Holston Happenings
newsletter

Summer 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.

I'm sure you can remember coming home and smelling something being cooked or baked in the kitchen. Immediately your mouth would begin to water, and you realized how hungry you were. There is just something about the smell of good food at home being surrounded by those who love us that makes us eat until we are full while enjoying every moment of it.

Holston Home recently hosted an Easter dinner for our kids and their families. Our staff and community mentors attended with the children who don't have any family members that are a part of their lives so that every child had someone who was there for them. I walked through the doors and smelled the familiar aroma of ham, rolls, green beans, and desserts. It was wonderful and I suddenly became aware of how hungry and at home I was. I hoped that our children and guests felt the same way.



I was scheduled to welcome everyone and bless our meal but I was talking with some of our youth beforehand. After 30+ years of working with young people I'm not easily surprised, but Nicole caught me off guard when she asked me if she could pray for everyone. Fourteen-year-olds aren't usually volunteering to pray out loud and almost never when it involves praying in a group of over 150 peers and strangers. How could I, and why would I, say no?

After welcoming everyone and making a dad joke about my Easter pink pants that failed to move anyone to laughter, I invited Nicole to come and pray for us. She talked to the Lord like a friend and asked Him to be with us and to help with things that are hard that we may be going through. She was sincere and confident as she led us into His presence.

Following our dinner, several youth blessed us with an art performance where they painted a mosaic that revealed our Savior on the cross as a beautiful worship song played in the background. I sat there and watched different kids expressing their love and faith in the Lord and doing so unaffected by the crowd…by who was there…or by who wasn't there for them. I suddenly realized what Jesus meant by encouraging us to be hungry and thirst for Him and His righteousness because we will be filled. David described the hunger that I saw that night in Psalms 107:

> *"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, For His mercy is everlasting. The redeemed of the Lord shall say so, those whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy. They were hungry and thirsty; Their souls felt weak within them. Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble; He saved them from their distresses. For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, and He has filled the hungry soul with what is good. But He sets the needy securely on high, away from affliction, and makes his families like a flock. The upright see it and are glad; But all injustice shuts its mouth."*

Sunday after Sunday children and women recovering from addiction come to be baptized. Throughout the week they share their testimonies with our pastors and meet to make sure they understand what baptism symbolizes. Then they come before us to be baptized after sharing what the Lord has done in their lives. I can't explain how special and beautiful these moments are, but I can almost feel guilty that I have a front row seat to how the Lord is moving while friends like you aren't there and knowing that you have been so faithful in your prayers and support through the years. In the last 9 months alone we have seen 35 children and adults that have made professions of faith and followed the Lord in baptism. It is so powerful! I'd like to end by sharing with you a few excerpts from some of the testimonies:

Michelle: "Bound in an abusive relationship for 13 years and losing my dad to cancer, I lost myself. Giving the devil a foothold to speak lies that I believed, I thought I wasn't good enough; nobody wanted me, and I wasn't worthy of love. The only relief I found was through drugs, the darkest time of my life. Jesus has pulled me out of the pits of hell. My sin is covered by the blood and He removed my shame and guilt. God knew exactly what I needed bringing me here. I needed healing and hope in His word to replace the lies. God says, 'I am enough, I am wanted, and I am loved.' Today, I am thankful to be baptized to allow the old me to die and rise from the water, made new in Christ."

Jason: "I'm a child of God. I have always known there was a God. I just thought I was too cool for it all. Turns out I'm not. I realized God wanted me to be a part of His great plan. I knew that He wanted to walk with me and for me not to stray away. I let Him in my heart, and soon after I confessed with my tongue that He is my Savior, it felt great. Me being baptized is just the start. I'm gonna be a great disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Kaitlynn: "I used to think I had life all figured out. I was very mistaken. I made it through a rough childhood because I know what it's like to be hungry and without. Needless to say, I had to grow up fast. I knew God only through church and nightly prayers with my grandma. I had no idea of the depth of God's unfailing love and fingerprints already in my life. Today my future grows brighter and brighter. My mother always said that I was the one thing she got right. Today I leave my old self under the water and rise a new person through Jesus Christ before all of you. I vow my life to spread the goodness of God."

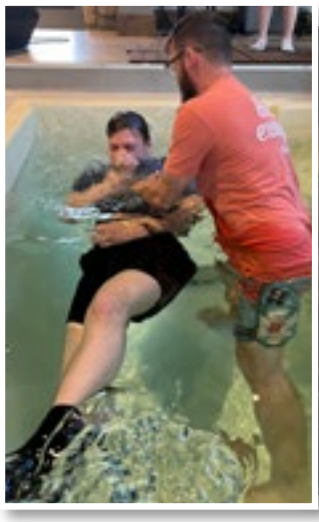
When they are at home, safe and loved they realize how hungry they are — not just for physical food but for the Bread of Life that will never run out. What a blessing it is to see their hunger and watch them eat until they are full, enjoying time with Him.

Thank you for your part in providing a home and setting the table. Your prayers and financial support are being used by the Lord, as He creates these stories and testimonies. I pray blessings for you and your families, and I ask the Lord to give you and me that kind of hunger for Him and His righteousness. God bless you and thank you again!

Bradley



Michelle

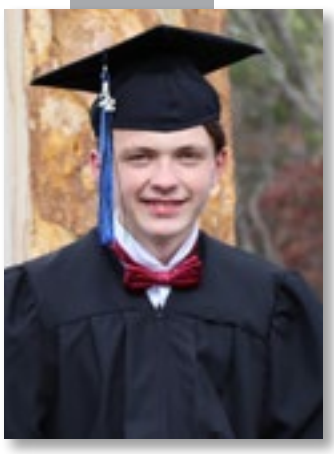


Jason



Kaitlynn

Student Success



Before coming to Holston Home, JB struggled with social anxiety and relationships. During his time at the Home, he worked on his social skills and vocational aptitude and held a job at Wendy's. In December, he graduated from River Academy, and he left Holston in January. Since leaving, JB has continued his job at Wendy's and this young man who could barely speak to strangers earned the title Employee of the Month at the restaurant. JB also got his driver's license and bought his first car, a 2004 Chevy Classic, with money he saved while he was in our independent living program.

JB is an uncle and enjoys helping his sister take care of her two children. He also cares for his pet rabbit, cat, lizards, and fish. His long-term career goal is to open a greenhouse because he loves growing and nurturing plants. He is gaining experience towards this goal by caring for a room full of house plants. JB would love to work in a greenhouse one day to begin working in the field of horticulture.

While at Holston Home, JB always loved working at the barn and riding the horses. The annual beach trip is a special memory for him, and staff remember how he never wanted to get out of the ocean!

JB would like you to know that he appreciates all you did for him as a supporter of Holston Home. His message for other youth served by Holston is that they can do good if they stay focused on their goals. Congratulations, JB. We are celebrating your successes and praying God's best for your future!

Ella Price, Food Service Director, shares a favorite recipe that Holston Home youth love!



STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD with Balsamic Dressing

Salad Ingredients:
Fresh baby spinach, washed and cleaned
Fresh strawberries, sliced
Feta cheese crumbles
Your favorite nuts (walnuts, pecans, almonds)

Dressing:
1 cup Balsamic vinegar
1 cup olive oil (or oil of your choice)
2 cups brown or white sugar

The great thing about this salad is you can use as much or as little of these ingredients as you like. You can also use other fruits such as pineapples, apples, or mandarin oranges. In the fall, try adding dried cranberries for that festive holiday flavor.

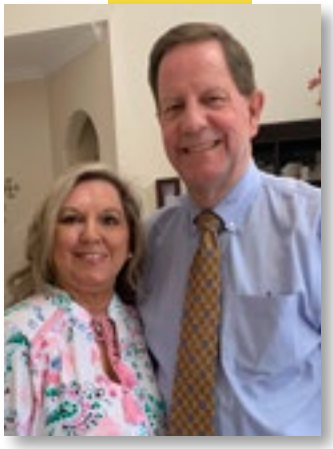
The key to a well-blended dressing is in the mixing. It must be mixed until the sugar is blended with the oil and vinegar. After mixing, let it sit for an hour and mix again. The dressing should be the consistency of syrup. If it's thinner than syrup, add more sugar. The sugar will settle to the bottom. When the dressing is all used up leave the sugary concoction (the mother) on the bottom to start another batch.

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.
- **DONATE A PASSENGER VAN** OR **GIVE FINANCIALLY** TO HELP MAKE THE PURCHASE. We need a large vehicle so we can transport students.

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

Donor Spotlight



We recently caught up with John and LeeAnn Bailes. John chairs the board and LeeAnn is a wonderful cheerleader for our ministry.

HHC: Why is our mission and ministry important?
John: Family is very important to me. I was fortunate to grow up in a loving home with parents who set a good example for my brother, three sisters, and me. I am saddened when I hear of the struggles that youth are encountering. I want very much for the kids and their families to have help in dealing with their struggles.

HHC: What are you most excited about?
John: I am excited about the continued growth in the ministries and the continued interest from the people in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia who faithfully support Holston Home. So many kids are getting the support they need, learning about Jesus, continuing their education, and participating in many activities.

HHC: Why do you support Holston Home?
John: After meeting some of the children, seeing the need and realizing the impact of the ministries, we will continue to give significant emphasis to supporting Holston Home. Recently, LeeAnn was on the campus and took a tour to see what I have been talking about for years. On our drive home, she said… "whatever we are donating, we need to increase it!" I said "yes ma'am!"

HHC: What do you want others to know?
John: This place is special. It has supported children and families for over 125 years. The mission is still the same, but the impact continues to expand. The staff and management are terrific, work well together, and help the children in so many ways. The Board of Trustees is solidly on board with the mission and supportive of the activity of Holston Home. I have served on multiple not-for-profit boards. This, by far, is the most satisfying board on which I have served… to see the daily impact on the lives of youth, women struggling with addiction, and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

HHC: When did you join the Board of Trustees and what does this service look like?
John: I am in the middle of my second term. I have attended every quarterly board meeting since joining in 2018. I always look forward to being on campus to see the children, to interact with staff and board members, and to share a meal in the cafeteria. I was humbled a few years ago when I was asked if I would be willing to serve as chair of the board. Why me? Then I thought, why not me? I am a competitor at heart. I want to be part of a great team. I am following some of the best. I continue to see great things happening. Children are coming to know Jesus. They are being helped with life's challenges. Along the way, I have also been richly blessed. I can see that I have helped in a small way to support a tremendous effort that has continued for so many years and will continue to do so for many years to come.

HHC: LeeAnn, What stands out to you about your campus tour?
LeeAnn: The campus was beautiful, well-kept, and peaceful. There was just a sense of calmness. It was as if you could feel God's love. God's spirit is there! Everyone I met had such a loving attitude. You could tell that they loved the kids they interacted with and their jobs. It was so obvious that they hurt for the kids and only wanted the best outcomes for them. When I toured the residences, they were so neat, decorated so pretty, and had loving touches around to make it more of a home atmosphere. I loved how the kids are given brand new clothes to wear. They can cut the tags off themselves which some might not have ever done before. New clothes just for them! The kids we serve are given real school experiences outside of the classroom. From dances to sports, they are not missing out. Holston Home is the heart and hands of God. Kids' lives are being changed for the better! Kids will leave knowing that God loves them, and other adults love them too!

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

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

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 July 30, 2023

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.