

Open Doors

Vol. 31, No. 1 The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc.

First Quarter 2006

TOUCHING LIVES OF CHILDREN --- WHAT A BLESSING!

Touching the lives of children is such a special blessing. Special people who give their lives helping children are a wonderful blessing themselves. This is an appropriate statement for Molly Copes, a PCHH board member who passed away last fall.

Molly's commitment to PCHH was strong. She was a very active board member; she delighted in serving as a mentor; she was a charter member of the New Dawn Society; and Molly served as moderator of our Church & Public Relations Committee.

To say Molly will be missed is the understatement of the decade. Residents, staff and board members shall miss her tremendously.

Molly Copes was a member of our board from Yorktown, VA who never met a stranger and loved to share the story of the Home every opportunity she had to do so. Her passing last fall may have saddened our hearts but Molly gave us many wonderful memories. Molly enjoyed life!



Molly Copes
We miss your smile!



Molly loved for people to visit her home. She and Tom always made everyone feel welcome.

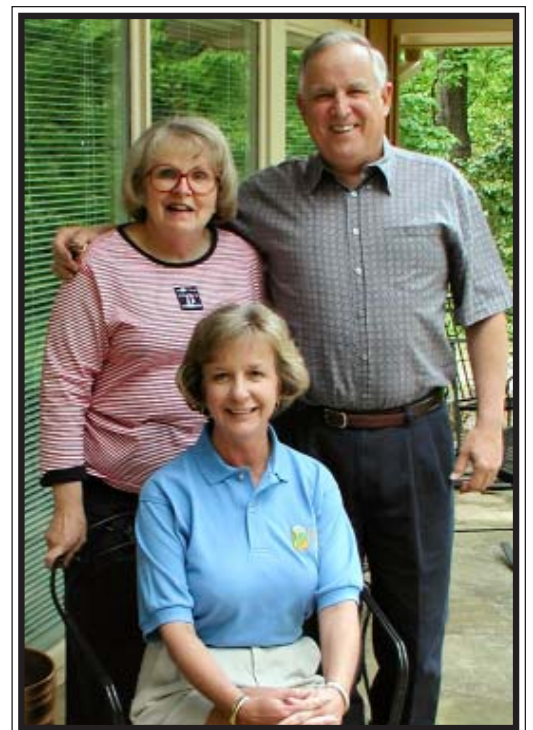
Molly and Kayla had a special relationship from the moment they met. Molly loved receiving cards from Kayla about her most recent success.



Even before her health problem, Molly was delighted to see her husband, Tom, nominated to follow her on our board as a director.

Molly and Tom hosted fund-raisers in Williamsburg and their home. She used her professional story-telling skills and abilities to entertain groups and then sent her honorariums to PCHH. She was a very busy lady.

Molly was involved in many church and community activities. Her family requested that memorial gifts be sent to PCHH. The response was overwhelming from all across the country. Molly's impact on the Home even after her death has been phenomenal. Molly Copes touched lives and made a positive difference in the lives of everyone within her reach.





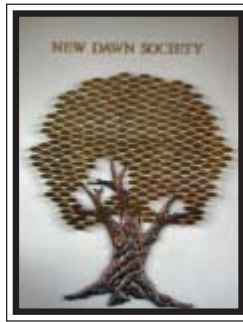
Billy Rice
Executive Director

As we move forward into a new year, I want to pause for a moment and look back at 2005. It was a year where the generosity of our supporters allowed us to complete some much needed projects on our campus. One individual gift was designated for the purchase of two twelve passenger vans for our cottages, and other gifts and bequests were used to resurface our access road and upgrade portions of our cottages. These were large projects, and they are vitally important for the proper care of our children.

Some people may ask how what your campus looks like or what model of vehicles you drive have to do with how you care for the children. We believe very strongly that the children will only take pride in and respect our campus if we do the same. If we let our facility deteriorate and do not make the proper repairs, we are not sending the proper message to our children. In addition, we would not be honoring our supporters properly if we did not maintain a campus you can be proud of when you visit. We are proud of our ministry, and we want you to share in that pride!

2005 also brought us sadness in the loss of our beloved Board member, Molly Copes. The cover article in this edition of our newsletter speaks of her in more detail, but I would be remiss if I did not mention how much we miss her. Her devotion and enthusiasm for our ministry was unmatched. I know everyone in heaven is enjoying her masterful storytelling!

New Dawn Society



Remember PCHH in your estate planning and become a member of the New Dawn Society. Call for information.

Finally, I hope you enjoy our feature story on our houseparents. They are the backbone of the organization and the people who have the most lasting influence on our children. While many of us were enjoying the holiday with our own families, houseparents were the ones making a home for the children who had no other place to go. Please keep them in your prayers as we move through what we believe will be a very successful 2006.

With hope,

Billy

Open Doors

**Giving Children
Hope & Purpose
for the Future**

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This agency complies with all state and federal non-profit fundraising regulations. A financial statement is available for the asking.

Open Doors is an educational publication produced periodically to share information about PCHH.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Billy Rice

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Libby Beamer - Christiansburg, VA
Margaret Carter - Charlottesville, VA
Eural Clippard - Wytheville, VA
Tom Copes - Yorktown, VA
Mary Lou Cox - Monterey, VA
David Dickerson - Rockbridge Baths, VA
**Joe Duckwall - Roanoke, VA
Richard Guthrie - Dublin, VA
Jim Larson - Vienna, VA
Mary Lee McGrady - Hillsville, VA
Tim Outlaw - Bristol, VA
Nancy Schroeder - Edenton, NC
Sara Staley - Marion, VA
Nan Taylor - Pounding Mill, VA
Frances Trent - Roanoke, VA
Jayne Sneed - Richmond, VA
* Patsy Weeks - Fairlawn, VA
(one vacancy) -

*Moderator ** Vice-Moderator

Liz Hahn Honored



Our executive secretary, Liz Hahn, was named 2005 VACH Distinguished Staff Person by the Virginia Association of Children's Homes. The VACH is an organization of private nonprofit agencies whose mission is to promote a high quality of care to children, adolescents and families in need across Virginia.

Liz began her career at PCHH in 1978 as secretary and was promoted to her current position of Executive Secretary in 1989. During the presentation of the award, Sandra Weigand, Executive Director of Miller Home in Lynchburg and Chairperson of the VACH Public Relations Committee, stated, "Liz is an anchor at PCHH, not only handling the daily business of the agency in an accurate and efficient manner, but has established a loving and caring relationship with the children who have lived at PCHH over the past twenty-seven years. Her dedication has made a real difference in the success of the ministry at PCHH."

Liz was chosen from a group of nominees from across the state. She recently reflected on the award by saying, "Helping children has always been a special blessing for me as I have had the opportunity to see what differences the Home can make in the lives of these children."

Liz is married to Dale Hahn. They live in Wytheville and have one daughter and son-in-law, Kelly and Jamie Rosenbaum. She thoroughly enjoys her three grandsons, Chase, Brock and Grant.

Houseparenting...

...not for the faint of heart!

"Taking time to enjoy a movie or TV show with the boys can be good bonding time. We work four 24-hour days (as one shift) then take a 4 day break. I guess someone could say we serve as their mother, father, teacher and friend."



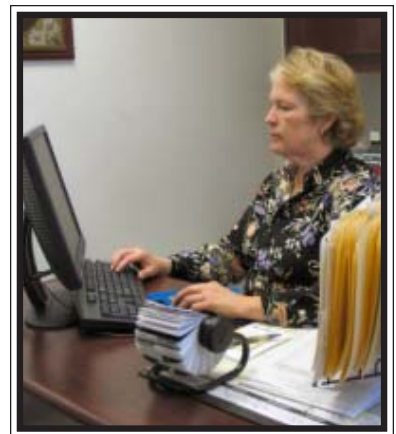
"Keeping up with residents educational progress for the whole cottage is a challenge. We use daily reports as well as face-to-face meetings with the teachers in meeting the challenge."



PCHH has been so fortunate over the years in recruiting outstanding houseparents. Anyone who has experienced serving knows you must be overloaded with lots of **patience**, listening skills, **patience**, energy, **patience**, a deep love of children, **patience**, and a teacher's heart.



Learning how to better handle situations is a routine part of the life of houseparents. Training is key to maintaining our level of professionalism



"We teach by example. Taking children to chapel reflects the kind of role models they need."

Paperwork can be staggering. From medication to activities, documentation is all part of the job.



"Bedtime can be a prime opportunity to reach inside a troubled heart and tenderly feed it's need for comfort."

"Mealtime is a mixed bag of blessings and opportunities for learning. Over the table conversation gives everyone a chance to catch-up on the latest happenings."



PCHH CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS... MEMORY MAKERS



THANK YOU
Friends of PCHH
for making this
Christmas so special!

