Holston Happenings
newsletter
Fall, 2016



Providing Hope
and Healing for a Brighte[illegible]uture...

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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When our staff walked outside the boys' home and saw Dawson sitting on the porch and staring at his shoes, they were shocked. After 120 years of caring for young people, we don't see many firsts anymore. However, this occasion was a first.

Dawson came to Holston Home for a short-term stay until he could start a specialized program. A week earlier he had left Holston Home to begin that placement, but he ran away and came back to the place that felt like home to him – Holston Home. He shared that while at his new placement he became upset and went to his room for more than an hour and no one came to talk to him. He said that at Holston Home staff would have checked on him "every five minutes" to see what was wrong and how they could help. Then with tears rolling down his face and sobbing, he told us that they kept talking about hell at chapel, and he missed being at Holston Home where he heard about how much Jesus loves him.



Dawson was not the only one shedding tears that evening or the days to follow. Our staff showed him love and concern, but then they told him he couldn't just run away from difficult things and persuaded him to return to his placement. He agreed, but the story doesn't end there. We contacted the decision-makers for his situation and told them that we wanted Dawson to "come home" when he finished the program. God must have wanted Dawson to come home too, because a week later it was decided that he needed to be here. Our dining area could hardly hold his smile when I saw him and welcomed him back. Dawson is home!

As Holston United Methodist Home for Children, our keyword is HOME. A home is a place where you are loved and accepted whether you hit a homerun or you strike out with the bases loaded. It's a place where you are encouraged to be your best, while caring people wait for you to grow into your potential. Home is also where the people who love you pursue that relationship just because you are you. We are able to be that place for the youngsters we care for because Jesus does these things for us and has shown us how to do them for those He loves.

As we approach Thanksgiving I am so thankful for our kids, and I am so thankful for all of you who pray for them and come along side of us financially. We cannot do all we are called to do without your help. Thank you so much for helping us provide a true home to so many children this holiday season. May God bless you and your family at your home.

In Christ,



Bradley S. Williams

Thankful Hearts






As warm weather gives way to crisp mornings and falling leaves, excitement for the holiday season builds. We busy ourselves trying to recreate the family traditions that warm our hearts and bring us closer together. Some families will gather this Thanksgiving and share about the things they are most thankful for. One of our favorite traditions is to review the past year and what former youth and their families had to say about their experiences here. We give thanks for each of them and the ways God uses our ministry.

Youth

"The best thing about being at Holston Home is that I have learned to do better and not make the same mistakes."
- Michael

"The staff really do care about us, and they help us through our hard times."
- Nathaniel

"I was treated like family."
- Katie

"At Holston, I learned to respect myself, and with that comes greatness."
- Gabrielle

"The best thing about being at Holston Home was discovering who I really am and learning who I can become."
- Hannah

Parents

"Children are the number one concern of the staff. They talk and let the children talk through their problems."

"The staff kept their word and didn't sugar coat things. They have been helpful getting my son back home."

"Our counselor has been so good to my granddaughter and me. He is a good man and good at his job. Thank you for sending him."

"The staff helped breakthrough and find out the underlying issues that caused our daughter's behavior."

"The staff is friendly and caring. They truly love my kids. The curriculum prepared my daughter socially and academically for kindergarten."






Holston Highlights

A busy fall at HUMHC...





- Students wrapped up the summer with a fun day at the lake hosted by the Tri-Cities Boating Club.
- The staff at Holston Home celebrated another year of making a difference with a tailgate party for its annual staff meeting.
- Coach Phil Fulmer spoke at the Greeneville Friends of Children dinner at the General Morgan Inn, making it a successful fundraising event for Holston Home.
- Several youth went on an inner city mission trip to Jackson MS, where they shared the love of Christ with the homeless and people struggling with drug addictions.
- The Beacon School girls' basketball team also jumped into their first season with a win against the YL Dashers.
- The 2016 Fall Carnival was a highlight for all of the students and staff as they enjoyed hay-rides, games, popcorn, and cotton candy at our barn.

Follow *Holston United Methodist Home for Children* on **Facebook** for more highlights!







Would you consider making this a memorable Christmas for one of the special children at Holston Home? If you would like to help us purchase gifts for children this year please contact Nicole Rader in the Development office at (423)787-8753.

Go to *www.holstonhome.org* for **Wish List** items and more opportunities to meet the needs of children at HUMHC.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

As the season for giving approaches, there is no better way for us to express our love to Christ and His calling than helping hurting children. Your ambassadorship for Holston Home helps give people an opportunity to become involved with a ministry associated with Methodist churches in the Holston Conference for over 120 years.

In 2015-2016 Holston Home touched the lives of 740 children in Tennessee and Virginia. What better investment can we make as people of the Christian faith 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 giving to this vital ministry. We believe that the more people understand how the lives of boys and girls are being changed, the more they will understand how important their gifts are.

Thank you for the work you are doing as an ambassador of Holston Home. Thank you for your faithfulness to 5th Sunday Offerings as you put up posters and 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
(James 1:27)

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
Greeneville, TN 37744

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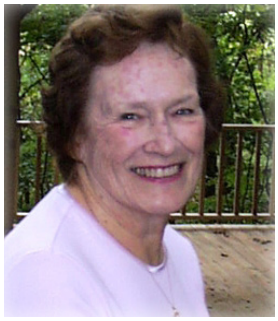
To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

Next 5th Sunday is January 29, 2017

A Glimpse Of History

As we look forward to Thanksgiving, I am reminded of how the children of Holston Orphanage celebrated this holiday.

Imagine being a child of 10 or 12, entering a large dining hall where you are accustomed to eating three meals a day. But this one meal is very special.



Thanksgiving was a meal you anticipated for days, with turkey and dressing and all the trimmings in excess. This meal was always the most sumptuous meal of the season.

You enter the dining room furnished with tables enough for 125 children and 40 or 50 adults – some of them staff and some of them strangers to you. Each table is laden with large platters of turkey and large bowls of dressing, beans, rice, gravy and more. As you take your seat, you must wait for all the others to find their seats while you sit and smell the delicious aromas coming from the table. After 15 or 20 minutes, everyone is seated and the room becomes quiet, but you still must wait for the person in charge to say the blessing (which was generally long and wordy). Then you had to wait until the adult at your table passed each dish (always to the right). When every dish had been passed and every person in the room had been fully served, then you could take the first bite.

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

I have often imagined this scene, especially when I sit down to Thanksgiving dinner with my relatively small family, and wonder how such order was maintained and how the children must have felt. In spite of all the pomp and pageantry, it must have been a memorable time for the children, especially for those experiencing their first such Thanksgiving meal.

– Eva Grey Hutchins