Holston Happenings
newsletter
Fall, 2020



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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Isaac was riding with Rusty, one of our maintenance staff, to help with needs at our Knoxville office. Isaac loves to work and especially with maintenance and our landscaping. We always look for opportunities to teach our youth practical life-skills and to expose them to as many healthy and caring adults as we can. This experience was one of those days to accomplish both. While driving down I-40, our maintenance truck broke down. Isaac watched while Rusty managed the situation and did so without any change to his attitude. This observation led to a deep conversation where Rusty was able to share his story of how Jesus changed his life and the power of faith in Him. This divine appointment ended with Isaac asking Jesus to be Lord of his life too. I had the honor of seeing Isaac and thirteen other young people get baptized with a sanctuary full of family and friends. I watched our Christian Life team baptize kid after kid until Isaac came up. Then, I watched as one of our maintenance men joined him at the front to baptize his little brother in Christ. Isaac wanted Rusty to be the one to baptize him and I was frozen in praise and gratitude as I thought about how God is always at work. He is never taken by surprise or calling an emergency meeting of the Trinity. He does indeed work all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purposes — even in broken down maintenance trucks.



During this time of uncertainty, I want to encourage you that He is still working all things for good for Isaac, you, and Holston Home for Children. Like so many ministries our donations from the churches have been significantly down as churches have been navigating this crisis. We completely understand, and our hearts are with our churches and families who have been impacted by COVID-19 and its effects. Much like our history recounts from the Great Depression, God has continued to provide in so many different ways. One of the most striking ways He has met our needs is through decades of estate gifts.

At Holston Home we do not use estate gifts for our ongoing operating expenses. We set these gifts aside and each year we draw down 4 percent of the 3-year average balance to use for operations along with our other revenue. This year these funds were incredibly important as we weren't sure how our other funding would fare. It occurred to me that when the Lord led these dear friends to include Holston Home in their estate plans so many years ago, He already was at work to provide for children living through this crisis of today. God is so good! I am so grateful for the saints, most of whom I have never met, who made a way to continue their

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

care and support of children as part of their life's legacy. In addition to taking care of their family, they gave to care for young people they would never meet or at least not meet on this side of eternity. We could not do what we do without this kind of support, and my wife and I plan to follow their lead for those that come after us so that we can be a vessel for the Lord to use for the Isaac's and Rusty's who may not even be born yet.

We would ask that you prayerfully consider including Holston Home for Children in your estate planning. Our Development team would be honored to discuss options and different ways that are available to meet your goals. Regardless of whether an estate gift is right for your situation, God is using your prayers and support to change children's lives. I can't thank you enough for your faithfulness in coming alongside of our ministry. I pray that God blesses you and your family and that he clearly reveals how you are a critical part of His beautiful plan to work all things together for good. We love you and we thank God for you!

In Christ,



Count Your Blessings

Amanda and Jamie Bradley have been fostering for the Southwest Virginia office since 2015. They have fostered nine children and adopted a sibling set and are currently fostering one child in addition to their five girls and four boys! The Bradleys live on a 30-acre farm; a "kid's heaven" with lots of space to play and enjoy their many pets and farm animals.

Amanda is a former schoolteacher turned stay-at-home mom and homeschools all nine children. Jamie is a contractor and built a large building on their farm that serves as the "Bradley Schoolhouse." The Bradleys have provided a loving Christ-centered home putting their faith in God and teaching their children about Jesus daily. The whole family is very involved with the many activities the children participate in.

Three years ago, the Bradleys adopted Abel, a 2-year-old medically fragile foster child. Abel had three slightly older sisters, Abigail, Alayla and Ava, who still lived with their biological parents. Since Abel came to live with them, the Bradleys had been praying for the welfare of Abel's biological parents, and for the safety of his siblings. Through prayer they made a commitment to God that they would try and care for the siblings if they were ever removed from their home. When they learned that the girls had been removed from their home, Amanda let officials know that she had adopted their full sibling and wanted to foster these three sisters. She was told that they had placed the girls elsewhere, but after two disruptions in regular foster care the DSS case manager called Amanda to let the family know they could foster the girls. The girls were placed in the Bradley home and were so happy to see their baby brother. They never knew what had happened to him. The girls have some emotional issues and have been difficult to foster at times, but the Bradleys made a commitment to themselves and to the Lord and they were going to stand in faith by that commitment. In December of 2019, these three big sisters became part of the Bradley family! While Abel continues to have some medical issues, he is basically a healthy and very happy little boy now!



Amanda and Jamie have given their lives, their money, their free time, and their hearts to these children. They will quickly tell you that they could only accomplish this by their faith in Jesus, their determination to follow Him and His ways, and truly consider themselves blessed!

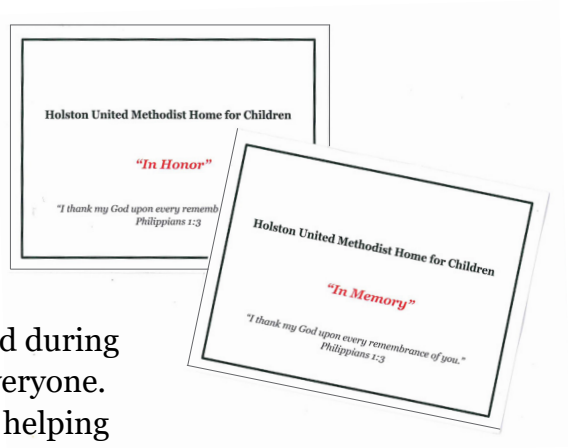
Holston Home has received accreditation and have been approved as a member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). ECFA's mission is *Enhancing Trust in Christ-Centered Churches and Ministries*. Founded in 1979, ECFA provides accreditation to leading Christian nonprofit organizations that faithfully demonstrate compliance with established standards for financial accountability, fundraising and board governance. Members include 501 (c) (3) organizations. We are proud to have met their standards and want to give our donors and other supporters the highest levels of confidence in our fund development and management processes.

Christmas Wish List

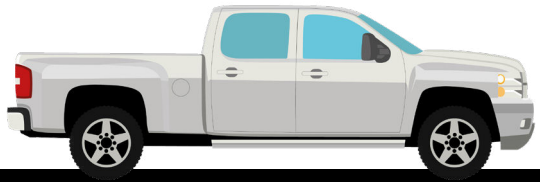


Please consider making this Christmas the most memorable one for our boys and girls. Help us purchase gifts for our youth (up to $150 per child). For more information about the Christmas Wish List, please contact Susan Bernier in the development office at (423) 787-8753 for more details.

Honor & Memorial Cards for Christmas



As the busy holiday season quickly approaches, please note that Holston Home must receive your gift and request for any Memorial or Honor cards to be sent to loved ones and friends by **December 4, 2020** to allow our staff ample time to create the cards and mail them so that they are received prior to Christmas Day. We are a small staff and really appreciate your helping us honor your intentions. Based on the volume of card requests received during the 2019 Christmas season, we feel this new approach will benefit everyone. Also, a $10 minimum donation per card is requested. Thank you for helping us steward and recognize our friends well!





OTHER WAYS TO HELP

We have a couple of needs you may be able to meet:

- **2500 or 3500 HEAVY DUTY WORK TRUCK.** Bradley mentioned a maintenance truck in need of replacement. After 21 years and over 182,522 miles we need a heavy duty work truck to carry the load going forward.

- **MOTOR HOME.** As we seek to create more hands-on experiences for our youth in school trips, recreation and mission work, we would love to have a motor home that would allow us to have more cost-effective ways to travel with small groups throughout the year.

If you have one of these items that you no longer use and/or are in a position to give one of these tax-deductible in-kind gifts to our ministry, please call Seth Taylor at 423-787-8725.

Donor Spotlight

For 40 years, Joe was a regular contributor to Holston Home. His gifts were modest but always appreciated. Joe was a businessman who never married but loved children. He lived in Tennessee and was an active member of a United Methodist church within the Holston Conference.

When it came to supporting Holston Home, he enjoyed responding to our summer camp and Christmas letters as well as the Happenings newsletter just like the one you are reading right now. He also liked to attend our Friends of Children dinner events.

After supporting our ministry for a while, Joe was excited to learn how he could continue to impact children at Holston Home upon his passing, by leaving a gift through his will.

Joe treasured Holston Home for Children and prepared his will so that when he died, he left a gift which continues to earn income and care for our children. Joe was a philanthropist and continues to be one today even in death.

Anyone can be a philanthropist, and a gift of any size can make an impact. Creating a will and including Holston Home for Children in it can change lives.



Part of the joy that comes from preparing a will is knowing that you are giving away your assets to those that mean the most to you.

If it is your desire to leave behind a special gift to Holston Home for Children, you can make this request in your personal estate plans that will be honored legally because you have created a will.

With a will, you can honor Holston Home and be a friend to children in perpetuity.

Through your will, you can make an impact just like Joe!



An easy way to double your contribution is through employee giving programs. Many corporations match employee donations to our organization. Find out if your gift may be eligible for a Matching Gift from your employer, by visiting:

https://doublethedonation.com/holstonhome

2020 Friends of Children Sponsors

"Thank you" to all of our wonderful Friends of Children Sponsors for making our fundraising events possible. We appreciate your giving and generous hearts. You have been a blessing to the young people who we are called to serve.

Event Sponsors

Andrew Johnson Bank/
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Holston Conference Foundation
Wes & Keri Robbins

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Christ Fellowship Church
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Home Federal Bank of Tennessee

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Foundation
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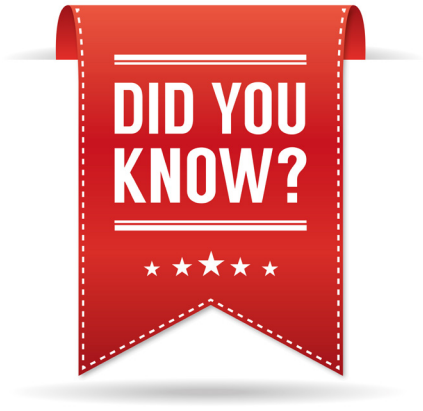
Bryan & Beth Jackson
Debra O. Miller
Jim & Jane Moody
Patriot Investment
Management
Gordon Ray & DiAnna Turnage

GIVING TUESDAY

Holston Home for Children plans to participate in **Giving Tuesday** on **December 1st** and invites your goodwill and prayer support. Giving Tuesday is a global giving movement that has been built by people in countries all over the world. It is a way to start the charitable season when many folks are preparing their holiday and year-end giving. We believe that everyone has something to give whether it's financially or through prayer. Please visit Holston Home's Facebook page to watch special impact videos and remember to mark **December 1st** on your calendar to join us in supporting children at Holston Home!



IN THE LAST 3 YEARS:

- Holston Home **served 1,973 children** in Tennessee and Virginia
- **71 students graduated** from River Academy
- **55 of those students enrolled in college or technical school**
- **153 youth made professions of faith**
- **167 youth were baptized**






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

Making a Difference



Dear Ambassadors,

As we approach the season for giving, there is no better way to express our love to Christ and His calling than to help children who have experienced disruption and confusion in their lives. Your ambassador-ship for Holston Home helps people become involved with a ministry associated with United Methodist churches in the Holston Conference for more than 125 years.

In 2019-20, Holston Home touched the lives of 665 children in Tennessee and Virginia.

What better investment can we make as Christians than to help boys and girls develop their God-given potential.

As an ambassador, you are making a world of difference as you interpret the ministry of Holston Home and encourage the members of your church to give to this vital ministry. We believe the more people that understand how the lives of boys and girls are being changed, the more they will understand how important their gifts are, especially during the current coronavirus pandemic. The children need you now as never before.

Thank you for the work you're doing as an ambassador for the children. Thank you for your faithfulness to promote Fifth Sunday offerings. Please remind your pastor to use the bulletin messages. Keep up the good work and call us at 423-787-8723 to let us know how we can be helpful to you.

In the Name of the Good Shepherd,

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

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

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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
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 November 29, 2020

A Glimpse of History

A prophet once lived among us! In a report to the District Conference, Dr. Walter Smith, Superintendent of Holston Orphanage from 1942 to 1960, stated:

"We have done a fair job of feeding, clothing, sheltering, educating, and providing spiritual nurture for the children we have cared for, but we have not and are not now meeting the emotional needs of thousands upon thousands of emotionally disturbed children."

In his report to the Annual Conference in 1954, Dr. Smith said, "We are coming to believe that children who must live in an institution are the most emotionally disturbed of all and that, if they profit best they must have all the love, understanding, sympathy, psychiatric, medical and scientific help it is possible to give them. We must not crowd too many into one cottage. They must be treated as individuals and caused to know that they are persons with souls and that they are of value. They must be led to believe that God and society need them, and that they can, without question, contribute to society."



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

We took Dr. Smith's words seriously, and today we have a better understanding of how to help children who struggle with life. The church needs to be diligent on behalf of the children who have been separated from home and family and give them "all the love, understanding, sympathy, psychiatric, medical and scientific help" we can give them. That's why the ministry of Holston United Methodist Home for Children is so vital. We are doing our best to give children hope and guidance for the life God wants them to have.

And you are helping us make a difference!

– Eva Grey Hutchins