

HOLSTON HAPPENINGS

newsletter
WINTER, 2019



PROVIDING HOPE
AND HEALING FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE...



A publication of
Holston United Methodist
Home for Children

FROM THE PRESIDENT



HOLSTON HOME'S MISSION:

Holston United Methodist Home for Children provides hope and healing for a brighter future by sharing the love of Jesus with children and families struggling with life's challenges.

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As I was reading the Christmas story over the holidays, I was reminded of a couple of people that I tend to forget in the nativity narrative. In the second chapter of Luke we read about Simeon, described as a righteous and devout man, and an elderly widow named Anna, who was always worshipping at the temple. After angels had spoken to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds, and not nearly as dramatic as the wise men following a star in the sky to present gifts to the infant king, God quietly orchestrated an encounter with the Baby Jesus for two of His faithful followers.

This story is a wonderful reminder of God's love and attention to us as individuals. Although this observation seems obvious and perhaps even ridiculous to say out loud, God didn't get preoccupied with the magnitude of miraculously sending his Son as the Messiah for the world. He remained fully aware of two of his devoted children and wanted them to have a personal interaction with Jesus as part of His plan that would forever change history and the world.

Jesus' life reveals God's love and grace for each one of us and for every child that comes to Holston Home. We are so honored to share this story and the good news of the gospel with every young person that we have the privilege of serving – kids like Bethany!

Bethany came to Holston Home with a childhood of neglect and abuse as a result of parental drug use and incarcerations. She was a hurting young lady who just dreamed of being like other kids. Bethany heard the gospel message of God's amazing love and grace through the gift of His Son. Like so many of us, she tried to just turn over a new leaf to get close to Him. And then one evening during a devotional message and time of worship, she asked Jesus to turn the leaf over for her through His grace and finished work. She told her mentor later that night that she didn't think she could ever be loved that much, when her own mother loved drugs more than her. Now she knows differently! She's now a beautiful fun-loving high schooler who is doing well academically and still growing in her faith.

We would not be able to serve all of the Bethanys that come our way without friends like you. Your gifts and prayers create opportunities to reach youth wherever they are and provide spiritual, educational, vocational and recreational experiences that they have dreamed of or that they haven't allowed themselves to dream of for fear of disappointment. We are so very grateful to you for your support and partnership in this life-changing work.

I believe that you could be described like Simeon and Anna. My prayer for each of you in 2019 is that God orchestrates a new and fresh encounter with Jesus and that He reveals to you that He isn't too busy holding the universe together to bless your faithfulness to His Kingdom work. Make a plan to come and visit us this year and see how God is using your investment to heal and grow children into the men and women He created them to be. Thank you again for your commitment to our youth and this ministry. May God bless you and your family in 2019! Happy New Year!

In Christ,

HOLSTON HIGHLIGHTS

A new year and a new beginning! There is always something exciting going on at Holston Home. The new year brings new challenges and new opportunities that both staff and students look forward to. From attending the Residential Easter dinner with family and friends, to getting all dressed up for prom, and then preparing for the graduation

ceremony, the youth at Holston Home have many activities to participate in. Please pray with us as we continue to minister to the youth and families we serve; God is truly at work in hearts and lives and we are so blessed to have friends such as yourself who pray and give so we can do the work He has called us to do!



2018 Friends of Children Sponsors

“Thank you” to all of our wonderful Friends of Children Sponsors for making our fundraising events possible. We appreciate your giving and generous hearts. You have been a blessing to the young people who we are called to serve.

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BEACON SCHOOL

As we begin a new year, we want to look forward to the future with much excitement believing in God's provision for our lives as we partner together in ministry. But we also want to remember the successes of the previous year and reflect upon how they launched us into 2019. One such success that we celebrate is the story of our friend Allen who lived at Holston Home and graduated in May from Beacon School, our fully accredited on-campus Christian school.

Allen was dually enrolled at our local community college for two semesters while he lived at Holston Home. While a student there, Allen made A's and B's and learned how to better manage his time when it came to classwork and studying for tests. He enjoyed good relationships with his professors and they helped him a lot. In the fall, Allen transferred to one of our state's four-year universities and finished his first semester there in December. He also made the Dean's List and was invited into the Honor Society. He has enjoyed studying psychology and feels that his experiences in life will help him become successful in social work. His story is one that really shines. Please pray for this young man as he continues his education.



THANK YOU for investing in the education ministry at Holston Home's Beacon School. If you are in our area this year please stop by for a visit. We would love to provide a tour of our campus and Beacon School. We hold graduation ceremonies in May and December and invite you to be our guest at one of our ceremonies to encourage our students, new graduates and their families.

Holston Home and Beacon School rely heavily on the generous donations of our friends who see the importance of a good Christian education. Thank you for being one of those friends who cares about Allen and all of the kids that this ministry impacts with the love of Jesus Christ.

DID YOU KNOW?

Beacon School had 30 graduates last year and 24 of them have gone on to college or technical school!



DONATIONS NEEDED

Items that are needed on an on-going basis, as well as immediate needs, are listed below. Would you be willing to help by providing these items for our youth? Feel free to call Susan Bernier at 423-787-8753 for further information.

- Copy paper
- Filler paper (college and wide ruled)
- 3-ring binders of various sizes (1/2", 1", 1 1/2")
- Large book bags with padded pocket for laptop
- Rolling duffel bags (22" or 30")
- Clorox wipes

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

DEAR AMBASSADORS,

Help us get the word out about Holston Home's ministry. Fifth Sunday offerings are an essential part of this ministry.

As we approach each Fifth Sunday and begin preparation of the promotional materials, my first thought is of the ambassadors and pastors in every local church who are so important in the ministry to children, youth and families. YOU are the vital link between the children and your church members. The next Fifth Sunday is March 31, 2019.

This checklist will assist your congregation in helping Holston Home:

- ☐ **Now:** Find out all you can about Holston Home and make sure Church Relations at Holston Home has a way to contact you.



- ☐ **A month before Fifth Sunday:** Make sure Fifth Sunday materials are received from Holston Home.
- ☐ **A week before Fifth Sunday:** Prepare your church for the Fifth Sunday offering. Display the poster that reads "Next Sunday is Fifth Sunday" in a prominent place. Remind your congregation of the offering and how it helps the children.

- ☐ **On Fifth Sunday:** Help coordinate distribution of bulletin inserts and envelopes.
- ☐ **All year long:** Remember that you can invite special speakers to supply the pulpit or speak at fellowship occasions or UMW or UMM meetings. Keep Holston Home in mind for Advance Special projects.
- ☐ **Every day:** Pray for the children.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with you in every one of my prayers for all of you."
Philippians 1:3-4



Rev. Charles A. Hutchins
Director of Church Relations
and Estate Planning
James 1:27

Wills and Bequests

Dear Friends of Holston Home:

- ☐ Please send me information about "Wills and Bequests."
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit.
- ☐ I have provided for the Children's Home in my will or other estate-planning document.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Mail to: Holston United Methodist Home for Children
Attention: Development
P.O. Box 188
Greeneville, TN 37744

For more information and help with your Estate Planning please call us at 800-628-2986



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Home for Children
P.O. Box 188
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- ♦ Name change
- ♦ Address change
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Editor: Susan Bernier
susanbernier@holstonhome.org
(423) 787-8753

To protect the privacy of youngsters in our care, photographs of children in this publication may or may not represent actual youth residing here.

NEXT 5TH SUNDAY IS MARCH 31, 2019

A Glimpse of History

Many friends helped Mrs. Wiley establish Holston Home. Elizabeth Wiley, founder of the Orphans' Industrial Home and School (later to become Holston United Methodist Home for Children), had a host of friends who helped make her dream of a home for dependent and neglected children in the Holston Conference a reality. President Andrew Johnson's daughter, Martha, was one of them.



Our research indicates that probably Martha Johnson and Elizabeth Reeves were classmates at Salem College in North Carolina, since Elizabeth was from Jonesborough and Martha lived in Greeneville. Their friendship began

when "Lizzie" was 14 years old and Martha, the eldest of the children of Andrew and Eliza Cardle Johnson, was several years older.

When Elizabeth got the idea to establish the orphanage, she contacted her friend, Martha,

who knew of an unfinished 21-room house in Greeneville that was just what Lizzie was looking for. She sought the help of her friends throughout the Holston Conference to help her raise enough money to buy the house.

There was no money to hire staff, so as mothers brought their children to the orphanage, Mrs. Wiley talked them into staying a little while to be "matrons" to care for all of the children. They depended on donations to meet all their expenses — food, clothing, furnishings, heat in the winter, transportation, and staff. As the number of children in care grew, she had to build more buildings.

Without the many friends who helped, Mrs. Wiley would have had an impossible job. Just as today, we could not take care of children without the help of our many friends.

— Eva Grey Hutchins, Historian

