

Open Doors

Volume 49 No. 3 • Third Edition 2024

Giving Children Hope and Purpose For The Future

PGHH

Jeremiah 29:11

FOSTER'S CLOSET



Foster's Closet is finally completely up and running. We are excited to announce that we have held two clothing distribution events thus far and they have been a huge success. The first event was held on campus as children in Wythe County prepared to return to school. We partnered with the Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and were able to serve roughly 52 families at our on campus facility. These families were truly in need and were impressed by the support system we have surrounding this project. Our second event, and first one off campus, was held on September 20 at Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church in Abingdon. This event was held on the same day as their weekly Breaking Bread food distribution event and allowed us to use our truck and equipment for distribution. When we arrived that morning we already had people in line waiting to view the clothes and see what they needed. During this event we were able to service approximately 70 individuals and families as well as come back with an almost empty truck. This was a learning experience and something that we will become better at as we progress and do more and more events. Our Independent Living residents were able to participate and essentially run the distribution from a customer service stand point. Thank you so much to Klaire, Easton and Garrett for all of their hard work and dedication to this project. We would also like to thank Mike Vollmer and Skip Hastings, members of our Board of Directors, for helping as well as our former Board Member Linda Cole. Finally, thank you to Sinking Spring and all of those who have participated in this project.



Executive Director's Comments



Billy Rice
Executive
Director

November 1st will mark the 25th year anniversary of when I was privileged to become the Executive Director of our Children's Home. It certainly does not seem that long ago, but time flies when you are having fun!

There have been many changes since my first day here. When I walk outside my office, I see the physical improvements we have made on our campus. The McGavock Center, which houses the Minnick School, our gymnasium, and our cafeteria, was built in 2003. We celebrated our 100th anniversary in 2019 with the construction of the Sarah Ellen Harless Garden of Hope, the beautiful entrance to our campus that honors Ms. Harless and the many donors that helped make our 100th anniversary campaign a success. We have a revamped recreational area that includes a picnic shelter and a renovated pool and outdoor basketball court, complete with lighting that illuminates the campus. If you stand atop the hill on our beautiful 89 acre campus, you can see all of this and a view of Wytheville that still takes my breath away.

There is something that has not changed at all over my time here. That is the dedication of our staff to providing a loving home for the

children that God sends to our door. Our staff is like a family, and we transfer that feeling to our children. We have strived to meet our mission, "giving children hope and purpose for the future", with each of the 938 children that have lived at our ministry since my arrival. The members of the Children's Home family, whether it be staff, Board members, or donors to our ministry, are an integral part of our children's growth. We have seen them overcome the scars of abuse and neglect and go on to lead productive lives and experience the joy of so many of them returning to our campus with their own families and recounting what our ministry meant to them. I am blessed to be a part of such a vital ministry, and I thank each of you for your contributions to helping our ministry meet its mission.

With hope,

Billy



National Honor Society Induction Day for Madalyn. Congratulations on all of your hard work!

Shower of Blessings



Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body Wash / Deodorant
- Laundry & Dishwashing Pods
- Good used vehicles
- Remember PCHH in your Estate Planning
- Electric Razors
- Prayers, Prayers, Prayers



NOW OPEN AND ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

Open Doors

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

www.pchh.org • info@pchh.org

This agency complies with all state and federal non-profit fundraising regulations.

Open Doors is an educational publication produced in-house periodically to provide insights about PCHH.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Billy Rice

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Frank Akers - Rural Retreat, VA
- Elaine Alderman - Hillsville, VA
- Christopher Beach - Harrisonburg, VA
- Howard Borgstrom - Alexandria, VA
- Kay Bunn - Bristol, VA
- Tammy Craft - Blacksburg, VA
- David Dickerson - Fincastle, VA
- Kara Goforth - Wytheville, VA
- Skip Hastings - Salem, VA
- Paul Lindamood - Christiansburg, VA
- Brenda Linkenhoker - Covington, VA
- Becky Morgan - Rural Retreat, VA
- Beth Patterson - Bristol, TN
- **Jim Rakes - Blacksburg, VA
- Dorothea Shannon - Williamsburg, VA
- Jayne Sneed - Richmond, VA
- Kemper Snyder - Staunton, VA
- *Mike Vollmer - Blountville, TN

* Moderator
** Vice-Moderator

PCHH HAPPENINGS

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Virginia Department of Labor has identified a lack of work skills in young adults as a major problem across the state. To combat this the Virginia Department of Labor has developed a program that children across the Commonwealth, as well as our children here at PCHH, are now being able to take advantage of. The program is called Virginia Career Works. The goal of Virginia Career Works is to provide countless credentials needed for many different types of careers that are available today. This ties hand in hand with the development we have been doing with Foster's Closet.

PCHH is recognized as a Virginia Workforce Development Program which allows our residents to receive on the job training while giving back to those in need. Our residents from ages 16-21 are eligible to participate in this program and to this point most if not all that have been given the chance have jumped at the opportunity. The children in our care are offered:

- training to help them prepare for employment
- opportunity to develop leadership skills
- experiences that will help them gain valuable work skills
- help in earning high school credentials if not previously earned
- opportunities to give back to the community
- trainings to earn credentials so they can land their dream job
- friendships that can last a lifetime and much more.

FOSTER'S CLOSET NEEDS

- 13 gallon trash bags
- Gallon sized zip lock bags
- Travel sized toiletries
- Good used clothing
- Children's clothing
- New socks
- New wash cloths
- New toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Shoes

(If you will kindly separate your clothing according to men's, women's, youth, children's, etc. when you put it in a garbage bag mark that bag as to where we should designate it being sorted, that would help us tremendously!!!)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

We have tentatively set **July 12, 2025** for an **Alumni Gathering**. We need your input to determine if we can have enough participants to host this event. In 2022 we only had 2 former residents attending this gathering and we were excited to see those who attended but were disappointed that we did not have more. We would like to have your input of how to make this event exciting for those attending.

We are establishing a planning committee to **Save Alumni Day** and **Becky Bedsaul** is the chair of this committee. She is looking for your input as to what you would like to happen for this event. Her email address is:

rebeccabedsaul31@gmail.com

We will post in our January, 2025 newsletter and on our website as to whether or not we will be hosting a gathering.



FRIDAY, AUGUST 1, 2025
Annual Golf Tournament
and Ball Drop at the
Wytheville Golf Club

Follow Us On:

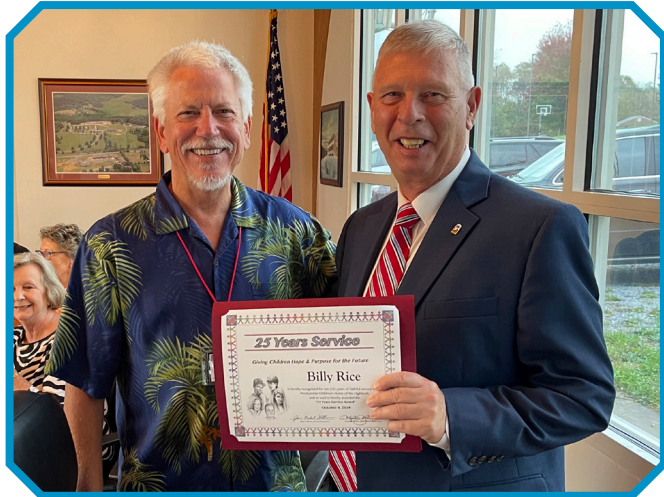


www.pchh.org



DONATE

CAMPUS MEMORIES



Billy Receiving His 25 Year Award!



Diane Patty & Former Board Members Representing PCHH at the Fall Peaks Women's Gathering!



Easton Stocking Clothes.



Foster's Closet!



Assisting a Shopper!



The Truck has Arrived!



Back to School Picnic!



Grilling!



Mr. Cato Preparing for Fall!



The Boys Preparing to Grill!



A Day Off Campus!

