Holston Happenings
newsletter

Summer, 2021



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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Last May I attended River Academy's graduation ceremony and was so impressed with Sharon, our Valedictorian. She was engaging, confident, and authentic as she spoke about her challenges along with some achievements and those people who had made a positive impact on her while at Holston Home.

Afterwards, I couldn't wait to congratulate her and share what the Lord had put on my heart while I listened and watched her presentation. I told Sharon that God had gifted her as a natural leader. I said that I didn't know where she was in faith, but that if she would just stay close to Him, it would be amazing how He could use her. She thanked me graciously but quickly moved along to the other festivities with her fellow graduates.

A week or so went by and Sharon was assisting one of our youth ministers in the audio/visual booth at our Sunday chapel service. Becky had recently arrived at Holston Home and went to the altar to pray. Sharon didn't know her yet but told our staff that she felt like she was supposed to go and pray with her, and so Sharon did just that! She went down front to where Becky was kneeling and, putting her hand on her shoulder, she prayed with her. Almost instantly, she hugged Sharon as tears rolled down her cheeks. It was a very sweet and tender moment, but we had no idea what the significance was until a few days later. In a weekly Bible study, Becky told the group that she had been struggling to believe that God was real and that even if He was real that He cared about her.



She said that she had prayed, "God, if You are real and if You really care about me-show me! Send someone to pray with me." Then she felt a hand on her shoulder, and she knew that God was there and that He did love her. Although she didn't know Sharon that Sunday morning, she knew her now and was so grateful that God had sent her to show her His love.

Despite these mountaintop experiences, Sharon started to have a really hard time and began making some bad decisions. She was getting close to turning 18, and she didn't have any family in her life. She felt like she wasn't worthy of love, and she was trying to sabotage the relationships she had formed at Holston Home before we gave up on her too. Despite our best efforts to assure her of our love and commitment while also holding her accountable, she continued to spiral into a dark and hopeless mindset. She turned 18 and fully expected us to kick her out and let her learn the hard way.

Although Jesus teaches us to bring the children to Him, we do not read any passages that say grace runs out when a person becomes an adult. Aren't you glad? We told Sharon that we were not giving up on her and that Holston Home was still her home if she chose to stay. This demonstration of unconditional love and acceptance was a game changer. Sharon started receiving love and dreaming about her future again. She took the ASVAB test for the military and

performed very well on it. She decided to pursue the Navy as a Submarine Sonar Technician and will be graduating this May from basic training. We are so proud of her as we watch God's promises coming to fulfillment.

Whether it is Becky, Sharon, you, me, or any of the kids at Holston Home, the enemy is always looking to cause us to doubt who God is and how He feels about us. Every child's journey is unique, but it is such a blessing to see how He reveals Himself and sends His people to make His love known at just the right time and in just the right way. He used Sharon; He used Holston United Methodist Home for Children, and He uses you as you pray for our youth and give so that we can minister to hurting children and young adults for the long haul. Thank you for hearing His voice like Sharon did so that more young people experience Jesus' love and hope for their futures. I pray that even as you read this letter that you will know His love and concern for you and your family. Thank you again for your support of this ministry, and may God bless you!



Prayer Requests

When working with any group of youth, it is a challenge to create a culture where they are willing to be vulnerable with youth workers and one another to share the hurts and worries of their hearts. We are so proud of our kids' courage and faith in the power of prayer. We invite you to pray for the young people we serve. We want to give you specific prayer requests our youth have publicly shared so that you can be a part of praying and hearing how God is at work. Remember these needs as you pray and as the Holy Spirit guides you.

- That my family and I can get along when I go home
- That my drug problems go away
- I pray for peace
- That I go down the right path with God and that I will have strength when I turn 18 this year
- I can leave Holston completely and study ministry to become a youth pastor
- My relationship with God stays strong, even when I don't know if I believe
- For my brother and I to find a foster home where we can be together and for my little sister to be able to live with us too
- For peace over my cottage
- My friends that have left Holston before me, I pray that they are doing well and that God would send angels to protect them
- For my anger to go away
- Peace in my thoughts — it's hard for me to stay focused on God
- That I can graduate high school and go to Brumit and that I can get a job
- For my stomach and health issues to go away; I have Crohn's disease and I want to be healed
- Please pray for my feet, I was supposed to have surgery and it's been postponed a few times
- For my friends and family members that are quarantined and sick
- Pray that my family out of state gets approved and I can move there
- My foster dad, his brother died and he is sad
- Pray for direction, I turn 18 soon and I don't know what I'll do next or where I'll live
- For my mom to get off drugs and get her life together so I can go home
- Please pray for my mom and stepdad, I'm choosing to forgive them, but I don't really feel safe going to live with them again
- Pray for my dad, he didn't answer when I called last night, and I hope he's okay; please pray for him to get custody so I can go live with him
- My brother — he has an upper respiratory infection, and because he has Downs Syndrome, it's harder for him to fight this infection
- Pray for me, I'm about to be a dad and I am nervous
- My family because my dad just passed away
- My brother, he is finally getting out of prison and I want him to do well
- For me and my sister because we are about to go to a new foster home
- Pray for me to forgive my parents



Many corporations match employee donations to our organization (see several listed below). Is the company you work for listed here? If not, do you know if they would match your giving? **https://doublethedonation.com/holstonhome**

Accenture Hospitality Services
Altec Industries
Bell Helicopter/Textron
Best Buy Co.
Choice Hotels
Citi Commerce Solutions,
Coca Cola Bottling
Comcast
ConAgra
Darden Restaurants
Denso Manufacturing
First Horizon Bank
Home Shopping Network
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Kimberly-Clark Corp.
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The Hillshire Brands (formerly Sara Lee Bakery)
The Home Depot, Inc.
Travelers Insurance
Truist Bank (Suntrust and BB&T)
Tyson Foods
U.S. Cellular Corp.
U.S. Foods, Inc.
United Parcel Service (UPS)
Unum Group
Volkswagen Group of America
Wal-Mart/Sam's Club
Wells Fargo & Co.
Yum! Brands

WAYS TO SUPPORT HHC



If you would like to donate any of the listed items, or if you're interested in becoming a mentor and/or foster or adoptive parent, please call Susan at 423-787-8753.

- **PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS.** These items are always in high demand. For a more comprehensive list, visit HolstonHome.org/wish-list-in-kind-giving
- **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** such as art supplies, mechanical pencils, Sharpie markers, colored pens and pencils, Clorox wipes, facial tissues.
- **BECOME A MENTOR.** Spend at least one hour a week and invest in a child's life.
- **BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT.** The need is great and the families are few. Would you prayerfully consider caring for a young person in need of a loving family?
- **RECURRING FINANCIAL GIFTS.** Monthly giving provides support we can count on and helps us with planning the year.

Donor Spotlight

Reg and Linda Jellicorse are retired educators who have faithfully supported Holston Home's ministry for years. Reg taught high school and coached football, worked in the landscaping/garden/floral business, and later taught at the college level. Linda taught elementary and middle school students with Language Arts being her specialty. Reg loves woodworking and converted his garage into a wood shop. He has built each of their grandchildren a baby bed that have now been modified to regular sized beds. All are made from cherry trees harvested from his family farm. He has built dining tables for family members from walnut from the farm, along with bunk beds, chess boards, and keepsake boxes. Linda even gave him a t-shirt that says, "I turn wood into useful objects. What's your superpower?"

Linda enjoys being outdoors and watching and listening to birds and gardening. Together, they teach an adult Sunday school class and enjoy the great outdoors. Reg and Linda first connected with Holston Home through the Methodist church and recently shared their story with us. Here is an excerpt from that conversation:

HOLSTON HOME FOR CHILDREN (HHC): You are Methodist and follow a tradition that Reg's father started of supporting children. Will you tell us about your father and that tradition?

Reg: Dad's father lost his small farm and his mom died of pneumonia while still a young boy. My grandfather took a job that required him to be gone for extended periods of time and so a family friend along with an older sister basically raised dad. Holston Home, because it cared for children in need like him, was very important to dad. Each 5th Sunday the five Jellicorse children along with mom and dad got our donations together for Holston Home and as God has allowed, I have tried to do the same.

HHC: You recently visited campus and saw our youth and programs. What was your impression of Holston Home and what do you appreciate most about Holston Home's ministry?



Reg: The facility was impressive. Management has created an environment which is second to none. Holston Home is a good steward of resources entrusted to them. Every dollar received is a dollar well spent. Observing the students in their environment, it is evident they are thriving under your care.

HHC: Why do you choose to support Holston Home?

Reg: Children are suffering, and you are providing needed relief for them to become successful members of the community. Our life work with young people focused on helping them become successful adults. From our visit, we see HHC is able to provide a longer commitment to ensuring that success.

HHC: You recently gave Holston Home a large gift because of good fortune. Can you tell us that story?

Reg: We recently decided to divest some rental property and were led to commit 10 percent of the proceeds to invest in organizations working with young people in need. Holston Home was at the top of the list.

HHC: Is there anything else you would like readers of our newsletter to know about you?

Reg: Not about us but about Holston Home. We were greatly impressed with the staff we met, the facilities we saw, but most important the children we met.

Cooking with Mrs. Terry

Teresa Rowland — or as we affectionately call her around here "Mrs. Terry" — is one of those unforgettable people that touches everyone she meets. She is not a fashionista, preferring to wear skirts or dresses of a modest length below her knees. Her hair is kept long and uncut and, on most days, she wears it pulled back in a braided bun. Mrs. Terry is an accomplished cook and makes most everything from scratch. She even makes her own flour.

Perhaps even more interesting than the fact that she makes everything from scratch is that she has not watched a TV show or seen a movie since the 1980s. She and her husband own a television and he watches it occasionally but she chooses not to watch.

But here's the thing about Mrs. Terry. Everyone loves her and especially the youth at Holston Home where she serves in our Hospitality ministry. For all practical purposes, Mrs. Terry does not seem to be someone that teenagers would have anything in common with. She knows nothing of modern pop culture icons. She does not own a pair of Nike or Vans sneakers. She does not tolerate foul language or bad behavior and she even sings silly songs. But she is like a magnet for our youth and they are always drawn to her warmth.

Mrs. Terry is unique. She does everything with love and follows her heart. Her smile is infectious, the type that lights up a room. Sometimes she snorts when she laughs, and she laughs a lot. Quite frankly, Mrs. Terry is the coolest "not cool" person we know, and we want you to know her too. In a world that judges people by so many shallow things, we need beautiful people like Mrs. Terry to remind us of things that are truly important like kindness.

Not long ago one of our staff overheard a youth bragging to a new youth that his cottage cook makes the best food. He went on to say that Mrs. Terry will even take requests and make you a special birthday meal. No doubt about it, feeding our kids is Mrs. Terry's passion. She loves making our youth happy and one of the things that brings them great joy is her famous Oreo Delight. It is easily our #1 requested dessert at Holston Home. This fun recipe is a summertime treat that we hope you will enjoy!

OREO DELIGHT

Ingredients:

1 package crushed Oreo's
6 tablespoons melted butter
1 large package chocolate instant pudding
2¾ cups of milk
8 oz. softened cream cheese
2 cups powdered sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
16 oz. Cool Whip

Directions:

Set aside one cup of crushed Oreo's. Mix the remainder of the cookie crumbs with the melted butter. Press mixture into the bottom of a 9" x 13" pan. Mix the pudding with the milk and set aside. In a separate bowl, mix the cream cheese with the powdered sugar and vanilla until smooth. Next, mix half the Cool Whip into the cream cheese mixture. Spread the cream cheese mixture over the Oreo crust. Spread the pudding over cream cheese mixture. Finally, spread the remaining Cool Whip over the pudding and sprinkle the reserved Oreo crumbs on top. Refrigerate until ready to serve (at least 2 hours). ENJOY!



Her Oreo delight is AMAZING!!!! So is her Butterfinger Pie!!! Mrs. Terry is the bee's knees!

–Sarah

She is absolutely amazing. If she gets a heads up before your birthday, she will make it. She is a great cook and amazing person. Everything she made was delicious and I couldn't wait until dinner (or lunch).

–Jacob

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,

Ambassadors, in concert with their pastors, are making outstanding and lasting impressions on people in the pews who want a heart-connection with the ministry of Holston United Methodist Home for Children. You honor the children by your service and please Jesus Christ because He loves children.

In addition to promoting Fifth Sunday offerings in your church, you can help us locate families who are willing to become foster families to the youth in our care and to set up group tours from your church to Holston Home in Greeneville, TN.

We have never needed you more than now when so many needs are expressed. Always remember that in the life of a child who has lost his family or is separated from family, every day is like a major storm. When I see pictures of the damage caused by volcanoes, hurricanes, tsunamis, and other natural disasters, I can imagine the damage done to the soul of a child who has survived his or her own storm.

Thank you for the good work you do. Call me at 423-787-8723 and let me know how I might help you promote Fifth Sunday giving, Advance Specials, or special projects to involve your church. We would love an invitation to bring a message to your church or to tell you about this vital ministry.

May God bless you as you continue your ministry as the children's Ambassador.

In the Master's service,

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

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
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- 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 August 29, 2021

A Glimpse of History

Many people have made an impact on the history of Holston Home. Of course, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley, our founder, is among those as were J.L. Hardin, Miss Kay Shanton, Dr. Walter Smith, and Miss Belle Hennen.

Miss Belle joined the staff of Holston Orphanage in 1923. She had just graduated from Bible school and was consecrated as a missionary of the Methodist Church. She was assigned to the Orphanage but was soon reassigned to work in War, West Virginia. From there she was called home because of the illness and death of her sister. She returned to Holston in 1925 as matron in charge of the smaller boys.

It was to remain her life's work. She was involved with more than just the boys, because she wrote to a friend "It is a busy day from the ringing of the bell at 5:30 a.m. until the children are in bed at 8 p.m. but oh, what joy, to be serving in His name! Mending clothes, washing faces, and combing hair, caring for the sick and teaching the children to make beds, sweep, and mop occupies a large portion of our time but we are trying through precept and example to instill truths that build character and help these children grow into Christian men and women."



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

In 1933, Miss Belle requested a change of position because of her health and was made head matron. Although she never married or had children of her own, she was honored as Greeneville's "Mother of the Year" in 1940. She died on December 1, 1952 at the age of 74 after 29 years of service to Holston Orphanage. Her body was laid to rest in the little cemetery on the campus, the first adult to be buried there.

Miss Belle was the consummate caregiver who not only impacted the lives of many children but set an example of Christian love for other matrons (later called house parents) and staff to follow. Children and staff were all blessed by her presence, and her love of the Lord and young people is still very much alive today.

– Eva Grey Hutchins