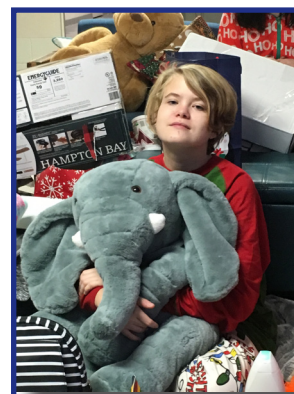


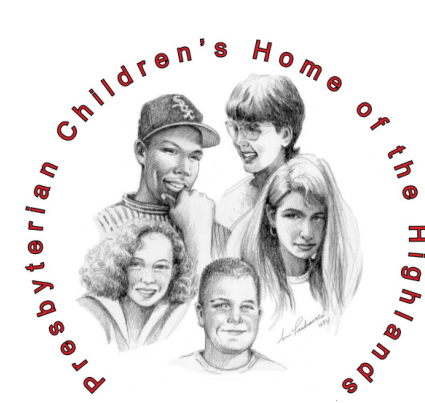
# Christmas Memories



Every family has an album of memories from the Christmas Season. Here at PCHH we strive to document as many milestone moments as possible and over the years alumni have returned to look through and even take some of these treasured photographs to help them reflect on the positive ways the Children's Home helped to shape their lives. Supporters like you make these memories possible, so please take a moment to look at these pictures and enjoy the smiles and wonderful memories you have helped to create! God Bless You All!!!



Rural Retreat Lady Indians Basketball delivered homemade cookies to all residents and staff!



# Open Doors

Volume 46 No. 1 • First Quarter 2021

*Giving Children Hope and Purpose For The Future*

**PCHH**  
Jeremiah 29:11

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS



One of the traditions that we hold most dear to our PCHH family is the celebration of Christmas. Who can't relate to the joy and excitement of the days and weeks leading up to that holiest of days marking the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. However, 2020 had a totally different feel here on campus. Things were changed and re-arranged at the last minute and through it all our residents and staff stayed the course to keep things as traditional as possible. We are very serious about following the guidelines that are set forth regarding COVID-19 and even adhering to the things that are merely suggested. This has, however, been very successful for the health of everyone here on the hill through this time. Due to this we had to cancel our annual Christmas Dinner with the residents as it would have placed us in violation of the gathering rules set forth by our Governor; however, we did manage to continue with our tradition of the reading of the Christmas Story. Instead of having the normal audience, Skylar allowed us to record it and share it virtually through social media with our vast number of supporters. On Christmas day our children received an abundance of Christmas gifts

from both the Home and wonderful supporters like you! Excitement was everywhere as we celebrated Christmas, albeit in a socially distanced manner. We were welcomed to a new tradition following Christmas as an anonymous staff member and their family decided to provide a full steak dinner complete with Ribeye's and all the fixins' for the children and staff on New Year's Eve. This was a huge success and a wonderful surprise and something that the residents will look forward on an annual basis. It's true 2020 was tough and is behind us, but it has blessed us with a sense of family that otherwise could have slipped through our fingers. Thank you for being with us during this time and continuing your unwavering love and support!



Spreading Christmas cheer by caroling outside of our local Carrington Place Retirement Community. Giving back through a pandemic is truly a blessing.





# Executive Director's Comments



**Billy Rice**  
Executive Director

Sometimes it takes a life-changing event to make you realize how fortunate you are. The pandemic is certainly such an event, and I wrote in our last newsletter about the adjustments we needed to make to make sure our children received the love and professional support they need. It has been challenging, but there are also many positive things that occurred during this difficult time.

The amount of support we received from individual donors, churches, businesses and civic organizations in 2020 was amazing. We received so many calls from people wanting to know how they could help us get through the pandemic. Many individuals and organizations increased their giving, and this helped us increase our number of gifts and the money we received from 2019. This was fantastic, but the thing that amazed me the most was the response from the churches. For a majority of 2020 many of the churches that support us were unable to meet in person. In spite of that, we continued to receive support from them, and in some cases the support actually increased. Some churches held special fund raising events on line, while others did special events around Christmas that focused on our children. With all the problems facing the churches, their dedication to our ministry was

still a priority. It was a blessing we will never forget.

Another group that deserves praise is our staff members. We made a commitment to do our best to keep the coronavirus away from our campus. There have been over 1,500 cases of COVID-19 in Wythe County, but only one of those has been one of our staff members. They have sacrificed in many ways to keep our campus and our children safe, and for that we are very grateful.

Finally, I want to talk about the people that have sacrificed the most here during this pandemic – our children. Since we went into lockdown in March there have been very few in-person visits for our children. Their communication with family and friends has been limited to mostly Zoom sessions and phone calls. Virtual education has robbed them of socializing with their friends and the opportunity for off campus activities. The cultural and fun trips we take during the summer were cancelled. Our annual Christmas dinner had to be cancelled due to government regulations, and all of children were here for Christmas Day. There have been some frustrating days, but for the most part they have handled these restrictions as well as can be expected, and we are proud of them.

As you look at the front page of this newsletter please remember everyone that helped put those smiles on our children's faces. In a year filled with sadness and uncertainty, we learned that the dedication of the Children's Home family will overcome any challenge.

*Billy*

## Shower of Blessings



### for Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

- Shampoos
- Conditioners
- Body Washes
- Deodorants
- Disposable razors
- Night lights
- Mechanical pencils
- Laundry detergent pods
- Dryer Sheets
- Dishwasher pods
- Basketballs
- Volleyballs
- Craft supplies
- Adult Coloring Books
- Coloring pencils
- Puzzles
- Good used vehicles
- Prayers, Prayers, Prayers

## Open Doors

P.O. Box 545  
Wytheville, VA 24382  
(276) 228-2861  
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

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- \*\* David Dickerson - Fincastle, VA
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\* Moderator  
\*\* Vice-Moderator



# PCHH

Jeremiah 29:11

# PCHH CAMPUS NEWS

## Development Update



The last year was something that none of us could have expected to see coming. When everything went south, it went faster than geese in the winter. However, I found out how blessed we are here at PCHH. We never missed a beat with caring for our children. We even managed to grow and learn in ways that we may have never thought about, such as attending church virtually. As Development Director, it has been exceptionally challenging; however I always love a good challenge. We have numerous events on our calendar to cover and use as opportunities to educate individuals about our ministry and raise additional funds. Unfortunately, everything was canceled except for our annual Ball Drop. This event still allowed us to raise \$5000 for our Ministry. We had wonderful partners this year who provided additional prizes so we had multiple winners. Mrs. Mary Fain was our grand prize winner this year and was very excited to have been a part of such a great event. For 2021, we will begin to roll back our restrictions slowly and follow all of the guidelines before us as our number one priority is the safety of our residents and staff. The first thing we will do is announce the return of our annual Golf Tournament and the 50/50 Ball Drop. There is more information on these events enclosed in this mailing, so please take a moment to look it over and consider being a sponsor, entering a team or making a donation to purchase tickets for the 50/50 and give yourself an opportunity to win \$5000. I look forward to another successful year for the home in 2021 and as always prayerfully hope each and everyone of you and your families are staying safe, healthy and continually blessed.

With Blessings,

Dale Yontz, Development Director



Mary Fain  
2020 Ball Drop Winner



Billy attending Hillsville  
Presbyterian Church virtually.

## THANK YOU!!!

Below are some of the thoughts from our residents about what your love and support meant to them during the Christmas season. People just like YOU do help us with our mission of "Giving Children Hope and Purpose for the Future!"

*Thank you for everything I received for Christmas. I loved my tie-dye bookbag that I got from Taylor. Thank you for my Vans and my Simply Southern shirts! Simply Southern is my favorite. I love my note taking Bible too, it helps me with my nightly devotion. I appreciate everything that was given to me no matter how big or small. Thank you to everyone who made Christmas at PCHH possible.*

~ Dixie

*Thank you for the Christmas Gifts, especially my owl blanket and the beautiful ear rings.*

~ Skylar

*Thank you for my Christmas Gifts! My favorite was the devotional journal!*

~ Love, Bella

*Thank you so much for all of my gifts. I love each and everyone of them! Especially my elephant!*

~ Destini