



Open Doors

Vol. 34, No. 3 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)
Third Quarter 2009

LIVING ON YOUR OWN IS EXCITING BUT A CHALLENGE



GIVING CHILDREN HOPE & PURPOSE FOR THE FUTURE



Tony is living a dream that didn't seem possible a few short years ago. Three years ago when he came to PCHH, he was challenged with several issues that severely limited his potential. He was a teenager in emotional turmoil. Tony needed help that was beyond his reach. His family could not provide the assistance he needed, however, PCHH did.

Congratulations Tony!



During his time at PCHH Tony was coached, mentored, pushed, and tenderly led through some extensive counseling and teaching. Tony did his best. Today Tony is still learning and living independently with the help of PCHH, the local department of Social Services, and other community-based wrap-around services.

Living on your own is exciting but still is a challenge. Tony is doing his best. Although he is living in a house in a nearby town designed for transistion, he is optimistic and looks forward to tomorrow. Tony earned a dipolma from George Wythe High School while at PCHH and worked part-time off campus earning money and gaining work experience. He is currently engaging the needed wrap-around resources to be able to move forward. His lifestyle is being shaped each week. Tony looks forward to being completely on his own. A good job and a place to live will be the next step in his progress toward those goals. PCHH helps children and youth of all levels of potential to reach for a better future. If you would like to know more about the PCHH "Life Skills" program, give us a call at (276) 228-2861.



Friends of PCHH...

Thank you for all your help in getting the new school year off to a great start! We appreciate your support. We cannot do it without you.



Billy Rice
Executive Director

COVENANT CHURCHES

We appreciate our Covenant Church partners in ministry and encourage more congregations to consider joining us in this effort.

We would love to have your church's name and hometown included on the PCHH Covenant Churches wall of honor in our board room. We have room for more... pray about it and lead your church into becoming a PCHH Covenant Church.

Alumni Gathering

July 10, 2010

IMMEDIATE NEED

The Children's Home needs **comforters** and **mattress covers** for twin-sized beds and a small **utility trailer** suitable to haul riding lawn mowers. Please call the office at (800) 987-0301 if you wish to help with these items.

Open Doors

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

P.O. Box 545
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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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Nursing Home Visits... Several of our residents regularly visit one of the local nursing homes. It's hard to tell who is more blessed... the children or the residents there.



Enjoying the Fruits of Labor... Some of the residents who have worked with Mr. Cato this summer take time to admire the fruits of their labor. The campus looks absolutely wonderful this year. Thanks guys!



Lots of Summertime Fun... Our recreation director kept everyone busy this summer with a wide variety of activities, crafts, games, directed physical exercise, sporting events, as well as a special trip to Carowinds.

**Thank You
For Remembering
Us In Your
Estate Planning**

As I am writing this article our children have returned to school after a busy summer. How busy? Let's just say that the staff is finally able to take a deep breath after making sure that all the children made it to their appointed destinations day after day. Between jobs, camps, summer school, recreational trips, home visits, and our regular medical and dental appointments, it seems like there was never a moment to spare.

For some of our children, this summer was one of life changing transition. Our cover story talks about how one young man moved from years in our home to his own apartment. All of us remember the combination of excitement and fear we felt when we first struck out on our own. Tony will experience those emotions and more, and his Children's Home family will be there to help him through it. We are evaluating how we can best help our children transition from the stability of cottage living to independence. Our experiences with Tony will help us as we plan for the future. We will keep you informed on our progress.

Thanks to our large network of supporters, we were able to provide what our children needed this summer. If you are reading this you are part of our family and you are making a difference in our children's lives. On behalf of them, please accept our heartfelt thanks!

With hope,
Billy

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT: STRONG COMMITMENT TO PCHH

The Reverend Brad Simpson
Wytheville Presbyterian Church

With sincere appreciation and enthusiasm for the ministry of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, I share the following reflection with you.

1. What is my perspective of the ministry of the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands?

PCHH provides a ministry for the children of our community and region that helps them to know the love and compassion of Christ in a very special way. As I consider the many ways in which the staff and volunteers reach out to these young people, I am reminded of this verse in the Gospel of Luke 18:16, "Jesus called the children to him and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.'" Through the programs and activities of PCHH, we have the opportunity to be the healing, loving presence for the children who call PCHH, "their home." I consider my involvement at PCHH an important part of my calling to serve as the Pastor with both the Wytheville Presbyterian Church and Abingdon Presbytery.

2. Specifically, how have I been involved with PCHH and in what ways can other Pastors and church volunteers become involved?

For the past six years, I have volunteered as a "devotion leader" for the Thursday evening vesper services in the Chapel on campus. Together with other volunteers participating in this program, I enjoy this opportunity to share a reflective, prayerful time of the evening with the children



Rev. Brad Simpson

of PCHH as I learn more about them. We talk about their concerns and celebrations in the context of Scripture and in the context of a community of friends who care about them. Pastors and lay volunteers who would like to participate with this program can contact P.G. Rigney.

In addition, I periodically meet with the staff of PCHH for their morning devotions at 9:00 AM. For this meeting, I provide a reflective-type reading for the day and have prayer with them. This time of sharing is a wonderful way to support all of the staff as they provide their love and support for the children of PCHH.

Other activities that I have been involved with at PCHH include the following (Pastors and other volunteers are invited to do all of these



activities): mentoring; visiting the children and houseparents in the cottages; attending special outings with the various cottages (e.g. movies, skating, etc), and attending awards ceremonies, holiday meals, and other events at PCHH.

3. In what ways has Wytheville Presbyterian Church been involved with PCHH and how can congregations support PCHH?

Recently, our church became a Covenant Church as our Session and congregation pledged its prayerful and financial support for PCHH. I strongly encourage all churches, whether Presbyterian or other denominations, to accept the invitation to become a Covenant Church with PCHH. This partnership provides a wonderful opportunity to participate more directly in the mission of PCHH, "Giving children hope and purpose for the future."

For the past several summers, our congregation has sponsored a child to attend a week of camp at Holston Presbytery Camp in Banner Elk, NC. I have especially enjoyed serving as the Chaplain of the camp during these same weeks and seeing firsthand the excitement and enthusiasm of the PCHH children.

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INTERESTING SUMMER HAPPENINGS...

Pulaski Mariners Baseball... The Wytheville Presbyterian Church hosted many of our residents recently at a Pulaski Mariners baseball game. Good game, good fun, good company... as they say, "a good time was had by all." Thanks WPC!



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The need for additional sponsorships depends on the number of children who are available to attend this type of activity.

Our congregation also regularly reaches out to PCHH in the following ways: designating the annual Thanksgiving Offering for PCHH, sending birthday cards to children at PCHH, inviting PCHH to events with the church, including the Fall Festival, baseball games, college football games, and youth swim parties, sponsoring a Christmas party for these children at the church, also inviting the children and houseparents to attend worship services on Sundays.

4. What are particular experiences that have motivated me to be involved with PCHH?

The following experiences motivate me to support the ministry of PCHH: children from PCHH who see me in the community and greet me in a way that reflects the friendship and appreciation they feel toward those who care about them; staff at PCHH who do everything possible to show these children love, compassion, and understanding; the annual Christmas dinner/gift celebration and the spring awards recognition banquet that includes recognition for every child at PCHH; and conversations with members of Wytheville Presbyterian Church who are advocates for PCHH and, in many ways, support this ministry.

The Reverend Brad Simpson
Wytheville Presbyterian Church

Back-To-School Party... Our GIV friends in Bastian again invited our students over for a Back-To-School Party. We were blessed with a wonderful meal, school clothes, and a backpack for each child. Thanks to everyone who pitched in during our back to school time. We couldn't make it without you.



Cain Ropes Course... We make good use of the Cain Rope Course during the summer break. Confidence, self-esteem, and teamwork are but a few of the benefits they enjoy.

