Holston Happenings
newsletter

Fall 2023



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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:
John W. Bailes, Chair
Bryan Jackson, Vice Chair
James M. Reynolds, Treasurer
Nancy L. Hamilton, Secretary
DiAnna K. Turnage, Member At Large
Bradley S. Williams, President/CEO*

MEMBERS:
Grady Barefield
J. Kent Bewley
Larry L. Bushkell
Rev. Barbara Clark*
Rev. Dr. Angela M. Hardy Cross*
David G. Culberson
Alexander B. Everley
John H. Kilday IV
Debra O. Miller
Jeff J. Monson
Angel A. Norman
Jaime G. Oakley
Birg E. Sergent
Tracy D. Solomon
Bishop Deborah Wallace-Padgett*

*denotes ex-officio

A financial statement is available upon written request from the Office of Charitable and Regulatory Programs.

Our girls' youth minister, Whitney, recently shared Heather's story. Prior to arriving at Holston Home, she had experienced various forms of abuse and trauma along with multiple failed placements. When she first got here, she didn't know how to respond to kindness or any form of compassion. Anything resembling love was met by pushback from her and sadly she struggled with not wanting to live. She was also very outspoken about how put off she was regarding anything related to Jesus.

Since the Garden of Eden, the enemy wants us to question the goodness of God and His love for us. Literally, it is the oldest trick in THE BOOK, and all of us at some point have struggled with those truths — God is always good; He always loves us and has only our best in mind, and; we are worthy of His love because He said we are throughout His Word!

After months of being at Holston Home and experiencing consistent love, a shift began to happen in Heather's heart. As Whitney spent time with the girls on campus, she began noticing that Heather was asking more questions and her heart was softening. One day she asked for time to talk with Whitney and asked her, "Why haven't you given up on me? I have been horrible to you every time you tried to love me." Whitney's simple reply was, "Because you are worth it!"

Heather's eyes started to well up with tears and she recognized that she had been running from love for a long time but that NOW she was done running!

That day Heather gave her heart to Jesus!



It is beautiful how God used the care and compassion of Holston Home staff to dispel the devil's lies meant for her destruction. And now Heather is learning and growing as a follower of Jesus.

There is an application here for all of us too, and I pray we remember Heather's witness. Lord, help us to know and remember Your promises and keep our hearts soft so that we too will want to know more of Your love and truths because You are so good and only have our best in Your plans.

Thank you for being a part of the care and compassion that the Lord is using to change lives like Heather's. Your prayers and financial support are being used by the Lord, and may these testimonies give Him all of the glory. I pray blessings for you and your families and thank you again!

In Christ,



Donor Spotlight



We recently had the privilege of visiting with our friend, **Carole Hubble**, a faithful supporter and one of our first 1895 Club Members, and hope you enjoy this conversation.

HHC: You live in Kingsport, Tennessee. Are you originally from this area?

Carole: I was born in Blount County and lived my first 12 years there until my dad received his call to the ministry.

HHC: You told us about working to recruit nurses as part of your responsibilities before retirement. Tell us more about your education and career.

Carole: I attended Berea College in Kentucky where I received the Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. My experiences in nursing were varied ranging from general duty (direct patient care) to teaching and then into administration. This included a trip to the Philippines to select RNs due to a shortage of nurses in Kingsport. My last and most rewarding job was to help start and work in the Holston Valley Medical Center hospice program. I often say that working with terminally ill patients and families is why God placed me here.

HHC: Your father was a Methodist minister and served several churches. Tell us about that experience and how it affected your life.

Carole: As a family (including my mom and sister) "we attended" Emory and Henry College and Candler School of Theology. Upon our "graduation" we began the process (as most Methodist preachers do) of moving from appointment to appointment–wherever God and the Bishop saw fit.

HHC: You started playing piano in church at the age of eleven. How did that begin and how long were you involved in music ministry?

Carole: I played for several churches as the need arose or my dad requested. I continued to play while at college and well into my adult life.

HHC: How did you first connect with Holston Home?

Carole: I had always been aware of Holston Home for Children and their mission from growing up in the Methodist Church.

HHC: You are a charter member of the 1895 Club at Holston Home for Children. Why is this important to you and what would you like to share with other donors?

Carole: The work done at the home to affect the lives of the children and their families is phenomenal. I encourage your readers to support the ministry of Holston Home for Children both financially and prayerfully.

HOW CAN I HELP?

- **BECOME A FOSTER OR ADOPTIVE PARENT.** The need is overwhelming, and the families are few. Would you prayerfully consider caring for a young person in need of a loving Christian family?
- **BECOME A MENTOR.** Spend at least 1 hour each week investing in the life of a child.
- **In-Kind Gifts.** We are always in need of personal hygiene items such as shampoo, body wash, and deodrant as well as towels and wash cloths.

Please call Susan at 423-787-8753 if you're interested in supporting Holston Home for any of these needs.



Remember These Important Ways to Give

Donor-Advised Funds (DAF) are the fastest growing charitable giving vehicle because they provide tax-advantageous ways to give.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows people who are at least 70½ years old to give up to $100,000 total to one or more charities directly from a taxable IRA rather than taking their required minimum distributions.

Beneficiary Designations allow you to name Holston Home as the beneficiary of a retirement plan, financial account, or annuity.

Gifts From a Will or Trust allow you to designate Holston Home as a beneficiary in your will or trust, leaving a legacy, and it will not affect your cash flow during your lifetime.



IN THE LAST YEAR:

- 58 of our youth made professions of faith in Jesus Christ
- 52 were baptized
- 201 residential youth were served at River Academy
- In the last 3 years, 57 graduated from all programs and 37 graduates went to college or tech school



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.

- For my brother to let me live with him. If he doesn't, I have nowhere to go.
- For my mom that she will stay in rehab this time because she didn't stay last time.
- Pray that my mom is successful in her recovery this time. Also pray for me and my new foster home.
- Pray my brother starts making good choices and gets out of jail soon, and I pray that I make good choices.
- Pray that my depression gets better.
- Pray that my mom does better and that I make good choices. Pray for my whole family. My grandmother passed away this week, and I'm scared my dad won't be able to handle it and will mess up again.
- Pray that my cousin's baby comes soon and is healthy and that I get an adoptive family.
- Pray that I make progress here and that I see my mom. I would also like to see my niece.
- Pray that my sister gets good news at her doctor's appointment and that my mom's surgery goes well.

Student Success



Uncertainty filled the early years of Parker's life as he lived between his parents and a grandmother. Parker never felt a sense of belonging, so he started to look for acceptance and turned to peers that were making poor choices and getting into trouble. Although Parker's grandmother loved him, she was unable to provide the structure and care that he needed. As a result, Parker came to Holston Home.

At Holston Home, Parker felt stability that he had not known before. He learned how to interact in a healthy way with adults and kids his own age. And he began to feel better about himself and started making good decisions.

Once Parker completed his stay in our residential program, he moved to the Pletsch family foster home. It was in this home that he grew and flourished. He began to trust the Pletschs, and he learned how to build relationships with other family members. Parker calls each of these people his mom, dad, sister, and brother.

An important lesson Parker learned is that family is more about unconditional love than blood relation which is the environment the Pletsch family has created. They love him all the time!

The Pletschs have provided opportunities for Parker to grow. For example, he discovered that he enjoys gymnastics and has been taking lessons. Parker, who is seventeen and a high school senior, decided that he enjoyed gymnastics so much that he got a job at the gym — a perfect fit for this friendly fellow with a big personality!

Even though Parker has been a loved member of the Pletsch family for a while, he just recently became a forever member of this wonderful family through the blessing of adoption. Join us in celebrating Parker Pletsch!



Honor & Memorial Cards for Christmas

As the busy holiday season approaches, if you wish to send a financial gift to Holston Home in honor or in memory of loved ones or friends, we need to receive those gifts by **December 1st** to allow our Giving staff ample time to create the special cards and mail them so they are received prior to Christmas Day.

If your list of names and addresses is lengthy (3 or more), please consider the amount of time and postage charges it will cost Holston Home and help us steward your gift and the gifts of others well.

If you prefer, we would be glad to provide a supply of cards and envelopes so you can prepare and mail them personally.

Our staff is few in number and we greatly appreciate your assistance as we honor your holiday intentions.

Thank you for your help!





Friends of Children Benefit Lunch Events

Each year Holston Home hosts four fundraising dinners/lunches (Greeneville, Knoxville, Tri-Cities, and Cleveland). The Greeneville and Knoxville dinners were held earlier in the season and both were a success!

Still on our calendar are the Tri-Cities and Cleveland lunches and we'd love for you to attend as our guests. Please call or email Susan if you are interested in attending 423.787.8753 SusanBernier@ HolstonHome.org.

Tri-Cities: Oct 17, 2023 / 11:30 am
First Broad Street UMC
100 E Church Circle, Kingsport

Cleveland: Nov 1, 2023 / 11:30 am
Broad Street UMC
155 Central Ave NW, Clevelend

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

Watch our new promotional video at holstonhome.org/overview-video

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Knoxville, TN
Permit No. 309

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 our youth, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

Next 5th Sunday is October 29, 2023



In Memory: Eva Grey Hutchins*

Eva Grey Hutchins died peacefully in Atlanta, Georgia on July 30, 2023, at the age of 90. She was a life-long lover and follower of Jesus Christ, a devoted wife to Rev. Charles Hutchins, a nearly perfect mother, a faithful and loyal sister and friend, and, with her husband, a model steward and generous giver. She was always cheerful, had the most charming smile, and she was loved and admired by many, yet she remained a humble servant all her days.

Eva Grey was immensely talented. She was a renowned singer for decades, a pianist, an often-noted ridiculously fast typist, a persnickety grammarian, a gardener with the greenest of thumbs, a historian, an author of two books, and a prolific ghost writer.

She supported and worked alongside her husband faithfully and without envy for his entire career in ministry, as the two of them truly enjoyed the rare "total marriage" for just shy of 69 years. And she loved and cherished her children, and children of many other mothers, like few mothers do. She was gentle, kind, patient and forgiving. She was the constant encourager and the biggest and most loyal fan. When it came to children, especially her own, she was a natural leader, a tireless advocate, and a fierce defender.

Her husband, children and grandchildren all adored her as did her Holston Home family. Eva Grey was a beautiful friend and is deeply missed.

**Adapted from obituary*