



# Open Doors

Vol. 32, No. 1 The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc.  
First Quarter 2007

## FOCUSING ON THE FAMILY... GOD CONTINUES TO BLESS

Being able to care for both boys and girls gives us the opportunity to keep families together. Having familiar faces of siblings close by helps our young people adjust to their placements more quickly than if they are worried about where their brothers or sisters have been placed.



He is focused, deliberate, and working hard to earn good grades. Kevin loves to listen to his favorite tunes.



Heather is a very loving young lady who is bashful but loves people. She is easily scared and her sensitivity allows her to cry easily. This slim, blue-eyed girl is

gentle and is working through a speech impediment.

God continues to bless us in our mission of "Giving Children Hope & Purpose for the Future" and a part of that work is with families. Pictures of the residents on this page represent typical examples of the wonderful young people we get to care for in this place.



Kyle is the restless, inquisitive one. He is very friendly and loves video games. Kyle is working to overcome a speech impediment as well and is our youngest resident in care.

The family represented here by Brittany (13), Kevin (12), Heather (9), and Kyle (8) came to us last summer and are doing very well.

Brittany is extremely outgoing and loves pranks. She seems to laugh constantly and is very active in sports, games, and loves the out-of-doors.



It can be very difficult for staff to become so close and attached to these children then see them leave after investing so much of themselves.

However, that is our calling, our ministry. God blesses it. The Children's Home is honored to be serving these

brothers and sisters as well as others who are and have been in our care.



Kevin is a quiet, contemplative young man. He is the family leader, angry, cautious and loves to be bragged on.

We continue focusing on the family as God continues to bless PCHH.



**Billy Rice**  
Executive Director

Before the excitement of a new year clouds our memories, I would like to reflect on the many blessings the Children's Home received in 2006. From both a programmatic and financial standpoint, it was a year to remember!

The need for our ministry has never been stronger. Eighty-one children received services in our residential program during 2006, and our beds were filled at a 93% capacity. Forty more children from surrounding communities received educational services from the Minnick School on our campus, and the autistic program located on our campus served eight children. In addition, twelve of our students were able to transition from the Minnick School into the public school system during the 2006 school year.

On the financial front, the support of our donors has never been stronger. Both the individual contributions and memberships in the New Dawn Society, which honors donors that have included the Children's Home in their estate planning, were at their highest level ever. Significant gifts to the McGavock Center project, along with previous pledges, will allow us to retire the debt earlier than previously anticipated. The future of the Children's Home is stronger than ever.

Please be assured that we are not resting on our laurels. The challenge of caring for an increasingly needy and scarred group of children remains in front of us. We need your continued prayers and support if we are to continue to give the best possible care to our children. I hope you find the ar-

ticles and pictures in this newsletter as uplifting as I do. They are examples of how we fulfill our mission, "giving children hope and purpose for the future". Because of your love and generosity, we have the chance to turn our children's hopes and dreams into reality. From all of us at the Children's Home, thank you!

*Billy*

## IRA TAX ADVANTAGE

If you are looking for another way to help the Children's Home while you save on your taxes from your mandated IRA withdrawals, check out this limited time opportunity. All contributions must be made between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

For more details, go to our web site at <http://pchh.org> and download the information or call the office and we will mail/e-mail/fax the information to you.

## 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 in-house periodically to provide insights about PCHH.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Billy Rice

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## STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

Our Board of Directors have given the go-ahead to conduct a storytelling festival on our campus as a fundraising event. It will be in memory of Molly Copes.

In the Spring Edition of our 2006 newsletter, we featured Molly Copes, a former board member, retired school teacher, professional storyteller, and lady extronaire who was always promoting the Children's Home. We are honored to be naming this special event in memory of Molly.

We are in the early stages of production where we are seeking a major sponsor(s) to underwrite the cost so we do not have to worry about making it what Molly would have wanted.

If you, your company and/or friends would like to become our major sponsors of the Molly Copes Storytelling Festival, call us for more details at 276-228-2861 and let us know of your interest.

## INFORMATION AGENTS

If you would like to become an Information Agent for the Children's Home, you can do so as easy as one, two, three.

One, decide you want to be one; two, download the resources that interest you and your group from our website; and three, print and share the information as you wish.

We post new information on the website address at least monthly. Please feel free to use these resources as you need them.

Call the Home at (276) 228-2861 if you would need information not given on the web site. Thank you for helping us spread the word about this ministry... we thrive on your prayers, your support and your enthusiasm in sharing with others about PCHH.

## UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

The following article was taken from a letter one of our former residents sent to us in December 2006. These excerpts are used with his permission.

The good news is, that by God's grace, Mitchell is writing a completely new chapter in his life that will reflect the hard lessons he has learned at such an early age.

*"I was determined to be a success!"*

**Mitchell Roop**



*"There was a time that you could ask me about my past and all you would get in return was anger and rage. A defense mechanism that I always thought would work, but as I've just recently learned, that defense did nothing but make me hide how I felt inside".*

*"This is my story, my life, and my struggle to find peace and even though it's only been eighteen years; I feel that it's been thirty-six".*

*"I was born on April 13, 1988 at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. My mother and father met each other under different circumstances that most mothers and fathers meet. My mother was a drug dealer, my father was a drug addict".*

*"When I was taken home from the hospital, at least until I was about 2, we really didn't have a steady home. We stayed where we could. Sometimes we'd stay with friends of my parents, shelters, family members".*

*"On September 6, 1989 my sister was born. With another child, it was hard for my parents to support my sister and me, plus two very destructable drug habits of their own. My grandmother let us stay in an apartment complex she owned basically rent free".*

*"About another year had passed*

*when once again another baby boy was born. Both of my parents were at possibly the worst state you could be at".*

*"About this time is when I started to explore my surroundings a little bit. I remember the apartment we stayed in was only one bedroom, one bath, a kitchen, and a living room. My parents were in so much of a zombie state, I had to make sure both my brother and sister were taken care of".*

*"These were times when my parents would fight and I remember feeling so helpless that I would take my siblings and stay in a closet sometimes for two days at a time only coming out for essentials".*

*"While this was gradually getting worse, the only two people I felt comfortable around was my 3 year old sister and my 2 year old brother. I was four when I first saw crack. Of course I didn't know what it was at the time, but I did know that there was a lot more of it than there was food or anything we needed to live on".*

*"We rarely were able to take baths. I later found out that the reason for that was there was a meth lab in the bath tub".*

*... "I remember we got robbed one time by one of my parents' friends/junkies. We all had to go into the bathroom while this person held a gun to my father's head. These first four years of my life laid the foundation of my views on life and because I wasn't taught anything about behavior of doing the right thing, I didn't know how to act".*

*"The only example that was set for us was violence and anger so I guess that was when I started down this destructive path that would eventually run my life".*

*... "Even though it may sound like I'm just bashing my parents, I was actually very close to my dad. My mother, on the other hand, is a different story".*

*... "So I eventually gave up on everything. I began to shut down. At this time*

*I was about ten. I'd already been to about 3 foster homes which were unsuccessful."*

*... "On June 20, 2004, I came to the Presbyterian Children's Home. At first I hated it but it was only because change had never been a good thing for me. After nine days there I was making the transition to this new placement and I was doing well".*

Shorty after Mitchell came to PCHH, his dad passed away in prison.

*"As I watched them bury my dad, I made the decision that enough was enough and that I had to stop focusing on the past. I made the decision to become a man and fight for my future."*

*... "With the help of the Children's Home I did something that I'd never done before which was to excel instead of only exist. I had problems at first but I slowly learned to channel my anger into motivation. I began saving money, learning different skills, and I was determined to be a success."*

*"In January 2005 I got my GED, something very few people in my family have ever done".*

*"Even though I wouldn't admit it at the time, the Children's Home really made a difference in my life. The only thing I regret is not taking advantage of the many more programs I could have taken".*

*... "On my 18th birthday I left the Home. I fell back a couple of steps but I bounced back. Now I'm still trying to be the best man I can be. I'll be starting school soon and in a couple of years I hope to come back to the Home and become a houseparent".*

*... "I've beaten everything thrown in my way and if I could do it, so can everyone else".*

Mitchell concluded his letter by expressing his thanks to the staff for their understanding, guidance, and patience, as he grew up.



# Christmas 2006

Christmas Time at PCHH is always a very special time of the year and 2006 was no exception. The traditions we enjoy are part educational, part food-fest and lots of excitement. Thank you for helping make Christmas at PCHH extra special. Please continue to pray for us in the new year as we continue to serve the children.



## JOIN THE New Dawn Society

by remembering us in your estate planning which helps us in meeting our mission of "Giving Children Hope & Purpose For The Future"



## CURRENT NEEDS

PCHH needs help with the following items at this time:

- Recreation Equipment (such as Soccer balls, Basketballs, Kick Balls, etc.)
- Twin-sized Sheets, Pillow Cases, Towels, Wash Cloths
- Clothing/Allowance Sponsors
- Phone Cards

