



Open Doors

Vol. 32, No. 2 The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc.
Second Quarter 2007

A SALUTE TO OUR GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL GRADS



Andrea

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7

Lee



Just as spring showers bring May flowers, for our seniors the month of May brings heart-felt thoughts of the past, present and serious thoughts of what is going to happen now. Some residents cannot wait to dive head-first into the world of becoming an “adult” and being completely responsible for themselves. Some are rather timid about the future and are not anxious to venture out into the world. Yet others have been preparing academically for more schooling past a GED or high school diploma.

This year is no exception to the menu of options our seniors face. Andrea graduated from George Wythe High School and is enrolled in the local community college to pursue her education in art. She is an extremely talented young lady with potential to excel in animation or other artistic endeavors of her choosing. Andrea is imaginative, expressive, strong-willed and friendly. Some of Andrea’s work is featured on the back page of this newsletter. We expect great things from Andrea as she continues her education.

Lee is friendly, attentive, and is trying to decide between college and the Army. His plans include a degree in psychology. Lee is quiet, self-motivating, and enjoys sports. He excelled his senior year in wrestling and played varsity football. He worked on our campus with our maintenance personnel in our on-campus work program.

Our seniors have completed many life skills training sessions during their stay at PCHH to prepare them for the real world. They have learned how to shop, cook, clean, and literally take care of themselves. It’s important to know how to prepare a practical budget to wisely cover living expenses. Matter of fact, there are several “how-to-do” life skills that are needed for personal success.

Skills to buy a car, how to secure insurance, rent an apartment and several other things are handy tools to include in one’s life-skills toolbox. Andrea and Lee are ready... good luck grads!



Billy Rice
Executive Director

When your ministry has been caring for children for over eighty-seven years, it can be overwhelming to think about the number of children that have passed through your doors and have an emotional attachment to our home. The most obvious reminder of this is Alumni Day, when residents from years past come back to campus to reminisce about old times and catch up with friends. It is a wonderful day, filled with laughter and stories about the "old days" that just get better with time, and we eagerly look forward to it each year.

Many of our children do not make it back for Alumni Day, but that does not mean we do not hear from them. Almost every day our phone rings with a call from a former resident. Some are good calls, such as a wedding announcement, a new job, or the birth of a child. Other calls are painful – an alumnus has fallen on hard times, and we do what we can to help when it's appropriate. Sometimes they just need someone to talk to, and they want to speak to a familiar voice. You would be amazed at the number of calls and letters our staff members receive from our children after they leave us. It is a testament to the love and trust they gain from the children while they are in our care.

Some of the best visits are where they just drop in. That happened this week when Jake Tidwell, a 2005 alumnus, stopped by. Jake was on leave from his first tour of duty in Iraq, and he was scheduled to return as soon as his leave was over. We

were thrilled that he stopped by to see us, and it was obvious that he was happy to be here. He looked like the same Jake that was with us a couple years ago, but now he is a man serving his country during this difficult time. We could not be more proud.

As our latest crop of graduates prepare to strike out on their own, they can do so with the knowledge that the Children's Home will always be here to serve as an anchor for their lives. As part of the Children's Home family, I hope that makes you proud. We could not do it without your love and support, and we thank you.

Billy

ALUMNI GATHERING

Mark your calendars!

Saturday

July 14, 2007

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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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STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

The Molly Copes "Back To The Mountains" Storytelling Festival is set for the first weekend in June for 2008. David Holt and Sheila Kay Adams, nationally renowned storytellers, have agreed to come to the inaugural event to be held on our campus.

Regional storyteller, Jim Lloyd, has not only agreed to perform but he is also serving on our Advisory Committee for the festival. We will announce other storytellers as they commit to perform.

If you or your group would like to assist in promoting the festival and/or selling tickets for us in your area, please call (276) 228-2861 for information on how to sign up.

JUST A REMINDER...

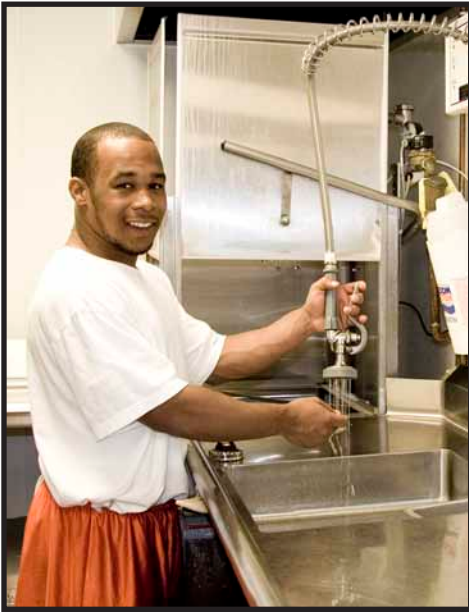
If you are looking for another way to help the Children's Home while you save on your taxes from your mandated IRA withdrawals, check out this limited time opportunity. All contributions must be made between January 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007.

For more details, go to our web site at <http://pchh.org> and download the information or call the office and we will mail/e-mail/fax the information to you.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Pool Towels & Kitchel Towels
- All Occasion Cards
- Gas for a Cottage Van (\$75 per tank)
- Sponsor Home Olympics (\$350 per resident)
- Landscaping Elements (flowers, mulch, tools, etc.)
- Sponsor Movie Night Out (\$75 per cottage)

PCHH ON-CAMPUS WORK PROGRAM — WORKING TOWARDS THE FUTURE



Although much of the work program jobs on campus involves manual labor, the jobs fulfill a much needed purpose. There is great value in learning how to work.

Whether it's with our maintenance personnel or kitchen staff, residents in our work program are trained, supervised, and paid for the jobs they perform. Successful completion of our on-campus work program is a sure-fire way to get and keep that part-time off-campus job.

The off campus jobs vary from fast food restaurant jobs to landscaping, from shoveling snow during the winter to unloading produce trucks in the summer.

It is quite satisfying to observe a young, inexperienced worker who does not know how to do anything, learn and advance in practical skills that can serve him/her for a lifetime.



Learning how to work effectively serves an individual throughout their lifetime.. The work program is an important part of our mission of *"Giving Children Hope & Purpose For The Future."*

How many times have you heard the saying, "I can't" or "I don't know how to do that?" In our on-campus work program, residents learn how to do "that" and learn how to do tasks that encompass a specific job.



THIS & THAT...



Birthdays are special at PCHH. We celebrate with the birthday boy's or girl's favorite dinner, birthday cake, presents, and special requests when possible.

Chase recently celebrated his birthday with a special request to ride in one of his favorite cars to ever visit campus, a 1931 customized A-Model. Owner, Duke Yontz, was delighted to fulfill Chase's special birthday wish.



Billy Rice, Executive Director, and Patsy Weeks, Board Moderator, took time during a recent board meeting to officially "burn the note" that enabled the Home to purchase the Jordon Center. It feels really good to have our debt officially retired. We thank God for His blessings.



The Virginia Tech incident on April 16 prompted many expressions of concern and sympathy. Kyle participated in a school memorial service in memory of the 32 people who lost their lives. He enjoyed wearing his Virginia Tech cap that day. Matter of fact, he was reluctant to remove it during times that called for no-caps (dinner time for example).

The shooting event caused many anxious moments. A group of our residents were special guests at a function on the Virginia Tech campus just the weekend prior to the shooting.

Life On Campus



At any given time, we may have as many as 3 or 4 budding musicians on campus expressing their feelings and enjoying the therapy that music brings.

Most young ladies enjoy learning how to dress and apply make-up. Ours are no different. The smile says it all... improved self-esteem is hard to hide.



Andrea's Gallery



The annual Children's Homes Olympics has become a popular event for PCHH residents who have worked hard to qualify. This year is no exception. Watch for results in our next newsletter.

Remember how wonderful it feels to have the wind blowing through your hair as you control the universe on your trusty two-wheeled steed?

