HOLSTON HAPPENINGS newsletter

ARE YOU ready for the next Fifth Sunday? It's Nov. 29th, 2015

FALL, 2015



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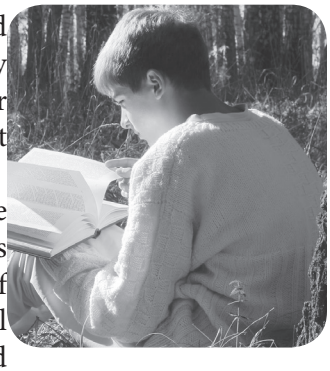
A publication of Holston United Methodist Home for Children

A Word from the President



Science was the only thing that made sense to Casey when he arrived at Holston Home. It was logical, it could predict and explain the changing seasons, the changing moons, and the changing tides, but nothing could explain the changing tides of the last fifteen years where both of his grandparents committed suicide, his father did not want anything to do with him, his peers victimized him, he experienced multiple periods of homelessness, and he found himself in the same room with his mother during one of her several suicide attempts.

No one was surprised when Casey came to our campus with scars from cutting himself, recurrent nightmares, and a firm belief that there was no God. The caring staff at Holston United Methodist Home for Children began the journey with him exactly where he was – vulnerable and buried under layers of disappointments.



Casey found a consistent and predictable friend in Ms. Valerie who began to talk with him and pray for him in the mornings as he would get ready for school. He could tell there was something different about her.

Every Sunday and again during weekly Bible Study, Casey heard about man's failures and God's unfailing grace through Jesus. He found himself face to face with the unavoidable questions that all of us must answer, "Is Jesus who He says He is?" and "Can He change my life and my future." After many long discussions with Abel Carrico, our Director of Christian Life, about everything from man's sin in the garden to Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection, the Holy Spirit revealed God's plan of salvation to Casey – and he BELIEVED!

His past and his hurts didn't magically go away, but his fear, his nightmares and his sadness have. Yesterday, he came back to Beacon School from working at our barn and stopped by the office with a smile and excited conversation. As he was leaving he saw that his counselor didn't seem herself. He left her with this encouragement, "Ms. Jamie, you look like something's bothering you. Do you need a hug?" You need a hug! He then gave her a big hug and a smile as he went back to his classroom.

With your prayer and support, God is using Holston Home to write different endings to life stories like Casey's. You see Casey didn't strike out. Our Mighty Casey joined the winning team of the God of the Universe and now knows the healing power of grace, forgiveness, and hope. Thank you for being a part of this ministry.

In Christ,

Bradley S. Williams

Bradley S. Williams

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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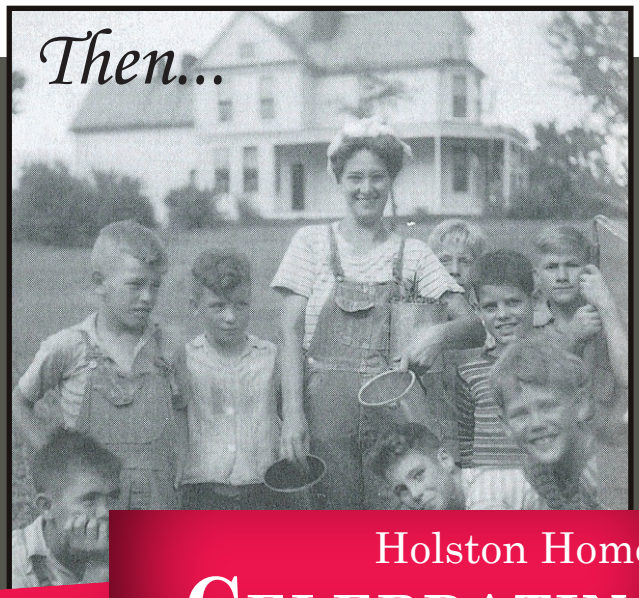
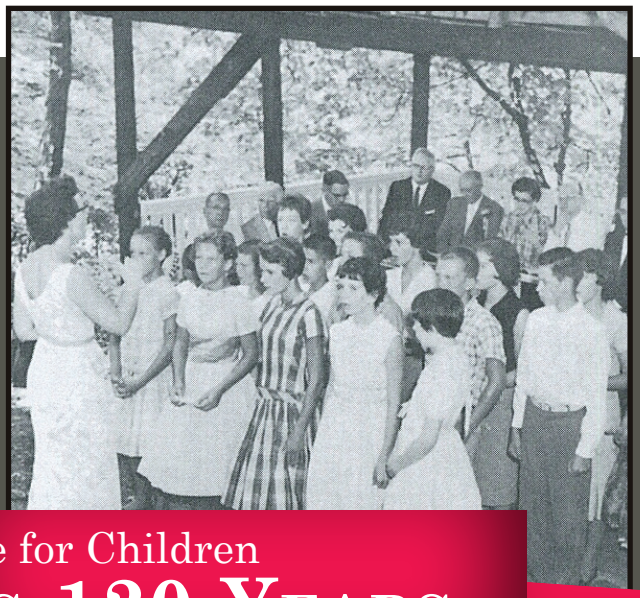
Holston United Methodist Home for Children is a Christian institution in the Wesleyan tradition serving children without regard to race, religion or gender. Founded in 1895, Holston Home is a ministry affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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





Holston Home for Children

Celebrating 120 Years

1895 - 2015



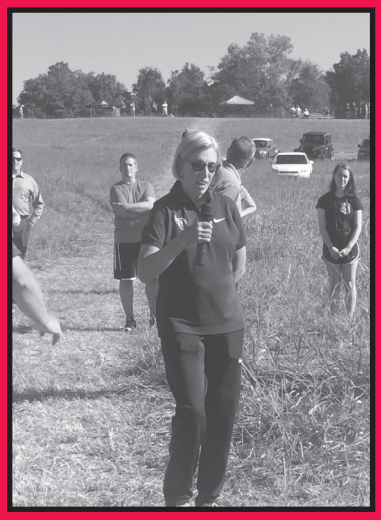


"I realize more and more each day why Jesus was careful to impress upon Peter the importance of feeding the lambs...The cry of my soul through busy days and tired nights is for the neglected child life of my Conference. It needs salvation of both soul and body. It needs to be led in the way to intelligent Christian citizenship."

~ Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley
Founder of Holston Home

Your support of Holston Home through Fifth Sunday is most important. Your contributions to the well-being of children helped by Holston Home have done wonders in the past and will do wonders again.

Terry Hull Crawford Visits her Hometown.



Terry Hull Crawford was raised in Greeneville where she excelled as an athlete before attending the University of Tennessee and becoming a three-time All-American.

Her accomplishments as an athlete and coach led her to become the USA Track & Field's first Director of Coaching.

This Fall she returned to Greeneville to be honored at the First Annual Terry Hull Crawford Invitational held at Holston Home's cross country course. Coach Crawford encouraged runners before signaling the race to begin.

That evening guests had the privilege of hearing Coach Crawford speak at the annual Friends of Children dinner in Greeneville.



Prayer in the Halls

"*Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.*" *-Mathew 11:28*

This is the verse that came to mind as I walked to the dining hall at Holston Home and spotted a group of boys huddled together praying for their friend. I held back tears as this sweet picture unfolded in front of me.

It wasn't just because a group of teenage boys had decided to stop and pray that caused me to pause, though that would have been enough. Something greater was happening and *has* been happening on campus for a while now. These boys were seeking their "Heavenly Father." They were choosing to call on Him during a time of need.

So many of the teenagers who come to Holston Home have a story that would keep most of us awake at night. Their lives have been defined by abandonment, turmoil, and darkness. However, when I see students praying in the hall, or at the flag pole, or on Sunday mornings during chapel, it is clear that The Light is winning at Holston Home.

Students are encountering Jesus for the very first time. They are discovering that they have a Heavenly Father that will "never leave of forsake them." The truth is setting in and changing the hearts and lives of many of the young people who walk through the doors of HUMHC.



They are finding rest in Jesus. It is a blessing to see the mission of this organization played out in a simple walk to the dining hall as three boys receive the hope and healing that comes through Jesus Christ.

-Alli Drinkwine
Editor

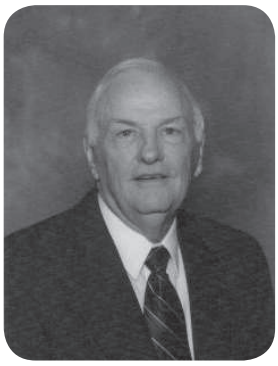
"In honor of" and "memorial" gifts may be made online at holstonhome.org or by mail sent to: Development Department, P.O. Box 188, Greeneville, TN 37744. Online donations are secured by PayPal.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

You are truly representing Christ in your job as ambassador. What you do gives hope to children who believe that no one cares about them. It is only when the church reaches out to them that their lives begin to change. Perhaps they have been extremely poor and never experienced the life we take for granted, or perhaps their families have been torn asunder by problems that seem insurmountable. Perhaps the stress of family breakdown has resulted in their being abandoned by family or removed from their family and placed in foster homes or other resources. As a result, children lose their identity and their self-esteem and are cast into a state of hopelessness. They lose their interest in school and in life itself.

Mrs. Wiley determined, when she established Holston Home 120 years ago, that every child had the right to a safe place to live, an opportunity to develop their God-



given abilities, and should learn about Jesus. Most of the children have never attended church. Some are even involved in cults or gangs. Many of them have had their taste of drugs and destructive behavior, but as they experience love their lives change. When children feel loved and worthwhile they respond in a positive way.

The next Fifth Sunday offering will be taken on November 29th. It is very important that you work with your pastor to use the free promotional materials which we provide for you. If you need materials please contact Nancy Presley at (423) 787-8726 or nancypresley@holstonhome.org. If you need further information to present to your congregations, please let us know and we will either come at your request to tell the story or we'll send you whatever information you need. Let's make this Fifth Sunday offering really count as we celebrate 120 years of sharing the love of Jesus with children at Holston Home.

Thank you for the good work you do. Be assured of our prayers that God will bless you as you are in ministry as an Ambassador for the least of God's children.

Blessings,

Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Vice President for Development and Church Relations

James 1:27

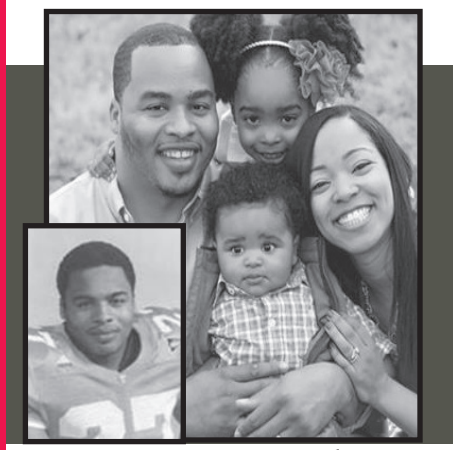
Friends of Children 2015



Tri-Cities: Holston Home Youth Choir performing for the event.



Greeneville: Guest speaker Terry Hull Crawford pictured in center.



Knoxville: Event speaker, former UT & Titans Football player, Troy Flemming and his family

Do you need help planning your estate? Holston Home has experts on staff who can help you develop a well-designed plan. Please contact the Rev. Charles Hutchins for more information at (423) 787-8723.

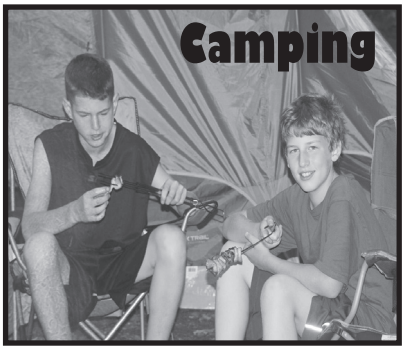
Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good,


Enjoying the Outdoors

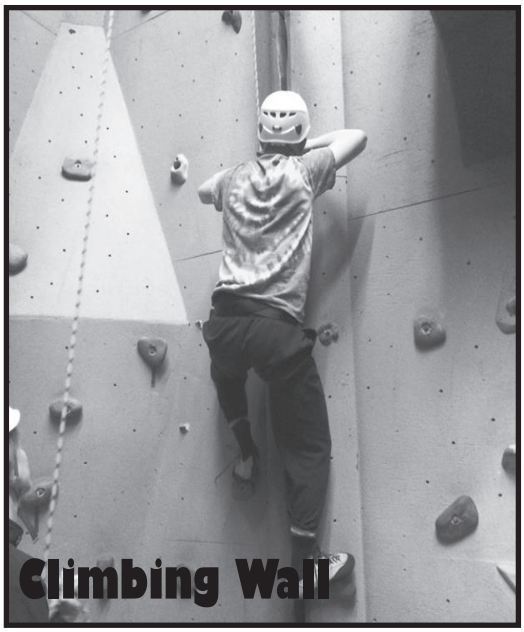


Color Run


Lake Day


Camping


Sam Heilig Concert


Climbing Wall

for His steadfast love endures forever! -Psalms 107:1

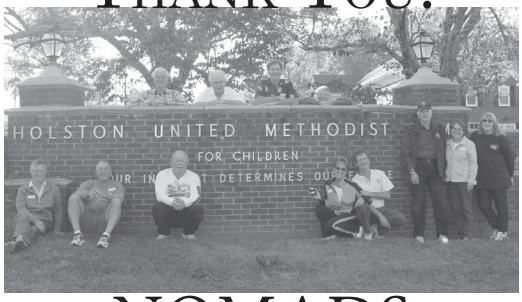
Many Thanks to all of the churches that gave to the ministry of Holston Home this year.



Merry Christmas

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.

Thank You!



NOMADS

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Visit us Online
@ www.holstonhome.org
-OR-
Check us out on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/HolstonHome.FCA

Wills and Bequests

Dear friends of Holston Home:

- Please send me information about "Wills and Bequests"
- Please contact me about a personal visit. The best time to call me is _____ a.m. or _____ p.m.
- I have provided for the Children's Home in my will or other estate-planning document.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Primary phone _____ Cell Home Business

Alternative phone _____ Cell Home Business

Email _____

Mail to: The Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Vice President for Development/Church Relations
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

For more information and help with your Estate Planning please call Chris Cates, Planned Giving Officer (423)-787-8725

Churches and work groups often plan day trips to Holston Home to see our beautiful campus, facilities and children. Your group is encouraged to visit. To arrange, please call Nicole Rader at (423) 787-8753.

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
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Help us update our records for the most efficient mailings. Please make any corrections to the above label and send it back to us.

- Name change
- I receive duplicate copies
- Address change
- I want to receive the newsletter by email
- Please remove me from the mailing list

A Glimpse Of History

At Harvest Time, Children Pitched in to Help Can Food For the Winter

During this harvest season, I am reminded of the years when Holston Orphanage produced most of its own food or relied on friends from around the Holston Conference to help out. In those years past preparations were made to feed hundreds of children each year. The gardens were always well planted to produce corn, beans, tomatoes, and other vegetables that were not only consumed fresh but were preserved to feed the children during the winter months. The boys planted and harvested and the girls prepared and canned.



When fruits and vegetables were brought to the kitchen, the girls worked in groups of ten to break beans, shuck corn, peel and slice apples, or whatever was necessary to either put the food on the table or preserve it for future use.

Food preparation was done under the supervision of staff such as Melvin Moore and friends like Montivilla Montgomery and Sue Ella Clingan. The the cooks taught the girls much about food, its preparation and preservation that would be helpful to them in years to come. Although harvest times always mean difficult work and hard long hours, the children worked together as family to do what was necessary to take care of each other.

~Eva Grey Hutchins

Holston Home for Children was founded in 1895 by Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley. She believed that every child should be provided with a safe home, a good education, and be given the opportunity to establish a relationship with Jesus Christ. We still believe in those principles.