

HOLSTON HAPPENINGS

newsletter
SPRING 2026



PROVIDING HOPE AND HEALING
FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY
SHARING THE LOVE OF JESUS...



A publication of
Holston Home for Children

FROM THE PRESIDENT



HOLSTON HOME'S MISSION:

Holston 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 a parent, teacher, or other caring adult in the life of a child, it is inevitable that you come to the questions “Am I doing this well? Am I doing enough? Are my kids understanding it?” These questions and concerns carry a great deal of weight because we care so deeply and we desire so much good for these young lives.

At Holston Home for Children, we have a lot of loving parental figures, teachers and counselors that wrestle with these questions and that seek the very best for the children that we are blessed to care for. Recently, I found myself drinking coffee on a Saturday morning thinking about these things and praying that God would heal our kids’ hurts and wounds and that He would bring growth from the seeds that are being planted in their lives.

If I’m honest, I’m sad to say that it was not the kind of prayer filled with faith in the Lord’s unfailing faithfulness. Instead it was one of those desperate prayers of “You got to do something, Lord, because this is impossible with all of the A, B, and C’s that our kids are going through and all of the X, Y and Z challenges that we face.” Maybe you have been there, where your eyes moved from who He is and all that He has done to focus on the mountains and fears that are in front of you. That was exactly where I was that morning.

Then my phone let me know that I had a text message. That’s always good news – right?! I am sure you are always overflowing with unbridled optimism when your phone goes off as you are drinking your coffee. As was I, when I began reading a message from our campus supervisor about a homeless man coming to one of our boys’ residences that morning. As my mind both read the message and imagined a million undesirable scenarios simultaneously, I prepared myself for what the next sentences would hold.

The text described that when our supervisor, Brian, answered the man’s knock, the gentleman said he was homeless and hungry. He said he would not cause any trouble but only wanted to ask if we had any extra food he could have. As a home for teenage boys, if we don’t have a stocked kitchen and a fridge full of leftovers, we are dead in the water so this man had come to the right place – practically speaking! The supervisor asked him to wait outside and went to get him some food. Some of our boys asked Mr. Brian who had come to the

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house. Brian said that it was a man having a hard time and that we were going to give him some food to eat as he passed through. One of the boys, Austin, asked Brian if they could offer to pray for the man. Another boy, Noah, asked if they could give him a Bible. Our young men were so kind and respectful. They gathered around the man and prayed for him, after he said he was comfortable with them praying. He was a complete gentleman and thanked them for the food, the prayer and the Bible. He later

shared with Brian that he was struggling with drug addiction and allowed Brian to take him to a local men's alcohol and drug treatment program. The message ended with this picture.



I sat there and wept as I was reminded of how the Lord is answering our prayers and transforming the hearts and lives of our youth. While I had allowed my mind to entertain thoughts of discouragement and worry, my Father gently corrected me by weaving together this beautiful tapestry of His love for the man, this opportunity to look like Jesus for our boys, wisdom and direction for our staff, and encouragement for all of us that want to see the children at Holston Home heal and have the lives that God intended for them.

Hebrews 13:2 tells us, "Do not neglect hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it." In my 24 years at Holston Home we have not had a homeless person come to one of our residences to my knowledge. I think it would be cool if he was an angel that day.

But regardless, what is awesome is that our boys clearly demonstrated God's heart and that they believe that the good news of the Gospel and His love can change lives because it has changed theirs.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and financial support. You are a part of what the Lord is doing to train up a child in the way he should go so that when he is old he will not depart from it. I pray that God blesses you and your family and that you will experience Him in all areas of your life.

In Christ,



Youth Prayer Requests & Praises

REQUESTS

- Pray that my brother and I can find a foster home where we can be together.
- Please pray for my mom in Honduras who's in the hospital sick. Pray that she keeps taking her medicine and has enough money to buy it. Pray for my brothers in Honduras going hungry.
- Pray for my mama that is in jail in Memphis. Pray for my nana's health, and for my uncle to get his vision back.
- Pray for my adoptive mom. She has cancer. She can't walk and I pray that God would heal her. She's not a Christian and I want her to know God.
- Pray that I can have healthy relationships, to get a foster home that loves me and cares for me, and to follow God more closely.
- Pray for my mom to quit vaping and for my little brother to turn to the Lord and stop making the same mistakes I did.
- I'm struggling to read and understand the Bible. Also, please pray for my anger.

PRAISES

- I'm ready to give everything to God, to walk in the freedom only Christ can give. I'm ready for the chains I have carried to be broken in His name and start going down the right path.
- Though life and school have been hard I thank God for everything, and all the help Holston has given me. I thank God that even when I didn't feel Him near, He was always there.
- Since giving my life to God I have stopped self-harming, running away, and being disrespectful. I love to read my Bible, and I love God!
- Things are changing for the better for me. God is helping me deal with my feelings and my schoolwork, and now, I actually like to go to school and church!

STUDENT SUCCESS

Ryan is an enthusiastic boy with a kind heart who came to Holston Home for Children because of truancy. But his absence from school reflected bigger challenges at home including personal hurt in his relationship with his family. His mother and stepfather fought regularly, and Ryan responded to the chaos by withdrawing from the people around him.

Upon his arrival, it became clear that Ryan struggled with structure and the rules he was expected to follow. Nevertheless, our caring staff diligently helped him adapt to order and taught him how to manage his anger and discuss his feelings.

After experiencing success, Ryan returned home, but our work with him did not end when he left campus. Our staff traveled to his home regularly and continued to partner with him to apply the skills he had learned and showed his family how to disagree without fighting.

Financial problems also troubled Ryan's family, and we were able to help them acquire the furniture that their household needed.

We are grateful to report that when our time with the family ended, Ryan's life had improved at home and in school.



Ryan is creative and would like to work as an animator when he grows up, and we are cheering him on as he considers his next steps!

Ryan did not make a profession of faith while at Holston Home. Our prayer is that one day he will know Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Please pray for that as well.

Holston Home is a year-round facility and there are always children entering and leaving our campus. By the time Holston Home provides basic needs, loving staff, counseling, and education, the cost of care for kids is expensive and your support is always appreciated.

Thank you for remembering youth like Ryan. Your partnership to serve them is making a difference!

TWO TRACTORS NEEDED!

Do you have a tractor you would consider gifting to Holston Home?

We need:

- Compact tractor for landscaping use (moving mulch, pea gravel, sand).
- Utility tractor with 50+ horsepower for loading, putting out hay, and similar work.

Our current tractors are old, underperforming, and in need of replacement.

If you have a machine that you would like to donate, please call our office to discuss.

Additionally, monetary gifts are welcomed to support farm, equestrian, and maintenance use, especially if no tractors are donated, so that we may purchase tractors and supplies for operations.



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Bryan and Beth Jackson reside in Athens, Tennessee and are faithful friends. Bryan is a founding member of WarrenJackson CPAs, PLLC and he currently pastors Red Hill United Methodist Church in Cleveland. For years, Bryan has shared his enthusiasm for Holston Home as a board member and speaker at churches and Friends of Children fundraising events. Bryan and Beth have been married for almost five decades. We recently caught up with Bryan about the love he and Beth have for the children at Holston Home and its ministry.



When and how did you first connect with Holston Home?

As a Methodist of long-standing, I had been familiar with Holston Home over the years, primarily through Fifth Sunday. When I learned that one of our firm's clients was a member of the Board of Directors, and I talked with him about that experience. I became interested enough so that I asked him to nominate me for a seat on the board. I think that was in 2011. Since joining the board, I have served as Chair of Finance, Vice Chairman and Chairman and I continue to serve as Vice Chairman and a board member as of this time.

What excites you about Holston Home's ministry?

Both Beth and I love children. We have three of our own, as well as four granddaughters, with another on the way. It is really exciting to have the opportunity to participate in molding the children that come through the doors at Holston Home into obedient and mature adults and Christians.

Why do you support Holston Home?

We simply cannot imagine how children can be abused and mistreated. However, we live in a fallen world where, all too often, that is the case.

Accordingly, we are determined to do all we can to remedy that situation by supporting an organization like Holston Home, which, in many cases, is the last chance for the rescue of an innocent child.

What do you want others to know about Holston Home?

First and foremost, others need to know that they can make a difference. It only takes a few dollars and a few prayers per month to make a difference in the life of a child. Before they came to Holston Home, many of these children had never heard the words, "I love you." Imagine that. And imagine how much difference it can make to a child to hear those words on a regular basis from our dedicated staff.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

As a practicing Certified Public Accountant, I counsel my clients, "I hope you will consider titling your estate." You can do it right now. Just ask your attorney to add a codicil to your will that directs your executor to pay 10% of your net estate to charities of your choice. Please include Holston Home in that list. That is what Beth and I have done. Won't you join us?



Would you like to talk with someone about leaving a gift in your Estate plans — a gift that will help children and families for years to come? Call the Development office (423-638-4171) and one of our knowledgeable professionals would be glad to chat with you. We are here to help with whatever you may need as you decide how to leave your legacy!



Take a peek at our campus video at
holstonhome.org/overview-video

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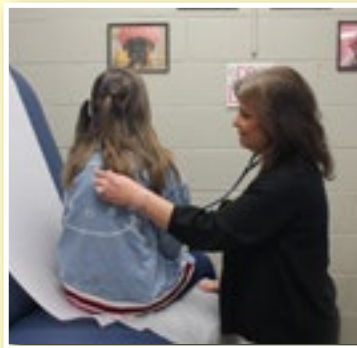
NEXT 5TH SUNDAY IS MAY 31, 2026

HEALTH CLINIC OPENS ON CAMPUS

We recently hired a pediatrician and have expanded our medical care to the children we serve by opening a clinic on campus. We have done this because trauma, abuse, and neglect not only can lead to mental and emotional challenges but also chronic physical health issues.

When a youth cannot live at home, it is extremely traumatic regardless of the situation they face at home. In addition to feeling unsafe in their home, emotional and physical abuse often add to what is known today as ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences). Research has shown that the more ACEs a youth experiences, the more likely he or she is to have negative health and well-being outcomes as an adult. A child with these experiences have:

- double the risk of cancer,
- eight times the risk of alcoholism, and
- a decreased life expectancy.



Intervening in a traumatized child's mental and physical health is so important in leading them to a healthier adulthood and the life God intended for them. Healing is possible even when a child has faced an extraordinary number of ACEs.

Our pediatrician has been examining and treating youth, and they are responding well. One youth who has diabetes came to us with a cyst on his spine, a condition he had lived with for too long. Under the care of our pediatrician, he was able to have surgery to remove the cyst. A youth who struggled with obesity has lost almost 100 pounds since his care began.

We are excited to see how the Lord uses these efforts to care for the needs of His children and ask you to pray for the health of our kids and that God will provide continued funding to support this ministry!