



# Open Doors

Volume 37 No. 3 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)  
Third Quarter 2012

LIFE IS TOUGH... HOWEVER:



THERE IS HOPE & PURPOSE!

The cover story of our First Quarter Edition of this newsletter listed some of the many scenarios that our residents experience. As bad and unbearable as the examples seemed to be, there is hope for each and every child who receives help.

We are pleased to share a great story of two very special people who were PCHH residents a few years back. Their experiences while here changed their lives in more ways than anyone thought at the time.

Jeremiah Barrera and Jacquelyn Stinson were rescued from situations not conducive to producing a successful adult life. They came to the Children's Home around the same time and both quickly adapted to campus life and started a fairly rapid healing time.

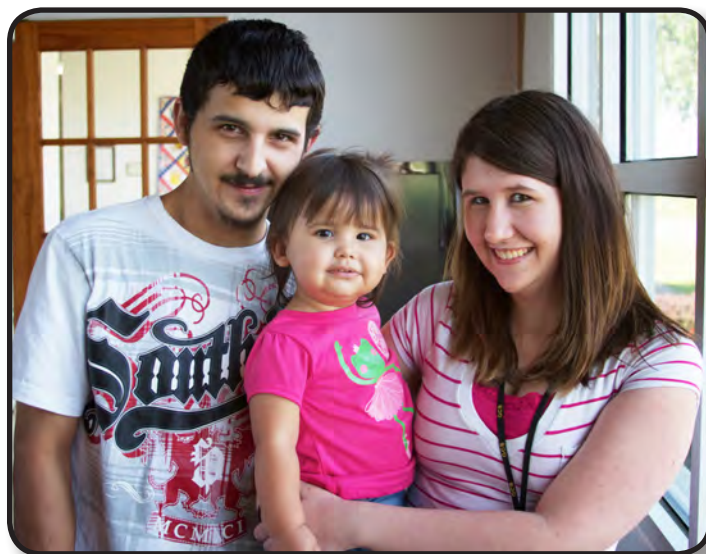
In talking about their getting together, Jeremiah stated, "It worked out so great!" Jacquelyn added, "I came in June 2006 and we got together in October. He caught my eye first but he was seeing someone else at the time so it was a challenge."

The following Q&As are quite interesting:

**Q: What was the greatest impact this ministry had on your life?**

**A: Jeremiah,** "It saved my life. It really did. I think I was on the verge of death."

**A: Jacquelyn,** "Bringing us together... he and I."



Jacquelyn & Jeremiah Barrea with daughter Gabriella visited the campus recently and updated us on what is going on in their lives. Check out our website for a transcript of the full interview.

**Q: How did the Home help you overcome the difficulties you faced as a child?**

**A: Jeremiah,** "The Home helped me learn responsibility, to mature, how to be a leader, how to move forward with my life and get it back."

**A: Jacquelyn,** "The Home helped me out of the situation I was in and it showed me a family thing that I didn't have at home and it showed me not to get mad over stupid situations. It made me a better person."

**Q: Is there anything that really surprised you that you did not expect while you were here?**

**A: Jeremiah,** "The generosity!"

**A: Jacquelyn,** "The family values... most people think staff is in it for the money but after you live here so long, you can tell they just really want to help kids."

**Q: What suggestions would you have for the children in care here today?**

**A: Jeremiah,** "Being rebellious will get you nowhere."

**A: Jacquelyn,** "Take advantage of what you are given because later on down the road, it'll really help. It does make a difference!"

Our special thanks to this wonderful family for sharing their lives and story with us. Thank you Barreas!

**Billy Rice**  
Executive Director



back and they are successfully raising their own family. This is doubly true in our cover story, where both Jeremiah and Jackie were residents here at the same time. The chance to catch up with them and meet their beautiful daughter made our day, and I hope it makes you smile too!

*Billy*

### ***We Need Your Help!***

We continually look for ways to spread the word about what we do for young people through this ministry. You can help by sending us a name and address of at least one person who shares similar interest in children. Of course ask them first but then use the enclosed business reply envelope or send an e-mail to [info@pchh.org](mailto:info@pchh.org). Thanks for your help!

## **Open Doors**

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

P.O. Box 545  
Wytheville, VA 24382  
(276) 228-2861  
FAX (276) 228-8154

[www.pchh.org](http://www.pchh.org) • [info@pchh.org](mailto:info@pchh.org)

This agency complies with all state and federal non-profit fundraising regulations.  
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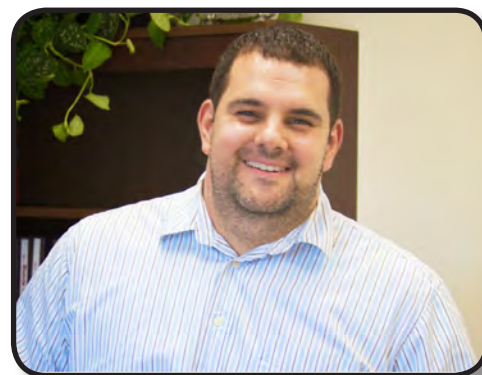
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Billy Rice

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## **PROGRAM DIRECTOR POSITION FILLED**



Travis is settling into his new job.

The Home has benefited from the work that Travis Wirt has given the Home since 2007. He first arrived and worked as a Houseparent in Webb Cottage.

About 18 months later, he answered our call to serve as our first Development Officer assisting our Development Team (Executive, Administrative and Development Directors) in providing more coverage of Presbytery & PW Meetings, presentations to churches, groups, and individuals; as well as one-on-one contact with supporters.

Many of you have probably met Travis at events and know he has a deep love and devotion to children. His enthusiasm for PCHH has made a difference in his efforts.

As Program Director, Travis is responsible for directing the day-to-day activities of the Home's programs, ensuring all rules and regulations are followed, support the Case Managers and support staff, and ensure constant quality care of each resident.

Billy Rice, Executive Director, commented, "*Travis shares the same philosophy and dedication to children that we have worked so hard to maintain and his skills and abilities promise to make a difference in his new job for years to come.*"

Congratulations Travis and welcome to the Leadership Team!

When a ministry has been around as long as ours, you can expect to go through many changes. While our mission of taking care of children in need has never changed, we have had to make many adjustments during our 93 years of existence. We continuously evaluate what we do and look for ways to meet the needs of young people as circumstances change.

That was the process we went through in deciding to start our Independent Living Program, which opened on September 5th. Through our observation, personal experiences of our graduates, and the needs articulated to us by the Departments of Social Services, we could see that the 18 to 21 year-olds were having trouble making the transition to independence.

Many of us can look back at that time in our life and remember that we still needed a lot of support from our parents or extended family. Many of our children do not have that, and therefore the freedom that goes with being on your own becomes overwhelming and leads to bad decisions. Our new program will help with the transition by providing some structure and the opportunity to practice the skills necessary for success, including saving money that will be available to them when they go out on their own. We ask for your prayers and support as we move forward with this venture.

I have said many times that one of the great joys of working in our ministry is when our alumni come

# WE'VE ADDED THE NEXT STEP... PCHH INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

For some time now we have been working to meet the ever-increasing need for an independent living program to help youngsters who have successfully completed our regular residential program or a similar program but need a “safety net” while they successfully transition to complete adult independent living.

Since the consolidation of Gilmer & Webb Cottages a few years ago because of the extreme belt-tightening of the economy and the redirection of resources by state officials, we have searched and evaluated what we should be doing with Gilmer Cottage.

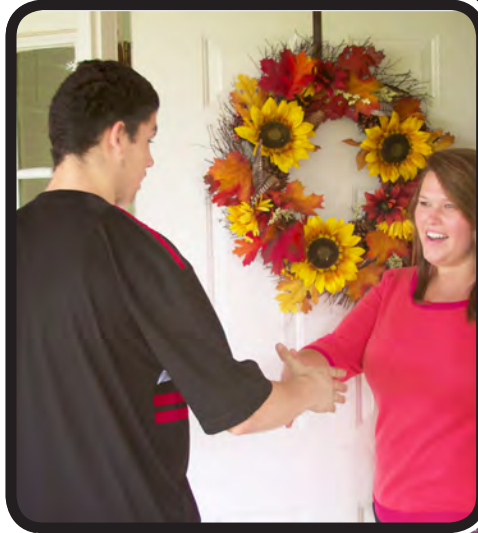
After months of much prayer, research, and surveying demand... the PCHH Independent Living Program opened it's doors September 5, 2012 with 2 residents.

Residents are provided appropriate supervision and support to enable positive decision-making and experiences. They participate in educational or vocational training, hold down a part-time job, take care of their living quarters, save at least 20% of their income, and work with their Case Manager to develop personal goals and discharge plan.

Each resident has an individualized plan and is working towards a target to provide them the chance to learn responsibility by taking charge of their own transportation, food preparation, clothing, recreation, etc.

They complete the Casey Life Skills Assessment and are evaluated on their progress. Staff provides trainings covering such topics as money management, personal appearance, social skills, housekeeping, career planning, job-seeking, community resources, interpersonal skills, and housing.

Staff are: Lyndsay Smith, Case Manager; James Cato, ILP Trainer; and Josh Taylor, Houseparent.



**Josh, Lyndsay and Mr. Cato**

***Giving Children  
Hope & Purpose  
For The Future***

## SUMMER TIME 2012...



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE

CHECK OUR WEB SITE:  
[WWW.PCHH.ORG](http://WWW.PCHH.ORG)



**Staff enjoyed sharing a tour of our campus and lunch recently with one of our Covenant Churches, Covenant Presbyterian Church of Staunton, VA.**



**The VA Moose Riders visit to campus grabbed lots of attention immediately. Many thanks to them and all the folks who remember us in so many wonderful ways.**



**Horses are always a treat.**



**It may have been their first trip to the beach but it sure won't be their last if they have anything to say about it. Playing in the surf, collecting sea shells, or writing messages in the sand made for many wonderful memories.**

