Holston Happenings
newsletter
Fall, 2018



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.

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Some of us can remember being young parents with limited resources, and yet we gave our children allowances so that we could teach them how to manage finances. It was so important that we did it, if at all possible. At Holston Home we do the same thing. You should see our costs for allowances — lol! In all seriousness, God always provides for this ministry, and we use allowances to teach our youth the joy of giving and seeing God's faithfulness in blessing it. We do not require youth to give at our chapel services nor do we give them any benefits if they choose to do so. We simply teach them God's truths and promises and then provide them an opportunity to give to different ministries other than Holston Home.



In 2015 we shared a need to support a mission effort in South Sudan through a local United Methodist couple, Fred and Libby Dearing. There was a 17-year-old young man, James Towongo, who loved the Lord and wanted to be a doctor, but he lacked the funding to attend high school. Our kids rallied behind this need and gave to support the costs of his schooling. James excelled in school but as intense fighting broke out in the area, the mission team was evacuated and we lost contact with James for almost a year. When the Dearings were finally able to reconnect with him, they learned that he had moved in with their local driver and had continued to go to school despite the danger and unrest. Everyone was so relieved that James was safe, and we were all very inspired by his determination to pursue his education and make good on his commitment to use the gifts he had been given.

A couple of weeks ago we received an email that James had graduated high school and that he had achieved the 8th highest score on his standardized tests out of every student in the country. Our kids were thrilled to hear the news in chapel. They were speechless as they listened, but their smiles shouted God's praises.

We are thrilled for James, and we are also so happy that our young people could see God at work and fulfilling His promises to use their gifts in such a wonderful way. They experienced God's goodness and power much like the little boy who gave Jesus his fishes and loaves, only to see Him do the miraculous.

God is using your fishes and loaves too at Holston United Methodist Home for Children. Many of you have given to ensure we have the ability to provide the allowances that our children gave so that God could then bless another one of His children on the other side of the world. Doesn't that sound exactly like our Heavenly Father? Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support in Jesus' name. May God bless you and your family as He keeps revealing His love and life-transforming power to our young people.

In Christ,



Holston Highlights

Levi's Adoption Success Story

In November 2016 a sweet, blonde headed little boy named Levi came to Holston Home and was placed in a loving foster home. Levi's mother had been arrested for using drugs and stealing. With his father serving several years in federal prison, there was no other option for Levi. Although he looked like a typical child, he was dealing with a lot at his young age. He struggled to sleep at night and would not sleep more than two hours at a time. He also threw temper tantrums that would last up to five hours and was obsessed with food because there had been times when he went hungry. Despite his tantrums and sleepless nights, Levi's foster family showed him unconditional love and stuck with him no matter what. He started to thrive and make great progress in his foster home.



During the time Levi was with the foster family, his mother was not remaining drug-free and did not make the progress needed in order for Levi to return home. Levi's mother noticed his improvement and knew he was in a loving home that could care for him in a way that she could not. It was the hardest decision they ever made, but both of Levi's parents surrendered their rights so he could be adopted. They still loved their son but wanted him to be somewhere that he was safe and loved. Levi was adopted a few months ago. He now sleeps through the night, knows his ABCs and can count to 20 as a three-year-old. Some days are still tough, but his new family is ready to take it on together!

Planting Seeds of Hope

David's dad died when he was 6-years-old and his mother was left raising him and his siblings. His mother dealt with the loss by using drugs. This caused David and his siblings to bounce from family member to family member with no sense of home. He grew angry and hopeless and coped with his grief and loss through drug use also.

David arrived at Holston Home as a 17-year-old that had endured 11 years of grief due to his dad's death and his mother's emotional breakdown. While here he felt a stability he hadn't known in a long time. David made meaningful relationships with staff and peers. He learned how to deal with his anger in healthy ways. He also learned to trust the caring adults in his life. He even graduated from high school while at Beacon! However, the best thing he took with him when he left us after only five short months was knowing Christ's love!

A staff member has kept in contact with David through Facebook. The posts he shares are a reflection of the lessons he learned at Holston. One of the posts reads: "I mess up here and there, but as long as I have my family and God on my side, there's nothing I can't achieve." These words are encouraging and let us know that he is no longer carrying that heavy weight of pain alone. There is power in the seeds God allows us to plant in the lives of young people.

Meals with Meaning Youth Catering

About 20 youth have participated in the *Meals with Meaning* catering program at Holston Home since it began just over a year ago.

Meals with Meaning has served people from all over the community — churches, civic organizations, government agencies, private individuals and local businesses. Each group has brought its own set of challenges that the youth have met with gusto.

One endearing relationship that stands out involves a church group that we cater for regularly and one of our young ladies. Week after week the relationship grew until they were so close they had nicknames for each other. Each called the other "George." We don't know exactly how this playful banter began or why the name George was chosen but you could see the fun and special connection they had with one another.

The girl returned home but that did not stop the woman from asking others how her friend, George, was doing. Upon leaving, the youth shared how much she would miss the catering program and her special friend, George.



Holiday Season

The holidays are quickly approaching. With the Fall comes cooler temperatures, pumpkin and apple picking, Thanksgiving, and of course, football season. The Holston Home youth enjoy this time of year and there is always something fun to do and something for which to be thankful.

We are so thankful for folks like you who make these experiences possible for our youth! May God bless you and your family this holiday season.







Christmas Community Night

Please join us on

Tuesday, December 11, 6 pm

for Christmas Community Night

Photos with Santa • Face Painting

Hot Chocolate & Cookies

Horses • Crafts





Christmas Wish List

Please consider making this Christmas the most memorable one for our boys and girls. Help us purchase gifts for our youth (up to $150 per child). For more information about the Christmas Wish List, please contact Susan Bernier in the development office at (423) 787-8753 for more details.

Beacon School Needs Your Help

The youth at Holston Home are always in need of school supplies throughout the year. You can help by visititing our website www.HolstonHome.org/give/wish-list-in-kind-giving, and purchasing items from the list of school supplies, or, call Susan Bernier at 423-787-8753.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

Working with your pastors, you are making an outstanding and lasting impression on the people in the pews who want to connect with the ministry of Holston United Methodist Home for Children. We thank you for all who have served as Ambassadors and greet those who have recently been appointed to this very special responsibility. Our Ambassadors tell me that they are excited to be a part of this ministry.

Fifth Sunday offerings are a vital part of the ongoing life and ministry of Holston Home and many of you are using the materials we send you. Several of you have identified people who want to do special projects, come for tours of the campus,



desire to be foster parents or wish to talk about estate planning.

To a child who has lost his or her family or is separated from family, every day is a major storm. They need to know that someone cares about them and that someone is there to support them.

When you receive the Fifth Sunday promotional materials we send you, work with your pastor to use them as recommended. If you need more materials, contact my office at 423-787-8723.

As you encourage your church to give generously, remember the special needs of our children during the holidays.

Thank you for your willingness to serve and be assured of our prayers as you go about your duties as Ambassador to Holston Home. May God richly bless you in your Christian endeavors.

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

Hutchins Legacy for Children Fund

In appreciation of Charles and Eva Grey Hutchins' service and impact on children and families, we have created the **Charles and Eva Grey Hutchins Lifetime Legacy for Children Fund.** The Rev. Charles and Eva Grey Hutchins have cared for children for six decades. Charles serves here as Director of Church Relations, but our kids know him as the fun guy who talks with them and gives fist bumps regardless of who he is with or what kind of day they are having. Charles is a veteran and Purple Heart recipient from the Korean War who promised the Lord that he would serve Him and others the rest of his life if God would spare his life. Charles celebrates each day and reminds us that "today is the day that the Lord hath made and we should rejoice and be glad in it." Eva Grey, his lovely wife of 65 years, has served children by his side sharing her love and smiles, writing, and musical gifts with young people and those that care for them. They have been biological parents, adoptive parents, foster parents, godparents, grandparents, great-grandparents, and acting parents for countless children.

We are asking that you give and honor these heroes by joining their life's work – helping children. These designated funds can only be used to meet the direct needs of young people. The fund will be a perpetual fund that will provide care for youth until our Lord returns. Please join us in providing lasting help for our children!

Hutchins Lifetime Legacy Fund

☐ Please accept my enclosed gift of $_____ for the Charles and Eva Grey Hutchins Lifetime Legacy for Children Fund.

Name_____

Address_____

City _____

State_____ Zip_____

Phone_____

Email_____

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

For more information please call 423-638-4171

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- Address change
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- Remove my name from the mailing list

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susanbernier@holstonhome.org
(423) 787-8753

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

Next 5th Sunday is December 30, 2018

A Glimpse of History

The original Holston orphanage and industrial school was built on 21 acres on West Irish Street in Greeneville on what had been the old fairgrounds. There was an unfinished 14 room house on the property, and since it had been the fairgrounds, it stands to reason that there were outbuildings located on the property and one of them was used as a barn. We can assume that since there were so many children to care for, cows were more important than any other farm animal.



Around 1904 there was a fire that destroyed the barn. By that time there were more children and more cows were needed. It was then that the large barn was built to accommodate the dairy operation.

For years, teenage boys had to get up at 4 a.m. to feed and milk the cows. They would then return to their cottages to bathe and dress, eat breakfast and get ready for school, which started at 8 a.m. As soon as they got home from school, they went to the barn to feed and milk the cows. Supper was served at 6 p.m. and then there was homework to do and bedtime at 9 p.m. It soon became obvious that many of the boys were not completing their homework and were falling asleep in school.

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

In 1956 the Health Department no longer allowed children to drink raw milk. All the milk was sold to Pet Dairy, processed for commercial sale, and then bought back for the children. (Pet Dairy also gave ice cream to the children.)

The dairy was maintained until 1960 and then replaced with Angus cattle. The Angus herd was sold in 1984 and the old barn was used for storage until 2003 when an Equestrian Program was established. The dairy barn was converted to a horse barn and became home to six horses. Today, we have eight horses and the Equestrian Program is one of the most popular programs on campus.

– Eva Grey Hutchins