Holston Happenings
newsletter
Fall, 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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You may have heard the song, "The Blessing," based on a compilation of blessings, prayers, and promises found in scripture. I find it to be so encouraging to reflect on the Lord's heart for each of us. One of the bridges is:

May his favor be upon you / And a thousand generations
And your family and your children / And their children, and their children

The lyrics are based on, "But the lovingkindness of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him. And His righteousness to children's children, to those who keep His covenant and remember His precepts to do them." (Psalm 103:17-18).



Over the last few months, I am so excited as I see more and more parents attend our Sunday services at The Rock and worship with their children who are living here. I am reminded that our ministry is not limited, because God is not limited, to just the youth that we are serving. His love and restoration can reach their parents and change the trajectory of generations to come in our youth's future children and grandchildren.

A few weeks ago, at the end of service, Pastor Abel asked anyone having something on their heart for which they wanted prayer to stand up. As different youth and adults began to stand up, I felt moved to go and pray for a father that had been attending for many weeks with his daughter, Christy. The father, Mark, shared that he had a history of alcoholism and that he had been doing well for a good while but had relapsed last week. He began to cry, and Christy started crying also. This was a problem contributing to why they are not able to live together. Mark was so sorry, and Christy was so discouraged on one hand but so hopeful and forgiving on the other.

Despite having a clinical background and a lot of experience with these kinds of family situations, I just got to be a compassionate friend in church that had the privilege to look like Jesus. We hugged, prayed, wept, and just stood in that tender holy moment! Later I asked their counseling staff about Christy and Mark. They shared that Mark had been honest and reported his relapse taking full responsibility for his decision. Christy was angry but hopeful because she said her dad had never done that before and has always tried to cover up his drinking.

We see that the Lord is changing Mark's heart, healing his and Christy's relationship, and shepherding them down His good path now and for the generations that will follow.

I am so blessed to do what I get to do and see what I get to see. I love to testify of the Lord's amazing goodness and share it with you who pray and give to see life changes happen. Thank you so much! Please know that you are making an eternal difference and I am praying "The Blessing" for you and your family.

In Christ, Bradley

P.S. Give a listen, search YouTube "The Blessing with Kari Jobe & Cody Carnes"

Student Success

One of our youth, Matt, worked diligently to finish his welding degree at Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) in Greeneville and graduated from the program in July. Recently, Matt told our Independent Living Coordinator, Suzanne, about his desire to eventually pursue underwater welding, so Suzanne and Matt began researching schools with underwater welding programs.

Although Matt was excited about the idea of underwater welding, he had never been scuba diving so he really didn't know if the activity would be something he would enjoy which led him and Suzanne to take scuba diving lessons together – two days in class to learn how to dive in the pool and two days deep diving at a rock quarry in Philadelphia, TN. Matt repeatedly practiced setting up his tank, regulator, and buoyancy compensator to make sure he had memorized the many steps. In the water, he had the time of his life and said it is the #1 thing he has ever done.

Matt is so excited about scuba diving and hopes to attend underwater welding school in Jacksonville, FL after graduation from TCAT!



WAYS TO SUPPORT HHCH



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.

- **4X4 TRUCK.** ABC (Adventure Based Counseling) is in need of a ½ ton or larger four wheel drive truck for hauling trailers, kayaks, etc. Something similar to a Ford F-150, Chevy 1500, or Tahoe/Suburban.
- **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, erasers, 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?

Donor Spotlight



Linda Shoults Keller was born in Burnside Township, Michigan, on the Centennial family dairy farm. In 1962 was chosen Lapeer County "Dairy Princess." She attended Central Michigan University for two years then graduated from Asbury College (now Asbury University) in 1968 receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Education. Following graduation, she served as the Director of Christian Education at Trinity United Methodist Church in Lima, Ohio then moved back to Michigan and worked at Consumers Power Company as the first woman in management.

In 1974, she married Travis A. Keller and three years later they moved to Johnson City, TN, to start a new business, Keller Glasco, Inc. Travis had family roots in East Tennessee, and they wanted to live in a university town which became a blessing to them. Travis passed away in 2013. Linda is a member of Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City, TN.

We recently caught up with Linda and here is an excerpt from our conversation. She was hesitant to be spotlighted but agreed to participate with the hope that others will read this and be inspired to support Holston Home.

Holston Home for Children (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?

Linda: I was immediately impressed with the well-maintained buildings and grounds but most appreciative of the way that Holston Home values the lives of the children it serves. I am also very impressed by the dedication of the staff and leadership of the Board of Trustees.

HHC: Why do you choose to support Holston Home?

Linda: Children are born into bad situations that they have no control over, and Holston Home's goal is to take care of them and help to rebuild their lives. Holston Home strives to do everything in a quality way to provide the best possible home for children based on strong ethics with a Christian foundation.

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

Linda: God has blessed me way beyond what I've ever dreamed. He blessed and entrusted Travis and me to support other people, especially children. I know that He ordered our steps for many years to help others. To God be the glory.

2021 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.

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Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

I trust that your church remembered the students of Holston Home on Sunday, August 29th. We are grateful for your gifts.

I recently enjoyed a lunch with several former students of Holston Home: Tom Terry, Jerry Long, and Charles Oakes. We talked about days on the farm, playing football, school, and the good training they received at Holston Home. That kind of care and training given to children continues today.

Some children in our care may have been extremely poor and never experienced the life we take for granted. Or perhaps the stress of family and economic problems seemed insurmountable. Perhaps the stress of family breakdown resulted in children being rejected or placed in foster care. The result is low



self-esteem, loss of identity and hopelessness. They lose interest in school and in life itself.

You help by providing children caught in such circumstances a warm, caring place to call home, a school that helps them catch up to where they should be, counselors to help with family and self-esteem issues, good nutrition, clothing, and an opportunity to maximize their God-given potential.

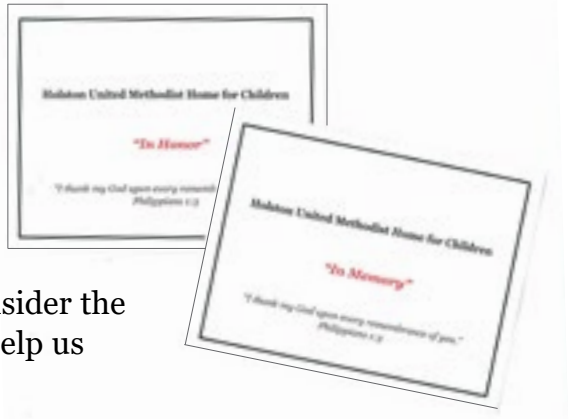
If someone in your church is a current or past board member of Holston Home or a family member who has had some direct contact with Holston Home (as staff, student, Trustee, or has visited us), allow them to speak briefly. If you would like someone from Holston Home to come and speak, let us know. Or let us know if someone in your church might be interested in being a foster family. Or if someone would have an interest in caring for children through a bequest. We would delight in talking with them.

On behalf of the children in our care and for whom you make it possible, thank you!

In the Name of the Good Shepherd,

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

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 3rd** 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 you helping us honor your holiday intentions.

Thank you for your help!

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 October 31, 2021

A Glimpse of History

When I observe the children at Holston Home and the ordered day-to-day life on campus, I think about how life was for the children and staff at the beginning of Holston Industrial Home and School. There was apparently a great need for such a home because there is no mention of a shortage of children. Staff was a different matter.

Mrs. Wiley established the Home with her own meager inheritance from her husband, who had been President of Emory and Henry College. She called on her friends in the Holston Conference Women's Home Mission Society, which raised $500. No salaries were paid and all workers were volunteers. Mrs. Wiley traveled over the Holston Conference to present the cause of the children, and was never paid for her expenses. Sometimes when a mother came to leave her child, she was coerced to stay and become a "matron" to care for many children. Every child was assigned a specific task when they weren't in school. Girls worked indoors and boys worked on the farm. According to one account, these tasks had to be completed by 8:30 AM and then it was time to go to school. On Sundays the work had to be completed in time for all of the children to walk about a mile to First Methodist Church in Greeneville.



For more history & updates VISIT US ONLINE!
www.holstonhome.org
or
www.facebook.com/HolstonHome.FCA/

In addition to the original house, a large white frame structure which served as residence and school, other buildings were soon needed. A two-story brick house, to care for the babies, was built in 1900 and an infirmary was soon added, but by 1903 both of these buildings needed to be enlarged.

Haven in the Hills, a published history of Holston Home, is the story of the rapid growth, the struggles and the accomplishments of more than 100 years of child care, its dedicated staff, and the decisions to make changes as they were called for. But one thing remains constant: the dedication of the people of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church and the many friends of Holston Home to continue to care for children whose lives are forever changed.

–Eva Grey Hutchins