LOCAL

Rick Barnes To Headline Holston Home Fundraiser

University of Tennessee men's basketball Head Coach Rick Barnes will be the guest speaker at Holston United Methodist Home for Children's fundraising dinner on Thursday, Sept. 13.

"Coach Barnes understands the importance of investing in the lives of young people so that they can experience all that God wants for them," Holston Home President Bradley Williams said in a news release. "We are thrilled to have him as this year's speaker."

Barnes has had more than 650 career Division I head coaching wins, the seventh-most among active coaches.

Barnes was named the 2018 SEC Coach of the Year and was runner-up for Naismith National Coach of the Year after Tennessee became one of only eight Power Five teams to increase its overall wins total by 10 or more games from 2016-17.

"A perfect example of turning challenges into opportunities is our men's basketball team this past season," Tennessee Director of Athletics Phillip Fulmer said. "When you care for each other, work really hard and no one cares who gets the credit, lots can be accomplished."

In 2016-17, Barnes took an undersized roster that featured only three upperclassmen and exceeded preseason expectations, as well as the previous year's overall and SEC win totals.

Proceeds from the annual Friends of Children Dinner will benefit Holston Home.

In operation since 1895, Holston Home serves more than 300 children on any given day through residential, early childhood, and foster care programs.



SUN FILE PHOTO

University of Tennessee men's basketball coach Rick Barnes will be the keynote speaker at the Holston United Methodist Home For Children's annual Friends of Children dinner on Sept. 13.

According to Williams the Home touched the lives of 646 children in 2017.

"By supporting our Friends of Children events, such as this one in Greeneville, you are giving children like Jonathan hope for a brighter future," said Williams.

One student whom Holston Home has helped is a boy by the name of Jonathan. The environment that he lived in before was unstable, the news release said. He attended eight different schools by the time he reached high school.

When Jonathan arrived at Holston Home he was two years behind what he was supposed to be for his age.

He now attends Beacon School, an on-campus accredited Christian school, and has made up for his shortcomings. Jonathan will graduate next year and hopes to pursue some form of higher education.

His time at Holston Home has given him the confidence to believe he can succeed in whatever the future holds for him, according to the release.

Seating is limited at the event, which starts at 6:30 pm at General Morgan Inn with a photo reception with Barnes scheduled to follow the dinner.

For more information, contact Susan Bernier at Holston Home: 787-8753 or email susanbernier@holstonhome.org

If You Go

WHEN: Thursday, Sept. 13. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. with a photo reception to follow after.

WHERE: General Morgan Inn, 111 N. Main St., Greeneville

TO GET TICKETS: Contact Susan Bernier at 787-8753 or email susanbernier@holstonhome.org.

Rick Barnes Bio

University of Tennessee men's basketball head coach Rick Barnes is the most decorated head coach in the school's history.

He led the Volunteers to the 2018 regular-season SEC Championship in his third year on Rocky Top.

Barnes' career is highlighted by more than 650 career Division I head coaching wins, the seventh-most among active coaches.

Tennessee was picked to finish 13th in the 14-team SEC prior to the 2017-18 campaign, but Barnes and his staff not only guided the Big Orange to the conference championship, but also to the title game of the SEC Tournament, a No. 3 seed in the NCAA Tournament and a 26-9 record (third-most wins in program history).

Barnes was named the 2018 SEC Coach of the Year and was runner-up for Naismith National Coach of the Year .

The 2018 Volunteers spent 15 straight weeks in national top 25 and finished the season ranked 13th in the Associated Press poll and 16th in the coaches' poll. The team finished the season rated sixth nationally in defensive efficiency while leading the SEC in scoring defense (65.7 ppg) and assists per game (15.7).

Prior to Barnes' arrival on Rocky Top, he oversaw a prolific, 17-year run at Texas that included 16 trips to the NCAA Tournament.

In 31 overall seasons as a Division I head coach, Barnes has led his teams to 23 total NCAA Tournament berths, six Sweet Sixteens, three Elite Eights and one Final Four in 2003.

He boasts coaching experience in Southeastern Conference (Alabama assistant, 1985-86), Big 10 (Ohio State assistant, 1986-87), Colonial Athletic Association (George Mason head coach, 1987-88), Big East (Providence head coach, 1988-1994), Atlantic Coast Conference (Clemson head coach, 1994-98) and Big 12 (Texas head coach, 1998-2015).

Barnes coached Providence to three NCAA Tournament berths in six seasons. He then guided Clemson to the Big Dance three times in four years. And his 17-season stint at Texas featured 16 NCAA appearances.

Barnes' teams have spent 231 total weeks in the Associated Press Top 25, including 99 weeks in the Top 10. His Texas squad earned the program's first-ever No. 1 national ranking on Jan. 11, 2010. And he had previously coached Clemson to a No. 2 national ranking — the highest in that school's history — during the 1996-97 campaign.

Barnes has collected 104 career wins over Top-25 opponents. And his squads have toppled Top-10 teams a total of 35 times.

Nationally respected in player development, Barnes is the only coach in the nation who can claim two different National Players of the Year in the last 16 seasons (T.J. Ford in 2003 and Kevin Durant in 2007). Barnes also produced four consensus first-team All-Americans and three National Freshman of the Year honorees.

Barnes has produced 24 total NBA Draft picks, including 14 first-round selections. And he has coached eight players who have combined to win a dozen NBA Championships.

"I think Rick is one of the elite coaches in the game," ESPN college basketball analyst Jay Bilas said. "There is not a better person in the game. He is a man of great character; both his athletic character and his overall character are championship level. I am thrilled for Tennessee with this hire.

"Hiring Rick brings immediate credibility and immediate stability. Rick has always been a rock in his level of his competitiveness, but at the same time being a players-first coach. He's built programs everywhere he's been. He's an amazing guy."

A native of Hickory, North Carolina, Barnes was a standout player at Hickory High, from which he graduated in 1973. Barnes moved on to Lenoir-Rhyne College, where he lettered for three seasons and won the Captain's Award for Leadership as both a junior and senior.

He earned a bachelor's degree in health and physical education from Lenoir-Rhyne in 1977 and was named the college's Distinguished Alumnus in 1997. Barnes was inducted into the Lenoir-Rhyne College Hall of Fame on Oct. 5, 2002, and received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Lenoir-Rhyne on May 7, 2005.

Barnes and his wife, Candy — who is also a Hickory native — have a son, Nick, and a daughter, Carley. Carley and her husband, Josh Lickteig, have four children: Avery, Caleb, Emma and Isla.