

Open Doors

Volume 46 No. 2 • Second Quarter 2021

Giving Children Hope and Purpose For The Future

PCHH

Jeremiah 29:11

COMING HOME AGAIN!



Becky in the early years at the Home with her siblings, Robin and Scott



Driving up to the Presbyterian Children's Home in the early 1980's, I felt good about the new change for me, my brother and sister. We had been separated in several Foster Homes, which made each of us feel like outsiders trying to fit into private families. Now, we would finally be back together. I shared a room with our little sister and our brother was in Gilmer Cottage next door. I remember the first person to greet us was Mrs. Wynette who offered us her smile and a cold drink. She will always be etched in my mind as one of the sweetest people on earth. I graduated in 1983, left the home and started a new journey of growth both personally and eventually in building my own family. After 23 years of working at the same job and having been away from PCHH for 38 years, a door opened for an opportunity to work as a Houseparent at PCHH. As I walked through the doors I had all the feelings of being home again. All the memories started flooding back. When I walk outside memories begin to come; the softball games played in which my sister was the star pitcher, building snowmen in the beautiful snow, meeting for wonderful meals in the dining room (I could talk about how good the food was all day), and meeting in the mornings for devotions and prayer before starting each day. I could fill this page with many more memo-

ries of the happy times I spent at PCHH as a child. I can look back and see how the Home shaped my life and my future. Being here allowed me to have some lifelong friends as well. I am so grateful for having spent those valuable years at PCHH. As a house parent, it's my desire to give the children the blessings that were given to me. My hope is that through my advice they can see the importance of several things. First, focusing on school needs to be one of their priorities. Secondly, build a happy future by making good choices. Also, don't let others define who you are to become, and build themselves from the goodness they know is in their hearts. To be kind and show the same respect to others they want shown to them. Finally, to place their lives in God's hands and watch what he will do for and through them. By working hard and with the love of our Lord, they can accomplish a life they want for themselves. By doing these things you will always find the Home is where the heart is. *(Becky Bedsaul was a resident during the late 70's and early 80's. We are so blessed that she had "come home again" as a house parent and has personal experiences which help guide our children each day, further setting the example that with faith on God and good hard work ethic you can achieve anything!)*

Executive Director's Comments



Billy Rice
Executive Director

The end of the school year and the beginning of summer is usually a time of celebration on our campus, and this year is no exception. High school graduation takes center stage during this time and Dixie will be receiving her diploma. Graduation is always special, but I think all the obstacles our students had to navigate during the pandemic makes their accomplishments even more meaningful. I believe I join most of you in looking forward to all of our students returning to a more traditional learning model in the fall. With that being said, the lessons we learned from virtual education will certainly help us with students that need it in the future.

Another reason for celebration is documented in our cover story from this newsletter. We are always delighted to hear about the success stories of our alumni, but when their life choices bring them back to our ministry as a staff member it is a truly special time. Becky is doing a wonderful job working with the young ladies and men in our care, and we are truly blessed to have her. I hope you enjoy reading about her journey – it is one of my all-time favorite covers!

The arrival of summer always brings the opening of our pool, meals in the picnic shelter, soft-

ball games and corn hole tournaments. However, we have a special reason to be celebrating this year – the opening of our campus to visitors as we recover from the pandemic. It has been over a year since we have been able to let our supporters visit us, and we have missed you! We believe that will change this summer, and when it does we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to see what your support means to the children God has sent to our ministry. Until then, please join us in celebrating all the blessings God has bestowed on our ministry and His children.

With Hope,

Billy



BREAKING NEWS!!!



We are so proud to announce that Ethan has achieved his certification as a Master Brake installer through his auto technology class at the Wythe County Technology Center! Way to go Ethan!!!

Open Doors

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www.pchh.org • info@pchh.org

This agency complies with all state and federal non-profit fundraising regulations.

Open Doors is an educational publication produced in-house periodically to provide insights about PCHH.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Billy Rice

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Shower of Blessings

for



Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

Shampoo

Conditioner

Body Wash

Deodorant

Disposable razors

Night lights

Laundry detergent pods

Dryer sheets

Dishwasher pods

Online Memberships, ie (Discovery +, HULU, etc.)

Craft supplies

Adult coloring books

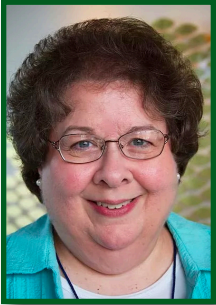
Coloring pencils

Good used vehicles

Prayers, Prayers, Prayers

Board View

Shelda Wills, PCHH Board of Directors



When I think of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, three things immediately come to mind for me: children, hope, and love. Obviously, I think of children because it is a Children's Home. I think of hope because of the motto of PCHH, "Giving children hope and purpose for the future." I think of love because the only way to give children hope and purpose is to share love with them.

I'm a retired secondary school teacher. During my first year of teaching, probably one of the most important things I learned very quickly was that every child, regardless of his or her circumstances, needs to feel cared for and loved. The children at PCHH are just like all other children in that respect. Regardless of their backgrounds or the problems they have encountered during their young lives, they deserve and yearn to be cared for and loved.

As a member of the Board of Directors at PCHH, I have witnessed the love and care the staff members show to each child. Every staff member realizes that all children are sensitive, humble, open, and filled with enthusiasm and adventure and imagination. They also realize that children may be angry and frightened at times. The staff members are there for each child, during the good times as well as the bad. The children can go to any staff member at any time with any type of problem or concern, knowing that they will not be judged or ridiculed. They know the staff members really care about them and love them, and they know they can trust in that love.

I mentioned the word "hope" earlier. There is a story that Robert Louis Stevenson, as a small child, would often press his face against the windowpane to watch the lamplighter come down the street. One evening, when he was asked what he was doing at the window, he replied, "I'm watching the lamplighter. He's punching holes in the darkness." Hope enables each one of us to "punch holes in the darkness." Hope sustains us with unflinching strength in the darkest hours of the night. That's what PCHH does for the children it serves. Not only does it show love to the children, but it also "punches holes in the darkness" and gives the children hope for a brighter future. PCHH lets the children in its care know that they are special individuals who can accomplish anything, as long as they strive to do their best in every endeavor.

I can honestly say that serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. It has been a blessing for me to serve and see first-hand the wonderful things that the staff members do for the children entrusted to their care. It has also been a blessing to witness the love and respect that the children have for the staff members. PCHH is truly a home, a home composed of one huge, wonderful, happy family!

Developing the Future

Dale T. Yontz, Development Director



The importance of strategic planning has never been more evident than it is right now. We as a society find ourselves at a critical crossroads with opportunities to effect lasting changes in many avenues. The duties of Development Director have changed drastically during the past year and no longer encompass simply marketing and fundraising. Here at

PCHH we have expanded the duties to include all of the Campus IT as well as looking toward the future of infrastructure planning and what will benefit our children the most. As I am sure you have already heard we started last fall with a full upgrade of the internet on our campus, which included having fiber installed in the cottages and administration building. As we progress into the spring we are working diligently to complete the circuit to include the entire campus so our residents, staff and visitors will have access to the most up to date highspeed fiber optic internet possible. This benefits us in development as well by allowing us to now offer the chapel with internet capability to civic and church groups who may be interested in visiting our campus for training or presentations. This allows us the ability to have the opportunity to host more than one group of visitors at a time with the availability of various up to date meeting locations. The increased internet is a great benefit for our children as we have been able to essentially eliminate internet outages which gives them a definite advantage in the virtual world. This has also allowed us to cut costs by using all streaming services for TV entertainment. As we go forward with COVID restrictions easing, I think we will see positive changes in our abilities to effectively visit you and your churches both in person and virtually. We have many more projects in the work that will modernize our campus even more over the coming months. Stay tuned for more updates and to see how your love and support is effecting positive changes and continues "giving children hope and purpose for the future."



Recent Blessings Collection from Blacksburg Presbyterian Church.

Your Prayers & Support in Action



Success Without Sacrifice

by Bob Dunaway,
Evening Supervisor

Success without sacrifice is like flowers Without Rain

You cannot have growth without a little pain.

Pain is a tool in the hands of the Master

He cuts away all those things which don't really matter.

We think we can't live without them but we soon come to see

When we turn loose in our hands those things we think we need.

So, let go shake it off and watch what our God can do

He has a special plan not just for me but also for you.

Yes, it will hurt and sometimes seem to cut you to the core

But when you let go you will find He has so much more

So let go endure the pain that will only last for a season

You will understand later and see that He had a reason

Success without sacrifice is like flowers without rain

You cannot have growth without a little pain.



We Proudly Accept:



Join us for the Annual



Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands Golf Championship

Friday, August 6, 2021

Wytheville Golf Club • Wytheville, VA

\$300 Per Team • 8am & 1pm Tee Times

Includes Catered Lunch

Golf Fees • Goody Bag • Prizes & Drawings

“Chance to change a child’s life”

**Over 100 Years of Giving Children Hope
and Purpose for the Future**

For more information please contact us at 276.228.2861

or mail in your registration form to

PCHH Golf Championship • P.O. Box 545 • Wytheville, VA 24382

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Player 1 _____ Player 2 _____

Player 3 _____ Player 4 _____

Contact Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Payment CHECK CREDIT CARD ~ Preferred Tee Time AM PM

Sorry I can't play but I would like to be a sponsor of this great cause \$ _____



2021 Senior Spotlight



Dixie graduated from George Wythe High School on Friday, May 21, 2021. After graduation, Dixie plans to continue working at Hardee's and maybe even take on more responsibilities with a second job for the summer. She is looking forward to saving money to buy a car and to finding an apartment. She hopes to work towards a job in childcare but is undecided on her immediate career and college goals. Dixie has shown significant progress towards her goal of living independently by being considerate and cooperative; and by understanding the importance of living near people that care about her, all while forming a strong support system as she starts her journey into adulthood. She is very bright and highly motivated. She is dedicated to building a good home and promising future for her and her son Alex. These qualities continue to make Dixie an asset to the PCHH Independent Living Program.

CONGRATULATIONS

Reflections of the Past

One of the biggest issues we have had over the years here at PCHH is lack of photo documentation of our early years. Fortunately we have recently acquired some generous donations of historical photos from alumni Jane Lovern's collection as well as from the estate of Carolyn Arbuckle. We are going to begin sharing these as we believe they paint a true picture of the evolution of the home as well as the ever present love that is shown to each child. If you don't see yourself, stay tuned as we literally have thousands of images to catalog and sort through. Also if you have images you would like to submit please email them to dale@pchh.org. For the meantime, enjoy these wonderful memories.

