

Open Doors

Vol. 29, No. 2 THE PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS, INC.

2nd Quarter 2004

LEARNING: IMPORTANT FOR EVERY SITUATION

As certain as spring time and love in the air, another school year brings opportunity to step into the next phase of life for some of our residents.

Academic success is important whether it comes the hard way or the harder way. Our Minnick Education Center graduates meet the same standards of learning (SOL's) as public schools. It takes dedication and determination but an investment in education provides a lifetime tool each and every worker desperately needs.

Some of our students are not considered on track for graduation when they arrive at PCHH. The GED program at Minnick Education Center provides an alternative route for those students who are no longer considered on target for graduation. The program consists of preparation classes in the five testing areas as well as instruction in occupational and life skills.



Terri Webber, the Minnick Educational Center Principal, reviews the GED materials with Ricky, one of our two GED students this spring. Hard work and tenacity does pay off!



We are proud to again introduce you to Jake. He was one of the residents we featured on the cover of our last newsletter. Jake is our 2004 graduate from George Wythe High School. He plans on entering college this fall.

Students must score a minimum of 410 or higher on each of the five GED pre-tests and must read at a 7.5 grade reading level as measured by a reading evaluation. Each student will participate in developing academic and occupational goals and objectives for his or her school year, culminating in taking and passing the GED test.

Teachers will use a variety of instructional approaches including direct instruction, one-on-one coaching, computer assisted instruction and peer tutoring. GED students will set academic benchmarks throughout the instructional program to measure their success throughout the year.

Students will also participate in an occupational and life skills course. Students will be provided with training and instruction in areas that will help them obtain and maintain a job as well as prepare them for the fundamentals of independent living. Topics in this class include "Apartment Living," "Buying a Car: New or Used," "Stretching Your Grocery Dollar," and "Creating a Personal Budget." Members of area businesses and industries help support instruction through serving as guest speakers and allowing students to tour their facilities.

We are extremely proud of our students. Their learning opportunities are not ending but really just beginning. Their hard work will pay dividends the rest of their life.



Billy Rice
Executive Director

Success. All of us try to achieve it, and the Children's Home is no exception. We believe that every child takes something positive away from their stay with us, whether it is for five years or five days. Sometimes, though, it is nice to have something concrete to hang your hat on.

Mr. Webster defines success as "the achievement of something desired, planned, or attempted". When it comes to earning your high school diploma or passing your GED exam, there is no question that these accomplishments meet the definition of success.

Our cover story highlights the graduation of three of our residents, one from George Wythe High School and two with their GED certificates through their work at our Minnick Education Center. We are extremely proud of their efforts and wish them continued success as they move forward to the next stage of their lives. It is also a time of pride for our staff and for our supporters. The success of these young men demonstrates the versatility of our educational programs.

When we have a student who is on track academically, we can transition them into the public school system so they can obtain a traditional diploma. However, many of our students have fallen so far behind in their studies that the GED program with a work experience component is a better option.

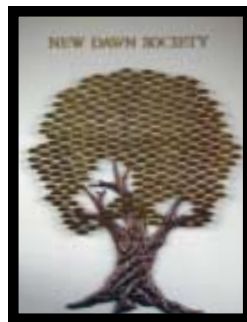
Students may also receive a high school diploma through their studies at the Minnick School. We pride ourselves on the individual attention our residents receive not only in academics, but in every area of their lives.

While we cherish the opportunity

to pause and enjoy our success, we never lose sight of the challenges that lie before us. As you read about our success stories and the plans we have for the future, I hope you will feel as strongly about our mission as we do.

We continue to need your support as we strive to give hope and purpose to the lives of our children. There is no greater calling, and I guarantee you will enjoy the feeling of success!

Billy



Remember PCHH in your estate planning and become a member of the New Dawn Society. Call for information.

Every now and then, the Children's Home receives notification that someone has remembered us in their will. Words can never express our appreciation to their loving, lasting thoughts of this ministry.

We are currently in the midst of an effort to better share what it means to have friends remember the Home in their estate planning. Our humble way of doing that is to initiate the New Dawn Society. It is simply friends of the Home who have included this ministry in their estate planning through their will, a trust, annuity or other estate planning tool.

The New Dawn Society tree is approximately six foot tall and is mounted on the west wall of the board room. Each leaf on the tree is a brass "leaf" with the year, name and home town of the New Dawn Society member engraved on it.

We hope you will allow us to express our gratitude for you remembering this ministry in this special way while you are still living. Call (276) 228-2861 for complete information.

QUILTERS

PROVIDE LABOR OF LOVE

For a craftsperson to begin with simple raw materials... add time, imagination, energy and love... and produce something so beautiful, surely it is a gift from God.

We were recently blessed with wallhangings from Quilters at Vienna Presbyterian Church to decorate the long, bare hallway in our newly renovated administration building.

Thank you for your labor of love for this ministry in this special way. We are so blessed to have such caring, gifted friends to this Home.





We are delighted to welcome Terri Webber as our new Principal for the Minnick Education Center. Terri has become a very important member of our ministry family and we look forward to working with her.

**Sites
Around
Campus**

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

Wytheville, VA

It's quite easy to learn how to take but equally important to learn how to give back. Opportunities for community service, such as the local food pantry, are available to residents.



We really miss the local Master Gardners class! Although they have moved on to other projects, PCHH staff pitch in to provide needed flower garden manicuring. Thank you staff - the fruits of your labor are obvious.

CURRENT NEEDS

- **FISHING GEAR - LURES, TACKLE BOXES, POLES, REELS, ETC.**
- **Flip Flops - WOMEN'S MEDIUM-LARGE & MEN'S MEDIUM TO EXTRA LARGE**
- **BEACH TOWELS**
- **COMMERCIAL GRADE LAWN MOWER**



Spring "cleaning" can be a fun new experience as well as sprucing-up the place.

Sometimes it's just easier to talk to a friend who doesn't talk back. Good times with friends are not necessarily limited to human ones.



Pride in performance is evident as students are presented awards during the Awards Luncheon.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

P.O. Box 545
Wytheville, VA 24382
(276) 228-2861
FAX (276) 228-8154
<http://pchh.org>
info@pchh.org

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

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

* Harold Lamm - Martinsville, VA	* Libby Beamer - Christiansburg, VA
Bay Boyd - Eagle Rock, VA	Margaret Carter - Charlottesville, VA
Eural Clippard - Wytheville, VA	Molly Copes - Yorktown, VA
Mary Lou Cox - Monterey, VA	**Joe Duckwall - Roanoke, VA
Julia McAfee - Norton, VA	Marilyn Moore - Chester, VA
Cap Oliver - Vienna, VA	Tim Outlaw - Bristol, VA
Nancy Schroeder - Oakton, VA	Catherine Shoulders - Roanoke, VA
Karen Smith - Richlands, VA	Sara Staley - Marion, VA
Frances Trent - Roanoke, VA	Patsy Weeks - Radford, VA

*Moderator **Vice-Moderator

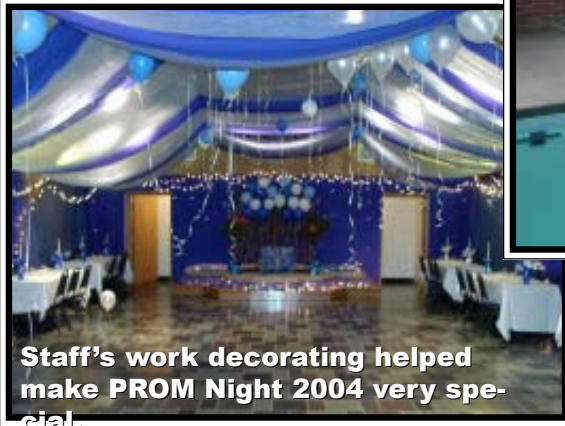
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Billy Rice, Publisher
E. C Hill, Editor

Minnick Education Center students must pass the same standards of learning (SOL's) that public school students do.



GOOD TIMES • KODAK MOMENTS



Staff's work decorating helped make PROM Night 2004 very special.

EXPERIENCE
is a hard teacher.
She gives the test first,
the lesson afterwards.



Recent Jewelry Show Fundraiser.

