Holston Happenings
newsletter
Summer, 2016



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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After landing in Guatemala with a team of our youth, I quickly saw a ray of sunshine in the form of Brittney. I didn't know Brittney as well as some of the other youth because she had been living in one of our foster homes. Brittney would show up at a Vacation Bible School event with a smile the size of Heaven and children would swarm her. She was a kid-magnet even before she started giving out hugs and candy, painting faces, or giving the little Guatemalan girls manicures. After doing those things she reached super-hero status among more than 1,000 Guatemalan children over the course of our time there.



I knew that Brittney had almost backed out of the trip at the last minute, but I didn't know why. After a few days, I asked her, "Brittney, what in the world almost kept you from going on this trip?" For the first time I saw her smile fade, and she looked at the ground. She told me that she had become a Christian only about a year ago while going to church with her foster family. She went on to explain that she started getting scared that kids would ask her questions about God that she couldn't answer. She was so afraid that she would say something wrong and keep kids from knowing Jesus.

Brittney's smile returned as I reminded her of the impact she was having on these children. At first I was so touched that she was willing to give up her trip to put what, she thought, was best for other children above herself. But then I got angry when I realized how Satan had tried to steal and destroy this beautiful young lady's joy, freedom in Christ, and opportunity to bless the children of Guatemala. I am so thankful that our foster family and Director of Christian Life encouraged her to trust the Lord and not give in to fear.

This experience stuck with me even after returning home. I often find myself and other believers getting hindered by doubts when we should trust God and His perfect love inside us. John writes, "There is no fear in love." I John 4:18a. I am determined that our ministry will strive to dispel the fears, doubts, and feelings of inadequacies in our youth that keep them from experiencing God's best for them.

Take a moment and think about some of the things that have been done for you and that you have done for others through the power of love. I would bet there are some crazy things, some fun things, some easy things, and some really hard things. Love has been and always will be a timeless and transformational gift that God has given us. Our challenge is to not allow fear cripple love and weaken it to being just a good intention.

We are so blessed to have you alongside of us sharing God's love with our children and youth. Thank you for your prayers, time, and financial support. With your help God continues to change lives like Brittney's here at Holston Home for Children.

In Christ,

Bradley S. Williams

Restoring Families

With many of our families we see the effects that a traumatic childhood can have on adults. Without help these adults lack the skills needed to effectively parent. Ms. Jones is one such parent. She did not get the help she needed when she was growing up and bad choices and poor coping skills followed her into her adult life. Ms. Jones struggled with drugs, abusive boyfriends and criminal activity. These choices led her to jail for a period of time.



During the time when Ms. Jones was in jail, her two children, Harper(5) and Shauna(3), were brought to Holston Home and placed with one of our foster families. They were scared and not sure of what to expect while being away from their mother. Despite her poor choices, Ms. Jones loved her children very much. The foster mom quickly showed Ms. Jones that she wanted to love her children and build a relationship with her as well. The love and compassion that the foster family was able to show them built a trusting relationship and displayed a type of caring support that Ms. Jones had not experienced with her own family.

Once Ms. Jones was released from jail, she made the difficult decision to separate herself from family and friends who had not been a positive influence in her life and took the awkward step of reaching out to a new support system of people. As a result of all of the hard work and changes that Ms. Jones made in her life, Harper and Shauna are now at home with their mother and doing well.

Caring for children involves caring for the people that they care about. Short of a relationship with Christ, we will never give a child a better gift than giving them a healthier parent, if at all possible. Our prayer is that with this approach, we can change generations of dysfunction, pain and dependence on governmental systems to meet their needs.

To read more stories visit us online at holstonhome.org

Friends of Children 2016



Bristol, VA: The event was held at the Olde Farm in Abingdon, VA. John Tickle of the Strongwell Corp. was the guest speaker for the occasion.



Cleveland, TN: The University of Tennessee's Joan Cronan gifted Holston Home with her words of wisdom and a copy of her new book, "Sport is Life."

Holston Highlights



Prom 2016: The theme: "Taking off the Masks." It was a night to remember for our students at Beacon Sachool.



Field Day: Dressed in tie-dye and ready to play. Beacon School students finished the school year with a day of fun and games.



Camping: The boys and girls at Holston Home enjoyed the fun and adventure of camping this summer.



Annual Connference: Christian Life Director, Abel Carrico, and a few of our youth led worship at this year's Annual Holston Conference in Lake Junaluska, NC.



Sundown on Depot: The car show that raised money to benefit Holston Home, was a success! A special thanks to Bill Collins and many others who made the event possible.



Library Renovation: The library at Beacon School has a brand new look. Thanks to board member, Bryan Jackson and his wife Beth for leading the charge!



Spring Graduation: Congratulations to our 2016 Spring Graduates!

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



Guatemala: This was the second year for students and staff from Holston Home to spend a week in Guatemala doing mission work. It was a life changing experience for everyone involved.



Young Life Camp: Five students from Holston Home joined Greene Young Life for a week at summer camp in Brevard, NC.

Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

There is no better way for us to express our love to Christ than to care for His "little ones." All children need to know the love of Christ, which only the church can show them. When children have suffered from abuse, abandonment, and neglect, they especially need to know that Jesus loves them.

You can be sure that every effort is made to develop the potential God has given each of these young people. As they are cared for in their homes, helped to learn in school, and participate in worship in our Chapel, they have opportunities to know hope, love, and trust.



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 ambassador for Holston Home in your church. Thank you for your faithfulness in putting up posters, assisting with stuffing bulletin inserts, and reminding your pastor to use the bulletin messages. Keep up the good work and let us know how we can be helpful to you. (423) 787-8723

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

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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 October 30, 2016!

A Glimpse Of History

Every summer as the children go off to camp, I am reminded of Camp Harden, the summer camp provided for the children of Holston Home. Remember, it was before the days of air conditioning and the children lived in Wiley Hall, which was that huge three-story dormitory in the center of the old campus.



Camp Harden was a 12-acre property located at the foot of Greystone Mountain, adjacent to a Cherokee National Forest. The property was acquired in 1927, and I can imagine that the children helped to clear the site. A two-story building, sufficient to accommodate about 40 children, was built near a spring. The building had screened porches across the front of both levels. Local stones were used to build a swimming pool, filled by means of a pipe which directed the water down from the mountain.

The children were given two weeks each summer to enjoy the camp. Sometimes they were lucky enough to get a second camping session. Staff provided adult supervision. It was a welcomed respite in the middle of a hot summer, and a time when they could get a break from their summer chores back in town.

Adjacent properties were added to the camp until it totaled 180 acres. The camp was closed and the property sold for $2,000 in 1954, in the midst of the new building program. It had not been used for more than a decade.

– Eva Grey Hutchins

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