

# HOLSTON HAPPENINGS newsletter

WINTER, 2015

ARE YOU  
ready for the  
next Fifth Sunday?  
It's March 29, 2015

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A publication of  
Holston United Methodist  
Home for Children

## A Word from the President



As I approached Jason and his mother at our Christmas party, I noticed that he looked better than I had ever seen him look. His hair, his clothes, but most of all, his smile would have been impressive at any party in town. After introducing myself to Jason's mother, I said, "You sure have a sharp-looking son." Her face lit up brighter than the festive lights around our gym, as she thanked me for complimenting her boy. Jason then told me how he promised his mother that he would dress up and look his very best if she would come to the party and wear perfume

that he remembered her wearing when he was a little boy. This teenager then almost exploded with happiness as he told me that she smelled just like he had remembered. I swallowed hard and smiled big, afraid to trust my voice for fear that it would break if I tried to speak at that moment. I cannot imagine the pain of losing a mother to chronic mental illness where you could see her but not experience her like she once was in so many of your best memories.

At the same time, there were approximately 250 other kids, parents, relatives, and caring staff in our decked-out gym celebrating Christmas; each with their own past hurts, current smiles, and future hopes. Regardless of the circumstances, every child had a parent, relative, or a caring adult with whom they had a strong relationship as his or her individual guest. They heard the story of love and redemption through the birth of our Savior from our Christian Life Director. They ate a traditional dinner with turkey, ham, and all of the trimmings. They also sang and laughed as they created new memories that made a brighter future seem possible.

Throughout the year our mission remains to share God's love in ways that bring healing for the past and hope for the future. Your prayers and gifts make these efforts successful. We could not do all that we do without you. Thank you for being a faithful part of our ministry to children and families. I pray that you and your family have a blessed and joyful 2015.

PS: Jason asked to share how God was working in his life during our Chapel service a couple of weeks ago. He spoke to his peers and staff with sincerity and simplicity that Sunday morning while his sweet-smelling biggest fan sat on the front row with a smile I had seen before!

In Christ,

Bradley S. Williams



### HOLSTON HOME'S MISSION:

*We are a Christian ministry providing hope and healing for children and families struggling with life's challenges.*

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Holston United Methodist Home for Children is a Christian institution in the Wesleyan tradition serving children without regard to race, religion or gender. Founded in 1895, Holston Home is a ministry affiliated with the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church.

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



# Thank You

## Alexa

Play Stations, iPhones, and new shoes are usually what appear on a teenager's Christmas list, but Alexa isn't like other teenagers. She has a heart for those in need and this Christmas she set out to do something about it. In an attempt to raise money for her chosen causes, Alexa sent

a letter to her family asking for donations instead of gifts this year. Holston Home for Children was included on her list of worthy ministries.

"We are so excited to be a part of Alexa's mission to change the

world," says Rev. Charles Hutchins, Vice President of Development at HHC.

Alexa gave a gift of ... to Holston Home and in February she had the chance to tour the campus and see why her gift would help "change a person's life FOREVER!"



Dear family,

*My goal is to help others. That is why I started my own organization called The Change the World Organization. I raise money and give it to the homeless, the patients at hospitals, kids in orphanages and the needy. This time I am helping Powel United Methodist Church's homeless program, ET Children's Hospital patients, Holston United Methodist Home for Children and Kingswood Home for Children...*

*...That is why I ask for money donations as my Christmas presents this year so that I can help those who don't have what I have and share the love and care of Jesus with them.*

Love, Alexa Dishner

*With your donations you can change a person's life FOREVER!!!*



## A New Home for Jerome

At four years old, Jerome was wandering the streets in the Philippines. His father had no job or income and could not take care of him. Jerome was taken to an orphanage where he would wait in hopes of being adopted. Meanwhile, 14,000 miles away, David was completing his home study with Holston Home and was approved to adopt a Filipino boy. In January of 2014 the process was complete and David flew to the Philippines to get Jerome. The Lord is blessing their father-son relationship which grows stronger each day



Your support of Holston Home through Fifth Sunday is most important. Your contributions to the well-being of children helped by Holston Home have done wonders in the past and will do wonders again.

# “LAUGHTER

## Breaks Down Walls...



The Turkey Bowl  
Staff vs. Youth



Veterans Day  
Celebration



“The Lines Project”



-- Students at Beacon School take a stand against depression, self-harm and suicide by participating in The Lines Project.

Red & Green  
Day



Red 'n' Green Day

12-16-14



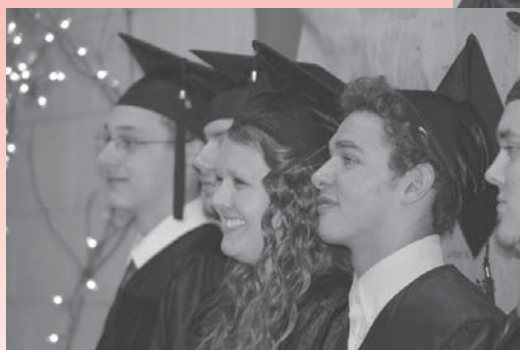


# Christmas Party

2014



## December Graduation Congratulations!



...so **Love**  
Can Enter In."

-Jerry Clower

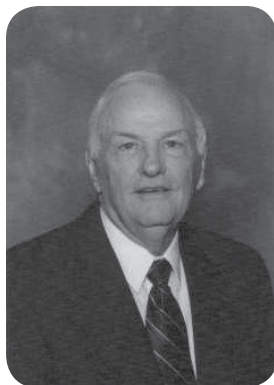
Do you need help planning your estate? Holston Home has experts on staff who can help you develop a well-designed plan. Please contact the Rev. Charles Hutchins for more information at (423) 787-8723.

## Making a Difference

Dear Ambassadors,

The Book of Proverbs reminds us that we should "Teach a child how he should live, and he will remember it all his life." That's a win-win situation, and we thank you for taking seriously the needs of children.

When you support Fifth Sunday Offerings for Holston United Methodist Home, you make a difference in the lives of boys and girls. The children coming to us for help now have experienced separation, frustration and alienation. Their concern for survival has left them academically deficient, and it is difficult at times for them to believe there is a God. Your gifts make it possible for them to experience the love of God, improve self-esteem, establish hope and believe in a future. What greater investment could the people of your church make?



We know the members of your congregation will enthusiastically support this ministry as they are aware of the possibilities for transforming the lives of boys and girls. We ask you to provide them with an opportunity to give an offering to Holston Home on the Fifth Sunday, March 29th.

Please work with your Pastor to promote the offering by using the posters, special envelopes and inserts for your bulletins, which are provided at no cost to your church. Call Nancy at 423-787-8726 or email – nancypresley@

holstonhome.org if you need assistance. This helps us in our effort to provide you with the necessary materials to assure the success of this important offering. It's the children that count!

We stand ready to help as many children as the church will underwrite with these offerings, so we trust you will encourage generous offerings. Let's make this one really count!

God bless you as you help us meet the needs of children who need the love and care of the church.

Blessings,

Rev. Charles A. Hutchins  
Vice President for Development  
and Church Relations



## Board Room Consecration

"In this room, decisions will be made and the lives of children will be shaped," said Rev. Carol Wilson, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, during the consecration of the new board/training room at Holston Home. The space was furnished in loving memory of Fred, Nancy, and Drew Miller by Debra Miller and John Thatcher of Cleveland, TN.

During the ceremony, Rev. Charles Hutchins, Vice President of Development and Church Relations, presented the family with a plaque that hangs over the doorway of the board room. "We are blessed to have Godly people like Debra and John take interest in our mission 'to help children and families struggling with life's challenges,' said Hutchins. "They have no idea the lives that will be transformed because of their gift."

Churches and work groups often plan day trips to Holston Home to see our beautiful campus, facilities and children. Your group is encouraged to visit. To arrange, please call Nicole Rader at (423) 787-8753.



## HOLSTON HOME FOR CHILDREN IS ONLINE!!

visit us  
@ [www.holstonhome.org](http://www.holstonhome.org)

## CAN YOU HELP THE STUDENTS AT BEACON SCHOOL?

### Wish List

- 6 Mounted Pull Down Classroom Maps
- Dry-Erase Boards
- Large Craft Paper Racks
- 8 Page High Volume Paper Shredder
- Copy Paper

To coordinate gifts and delivery, please call Nicole Rader in the Development Office at (423) 787-8753.

Visit [www.holstonhome.org](http://www.holstonhome.org) to see the entire list of items needed at Holston Home.

## Wills and Bequests

Dear friends of Holson Home:

- ☐ Please send me information about "Wills and Bequests"
- ☐ Please contact me about a personal visit. The best time to call me is \_\_\_\_\_ a.m. or \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.
- ☐ I have provided for the Children's Home in my will or other estate-planning document.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Primary phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: The Rev. Charles A. Hutchins  
Vice President for Development/Church Relations  
P.O. Box 188  
Greeneville, TN 37744

We take this Scripture seriously: "Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: To look after orphans and widows in their distress..." – James 1:27





Holston United Methodist  
Home for Children  
P.O. Box 188  
Greeneville, TN 37744

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Help us update our records for the most efficient mailings. Please make any corrections to the above label and send it back to us.

- ☐ Name change
- ☐ I receive duplicate copies
- ☐ Address change
- ☐ I want to receive the newsletter by email
- ☐ Please remove me from the mailing list

## *A Glimpse Of History*

Our first Christmas at Holston Home was 1959. Charles had been employed in June of that year, and we were enjoying our new experience at the Children's Home.

Dr. Walter Smith was Superintendent, and he loved Christmas. He especially loved hosting the Christmas Day breakfast, to which he had invited all of the local dignitaries: the mayor and aldermen, the police chief, the fire chief, and probably others whom I can't recall. The tables in the dining room were covered in white linens and the children, seated by cottages, were



on their best behavior. A large Christmas tree was the central focus, around which were placed boxes for every child, with their names written on them and the gifts each child had requested nestled in the boxes.

After a sumptuous breakfast, Dr. and Mrs. Smith each gave a short speech to wish the children a great and blessed Christmas. Each of the dignitaries was given an

opportunity to greet the children (although I can't remember if any of them did).

Following all of this formality, members of the staff took the boxes and loaded them onto a wagon, pulled by a tractor, and delivered them to the children's cottages, where they could open them and enjoy the rest of the day. When all of the gifts had been delivered and opened, the guests were invited to see what each child had received. Half the day was gone when the last of the guests departed and the children were left to enjoy the remainder of the day.

Several former students have told me that this was their favorite day of the year because it was made so special for them.

Dr. Smith retired at the end of December, and the ritual he had established, which I assumed had been similarly celebrated during the years of his superintendence, ceased to be. Every Christmas after that was celebrated in different ways, but I will always remember that particular one.

~Eva Grey Hutchins