Holston Happenings
newsletter

Summer, 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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In the business world a satisfied customer and a positive testimonial can be powerful marketing tools and the most meaningful compliment for your services. However, at Holston Home we pray that we could be out of business because that would mean all children are safe and thriving in healthy families where the only trauma is related to a school age crush gone bad or a poor grade on a biology test. A few weeks ago we received a call that left us with mixed emotions due to these competing goals.

Lance, a young man that we cared for several years ago, called and asked us to help his little brother. Lance left us and has done well as a young adult. He went to work as a corrections officer and recently became concerned for his younger brother, Ethan. The home environment had deteriorated and their grandmother was trying to raise Ethan. We also learned Ethan was abused by his physician. Here was one more example where trust was violated, and an adult had let him down. He was angry at life, and it showed at school and in his grandmother's home. Lance called us and shared how much he had learned here and how loved he felt. He wanted those same things for his brother, and Holston Home was the only one he knew that would not let Ethan down. Our admission counselor cried when she hung up the phone, touched by Lance's gratitude and broken-hearted over Ethan's situation.



Ethan is here now and is feeling safe and cared for. His grandmother was overjoyed when he arrived. She knew she wasn't able to care for him but told us that she had been praying that he could come here like Lance. She has been visiting Ethan regularly and he is doing very well. He joined Holston Home's basketball team and has volunteered with a group of our kids to serve at the local animal shelter.

It is an incredible honor for God to entrust young lives to our care. I'm reminded of what Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick." That is why He came and it is why He has called Holston Home to continue His work. We are a team of "doctors", and you are part of this team. Without your faithful prayers and gifts, we couldn't do what we do. I imagine that our Heavenly Father also looks forward to this broken world going out of business so that the hurts of children are no more. Until that time may we remain steadfast, as adults that young people like Ethan and Lance can count on. Thank you for being a part of this healing ministry!

In Christ,



Holston Highlights

Prom

The "Enchanted Forest" was the theme at this year's prom. The students had a great time together. Thank you to the donors, volunteers and staff who helped make it a memorable evening.







Graduation

Congratulations to our 2018 Beacon School graduates! There was lots of excitement in the air as students walked across the stage and received their high school diplomas on May 17. Many family and friends were there to celebrate with the graduates.





Ground Breaking Celebration

Holston Home celebrated the ground breaking of the new Christian Life Center on Wednesday, March 15. Staff and board members participated. The new facility is projected to be completed in the spring of 2019.



Building Dedication

On May 10, the Fuschia Stines Anderson Building was dedicated. The building was given to Holston Home by Mr. William "Bill" Anderson. Bill wanted to leave a gift to honor his mother and her love of children. The building will initially be used as a community gathering place for youth, individuals and families who need prayer or just someone to care and listen.



Field Day

A fun time was had by all at the annual field day. Lots of competitive games, great fun and delicious summer food.



The Joy of Fostering

Holston Home is always looking for people who want to make a difference in the life of a child by becoming foster parents. Mary Jane Rush is one of our heroes for the love and care she gave to children as a foster parent for more than 21 years. She and her husband began fostering in 1982 after she toured Holston Home and heard of the need for quality foster parents. They started fostering their first child only a few months later. Rush cares about the safety and well-being of all children but has always felt a strong pull towards infants. "It's like God placed a magnet in my heart for babies," she said.

Rush was 47 years old and her husband was 50 when they took in their first child. They cared for roughly 60 children before their last foster child left in 2003. Most of the children they took in were under the age of three. Rush said that it was always painful when a child left her home because she loved them like they were her own. But knowing that they were going to a good family made it easier.

"It hurt to let them go but I knew it was what was best for them," said Rush. "Look what I would have missed if I had decided to not care for them while I had the chance."



Mary Jane Rush reminisces over the many photos of the children she and her husband fostered for more than 21 years.

Rush loved every foster child as if they were her own but always kept the future adoptive parents in mind. This is why she took many pictures of each child from the day they entered her home to the day they left to meet their adoptive parents and made a photo album for herself and one for the parents. She also included a letter about their new child, about the things he or she liked and things they did. Rush said that in those days the foster parents and adoptive parents had no contact with each other, but that she insisted on meeting the people who were adopting the children she kept because she wanted to make sure they were going to good homes and she hoped to keep in touch with the children. She is still in touch with 10 of the children that she fostered.

"They're grown up now and have their own lives, so we don't get to talk as much as we used to," said Rush. "But they always send me a Christmas card to tell me they're thinking of me."

Rush said that she thanks God every day for Holston Home because they change countless lives of children and families. Rush looks back at her time fostering children with fondness and love.

After fostering for more than two decades, Rush decided it was time to allow others the blessing. Rush and her family have never regretted taking in and loving children in need. They only wish they could have helped more.

"We were more blessed than the babies," Rush said, her eyes shining with love.

To learn more about becoming a foster parent, contact Will Martin at 423-787-8760 or WillMartin@HolstonHome.org.

Story written by Isabella Smith



Calling All Alumni:

Holston Home's annual Alumni Homecoming is **Saturday, June 23rd at 11:00 AM.** Please call Susan Bernier at 423-787-8753 or email SusanBernier@HolstonHome.org if you plan to attend.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

Recently I spoke in a church where I had been invited to share the ministry of Holston Home. It was the fourth Sunday. Mary Lee went up to the pulpit to carry out her duties as the children's Ambassador. She told the congregation how important it is to love the children and to get ready for Fifth Sunday. She said to them "One of our jobs is to find children with no smiles and provide for them through Holston Home where they find love and care and guidance that help them to smile again and help them to discover the wonderful love of God."

As I listened to her, I thought how wonderful it would be **if every Ambassador would speak to their congregation**



on the fourth Sunday to prepare them for the Fifth Sunday, if every pastor would use the three weekly suggested announcements or make up one in preparation for the Fifth Sunday offering, place the posters in a prominent place, and distribute the bulletin inserts and envelopes. I believe God would really bless you, your children's home, and the church.

We can provide you with stories if you will contact me at 423-787-8723. Sometimes it helps to tell how you and Holston Home are working together to change the lives of children and youth.

Jesus called the children over to him and said, "Let the children come to me! Don't try to stop them. People who are like these children belong to God's Kingdom" (Luke 18:16 NRV).

Thank you for what you do to make a difference for children who look to us to help them smile. God bless you!

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

Correction to Annual Church Giving Report:
McDonald UMC, Cleveland district - $1,907 2017; Shades of Grace - $100 2017.

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

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Home for Children
P.O. Box 188
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Help us update our records for the most efficient mailings. If you need to update any of the following information, please call us at 423-638-4171.

- Name change
- Address change
- I receive duplicate copies
- Remove my name from the mailing list

Editor: Susan Bernier
susanbernier@holstonhome.org
(423) 787-8753

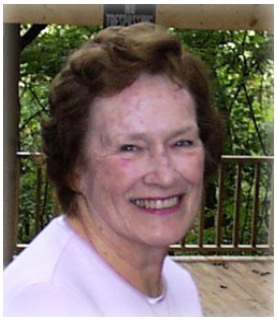
To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

Next 5th Sunday is July 29, 2018

If the Old Oak Tree Could Talk

There is a tree on the property that once was the "old campus" that is more than 115 years old. It was there when the Orphanage and Industrial School — now Holston United Methodist Home for Children — was established by Elizabeth Wiley in 1895.

The tree had great significance for the children who lived in the orphanage. Stories have been told that the children would get pennies and hide them in or around the tree to save them for a time when they would run away. They hid behind the tree to be alone in their sadness at being separated from their families. They sometimes took out their anger or frustration on the tree, knowing it would withstand their emotions. They told the tree the deepest secrets of their young lives — secrets about people with whom they were angry, unrequited loves, loneliness, and all of the emotions children have and can't reveal to adults. The children at the orphanage had "the tree." It was their friend and their confidant. It was also a great source of cool shade on a hot summer day.



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

Perhaps this is why the old oak tree still stands straight and tall on the Holston Home property. Perhaps it is proud to hold all the secrets that have been entrusted to it. Perhaps it treasures the memories of the many children who trusted it with not only their secrets, but their "treasures."

Don't you wish that old tree could talk?

–Eva Gray Hutchins