



Open Doors

Volume 42 No. 1
 Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. (PCHH)
 First Quarter 2017

Giving Children Hope & Purpose For The Future

PCHH

Proverbs 10:7

We Celebrate 100 Years

#PCHH100Strong

**Joy
 Peace
 Love**

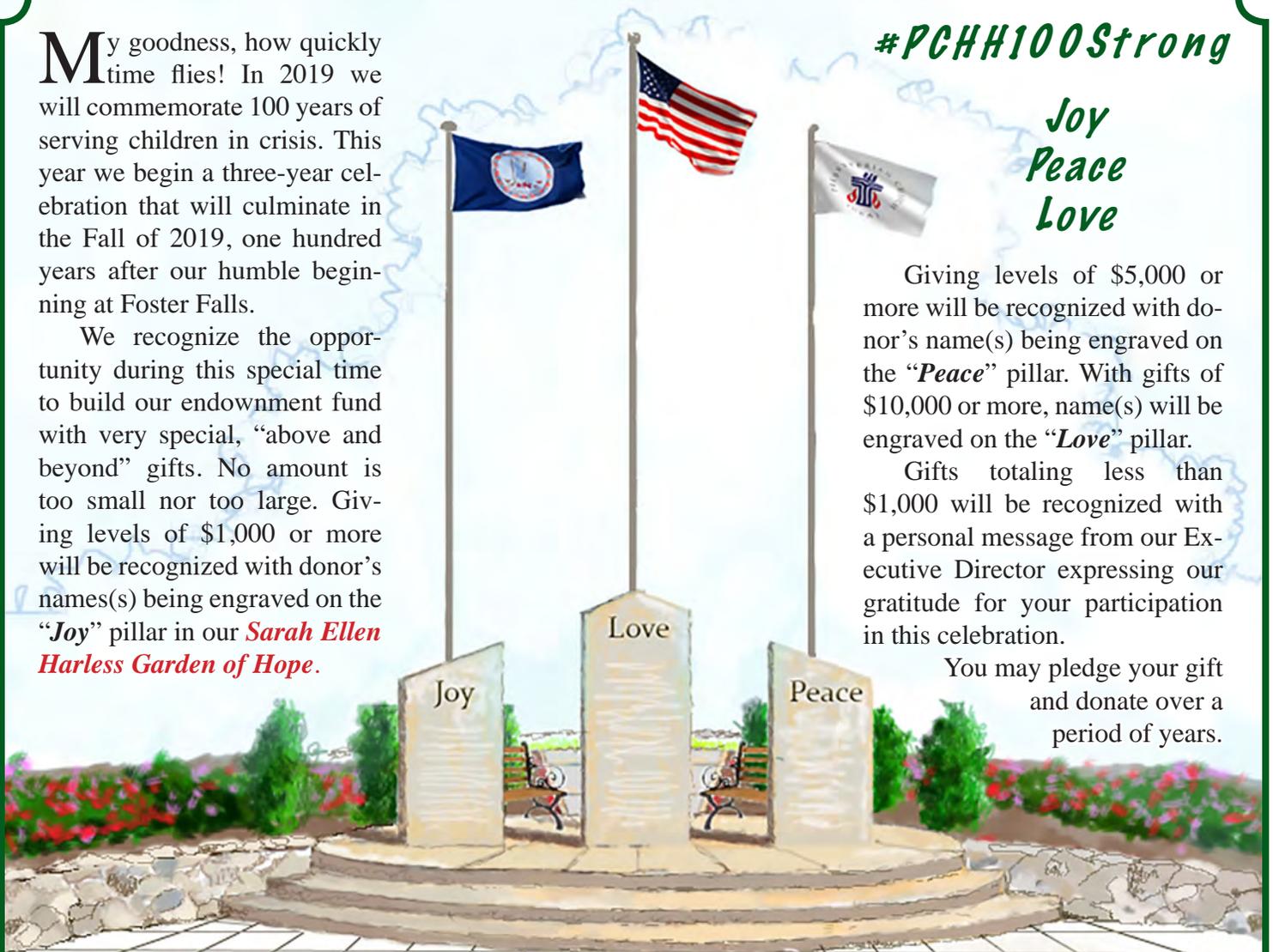
My goodness, how quickly time flies! In 2019 we will commemorate 100 years of serving children in crisis. This year we begin a three-year celebration that will culminate in the Fall of 2019, one hundred years after our humble beginning at Foster Falls.

We recognize the opportunity during this special time to build our endowment fund with very special, "above and beyond" gifts. No amount is too small nor too large. Giving levels of \$1,000 or more will be recognized with donor's names(s) being engraved on the "Joy" pillar in our *Sarah Ellen Harless Garden of Hope*.

Giving levels of \$5,000 or more will be recognized with donor's name(s) being engraved on the "Peace" pillar. With gifts of \$10,000 or more, name(s) will be engraved on the "Love" pillar.

Gifts totaling less than \$1,000 will be recognized with a personal message from our Executive Director expressing our gratitude for your participation in this celebration.

You may pledge your gift and donate over a period of years.



Every dollar given for this special project will be sent to our endowment account to help secure another 100 years of ministry to children in our care. Giving Children Hope & Purpose for the Future has been our mission since 1919 and we are working to continue that vital mission. We invite you to participate and celebrate along with us. Go to our website, www.pchh.org, and download our brochure about our celebration. LIKE us on Facebook and follow along as we celebrate 100 years of ministry. To God be the glory... great things He has done and will do.



Billy Rice
Executive Director

Our cover story highlights the kickoff of our 100th Anniversary fund raising campaign. One hundred years is an amazing milestone for any ministry, and we will be celebrating our fascinating history over the next three years. The celebration will culminate with an event on our campus in the fall of 2019. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

It is easy for those of us who grew up in loving and intact families to take that situation for granted. As someone who grew up with wonderful parents and two brothers that I love very much, I know that I did. That changed for me in 1977, when I began my career in a ministry much like the one I am privileged to lead today. The past 39 years, including the last 17 at our Children's Home, have given me the opportunity to work with children who have experienced horrors that no one should ever endure. To this day, some of the situations our children come from bring tears to my eyes. The saving grace for me is that I know personally the power of our ministry. My time at the Children's Home has allowed me to not only experience the joy of our children transforming their lives while they are here, but also returning as adults to tell us how our ministry changed their lives.

I want to share with you a story from nine months ago. We received a call concerning the placement of a sibling group. As the social worker explained the situation to me, some of the tears I spoke of earlier welled up in my eyes. It was truly the most

horrific situation I had encountered in my career. I promised the social worker we would help if we could, and I went to check on how many beds were available. As it turned out, we had the exact number of openings they needed – two boys and a girl. That seems like divine intervention to me! Those children are still with us and are making tremendous progress.

As members of the Children's Home family, you have helped change the lives of so many children. You allow us to make sure our children's personal and professional needs are met, and to employ the dedicated and loving staff members that keep our doors open 365 days a year. The need for a child to be saved takes no holidays, including Christmas Day. Our staff members were here on that day, giving up time with their families to make sure our children know that they are loved and special to us.

I ask that you prayerfully consider a special gift to this once in a lifetime campaign. The next generation

of children in need deserves the opportunity to live in a loving home. With your help, our mission "Giving children hope and purpose for the future" will be fulfilled for the next one hundred years. Thanks again for your love and devotion to our ministry.

Billy

PCHH NEEDS

Current Needs...

- Movies, PG13 rated
- Walmart, McDonald's or Wendy's Gift Cards
- Laundry detergent pods
- Dishwasher detergent pods
- Quality used vehicles
- Bottled water
- Storage totes (16-32 gal)
- Daily prayers, always!

Keep track of more needs by checking our website:

www.pchh.org

Open Doors

Giving Children
Hope & Purpose
for the Future
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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Billy Rice

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*Moderator **Vice-Moderator

Special Note

With the advancement in technology we are now able to provide this newsletter cost effectively in color!

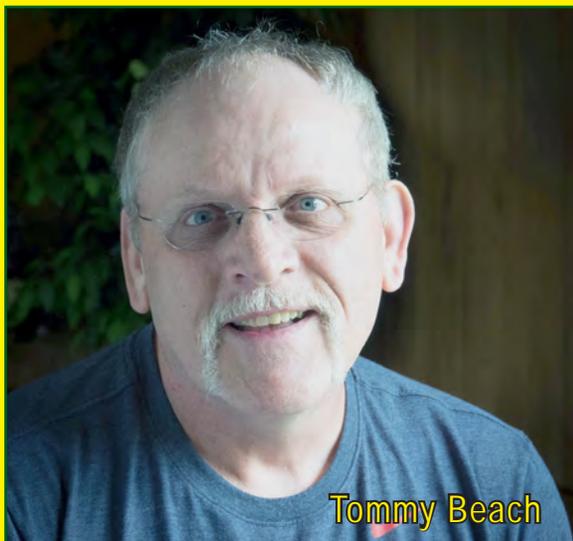
SOCIAL MEDIA

A new addition to our toolbox... Follow our Executive Director on Twitter - @BillyRice PCHH. Search for #PCHH100STRONG too.

Be sure to "Like" us on Facebook and keep up on latest happenings at the Home.

Check out our updated website too. You will find a wealth of information about our past, present and our plans for the future.

www.pchh.org

MY STORY

Tommy Beach

Tommy Beach was born in Harrisonburg, Virginia and was brought to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands when he was six years old. Tommy was the youngest resident of the Home at that time.

As with the other youngsters in our care, he attended school, participated in activities, and soon was fully integrated into the life of the Home. Today Tommy will readily tell you that the feeling of family is his favorite memory he has cherished over the years.

The twelve years Tommy lived with us was basically his childhood. He grew, matured and flourished with us and we were blessed to have him as a part of our family. Tommy graduated from George Wythe High School and spent eight years in the military. Tommy is quick to share that one of the most important aspects of the Home is the discipline provided for maturing young people as they prepare to enter the world of work and real life.

Today Tommy and his wife, Julie, live in Verona, Virginia and he and his adult son, Christopher, have been regular attendees of our Alumni Gatherings. It always is a good day when Tommy and his family visit us. We were and are blessed!

**GIVING BACK... THE FINAL GIFT**

It is more blessed to give than to receive... we've all said it and more than likely even meant it but convincing young people of this Biblical virtue is not always an easy thing to do. However, like most life lessons, this teaching is much better shown through actions.

In early November some of our girls made about 100 handmade ornaments and several beautiful wreaths, made from pinecones from right here on our campus, to give to residents at a local Adult Care Facility. As the day came to deliver the gifts, there was an obvious lack of enthusiasm among the girls about visiting the retirement home. However, once we arrived things quickly turned around and it became difficult to determine who was enjoying our visit the most. There was one hall that we were not allowed on but a staff member took ornaments to all of the residents and we thought little of it.

When the time came for us to leave, the girls were sad but all agreed that they would like to visit on a more regular basis. As they were leaving, the care provider that had stopped us from entering the hallway shared that a family was saying their final goodbyes to their loved one. Although the patient was unable to accept the simple gift we had brought, the family lovingly accepted it. The family recognized that our present would be the **final gift** their loved one would ever receive on earth. The impact of this knowledge on the girls as well as the staff was profound.

We never know how the simplest act can have a lasting impression on others. Thank you God for allowing us to Give Back.

Christmas 2016

PCHH

Jeremiah 29:11



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We are so blessed for special friends and special gifts. The ski trip will be long remembered.

Many of our residents are astounded by all the decorations and excitement of Christmas... fun times!



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Houseparents are key in selecting great gifts.



The local Christmas Parade is lots of fun.

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A big thank you to all Santa's helpers!