

Hope Burns Bright at the Children's Home

A letter from the President/ CEO of Family Connection, Inc.



Hope Hill Children's Home and Hope Hill Foster Care are vital ministries of Family Connection, Inc. and continue to excel in bringing God's healing to the hurting hearts of those children and youth who are entrusted to our care. I am always grateful to see the changes in these lives as they respond to the love and discipline modeled by the staff and the structure of a 24 hour residential program.

As President/CEO, it has been my privilege to work beside the board of directors and the executive team as we apply every resource available to us for the well-being of each youth admitted. During the past year there have been 83 girls placed in the residential program from throughout the State of Kentucky and 45 boys and girls placed in the Hope Hill Foster Care program. In these programs competent, compassionate and effective employees assist the children and youth in overcoming some of the painful memories of

the past and teach them to live more healthy and fulfilling lifestyles.

We believe God has heard the cry of the children and is blessing this ministry as we carry on. With the generosity of many individuals and churches and through the leadership of the board of directors He is providing for our vital needs. One of those needs has been to eliminate the huge debt that had entangled the organization for several years.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 FAMILY CONNECTION, INC. IS DEBT FREE.

This did not come about without a lot of self-reflection of what our mission is and without suffering the pain of making the financial decision to close Triple L Youth Ranch in Anderson, Indiana a year ago. We knew to make the financial investment to restore the Triple L program, at this time, would seriously jeopardize our ability to fund the operation at Hope Hill. However, we are very thankful for the Hand of God as He works through individuals, churches and other groups that support this ministry with their contributions and keeping the faith that lives are being changed at Hope Hill.

As we look ahead, we see a bright future for continuing to care for children, youth and families in Kentucky. We are carefully considering strategies for securing the funding, program and facilities at Hope Hill to fulfill our mission. And, in September of 2010 we will celebrate our 50th anniversary.

What a vision that Robert and Ruby Kitchen had when they sacrificed so much to start this home in 1960. When we reflect on their work and the many lives that have been positively impacted through the years, we are compelled to press on to ensure that every child/youth that comes through our doors and lives in our foster homes benefits in some way from the care they receive and has the opportunity to join the many others who have made commitments to serve the Lord. These are the changes that we believe are most impactful for a life time. We want to thank you for your support and we ask that you pray with us as we continue in our efforts to make a difference in the lives of our youth and their families.

Sincerely,
John C. Shue, M.A.
President/CEO
Family Connection, Inc.

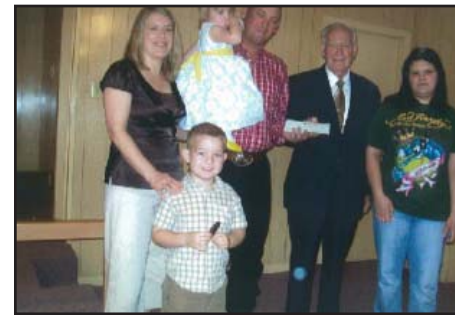


Fall 2009

“Pennies for Hope”

Project Has Lasting Impact

Earlier this year we received a touching letter from Pastor Lloyd Trisler and his wife, Peggy, of Jonesville, LA. With this letter came a check and two pictures. The letter shared a story of a churches mission, a families loss and a mother's legacy.



It began with the children's class at Mayna Church of God deciding to do a fundraiser for Hope Hill Children's Home. They began a project called “Pennies for Hope” and started collecting pennies in a basket each week. Soon the whole

church got involved and supported the children's mission to raise funds for Hope Hill.

During this time a family in the congregation was dealing with the illness of a family member. Trent Odom's mother, Joy Odom, was battling cancer and had become very ill. Pastor Trisler had prayer with Joy and her family and had the privilege of sharing God's plan for salvation. Joy repented and was saved. A few days later God called her home.

As Joy's family faced the difficult task of sorting through her belongings they came upon jar after jar of pennies that Joy had saved over the years. Trent along with his sisters, Vonda Thedford of New Mexico and Carla Firestine of OK, decided to donate their Mother's “Pennies for Hope” project.

The pennies were taken back to Mayna Church of God where a local bank rolled the nearly five gallon bucket of pennies that had been collected. Together the church and the Odom family were able to present Hope Hill Children's Home with a Check for \$354.65 in Memory of Joy Odom.

In recognition of and appreciation for this gift a brick will be placed in the Memorial Garden honoring the legacy that Joy Odom left in the lives of the young girls at Hope Hill Children's Home.



Christmas at Hope Hill

Anyone who has been away from their families during the Holidays knows how difficult it can be to celebrate when you are feeling homesick. For the young ladies we serve, it can feel even more devastating when you don't know when or if you will be going home again. And though we know that there is no substitution for the joy of being with family, we hope to give all of our young ladies a Merry Christmas.

You can help make this possible. This year we have created a Wish List at Wal-Mart. You can visit Wal-Mart.com and purchase items for the girls, for the cottages or for the program in general. Items can be sent to:

Hope Hill Children's Home
Attn: Christmas Wish List
700 Hope Hill Rd
Hope, KY 40334

If you have any questions you can contact:

Andy Shirk at
859-498-5230 x213 or
andy@hopehill.org

Showing Off For Hope Hill



On October 3, 2009 Hope Hill Children's Home hosted its 3rd Annual Benefit Horse Show to support Hope Hill and the Equine Assisted Counseling Program. "We were very pleased with the turn out," said Equine Program Director Alison Chambers, "There were 57 riders and 73 horses that participated in the show in addition to the many spectators that came out to watch."

The show would not have been possible without the support of the businesses and individuals who sponsored the event. With the help of the sponsors, the dedicated volunteers and everyone



that came out, we raised over \$4400.00 in support for the program.

"Not only did we raise funds for a worthy cause, but everyone had a great time watching the show and enjoying a beautiful evening at the park. We look forward to doing this event again and expect to see it grow in the coming years," says Katy Hedge, Director of Development.

The Dream Riders Did It Again

On October 22, 2009 15 riders braved the cold wet weather to raise money for the Hope Hill Foster Care Program. On a mission to provide Christmas Presents for the children and youth in the foster care program the Dream Riders Motorcycle club of Owingsville, KY put together a benefit ride. They started from Hope Hill and rode through the back roads to Owingsville, KY.

In this one afternoon the group was able to raise \$275.00 for the program. When asked why they would want to do this for Hope Hill, Christina Clark said, "That is just what the Dream Riders are all about, doing charity rides for underprivileged children."



each child has something to open on Christmas morning and for that we are so thankful.

"What many people don't realize is that foster children often come to us with only the clothes on their backs. So

Christmas presents are not just about having a toy to play with, it is supplying for their basic needs," says Foster Care Program Director, Kim Pulliam.

Please contact the following people if you are interested in helping provide Christmas presents for our children and youth:

Residential youth – Andy Shirk 859-498-5230 or andy@hopehill.org

Foster Care youth – Kim Pulliam 859-498-0373 or kim@hopehill.org

This gift from the Dream Riders is so appreciated. Many of our foster families have more than one foster child in addition to their biological children which creates a financial burden during the holidays. But the Dream Riders have helped ensure that

History in the Making



In 2010 Hope Hill Children's Home will celebrate its 50th Anniversary. This is an exciting time in the life of this ministry as we take the opportunity to reflect on the last fifty years of service to hurting children and youth, and pay tribute to the hard work and dedication it has taken to get

this far. It is only by the grace of God that we are able to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Like most non-profits we have endured difficult financial times, however God's provision has seen us through and He has continued to bless our ministry. Hope Hill's programs have changed over the years, but our mission to help hurting children and youth has remained the same and we are proud to stand here

today as a beacon of hope for the hundreds of children and youth we have served.

We look forward to celebrating the 50th Anniversary with a celebration next summer. We will update our website, www.familyconnectioninc.com, with details about the event as they are available. We hope those of you who are able will make plans to attend and join us in celebration of Hope Hill Children's Home's 50th Anniversary.

If you have pictures from Hope Hill Children's Home over the years, please send a copy with a description to:

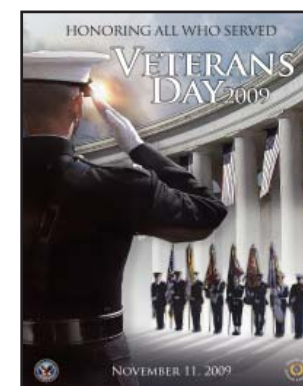
Katy Hedge at katy@familyconnectioninc.com

or

700 Hope Hill Road, Hope, KY 40334.

These pictures will become the property of Hope Hill Children's Home, please only send copies or photos that you do not need returned.

Remembering Our Veterans



Colonel Stephanchuk from the Montgomery County JROTC program visited Hope Hill Children's Home on Veterans Day to share with the youth the history and importance of the National Holiday. He brought with him four cadets from the program that presented the color guard and led the pledge of allegiance.

We appreciate Colonel Stephanchuk and his cadets taking the time to make this presentation and remind us all of the sacrifice our country's service men and women have made to ensure our freedom.

If you would like to remember a loved one who served in the armed forces you can make a gift of \$100 or more to the Memorial Fund and have a brick engraved with their name and placed in the Memorial Garden at Hope Hill Children's Home. Visit our website at www.familyconnectioninc.com for more information or to make your memorial gift today.

