

# Open Dooks Vol. 31, No. 2 The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, Inc. Second Quarter 2006

## WATCH THAT NEXT STEP ... IT'S A BIG ONE!

It is true that learning is a life-long process that serves us well not only in surviving but flourishing in today's world. May is typically the month we celebrate the completion of major steps in formal education.

This May is no exception. We celebrate the successful completion of important educational achievements by several of our students.

Chassadi Thompson, a May 2006 graduate of George Wythe High School, is headed to Radford University's Honors Program this fall to begin her studies to become a therapist. Chassadi has already been "adopted" by churches in the Radford area that include support families and friends to make her challenge easier.

You may remember Chassadi from our First Quarter Newsletter of 2004 where she was featured for a poem she had written. She has been a busy young lady since then polishing her talents and earning a wonderful opportunity at Radford University.

Chassadi has expressed an interest in returning to PCHH to help other young people work through their challenges.





PCHH also celebrates the recent academic achievements by several of our GED students. Earning a GED certificate enables these students to begin to march towards a career that will be both life sustaining and satisfying. To earn a living doing something you like is such a blessing.



Our "Life On The Hill" series of handson instructional program adventures help prepare residents for independent living. Think of all the tasks one might take for granted... laundry, shopping, cooking, banking, renting an apartment, or looking for a job in the local paper. These are important tools to have and use when you are living on your own.



With a GED certificate and hard work, future opportunities can become reality. Skills training gained through community colleges or industrial apprenticeship programs can pay nice dividends.



We are excited for Kayla and her future plans of marriage and children. She will be sorely missed.

A wise person once said, "It's not where you start but where you finish." Preparing for the future is rarely easy but our students have invested their time, talent and energy in prepaing themselves for their future.

May God continue to bless and guide our residents as they strive to live today and prepare for tomorrow.



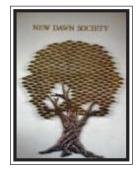
Billy Rice Executive Director

I am sure all of us can remember the contrasting feelings that raced through our minds as we prepared to strike out on our own for the first time. Whether you were headed off to college, moving into your first apartment, or preparing for military service, many of the emotions are the same. Excitement abounds, but doubt keeps creeping in. What if college is too hard for me? Can I pay my bills when I move into my apartment? Did I do the right thing when I joined the Army? Our lives were changing, and the decisions we made during that time had a huge impact on where we are today.

Our cover story talks about some of our children who are getting ready to face the challenge of being on their own for the first time. As we prepare for their departure, we are helping them deal with the highs that come from the anticipation and the lows they experience when insecurity creeps in. We want to celebrate with them while keeping their feet on the ground and lift them up on the days when they think nothing is going right. To be honest, we are nervous too.

Our children are getting ready to put to use all the things we have tried to teach them while they were at the Children's Home. We know that despite our best efforts, they will make some of the same mistakes we made when we were their age. We are also confident that they will build on the successes and lessons learned while they were with us in order to lead a productive life. It may take some of

# **New Dawn Society**



Remember
PCHH in your
estate planning
and become a
member of
the New
Dawn
Society.
Call for
information.

them longer than others, but we will be there for advice and support all through their journey.

I hope that you, as a supporter of our ministry, take pride in the accomplishments of our residents. Without your love and support, we would not be able to provide the guidance, support, and professional services our children need. You have made our mission statement, "giving children hope and purpose for the future", a reality. Please keep them in your prayers as they take the next step in the journey of life.

Billy

# 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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# Moving Swiftly...

Summertime is a very interesting time on our campus. It is definitely a change of pace and a challenge that takes lots of planning, extra manpower, and coordination of efforts with military precision.

Some of our young people return home or to other home environments after school is out. Others work full-time jobs off-campus during the summer, others pick up academic credits at summer school, and many do a combination of these activities. Trips are a popular activity for most of our residents with camps being quite popular as well. Everyone is kept busy doing something!

Enjoy our Summertime feature.

## **PCHH Current Needs**

PCHH can use the following items to support our summer programs.

- Good pre-owned vehicles
- Independent Living Supplies (such as dishes, utensils, pots, pans, etc.)
- Fishing Gear/Tackle
- 12-Passenger Van
- Clothing/Allowance Sponsors

In addition these items, we have some special prayer requests.

- Pray for Benny Burkett and his family as he goes through his cancer treatment.
- Pray for the children in our care and for their family situations
- Pray for the students who are leaving us and returning to their homes or other living situations
- Pray for our staff as we face each day's challenges and for our families

# ...Into Summertime, All Aboard!

Our pool is a cool addition to the hot summertime on our campus. We recently had a new fence installed around the pool.



Trophies and ribbons are just a symbol of the value of what the Children's Homes Olympics can mean to participants. We strongly encourage participation and are very proud of our teams.





Mark You Calendars...

### ALUMNI GATHERING

Saturday July 8, 2006





Summertime offers time to enjoy God's creation with all our senses.

Chores around the cottage are a year-round fact of life but summertime presents some additional tasks related to mowing grass, trimming, etc.





Summertime trips can be educational, usually an adventure, and are always fun.



Working fast food teaches many lessons including the importance of working as a team.

Off-campus jobs are great earn-whileyou-learn experiences. Residents are required to save at least 80% of their income for future needs.





The PROM is not just a one-night event. Some of our residents have been shopping for just the right dress or accessory for weeks.

The PCHH Prom helps make many good memories for students. The PCHH Prom is a positive, safe, social time for our students.



for helping us meet our mission of "Giving Children Hope & Purpose For The Future"





Billy Rice, our Executive Director, looks forward to having his picture taken with our girls on prom night.





We are very fortunate to have staff volunteering many hours to help coordinate and produce what has become an important annual event for our young people. Patty, our very talented receptionist, designs and makes each corsage to match each girl's dress.

