Holston Happenings
newsletter

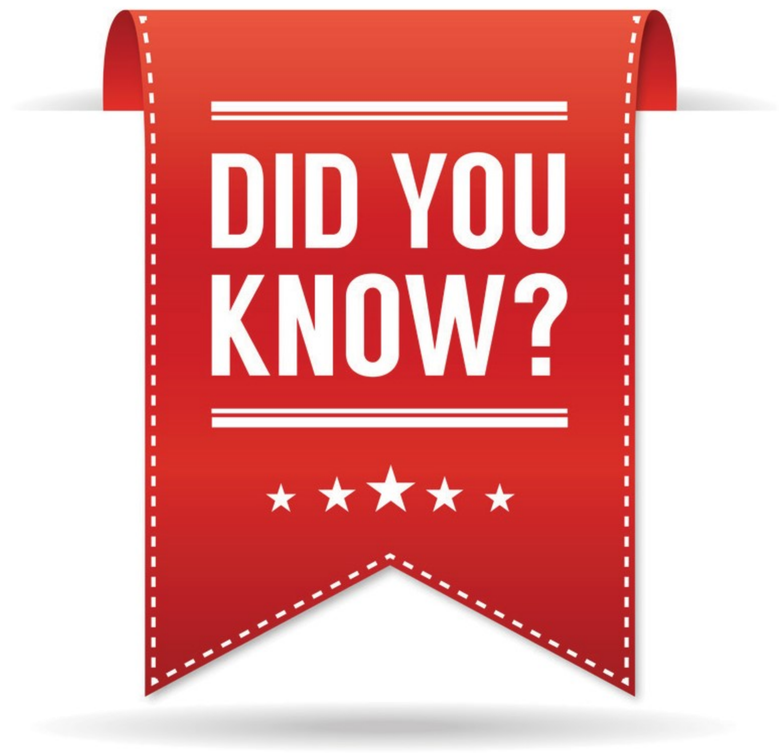
Winter, 2020



Providing Hope
and Healing for a Brighter Future...

A publication of
Holston United Methodist
Home for Children

“Did You Know” 2019 Facts:



- 74 Youth **participated in an organized sport** while living at Holston Home.
- 41.5 **credits were recovered** by students in the credit recovery program at Beacon School.
- 28 Youth **got their first jobs** while residents of Holston Home.
- 8 Youth **saw the ocean for the first time** when we took our annual beach trip.
- 263 Youth **participated in the Equestrian Program**.
- Approximately 210 **rode a horse for the first time**.



2019 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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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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Happy New Year! I pray 2020 is off to a great start for you and your families. I can't think of a better way to encourage you than by sharing a testimony of one of our young ladies, Alicia. I was so blessed by her honesty, courage and joy as she shared her story a few weeks ago in our chapel service.

Alicia talked about being abused and neglected and that she tried to cope with these hurts by creating chaos everywhere she went. She said that chaos was her normal. She shared that when she came to Holston Home she hated going to church because she saw some of our staff there with their families. She went on to say that she was angry with God because He hadn't given her a family like that. The only reason she didn't refuse to attend our chapel services was because she didn't want to prevent the staff from going to church by having to stay back with her, so she would make herself go taking all of her resentment with her.

Then she described attending a service that was so powerful where the Holy Spirit broke through the walls that she had built with His love and grace. She discovered what Paul had learned two thousand years ago — that His grace is sufficient! She accepted Jesus as Lord of her life and He began transforming her and how she viewed the world.

The enemy is always at work to deceive and distort the truth of God's goodness. He had portrayed these loving staff families to Alicia as evidence that she didn't matter to her Heavenly Father. The Light of the world then revealed the truth to her that these families were a picture of how He saw her. She began praying that God "would bring people who were positive good supports in her life." She then told us with joy and a supernatural smile, "Their families became my family!" In fact, one of our staff's wife, Kate, became her mentor and is pouring more love and truth into her life.

One of my favorite verses is Romans 8:28:

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who are called according to His purpose. (NASB)

I love how God revealed His power by using the very thing that Satan tried to use to keep Alicia from Him to now help her grow closer to Him. When we stop struggling to overcome the chaos in our lives in our own strength and let the Author of Peace take the lead, He can do some amazing things.

I want you to be encouraged by Alicia's story. Regardless of the chaos you may be going through, take courage in how God can use "all", not "some", but all things together for good as we love Him and stay committed to His purposes.

And the other thing I want to underscore is that you are part of Alicia's answered prayer. Through your prayers and gifts, you have been "people who are positive and good supports" in her life and the lives of hundreds of others. I would even say that you are part of their spiritual family. Thank you for your faithful support of our kiddos! I pray that you and your family will experience the Lord in new life-changing ways this year.

In Christ,

Bradley

P.S. Come and visit us! We would love to meet you and let you see this ministry up close.

Christmas Blessings

Evelyn Reagan's mother died when she was eleven years old which led to her and her younger sister going to live at a children's home in another part of the state. Evelyn remembers how difficult Christmas was for her when she was there and wants the kids at Holston Home to have better memories. So she and her husband Herbert have been faithfully caring for children at Holston Home around Christmas time for 30 years, coordinating with their church family at First United Methodist in Gatlinburg, shopping for kids, and delivering the gifts to campus. This past December they assembled and delivered 68 bags for our children. Each bag included a letter from the church and one from Evelyn. The letters encouraged our kids and shared God's love with them. The bags for girls included socks and slippers, cologne, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, sponges, candy, cookies and gift cards. The ones for the boys included socks, deodorant, shampoo, body wash, candy, cookies, Little Debbie Christmas cakes and gift cards.

All of the kids said that they loved their gift bags and the special cards. One youth had been saving his allowance for quite some time so that he could buy a pair of shoes that he had been wanting. The money in the card allowed him to have enough to buy the shoes so he was overjoyed. Two other youth who were leaving used the money to purchase phones to stay in contact with Holston Home. One youth was traveling on a bus out of state to go live with his mom and was very thankful to have extra money to buy the phone. This allowed him to be able to contact us along the way to let us know that he was ok. The bus that he was supposed to get on didn't arrive so he was able to call us to see what he needed to do.

We understand that Evelyn has already started purchasing items for next Christmas, taking advantage of after-Christmas sales. She mentioned that she found toboggans for 70% off and bought enough for all the boys!

In November of 2016 when fires were sweeping through Gatlinburg, Evelyn thought her house would surely go up in flames, but the fires miraculously stopped before reaching her home. She believes that God prevented the flames from reaching her because she had the Christmas gift bags there ready to be delivered to Holston Home!

We are so thankful for the Reagans and First United Methodist Church in Gatlinburg and friends like them who bless and care for our kids at Christmas time and throughout the year!



Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

Your work as Ambassador to your church for the children of Holston Home means more, much more than you can imagine.

I am aware that many Methodists in the Holston Conference are struggling to meet budgets and to keep up with special projects. However, we are very grateful for your loyalty to the children in the care of Holston Home.

As often as you can, remind your church that they are participating in helping children go from hopelessness to success, from being behind in their school work to being able to return to public school and succeed, to achieving their dream to graduate from high school. Remind them that they are returning home to rehabilitated families while others are finding families through adoption. Tell



them that children who were struggling with anger issues or experimentation with drugs are now overcoming and children are getting to know Jesus.

Work with your pastor to give every member the opportunity to support the children in our care. This is YOUR children's home. It gives YOU the opportunity to bring children without hope or support into a world where they can experience the joy of success. We provide all the promotional materials you need to prepare for FIFTH SUNDAY offerings. We will mail the quantities you have previously requested. You should receive them at least three weeks prior to FIFTH SUNDAY, but if you need more contact Nancy at (423)787-8726. We hope you will use them as suggested.

If you wish to know more about the ministry of Holston Home or wish to have a speaker for any event in your church, call me at (423) 727-8723 or email me at charleshutchins@holstonhome.org.

Thank you for your good work. Be assured of our prayers for you as you represent God's children who need the church at critical times in their lives. May God bless you richly for what you do.

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

IRA Giving



Would you like to positively impact children at Holston Home and enjoy tax and income benefits at the same time? If you are age 701/2 or older, you can roll over up to $100,000 from your IRA to Holston Home without paying federal income tax and the gift qualifies for your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Please contact your IRA custodian to find out how to make a charitable transfer to Holston Home. If you have not yet turned 701/2 you can still begin making plans about how to take advantage of this approach in the future to benefit the children!

Holston United Methodist
Home for Children
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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 March 29, 2020

A Glimpse of History

Many people have made an impact on the history of Holston Home. A few stand out as having a profound impact on the children. Of course, Mrs. Elizabeth Wiley, our founder, is among those, as were J.L. Hardin, Miss Kay Shanton, Dr. Walter Smith and Miss Belle Hennen.

Miss Belle joined the staff of Holston Orphanage in 1923. She had just graduated from Bible School and was consecrated as a missionary of the Methodist Church. She was assigned to Holston Orphanage, but was soon reassigned to work in War, West Virginia. From there she was called home because of the illness and death of her sister. She returned to Holston in 1925 as matron in charge of the smaller boys.



It was to remain her life's work. She was involved with more than just the boys, because she wrote to a friend, "It is a busy day we matrons have from the ringing of the rising bell at 5:30 a.m. until the children are in bed at 7 and 8 p.m., but oh, what a joy to be serving in His name! Mending overalls and dresses, darning hose, washing faces and hands, combing hair, and caring for the sick, occupies a large portion of our time, but we are trying to instill truths that build character and help these children grow into Christian men and women."

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

In 1933, because of her health, Miss Belle requested a change of position and was made head matron. Although she never married or had children of her own, she was honored as Greeneville's "Mother of the Year" in 1940. She died on December 1, 1952 at the age of 74, after 29 years of service to Holston Orphanage. Her body was laid to rest in the little cemetery on the campus, the first adult to be buried there.

Miss Belle was the consummate caregiver who not only impacted the lives of many children but set an example of Christian love for other matrons (later called houseparents) and staff to follow. Children and staff were all blessed by her presence.

– Eva Grey Hutchins