



Open Doors

Volume 37 No. 1 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)
First Quarter 2012

THINK LIFE IS TOUGH?



CAN YOU IMAGINE...

- being 13 years old and having to hide in a dog house with your dog because your alcoholic father beats you every chance he gets? The **ONLY** place you feel safe is in the dog house because you know he never looks there for you.
- being left as an infant in a cardboard box on top of an old piano and found 2 days later by your grandmother?
- being only 6 years old and your mother heating a metal fork on the stove to burn your tongue because you sassed her?
- being sexually abused by your father and grandfather from the age of 2?
- being cared for by loving grandparents because both your parents are incarcerated then both grandparents unexpectedly die?
- experiencing 14 foster care placements within a year?

- during a violent domestic argument between your parents when you are only 5 years old, you answered the crying pleas of your father to open the door and let him in only to see him kill your mother?
- being forced into prostitution by your parents to support their drug habit?
- being taken to the local Department of Social Services and dropped off with the explanation your parent or grandparent does not want to care for you any longer?
- satisfying your severe hunger pains with food from dumpsters?
- coming home from school one day to discover a note from your mother saying she was leaving and not coming back?
- having the terrifying experience of your house literally blowing up around you from your parents meth lab?
- parents taking children's medications to help feed their own drug addiction?
- being run over by your mom after falling off the hood of her car while she was driving drunk?
- living in a house so filthy that it had to be burned down?

These are true stories of children who have come into our care. Most of these scenarios are not isolated incidents. We see such scenarios repeated all too often. It is heartbreaking to hear some of the circumstances these children are thrown into through no fault of their own.

Good news! Good news! Good news! Thank God, ***There Is A Place*** where these children can rest and heal from the devastating cycle of neglect and abuse they have known all too well in their young lives.

What a blessing it is to see how the hand of God moves in the lives and circumstances of these children. Thank you friends, for allowing us to serve the Lord through this ministry to children.



Billy Rice
Executive Director

I know that as you read this we are a couple of months into the New Year, but I would like to quickly give a fond farewell to 2011. It was a very successful year for us, featuring an excellent licensing renewal inspection on the program side and fantastic support from our donors. We are working diligently to keep the momentum going in 2012, and this newsletter is focused on giving our supporters the information to help make that happen.

The cover story speaks to the trials and tribulations our children have endured before they come to us. Our supporters often ask about our children's "stories" and have a keen interest in the circumstances surrounding their lives. We hope that these **unfortunate but true** background stories will give you a better understanding not only of what our children have to overcome, but also let you know why their stay in our ministry and your continued support is so important.

Another feature in this newsletter introduces our informational video. I know I am biased, but I think "*There Is a Place*" does a fantastic job of showing people the essence of our ministry. Produced in house by our Development Director, E. C. Hill, it combines the history and current status of our program with personal testimonies of former residents. It is something all of our Children's Home family should see and a great way to introduce our ministry to those who have not yet been touched by our work with the children God brings to our door. We know that none of this

is possible without your love and support, and we thank you!

Billy

P. S. During my recent attendance of the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives (NFCCE) Conference, I shared our video with a number of my colleagues and they were very impressed with the content and creative packaging of it. It is great to have such positive feedback from fellow directors.

Thank You For Remembering Us In Your Estate Planning

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.PCHH.ORG

SEARCH FACEBOOK FOR US TOO.

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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PRAYERS & PRAISES

Winter Travel Safety

Because of generous donations, our need for a pickup truck with a snow plow and an ATV with a push blade have been met and they are now on duty, ready to make staff and visitor travel on our campus much safer during any challenging winter weather. Thank you for your generosity.

Bath Towels and Washcloths

These items seem to always be a popular need. Residents do not bring anything like this with them when they come. Personal hygiene is an important part of life skills instruction.

Dish Towels and Cloths

Houseparents and residents prepare some meals in the cottage and need both dish towels and cloths. Feeding 12 people (10 residents and 2 houseparents) creates a lot of dirty dishes.

Gently Used Vehicles

The Home is in need of 2 or 3 gently used vehicles to be placed in use by staff to transport residents to and from doctors' appointments, extracurricular activities, part-time work locations, etc. If you would like to donate, please call (800) 987-0301 and ask to speak with Billy Rice or Wynette Yontz. Donors have given us such vehicles in the past and they really help. Safe, reliable transportation is a must but brand new vehicles are not necessarily required to meet those needs.

Gift Cards

Phone cards or gifts cards from Walmart or fast-food restaurants are always a great help. Used as rewards or off campus activities... gift cards help.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS...

PCHH VIDEO FINISHED

YET ANOTHER WINNER

My how time flies! E. C. Hill has served PCHH for 20 years as of this November but it seems like only yesterday when we added him as our first Development Director. For the past two decades he has proven to be a valuable asset to this ministry as he has applied many talents and professional strengths in keeping our story in front of people who love what this Home means to troubled and disadvantaged children.

E. C.'s production of our newsletters and appeals is always creative and his just completed video production entitled "There Is A Place" is an excellent tool portraying our story to those who want to know more about our mission and purpose. We know from other agencies how much such a production costs and we are blessed to be able to produce ours in-house.

In addition to development and public relations, E. C. serves on the Leadership Team and contributes administratively with the in-house production of our Policy and Procedures Manuals, forms, and other programmatic tools to assist in making our workflow more productive and our work easier. His many talents and professional strengths help express a positive reflection of just how much we care about our work.

When asked recently what were some of the most memorable moments during the past 20 years, he replied, "As Jimmy Nichols says in our video, seeing the Hand of God in it all... that is what I remember most."

Thanks E. C. for the excellent work you do for this ministry! We hope your calling to this ministry continues for many years to come. To God be the glory for all the talented, committed people He sends our way to help us meet our collective calling of Giving Children Hope & Purpose for the Future.

The PCHH video, "There Is A Place", has been produced, packaged, and shipped to our Board Members and other volunteer presenters for showing and distribution.

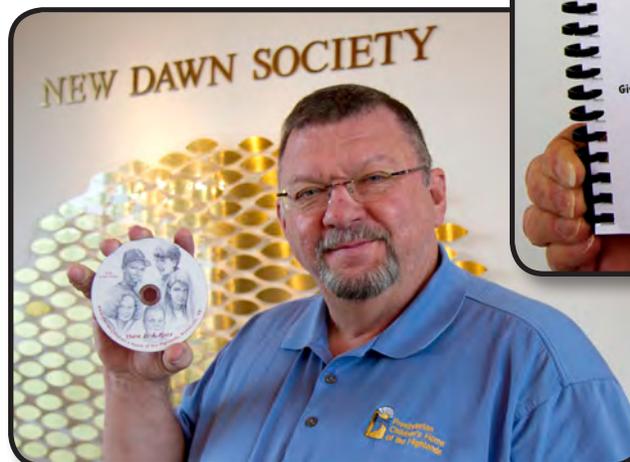
The length of the video is less than 20 minutes... 18:40 to be exact and does a good job of sharing the essence of this ministry.

The accompanying booklet features a contact information page, a letter of thanks from Billy Rice, a handy table of contents listing many topics of interest about PCHH, and then pages of brief comments on these topics. The package is designed to be useful for those wanting to share information about this ministry.

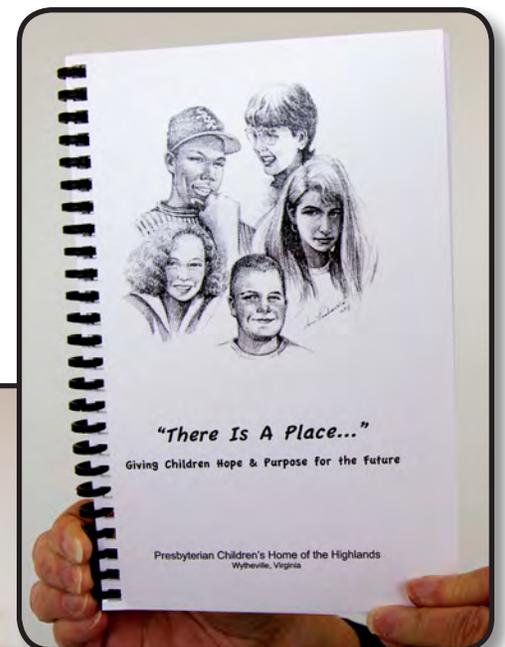
If you would like to host a presentation of this video or present it to your group, contact one of our board members who are listed on Page 2 of this newsletter or call our office at (276) 228-2861. It is a great way to learn more about this ministry and the impact your support has in the lives of the children who pass through our doors.

Our many thanks to Jake Tidwell, Peggy Duncan, and Jimmy Nichols for sharing their stories for our video. Thanks for being a part of our family.

E. C. Hill, Development Director, holds the DVD "There Is A Place" which is packaged in a holder on the inside back cover of the booklet.



Each year Billy Rice, our Executive Director, attends the National Fellowship of Child Care Executives Conference to share ideas and network. One element of that conference is an art contest for residents. Annie from Buchanan Cottage tied for 1st Place with her pencil drawing of Eeyore. Congratulations Annie!



"There Is A Place"

CHRISTMAS 2011: MANY, MANY BLESSINGS!



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE



Helping Others



Receiving Gifts



Heart-felt Appreciation



Christmas Parties



Opening Gifts



The Christmas Story



Thank You Hugs

CHECK OUR WEB SITE:
WWW.PCHH.ORG