



Open Doors

Volume 37 No. 2 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)
Second Quarter 2012

A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITY



AWAITS HE WHO IS READY

Javier will remember many things about the Year 2012... one of which is that he graduated from George Wythe High School. Javier, like our other residents, is a very special person. His attitude and drive will serve him well in the coming months and years.

As the old adage says, *"It's not where you start your journey, it's where you finish that counts."* Javier is preparing himself for a long, exciting journey towards his dream of becoming a psychologist. He recently teased Ms. Wanda (PCHH therapist) about how he was going to prepare and "fill her shoes" here at the Home.

With his drive and determination, he has the basic tools to make that goal a reality. Javier was given up for adoption by his birth parents at the age of four. His thirteen-year stay in his adoptive home was unsuccessful and he was placed with us. Although those years were rough times for Javier he has responded by embracing opportunity rather than refusing help.

One of Javier's goals was to choose his own last name. Once he worked and saved enough money, he had his last name legally changed to honor his best friend's family. This young man has amazing resiliency and determination to succeed.



Javier Antonio Carter's smile comes easy as he thinks about his recent graduation from George Wythe High School. To know this young man is to like him.

Javier loves to run, cook, and play basketball. He's pretty good at video games as well. Reading is a favorite past time when he has a few minutes to spare.

His college plans are very realistic by attending the local community college for the first two years then transferring to a university to finish his studies towards a degree in psychiatry. Javier knows the path will be challenging and his road may be tough... but then, judging from what this young man has already accomplished, many great opportunities and successes lie ahead.

We are proud to introduce you to Mr. Javier Antonio Carter, a graduate of GWHS and a successful survivor of many tough life lessons. Good luck Javier and we look forward to hearing more good things about you!

Billy Rice
Executive Director



Everyone has a birthday, and some people share their special day with a significant event. My youngest brother, Stevie, was born on the 4th of July. I was six years old when he was born, and I can remember my Uncle Joe talking about the “firecracker baby” as my mother brought him home. His birthday always seemed really cool to me and my brother Jerry – after all, he got a holiday and fireworks! It just seemed extra special.

Unfortunately, I now know what it’s like to have your birthday associated with a significant event. I was born on April 16th, which was just another day until the horrific tragedy at Virginia Tech five years ago. It was blowing snow that day, but I was having a nice time enjoying the birthday rituals we celebrate with co-workers when the news started to come in. My mother always called me on my birthday (I really miss that now that she’s received her heavenly reward), but the tone was different that day. I remember her telling me “Your birthday will never be the same”. I have found that to be true. Living so close to such a tragedy, it is impossible not to relive some of that day and have sympathy for those who lost so much that day. Even so, I try to balance that sadness with the fun and celebration that goes with that annual event.

Our children have birthdays too, and unfortunately many of their special days have been tainted by bad memories. They will never forget those memories, but it is up to us to

teach them how to balance them with one of life’s traditional celebrations. So much of what we do here is giving our children experiences that show them how life can be different for them. We want their memories of birthdays and holidays to be special so they can pass on those traditions to their families. We can’t promise that their special day will not be interrupted by one of life’s tragic events, but we can teach them to balance the good with the bad. As part of the Children’s home family, you are playing a significant part in bringing wonderful experiences to our children. On their behalf, thanks for the memories.

Billy

Thank You For Remembering Us In Your Estate Planning

Open Doors

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

P.O. Box 545
Wytheville, VA 24382
(276) 228-2861
FAX (276) 228-8154

www.pchh.org • 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.

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Billy Rice

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PRAYERS & PRAISES

Bath & Dish Towels

Many, many thanks!

We asked and you responded. Thanks to all who have helped supply this need. We appreciate your generosity and many of the new bath and dish towels are already in service.

Good Used Vehicles

The Home is still in need of 2 or 3 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 remain a great help. Used as rewards or off campus activities... gift cards help.

New Dawn Society

As you develop or review your estate planning, don’t forget to consider PCHH. There are several ways in which people remember us in their will and estate plans. Some include us for a given dollar amount, some give a percentage of the value of their estate, some use stocks or bonds, others leave us real property, and even some others make us the beneficiary of a trust or life insurance policy. No amount is too small or too large. We promise to wisely use whatever you give in “Giving Children Hope & Purpose for the Future.”

GIVING HOPE & PURPOSE: ONE DAY AT A TIME... ONE CHILD AT A TIME

There is an old saying that goes something like this... *"If you give a person a fish, you can feed him for a day. If you teach him how to fish, you can feed him for a lifetime."*

That's what we strive to do in all our activities supporting our young people. We not only supply their immediate need but we try hard to equip them with valuable tools that will serve them the rest of their lives.

That means introducing them to spiritual nurturing, paying close and intense attention to academics, providing skills and training in life skills that they will need every day, as well as the valuable lesson of learning the value of a strong work ethic. It's a challenging but rewarding work that makes us all proud "parents" as we see our young people bloom right before our eyes.

Each one has a different personality, a different level of interest in dif-

ferent areas, and their own level of motivation to push forward and succeed.

Chris is typical of a PCHH resident... he is special! It's true Chris has not had an easy life thus far. He lost an uncle and a grandfather during his time with us. Our therapist will vouch to the fact that Chris has really changed since he first came to live with us. His whole attitude about life has changed.

Chris is a worker! He is a valuable hand at the local horse stables and also works in our on-campus program. He helps Ms. Betty in the kitchen during the evening meals. His down-time interests are eating, sleep-

ing, and playing video games. Chris wants to be an auto body mechanic and is working towards that goal. We are so pleased to be helping Chris on his way to a great life.

Go Chris!



*Creative
Expressions!*



*by
Tommy*

Tommy spends much of his free time with pad and color pencils. He expresses himself creatively through illustrations. When Tommy first arrived at PCHH, he was bored during free time. He had never drawn before and out of boredom he picked up colored pencils and began to draw. He has a very caring heart and he wanted to show his gratitude to staff for what



they do by giving them these special pictures. Needless to say, they are on loan to the editor only long enough to photograph them for this article. The pictures mean as much to them as they did to Tommy.

Although he is only 15 years old and never had an art lesson, we feel his future as an illustrator is well within his grasp if he continues developing his talent.

2012 IS SLIPPING BY SO QUICKLY...



We are so fortunate to have friends who help us celebrate holidays and special occasions. What a blessing! Many thanks Presbyterian Church of Radford for the beautiful Easter Baskets!



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE

CHECK OUR WEB SITE:
WWW.PCHH.ORG

Springtime is always a wonderful time to be outside and explore nature.



Peace...



Many thanks to Meadows Presbyterian Church for adding two more bikes to our stable of bikes. We have such caring friends helping in so many ways. Thank you! Thank you!



Funtime Saturday excursions.

