



# Open Doors

Vol. 36, No. 1 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)  
First Quarter 2011

## LIFE EXPERIENCES SHARED WITH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Imagine how it feels to hear first-hand accounts of what PCHH meant to former residents... how PCHH was their home... how much they were loved... and how we give them hope and purpose.

The PCHH Board of Directors meet in a two-day session every October. Thursday afternoon and evening are set aside for learning more about the ministry and each other, interacting with staff and residents, and sharing a delicious meal. Fridays are designated for the Annual Board Meeting.

The learning activity at the last Annual Meeting was a special time as two former residents and one current resident shared their life experiences. Each story was unique and each revealed different situations and circumstances typical of what residents experience before, during and after their encounter with PCHH.

Jake, Gabby, and Marilyn spoke with authority about their less-than-ideal backgrounds prior to coming to PCHH, their experiences at PCHH, and what has happened since then. Of course Gabby is a current resident and we are looking towards her reports once she leaves us.

Jake has returned from two tours in Afghanistan and plans to use his G.I. Benefits to attend Wytheville Community College and then transfer to VA Tech's veterinarian degreed program.

Gabby expressed how glad she was that her dad was participating in therapy with her and our therapist. She is attending our on-campus school and plans on graduating in Spring 2011.

Marilyn came to Foster Falls in 1951 along with four siblings. She spent a brief time with a foster family in Bristol but soon returned to PCHH. After high school, Marilyn married and raised two wonderful children who now reside in Florida. Marilyn's close ties to her siblings have been strong all her life.



Above: Gabby shares how she enjoys working with our therapist and her dad on their issues.

Below: Marilyn describes her challenging childhood and the circumstances that brought her to the Children's Home.

Board Moderator Patsy Weeks listens to Jake as he describes his experiences at PCHH.



## RESIDENTS TELL THEIR STORIES...

**Billy Rice**  
Executive Director



through your prayers and gifts. Just as I was invigorated and challenged by the words of our resident and resident, I hope that it will help you see how your support has helped change the lives of so many people over the years. On behalf of them, thank you!

With hope,

*Billy*



Smiles are contagious!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

[HTTP://PCHH.ORG](http://pchh.org)

## Open Doors

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

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

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

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Marion Alderman - Hillsville, VA  
Janet Cassell - Austinville, VA  
Judith Conn - Bristol, VA  
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Theresa Underwood - Buchanan, VA  
\* Patsy Weeks - Radford, VA  
Shelda Wills - Christiansburg, VA

\*Moderator \*\* Vice-Moderator

## PRAYERS & PRAISES

### A Grateful PRAISE

We praise God and extend thanks to friends from Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, A-1 Mechanical and Rail Porterfield for the 3/4 ton truck to plow and salt snow and ice. Our truck is being put to use often due to all the snow and ice.

We still need a 650cc ATV with a blade for cleaning sidewalks.

### Progress Report

#### Beds & Chests of Drawers

We are just over half-way to our goal of raising enough money to replace the beds and chests of drawers in the cottages. The replacement cost for a bed and chest of drawers is:

- One set \$ 722
- One bedroom \$ 1,444
- One cottage \$ 7,220

Please call (800) 987-0301 and let us know if you or your group would like to help.

### Spring Planting Needs

We're now accepting donations for spring planting. Plants always make such a beautiful difference for our campus. Just write "Spring Planting" on the memo line of your check if you would like to help with this.

### Legislative Action

Please pray for our legislators as they work to provide opportunities for residential care on the basis of the "needs of the child." As you may know, for the past few years we have been struggling with the system creating undue funding disparity for residential care.

When you have worked in our profession for as long as I have, it is natural to go through periods where you question your effectiveness. You wonder if the techniques you have used through the years still work, or if anything you say to the children is getting through. You read that the children you serve today are different than the ones we took care of years ago, and that those of us over a certain age cannot possibly understand what they are going through.

That is why our cover story was so invigorating for those of us who had the privilege of being in attendance. Listening to the presenters, ranging from our days at Foster Falls to a current resident, talking with such conviction about what the Children's Home has meant and continues to mean to them, filled our hearts with pride. Their stories and memories of their time with us was a two hour affirmation of the mission of our ministry. It also reminded us of the changes we have undertaken over the past century in order to remain viable, and steeled our resolve to make the adjustments we need to give our children the best possible opportunity for success.

There was one overriding constant that came through that day – the love and connection that the children felt for the staff members that cared for them during their time with us. I can assure you that will remain the most essential part of our ministry for as long as our doors are open. That love does not only come from our staff, but from each of you that support us



## NEW SIGN INSTALLED

Visitors to our campus will see a new sign we recently installed to help better control the increasing amount of traffic on our campus.



We needed to provide clear, public notice so that we can use the full power of the law to protect our residents and staff from unwanted visitors yet we were concerned that welcomed guests might be offended.

Thus, the sign has been installed and we have more control over visitors to the campus. However, we want our invited guests to know we still want them to visit our facility without undue worry about violating the law. YOU are always welcome!

## REMEMBERING/HONORING LOVED ONES

We encourage you to remember or honor loved ones with a gift to the Children's Home. Upon receipt of your gift, we immediately respond to family members with a memorial card or a letter if you are honoring someone. Naturally we acknowledge you for your thoughtful gift.

Please designate the person you are sending your gift in memory/honor of and include the address of the person you want acknowledged of this gift. Your gift makes a great impact on the lives of children, which is a great way to memorialize or honor someone.

Thank you for giving when you want to remember someone who has died or to honor someone on a special occasion such as birthday, anniversary, Christmas or when you want them to know that they are special to you.

## Thank You For Remembering Us In Your Estate Planning

Speaking of remembering us in your estate planning... there are several types of gifts donors can use to help us.

- **Undesignated Gifts:** Cash, checks, and pledges for future funds.
- **Shares of Stock:** Publicly traded companies' certificates of stock can be given with potential to avoid gains taxes that have appreciated in value.
- **Planned Gifts:** Bequests from a last will and testament, charitable remainder trust, and other arrangements may offer advantages for the donor.
- **Life Insurance Policies:** A simple and cost-effective way to benefit the Home by naming PCHH as the owner and beneficiary of a life insurance policy. Payments by the donor may also result in a tax deductible gift to the Home.
- **Retirement Plans:** Name PCHH as the beneficiary.
- **Personal Property Gifts:** Books, jewelry, art, and other items may be given.
- **Real Property Gifts:** Real property may be given to PCHH or included in a planned gift.

Preparing one's last will and testament can be an anxious thing for many people but one that can bring great satisfaction when completed. Just knowing your desires and wishes will be fulfilled when you're no longer here to direct them provides peace of mind. Many thanks for remembering PCHH in your plans.

## HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEE



We take great pride in the accomplishments of our residents. Amanda is a prime example of when hard work meets opportunity. She was recently inducted into the National Honor Society at George Wythe High School.

Amanda is a sophomore at George Wythe High School. Her GPA is currently 3.8 and she is working hard to maintain her standing in the Society which requires a 3.6 GPA. Her favorite class is Algebra II.

When Amanda graduates high school, she plans on attending college and study to become a trial/criminal attorney. She doesn't mind working hard and her attitude will carry her far.

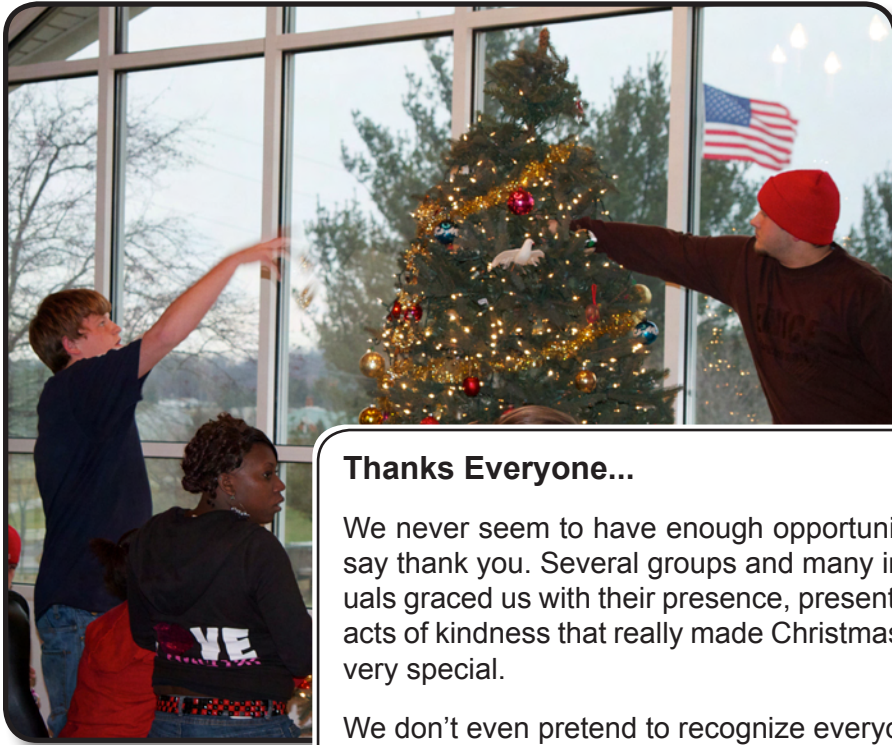
She participates in the Upward Bound Program at Wytheville Community College and is active in the JROTC Program at George Wythe. She is enjoying her second year of service and holds the rank of Corporal. Color Guard and Rifle Team are high on her list of favorite duties.

SEARCH FACEBOOK FOR:

**PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S  
HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS**



# BLESSED AGAIN & AGAIN...



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE

## Thanks Everyone...

We never seem to have enough opportunities to say thank you. Several groups and many individuals graced us with their presence, presents, and acts of kindness that really made Christmas 2010 very special.

We don't even pretend to recognize everyone individually but you know who you are and certainly God knows. Your generosity produced many, many joyful hearts and broad smiles. Because you cared, each child in our care received gifts of "essentials" plus several "wants." God bless you!

Thank you one and all!

