaluate and recommend options for the building’s use. Based on their recommendations, the building will be used initially as a community gathering place for youth, individuals, and families who need prayer or just someone to care and listen - essential duties of a mother.

“This type of civics lesson is so fitting for the beliefs that Mrs. Anderson and her son, Bill, have espoused for so many years,” said Williams.

Niswonger Foundation Board Member, Nikki Niswonger, will speak at the event as will Bradley Williams. Abel Carrico, Christian Life Director at Holston Home, and youth from Holston Home are scheduled to provide music. Free food will be available from Top Dog Hot Dog Stand beginning at 11:45 a.m.

In addition to honoring Mrs. Anderson’s memory, the dedication event will highlight a special Mother’s Day project that youth from Holston Home will present and display. The project’s theme, inspired by Bill Anderson’s thoughtful memorial for his mother, will focus on how Holston Home’s young people could honor their mothers as they become adults.

“Our dedication event will be an all-American celebration featuring three things that we love the most – moms, hot dogs, and apple pies,” said Williams. “I hope that Bill’s touching tribute to his mother will resonate with many as we go into this Mother’s Day Weekend and inspire acts of generosity all across our country.”

Note: Parking will be across the street at Town Square Shopping Center as our friends have graciously given permission for event attendees to park in their lot.

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