



# Open Doors

Vol. 35, No. 3 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)  
Third Quarter 2010

## MOTIVATION DISCOVERED IN FRUITS OF OWN LABOR

One of the most amazing discoveries young (and many older) people make in life is to find something they really like to do and can earn a living doing it.

Travis, one of our veteran residents in Webb Cottage has been working part-time for a local greenhouse and nursery business and has discovered that this work suits him perfectly. On his own initiative, without any input from staff, Travis used some of his earnings to purchase plants to beautify the front of Webb Cottage. Recruiting some fellow residents, he cleaned out the flower beds, carried admended soil, planted, and mulched the beds. They hauled in some stones for a decorative border.

When asked what he likes about the landscaping business Travis stated, *"I just like working with my hands and then seeing how good it looks when you're done."* Travis is working on earning his GED and would like to continue working in the landscaping business.

Travis has a quiet, gentle personality and most people take a liking to him immediately. His winning smile opens many doors for him.



Travis purchased flowers for his cottage.

The PCHH Life Skills classes always seek to train and prepare residents for the world of life and work but finding one's calling can be an extended search. Sometimes our residents experience many detours before finding that dream job. We provide opportunities to explore potential careers through Life Skills classes and visits from various professionals discussing specific aspects of their jobs.

For the past couple of years you may have noticed the results we have enjoyed from the efforts of our residents mowing, trimming, and landscaping our campus under the leadership and training from Mr. Cato, one of our Evening Supervisors. Our campus looks great!



Landscaping can be hot work but well worth it.





**Billy Rice**  
Executive Director

We will honor your generosity with an engraved plate in the room with the name of the person or organization making the donation. I thank each of you in advance for your consideration.

With hope,  
*Billy*

## Thank You For Remembering Us In Your Estate Planning



Smiles are contagious!

Our children returned to school with the usual anticipation and trepidation. I think most of us agree on the importance of education and its effect on a child's future. We put a tremendous amount of effort and resources into the educational process. However, in this era of standardized testing and numerous measurements of learning, I think we sometimes lose track of the education that occurs away from the school environment. At the Children's Home, that is what summer is all about.

In this newsletter you will see examples of the learning opportunities afforded to our children outside of schoolhouse walls. So much of what we do is expose our children to new experiences that give them a different perspective on the outside world. I ask that you pay particular attention to the cover article on Travis. As he prepares for life after the Children's Home, it is important that he acquires skills that will allow him to be a productive member of society. By matching his interests with the right opportunity, he is able to build a resume and take the first steps to a potential career.

Many of you have asked me over the years to let you know if there is ever a *specific need* you can help with. Well, we have one! After many years and more repairs than we can count, we need to replace the beds and chest of drawers in our cottages. There is information in the Prayer Needs on this page that details the costs involved in outfitting a room for one of our children.

# PRAYER NEEDS

## PCHH Staff

We are in the process of adjusting our Program Department job duties to best utilize the experience and skills of our current employees. Please pray for our staff as we march forward with new job duties. Thank you for your continuing prayer support. Your prayers do make a difference.

## 3/4-Ton Truck...

Snow will be falling soon and our maintenance department really needs a servicable 3/4 ton truck to use with our snow blade and salt spreader. He could also use a 650cc ATV with a blade for cleaning sidewalks. During rough winters our maintenance person reports for work very early to remove snow and ice from our long driveway and from the sidewalks.

## Beds & Chest of Drawers...

During a recent cottage inspection we noticed that the beds and chest of drawers were in dire need of replacement. Please pray that we can replace these with new ones for our children. The replacement cost for a bed and chest of drawers is:

- One child \$ 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.

## After-School Snacks...

We always need after-school snacks. Brownie and/or cake mixes are very popular and enjoyed by all.

## 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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## STAFF CHANGE



**Sharon Phillips**  
Program Director

Sharon Phillips has been appointed as the new Program Director for PCHH. She has served PCHH previously as Cottage Coordinator, Case Manager and most recently, Quality Assurance Director. Sharon's experience and expertise is a great asset.

P. G. Rigney, our former program director, was recruited by the Wythe County School System. P.G.'s 12 years of service with PCHH included serving as Houseparent, Social Worker, and Program Director. We send our best wishes with P. G. in her new job still serving children.

Billy Rice, Executive Director, commented, "Mrs. Rigney's leaving was unexpected but provides an opportunity to reevaluate our program in terms of structure during these challenging times for children's homes. By placing Sharon Phillips in the Program Director's slot and rearranging some of the auxiliary duties, we have the opportunity to utilize our experienced staff to cover our personnel needs without actually hiring another person."

He continued, "Key people are hard to replace but we have come up with an excellent plan. I cannot say enough about our dedicated, experienced staff. Even in these tough economic times, the quality of care given each child has not suffered."

We welcome Sharon as our new Program Director and look forward to utilizing her skills and abilities in her new position.

## ALUMNI GATHERING

It's always great to see former residents as they come back for our Alumni Gathering. Our next Gathering will be on Saturday, July 13, 2013.

If you would like to see more photos of the July 10, 2010 Gathering or post pictures you would like to share, check out our new Facebook site. Search Facebook for Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands.



## AWARDS BANQUET

Our 2009-2010 Honors Award Dinner was another huge success. As expected, our students distinguished themselves in many ways over the course of the school year and were honored with a banquet and awards ceremony.

The top award was presented to Travis, a Webb Cottage resident whom you met on the cover page of this newsletter. Congratulations to each student for their success.



Travis Earns Citizenship Award

## AWARD WINNER

Over the years we have had many residents who were loaded with talent. Amanda recently took Second Place in a National Association of Child Care Executives conference contest. Her painting is pictured below.

You may find our youngsters involved with sports, music, or art. We encourage active participation in all the activities on campus as well as those available to them at school.



Award Winning Oil Painting

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE: [HTTP://PGHH.ORG](http://pghh.org)

SEARCH FACEBOOK FOR: **PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS**

# BACK TO SCHOOL TIME...



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE



## Thanks Everyone...

Although it can be very stressful when it's back to school time again, PCHH is blessed with many friends stepping up to ensure a successful start with back to school needs for our children.

Several folks provide back to school supplies and we are blessed to have such caring friends. For the past five years, one local business has provided a special Back To School Party complete with a picnic, activities, and gifts.

The pictures on this page were taken at the 2010 Back To School Party hosted by Henry Schein (formerly GIV).

Thank you one and all!

