Holston Happenings
newsletter

Summer, 2019



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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I was so touched recently as I read a letter from one of our pastors telling us about a new donor, Claire. Claire has a deep conviction to help children, and as she put it, "I want to take care of my kind." Claire is the pastor's eight-year-old daughter who made a withdrawal from her "piggy bank" to give to a Fifth Sunday offering. We all enjoy bragging on our children and grandchildren as they have new experiences and achievements, and I just couldn't resist bragging on this little girl's impersonation of Jesus – she looked just like Him.

With this letter still lingering on my mind, I ran into Sydney. I knew she was about to leave us and move into her own apartment. She had just purchased her first car after diligently saving money from her paychecks over the last year or so (and with a generous helping hand from the owner of our local Ford dealership). Sydney is a beautiful and bubbly young lady who is going to college and working a part-time job. We are happy for her next steps but sad to watch her leave the nest.



She began telling me she was excited to be out on her own but scared too. She told me that she didn't have anyone she could depend on except Holston Home. It doesn't matter how long I do this work, I always find myself at a loss for words in those hard conversations. I wish I had told her about Claire and the hundreds of other friends that she could depend on too. Instead I tried to lighten the moment and told her that Holston Home was like Motel 6 and that we'd "leave the light on for her" if she needed to come back home. We both laughed, and I told her how strong she was and reminded her that every young adult feels scared when launching out in the world.

As we were finishing our talk I set a firm expectation for her to visit us often and find time to join us for lunch, especially since she would be living in Greeneville. She smiled and said she would. As she started to walk away, she turned and told me that when she comes back for lunch she would pay for it. She said, "That will be my donation." This time the Lord wouldn't let me miss the opportunity by giving only a silly commercial reference. I told her that I am 49 years old, and I still don't pay a thing when I eat at my mom's house. I went on to say that she could make a donation to Holston Home if she wanted, but she would never pay for a meal when she came home. She teared up and my eyes started sweating, and we both knew in that moment what this place means to us.

I share these stories to thank you for making it possible for me to have those moments and make those promises to kids like Sydney. Since 1895 caring people like you have been praying and giving so that children can experience Jesus' love and see hope for their futures. It takes an incredible weight off our shoulders to know that God has been providing for His children through Holston Home long before we came along, and He will continue to do so long after we are gone. Whether it is through estate gifts from faithful friends or through the next generation of friends like Claire, God wants to take care of her kind too!

Thank you and may God bless you and your families.



Summer & Fall Events

Friends of Children (FOC) events are coming soon and plans are in the works for occasions in Bristol, Cleveland, Greeneville, Knoxville, and Johnson City. FOC lunch and dinner events are opportunities for us to share the story of Holston Home with friends new and old. These annual fundraising events help raise a significant amount of money to continue the work of Holston Home. It is our hope that new friends will attend each year, catch the vision for our ministry, and in turn become champions for children who have no other voice.

Holston Home board members and staff know the role they play in impacting the lives of children who have lost hope, but the responsibility of affecting change doesn't stop at the edge of campus. It extends beyond geographic boundaries into the Christian community that surrounds our kids.

We hope that our friends will join us this year at our events and leave with an understanding of what Holston Home is all about, a commitment to support our ministry, and with an excitement to help continue the work.

Through the years, support raised at FOC events has had a tremendous influence on the lives of hundreds of children and family members. If we can provide one night of sleep without fear, turn one bruised and neglected spirit into one that will smile again, if together we can partner to carry out the work of this ministry, then fewer youngsters will experience the world as a cruel and frightening place.

You are needed this FOC season to impact children through your attendance and giving. Will you please join us at an upcoming event?

To register to attend an FOC event, please contact Sue Bernier at 423-787-8753.

Realizing a Special Connection

Seventeen year old Max who has lived at Holston Home for several months was highly recommended by staff for a new part-time job and was recently hired to work on a local food truck that specializes in making gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. Spring and summer are busy times for the business and the owner always needs reliable help, especially during festivals and weekend events.

One recent event was at the unveiling of a remodeled theater in downtown Greeneville at which the owner's wife, Susan, recognized longtime supporters Scott and Nikki Niswonger in the crowd and pointed them out to Max. After hearing the name "Niswonger," he exclaimed, "Hey, that's the same name as the cottage I live in." Realizing the special connection, Susan thought it would be memorable to introduce him to the Niswongers. Both Scott and Nikki shook Max's hand and chatted with him a bit.



We are so thankful for extraordinary people like the Niswongers and others like them who give to help kids like Max have a safe and caring home.

Donations Needed. Many items are needed on an on-going basis. Would you be willing to help by providing these items for our youth? Call Susan Bernier at 423-787-8753 for further information.

- White card stock
- Composition notebooks
- Highlighters
- Lined index cards
- Canning jars
- Shampoo & body wash
- Roll-on deodrant
- Bath towels & wash cloths
- Twin size sheet sets

Become a Member

Holston Home has established the **1895 Club** as a program to recognize and honor donors who make an annual gift (calendar year) of $1,000 or more to support our ministry to children.

Why is it called the 1895 Club?

Our ministry began in 1895 when children were first brought into the shelter of the home. 1895 is a reminder of Holston Home's blessed history and how God is growing this ministry for His glory.

How do I acquire annual membership?

Membership into the 1895 Club is acquired by giving at least $1,000 in a calendar year.

You may give to any of our mailings or Friends of Children events.

We want you to continue giving to the programs and services for which you are the most passionate and interested. For example, you can give one $1,000 gift or you might give five $200 gifts – whatever makes the most sense for you as long as the sum of your annual giving equals at least $1,000 for the calendar year.

To recognize donors who go above and beyond $1,000 annually there are additional gift categories to highlight your charity.



What are the gift categories?

Bronze member	$1,000 – $1,894
Silver member	$1,895 – $4,999
Gold member	$5,000 – $9,999
Platinum member	$10,000 and above

What is the criteria for membership?

- Gift is given annually in the calendar year (January 1–December 31)
- Gift is given to support current programs, services, needs

1895 Club members will receive:

- Certificate of Membership
- Invitation to an 1895 Club Gathering of Friends event

1895 CLUB HHC



Holston Orphanage, affectionaly known as "Wiley Hall," was dedicated in 1923 as a memorial to Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley, founder of Holston United Methodist Home for Children.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

I often recall the story of George Whitfield, renowned English preacher and contemporary of John Wesley. Together, Whitfield and Wesley established Bethesda Orphanage in Savannah, Georgia. Whitfield became a true ambassador for the boys and girls who lived at Bethesda. Wherever he preached, up and down the trails of Colonial America or in the open fields of England, he seldom failed to mention the needs of the orphans and to take up a collection to provide for their needs.

Benjamin Franklin, hearing of Whitfield's plans for the orphanage, thought it would be better to move the orphans to Philadelphia because it was more populated than Georgia, which he said was "destitute of materials and workmen." Franklin, therefore, refused to contribute. As Whitfield preached, Franklin



began to soften and, it is told, he finally "emptied his pockets into the collector's dish." A man standing near Franklin, who had emptied his pockets before he left home, pleaded with a friend to lend him some money for the offering.

Whitfield proposed using part of the orphanage land to establish a college. When Wesley heard about it he chastised Whitfield in a letter, stating that while he considered education important, to save the life of an orphan was "worth all the colleges that man could put together."

Because of the commitment of Wesley and Whitfield, the lives of many orphaned children were changed and Bethesda Children's Home continues to care for children to this day.

Your commitment to the children cared for by Holston Home is making a difference. As an Ambassador, YOU are making a difference. The work you do is helping transform the lives of children, youth and families.

Thank you for all you do and may God bless you in a very special way in your ministry of love.

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

Friends

Every ministry shares a common challenge called attrition in which people who have supported for years slowly wear away, pass away, or stop giving. Holston Home is no different in that we are also experiencing attrition and need to acquire new support while maintaining current financial giving. Are there people in your life who have a heart for helping children? If they don't know Holston Home, can we please reach out to them and ask for their support? Will you introduce friends to your friends at Holston Home? If so, please send us their names, addresses, and phone numbers and let us know if it would be okay for us to let them know that you think they would appreciate hearing from us about supporting our mission.

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

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
P.O. Box 188
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We want to be good stewards!
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
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(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 June 30, 2019

A Glimpse of History

Without doubt, the most popular image of Holston Orphanage was the three-story building named Wiley Hall. This building was built in 1921 and named in memory of Mrs Elizabeth Wiley, founder and first "Superintendent" of the orphanage. Wiley Hall faced the campus entrance on West Irish Street in Greeneville, Tennessee. The first floor housed the administrative offices, a visitation area, the dining hall and kitchen. Bedrooms for the girls were on the second floor and the boys slept on the third floor.



The first gift of $500 to erect the building was given by A.J. Patterson from the estate of Martha Johnson Patterson, daughter of President Andrew Johnson. One of the rooms in the new building was named for Mrs. Patterson.

The Board requested support from the Holston Annual Conference for the erection of Wiley Hall. April 9, 1922, was designated "Holston Orphanage Day." An offering was taken in the churches throughout the Conference and a total of $115,000 was received. Built at a cost of $80,000, Wiley Hall was furnished with new and modern equipment and could accommodate more than 200 children.

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

Wiley Hall was occupied until 1954, when the children and staff were relocated to the new buildings on the north side of the campus and Holston Drive became the primary entrance.

– Eva Grey Hutchins, Historian