



# Open Doors

Volume 39 No. 1 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)  
First Quarter 2014

## INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM, A BRIDGE TO SUCCESS!



Sean knows the value of working hard... studying or on the football field. He's currently working on learning the rules of the road. A driver's license is a necessary tool for everyone in today's mobile society.



The PCHH Independent Living Program continues to develop and grow. One of our recent residents sat down with staff one afternoon and talked about what was going on in his life.

Sean, who works hard and earns mostly "A"s, is a senior at Bland County High School. When asked about his favorite subjects, he will quickly tell you that he is interested in science, social studies, sports and band.

Football is his favorite sport and with his height and size, he makes for a formidable quarterback. Track is another interest as well as band where he played trombone and tuba for four years.

Sean was born into a military family in Reno, Nevada. His dad's reassignments eventually brought them east. Like his dad, he wants to join the Army after school and use GI benefits to go to college. He

wants to attend the Army's military police school after basic training and eventually study law. His calm, cool demeanor should serve him well as an MP.

Our residents usually have tough stories as to what brought them to our campus. Sean is no different and his experiences are still fresh and tender. He may not feel comfortable to share them freely but the professionals who have been working with him will attest to his great progress and tremendous potential he now has before him.

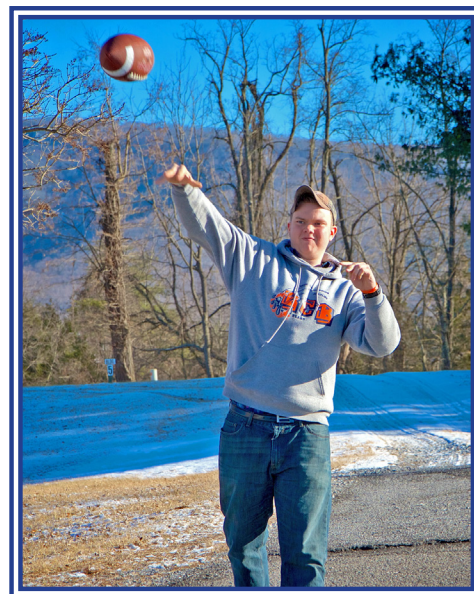
Life got real... real fast for Sean when a bad car wreck on Bent Mountain near Roanoke left his dad paralyzed but he and his sister survived with limited injuries.

As he prepares for graduation from high school this spring, his attitude is positive and his determination apparent. Sean realizes he cannot change anything in the past but he does have control over what he can do today and in the future.

Sean shared that he was glad to be in a safe place with food to eat and people to help him along. His greatest disappointment is that a friend has to temporarily care for his dog. Sean is really looking forward to their reunion.

He is actively looking for a part-time job in the Wytheville community. Although he has limited work experience, he is ready and able to work hard for someone.

He has been a fantastic doodler for years saying that it really helps occupy his interest when he's bored. Check out Sean's latest work on the PCHH website ([www.pchh.org](http://www.pchh.org)).



**Billy Rice**  
Executive Director



As we move into our 95th year of providing a home for children in need, our ministry is mining the lessons of our past to plan for our future. We are moving toward our second century of operation, and many things have changed since we opened our doors in that historic building in Foster Falls. These changes have been necessary for us to remain relevant through the years, and more changes will have to come for us to continue to fulfill our mission. However, we want you to know that our changes will be rooted in the desire to continue to provide a home for children in need on our campus.

This newsletter's cover story is an example of a change that is providing positive results. Our independent living program for 17-21 year old young men opened in September of 2012. Without this program, Sean would not be with us and experiencing the life changing opportunities that we are able to provide. We believe that providing these opportunities while living in a home on our campus provides the best chance for success, just as we think the children that live in our cottages benefit from the love, support and guidance provided by our staff.

With that being said, we will enhance our services in an effort to touch more lives. The expansion of the Lamb Center is now complete, and we hope to offer our extensive life skills training not only to our children, but foster children from surrounding localities as well.

Our plans for the next century involve exploring other areas where we can have an impact on children and families in need, while remaining true to the original mission of the ministry.

Our road to the 100th Anniversary has begun. For us to complete the journey, we will need for the members of the Children's Home family to take the trip with us. We will keep you apprised of the itinerary along the way, and look forward to sharing it with you as we insure that our ministry remains strong and viable for years to come.

*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 in-house periodically to provide insights about PCHH.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Billy Rice

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## GIFTS OF LOVE

### Campus Needs...

- Bath towels
- Hand towels
- Wash cloths
- Toiletry items
- Twin-sized waterproof mattress covers
- Twin-sized sheets
- Good quality, used vehicle
- McDonald's, Hardees, Wendy's gift cards
- Gardening tools & supplies
- Garden plants & seeds
- Perennial flower bulbs

Your assistance of helping supply many of these items goes a long way in helping us to be as efficient as possible.

Thank you!

## POST OFFICE RULING

It has come to our attention that the Post Office rules have changed for allowing stamps to be used on our BRE (Business Reply Envelopes) in lieu of charging our postage account. The last time we encouraged our donors to put a stamp on the BRE that was sent to us with their gift, it saved us the cost of postage. Sad to say, that no longer is the case.

Thanks so much for those who have been doing that but we are now being charged the business replay rate anyway so your stamps will be wasted. We are always looking for ways to accomplish our goals more cost effectively but this one no longer works. Please feel free to use our BRE as mailed. Thank you!



# FRIENDS MAKE SUCH A BIG DIFFERENCE!

*Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!*

You are such a blessing! Each year we are overwhelmed by the thoughtfulness and generosity of friends of the Home. You help make a Christmas Celebration possible that would otherwise be tough. Your financial gifts, the parties you throw for our children, the gifts you deliver... THANK YOU!

Because of caring folks like you, Christmas Time at the Children's Home is an extra special time for enjoying delicious food, decorating cottages that sets the stage for celebration, sharing gifts, as well as experiencing the feeling and satisfaction of giving back. Although we encourage learning to give back, the response to the experience is even more valuable.

One of our Webb residents was admitted just immediately before Christmas and we had not had an opportunity to shop for him yet. One of the older boys immediately said, "No problem, he can have one of mine, I really don't mind." As it turned out, a couple of our sponsors had delivered a couple extra presents for such a situation.

Neither rain, snow, sleet or hail deterred the boys from Webb Cottage assisting Billy Rice, our Executive Director, on a round of bell ringing for the Salvation Army this year.



Giving back also involved our boys and girls from Webb and Buchanan Cottages manning the "Fill the Truck for Local Kids" at our local Walmart.

Residents enjoyed all the parties they were invited to. Special people went to special trouble to make many very special memories.



Although Sean was a last minute arrival just before Christmas, Santa found him. Check out the cover story of Sean in this edition of Open Doors.

# THE EXTRA MILE

Travis, one of our former residents, recently needed some assistance. Although he had been gone for several months, we were able to help him.



Cindy Quackenbush, one of our Case Managers, noticed Travis one day, learned that he needed some help and offered him a chance to earn some money by doing some work around her house. He cleared brush, painted and proved to be serious about getting his life on track.

When Travis soon after visited the campus, we talked with him about some work that we needed done around campus that Mr. Don, our maintenance person, did not have time to do. We contracted with Travis to clear some of the brush around the railroad track on the front side of our property. He worked hard and loved working at the Home so we extended the job to include assisting Mr. Don with some maintenance repairs that needed to be done around campus.

We helped Travis get a place to live and proudly watched as he flourished by being on his own. Travis now has a full time job driving a fork lift for a local business. We are proud of Travis and thankful for the EXTRA MILE we were able to go to give him yet another chance to get his life on the right track.



GIVING CHILDREN  
HOPE AND PURPOSE  
FOR THE FUTURE



# CHRISTMAS TIME 2013...



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE

CHECK OUR WEB SITE:

[WWW.PCHH.ORG](http://WWW.PCHH.ORG)



We cherish ALL the wonderful Christmas memories and traditions that we have at the Children's Home. The Christmas Story from the Second Chapter of Luke, special blessing from Pastor Brad, a delicious Christmas dinner, opening presents in the cottages... all mean so much to each child, staff and visitors. For many of our residents, they have not experienced such Christmas activity before coming here. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve these children in this place.