

Open Doors

Vol. 28, No. 2 THE PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS, INC.

Summer 2003

EDUCATION TAKES FRONT ROW

One of the biggest challenges childrens' homes face is that of academics. Because education has received such a low priority in the lives of incoming residents, it has not been important to them. They have not been exposed to a challenging academic environment that fosters learning.

In the Fall of 2000, the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands took an important step in taking academics to a new level of priority for residents of PCHH by partnering with Minnick Schools. Education took a front row seat in the care of residents at PCHH.

Even though important elements were then in place to make a big difference in the academic lives of our students, our facility was sorely lacking.

For many years, PCHH had discussed the need for an indoor recreational facility and in a special called meeting of the Board of Directors in

February 2002, approved the construction of a 20,000 sq. ft. facility to meet current needs as well as anticipated needs for years to come.

The new multi-purpose facility, named the McGavock Center, was indeed the fulfillment of a long-time dream of the Home.



The Dedication Ceremony on May 2, 2003 was the first activity for visitors in the new gym named the Collins Memorial Gym in memory of Bruce & Dorothy Collins of Blacksburg.

Soon after breaking ground in March 2002, weather took a bad turn for the farmers but a good turn for construction. Thor, Inc. was the firm selected to design and build the new facility and they completed the spacious new building in January 2003.

On May 2, 2003, Board members, staff and residents hosted a special dedication ceremony dedicating the new facility to the work of the Lord in the ministry of "giving children hope & purpose for the future".

The day was a very special day in the life of the Home. Tom Jackson, at-

torney and former state representative, delivered an inspiring keynote address.

Davey Davis, introduced the crowd to the history of the McGavocks and with the assistance of McGavock decedents, unveiled portraits of Elizabeth Pointer McGavock (for whom the building was named) and Dr. Edward McGavock, her son who gave the gift in her memory which launched the project.

Billy Rice, Executive Director of the Home, announced that the \$3,000,000 fund-raising project is underway to pay for the new building. Giving opportunities still exist for anyone wishing to be a part of this important project.

Staff and residents invite everyone to visit the campus for a personal tour of the McGavock Center and see first-hand how education takes a front row seat in this ministry. Call us and plan a visit. We're looking forward to seeing you soon.



The celebration concluded with a reception in the new dining room and tours of the Center. Residents as well as staff worked hard to make the day a very enjoyable event.



Harold Lamm (left) presented the symbolic key to the new facility to Executive Director, Billy Rice, on behalf of the PCHH Building Committee as their last official duty.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Billy Rice
Executive Director

One of the challenges of a ministry such as ours is making sure the programs we have in place are giving our children the best possible chance to be successful. We are constantly evaluating what we are doing and looking for ways to improve our services. Over the past three years our program evaluation has brought about major changes, such as the establishment of the Minnick School on our campus and the development of a vocational training program. The evaluation process also highlighted the need to improve our professional staff by the addition of a full-time therapist and nurse.

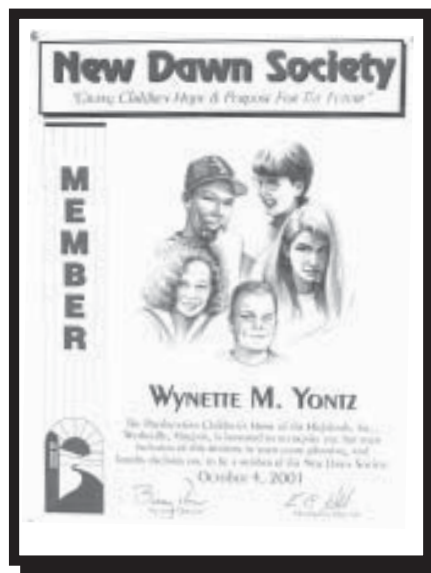
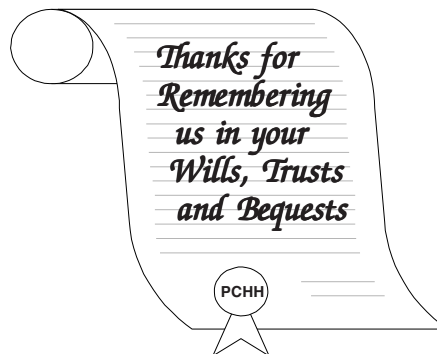
We faced another major program evaluation when the McGavock Center, our new multi-purpose facility, opened this year. The new building gives us something that our Home has never had – indoor recreational facilities that give us a chance to put together a full recreation and activities program.

We knew it was not enough just to open our gym and let our children play basketball. There needed to be structured activities that are fun to participate in but also give us a chance to teach values, such as sportsmanship and honesty. We needed to find the right person to put the program in motion and were fortunate to find Jinjer Van Antwerp. Her Master's degree in Physical Education is very attractive, but another one of her credentials is vital to what we want to accomplish. Jinjer is a certified instructor in the Character Counts program. We are in the process of implementing

the principles of Character Counts not only in our recreational offerings, but also throughout all our campus programs. The pillars of the program – trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship – fit right in with what we want to teach our children. The playing fields are a great place to practice these ideals, but we want them to carry over into their everyday life.

I think it is important for our supporters to know that we are always looking for ways to improve our services. We are very proud of what we do, but we are not going to rest on our laurels. This is the surest way for us to provide our children the opportunities for success that they deserve.

Billy



Call for information on the
New Dawn Society!

NAME A ROOM

If you would like to be a part of the McGavock Center project, there is still room for you. Matter of fact, you can name a room.

Components are available for gifts of \$10,000 to \$250,000. We can use another 500 "Keepsake" donors giving between \$100 and \$5,000.

The Collins Trust in Blacksburg, VA has chosen to name our new gymnasium after Bruce and Dorothy Collins. Our gym is now known as the Collins Memorial Gym in memory of these two generous people.

You have time to plan your gift. This is a three-year window of opportunity. We gladly accept cash, stocks, bonds and other negotiable securities.

Call (276) 228-2861 if you would like to talk with a representative about becoming a partner in this special fundraising effort. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

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PRESBYTERIAN

CHILDREN'S HOME

of the Highlands, Inc.

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The mission of this Home is to give children hope and purpose for the future.

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

SUMMERTIME FUN

I think all of us look back fondly on our summer vacations. We try to make sure our children have some of those memorable experiences that will remain with them for the rest of their lives.

As we were going to press the final planning was taking place on a variety of activities. Several of our children will participate in the Children's Home Olympics in Springfield, MO. This is a gathering of students from all over the country that live in homes like ours. They participate in athletic and cultural events over four days and get to meet other children who live outside their natural family setting. It is a wonderful event designed to provide a once in a lifetime experience for our children.

Fortunately, most of our summer fun happens closer to home. Our children will go to camps, go horseback riding, swim in our pool, attend minor league baseball games, and continue to enjoy the year-round comforts the McGavock Center provides. They will also participate in community service projects and continue individual and group therapy sessions – summer does not provide a break from those!

We also have a new project that ties in with our recreational activities. Kitty Stone is assisting us with a program aimed at purchasing a bicycle for every resident who comes to the Children's Home. Kitty will be visiting churches, businesses and individuals throughout Abingdon Presbytery seeking support for this project. If you would like to help out, please call us and we will put you in touch with Kitty.

Thanks to all of you who support us and make these experiences possible for our children. You are truly giving them "hope and purpose for the future"!

If you would like to become involved in a special way, give us a call at (276) 228-2861. We can send you our brochure with all the details.

STAFF LUNCHEON

Our vocational training efforts are reaping rewards on several levels. Recently, Robert Frank, houseparent and vocational education coordinator, and a hand-picked crew of residents planned, prepared and served PCHH staff members a special Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the new McGavock Center dining room.

The idea was hatched as a training aid for the vocational program and the results were delicious and motivational for everyone. A special menu was planned and the food was purchased for the meal. The class did a superb job of cooking the food and a professional job of serving the meal.

The menu was delicious and included choice of Italian chicken or stuffed pork tenderloin. Side dishes included mushrooms, broccoli, mashed potatoes and green beans with almonds. Dessert was a delicious cheesecake served with a choice of three toppings.

Decorations included hand-made placemats and flowers on each table. A letter to each staff member offered encouraging words and thank yous.

As one staff member commented, "I didn't know learning could be so much fun! When will they need to practice their skills again?" Everyone was very appreciative for the wonderful meal and excellent service.



INTRODUCING...



**Mike
Gilmer Cottage**

It is our pleasure to introduce our readers to residents and staff. This edition's profile is a 11-year old resident from Gilmer Cottage. And now, hereeeeeee's Michael:

Career Goal: "I want to be a policeman."

Family: Two sisters & three brothers

One Wish: To go home and be with his family.

Favorite Subject: "I like to read better than anything else."

Favorite Music: "I guess I like the music on K-92 radio best."

Favorite Color: Blue

Favorite Day of the Week: Saturdays and Sundays because he gets to go on home visits.

Favorite Holiday: Christmas

Favorite Thing About PCHH: "Horseback riding on my favorite horse, Muffy."

Favorite Game: Play Station Game - Grand Turismo

Favorite Food: Pepperoni Pizza

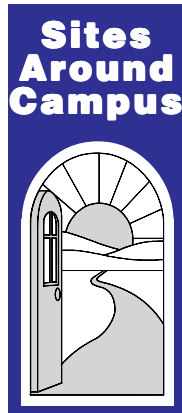
Hobby: Enjoying the outdoors, fishing, playing Play Station games, watching TV.

Favorite Animal: "My dog, Lucky."

Favorite Snack: I love Fudge Rounds



Music has a special place in worship. The Buchanan Cottage "quartet" practice for a Thursday night chapel service.



The Welcome Center contains photos and a written history on the McGavocks and McGavock Center donors as well as the Home.



SUMMER NEEDS

- **Play Station II for Student Lounge**
- **GAMES for Play Station II**
- **STEREO SYSTEM for Student Lounge**
- **CD's for STEREO SYSTEM**
- **Pool & Ping Pong Tables**
- **DVD PLAYER & DVD MOVIES**

Call (276) 228-2861 if you would like to help with these needs.

The Turpin Administration Building is being renovated to provide more much needed office space.



Robert Frank, houseparent and vocational education director, explains last minute details.



Approximately 150 guests listened as Tom Jackson gave his stirring keynote address during the Dedication Ceremony on May 2.



It is amazing the professionalism many of the residents display when given the opportunity.



Designed for learning... classroom or library.

The Thor team was recognized for going the extra mile in building the McGavock Center.

