Editor's Note:

Divorce, joblessness, death, fatherlessness, substance abuse, child abuse, neglect, etc., are some of the reasons the children served by Patrick Henry Family Services come to be in our care. Whether living at Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes, being taken care of by a host family with Safe Families for Children, having a break from chaos while at Hat Creek Camp, or receiving counseling through Hope for Tomorrow, we work to heal the deep emotional bruising these youths carry. Yes, with stability and love, hurtful children can make it through the pain and bedlam! An American Founding Father was born into a life of great turmoil and instability, somewhat like our own youth. With the popularity of a play in our life began, however, in a rather wretched way.

Hamilton was born to a mother living with one man, but married to another, who previously had been imprisoned for adultery. His father would go bankrupt and abandon the family. His mother would die a grieving death from a tropical fever when he was eleven. His then-caregiver would commit suicide. His grandmother, his uncle, and his aunt would all die in close order.

Fortunately for Hamilton, who was hard working and could write well, his talents were recognized by local people who helped to take care of him and donated the necessary funds to send him to college. Again, his story is not unlike the youth we serve. It is because of donor support that we are able to minister to hurting children and families. Who knows: your donations may just be helping the next Hamilton?

Questions or comments about The Orator?

Contact Jennifer Wall at 434-376-2006, ext. 213 or at jwall@patrickhenry.org.

The Orator is written by the staff and children at Patrick Henry and original artwork by the children is featured from time to time. The Orator is edited and proofed entirely in-house by Patrick Henry staff. The only aspects of production done outside of Patrick Henry are the design, printing and mailing.

The generous support of donors allows Patrick Henry to mail The Orator to supporters as well as to others who may be unaware of Patrick Henry Family Services.

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Administration - 434-376-2006 Admissions - 434-376-6917
Fax - 434-376-9303
Web - www.patrickhenry.org

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Paterson Henry Boys and Girls Homes was founded as a living memorial to one of America’s most passionate patriots and orators. PHB&G is our cornerstone site operation which has served vulnerable youth for 56 years. Our five sites minister to children ages five through twenty-four and are able to handle up to 40 youth at a time. Each homes are under the care of Christian houseparents, who model a loving family environment and encourage youth through all challenges.

Hope for Tomorrow Counseling one of PHFS ever expanding ministries, currently operates Christian counseling centers in Lynchburg, South Boston, Farmville, Bedford, Midlothian, Brookneal, and Danville. Founded to serve the counseling needs of our own youth, due to its success it has grown to serve the needs of over 900 hurting children and adults across Virginia. Over the years, we have realized that many of the situations that led children to our care might have been avoided through counseling.

Hat Creek Camp invites children of all ages to explore and enjoy 345 acres of picturesque rolling hills and adventure packed challenges during summer camp. At camp, children experience the excitement and achievement associated with outdoor activities, while benefitting from the example of Christian mentors. The Hammersley Center at Hat Creek offers year-round serene conference services to churches, businesses, clubs and civic groups.

Safe Families for Children helps parents who are struggling to provide a safe home due to varying circumstances, temporarily place their children in the safe and loving homes of volunteers. While their children are being cared for, parents are given the breathing room they need to restore stability in their lives. They are supported in a myriad of ways through Safe Families volunteers, in order to help reunite their family as soon as possible.

Straight Talk is an inspirational program offering motivating, uplifting and encouraging messages on many of the most challenging issues facing youth, families and leaders today. Robert Day pulls from Scripture and employs his own moving personal story and dynamic testimony to touch hearts and inspire lives. His unique insights challenge listeners to live more Christ-centered lives.
A Message From Our CEO
Robert Day

I have the best job in the world. That’s not an exaggeration. I have the privilege of witnessing as vulnerable children are kept safe and distressed families made strong. I regularly get to participate in correcting the life-course of a child with bleak future prospects. Sure, I also see and hear some awful things that happened to children. In the end, though, my faith in God is strengthened when I view the work He does each day in the precious lives of those we serve at Patrick Henry Family Services. Words simply can’t describe it. However, they say a picture is worth a thousand words. The two pictures here are of the same four-month-old child. In the first, I’m holding baby Isaiah the day he came into our care. Suffice it to say, the child needed our help. We provided that via the volunteer services of a Safe Families for Children (SFFC) host family, a partnering church, and supported by the professional support and oversight of our SFFC staff. As you can see, the poor little guy looks traumatized. That’s pretty much how all the kids in our care come to us, although it may not be so clearly evident on their faces. The next picture is of the same baby being reunited with his mother six weeks later. Look at the joy on his beautiful face. The adults present that day shed many tears of joy as they witnessed it.

With the ongoing help of our loving staff, the story for this child and his mother is still being written. It is a story we work hard every day to make sure has a happy ending, with better outcomes than what was destined to be before our intervention.

We at Patrick Henry Family Services are committed to intervening at the earliest possible moment in the lives of children, with the best possible solutions, to give them the greatest possible conclusions. I can’t help but think about all the future harm we may have saved this child from, simply because we did whatever we had to do in order to keep him safe, and his mother successful. Thank you for making it possible by your financial support. Look what we did together!

While it is a story of sadness, it is also a story of hope.
David Frett, SFFC Church and Agency Development Supervisor, recently detailed the full story in our SFFC newsletter. I am pleased to share his account here:

The day was Thursday, May 18. The staff of SFFC went about their activities without any knowledge of what the day would bring; however, within hours we would have an opportunity to serve and love another family on the brink of crisis.

Around 10 a.m., a young mother came into our office. Her story was both familiar yet unique, and heartbreaking. This mother of a precious two-month-old little boy had realized she could no longer continue down the same path and needed to find support, forgiveness, and restoration; however, it would not be easy and it would come at a cost. Ashley shared with staffers Ruby and Sherree how she had broken the law on many occasions and would now have to face the consequences. Hearts broke for her, tears were shed, prayers were offered up. This mother, even after having made many mistakes and facing incarceration, sought to ensure her little miracle would be properly cared for. She had no one to turn to, and the baby’s father was already behind bars. The mother then shared that she had heard how loving and supportive SFFC had been to so many others, and that her heart soared with joy knowing her little boy would find love, protection, and provision.

The very next day, Ruby and Sherree attended the probation meeting with and on behalf of this hurting soul in hopes of consoling and loving her through whatever lay ahead. Even though Ruby was able to speak as a personal advocate and to contend for SFFC, the final decision was not positive for Ashley as she learned she would have to serve time.

Upon returning to the office, the call was placed to a host family, a partnering church, and supported by the professional support and oversight of our SFFC staff. As the situation was explained to this couple, their hearts were pricked by the Holy Spirit, and they understood this was their assignment from a loving God to serve as His hands and feet to the weakest and smallest. On May 23, Melissa and Zach Tuck took in little Isaiah to be a temporary addition to their loving family. This was an example and the pinnacle of the mission of SFFC: the reunification and stabilization of the family.

This mother was so appreciative for all that has been done for her that she declared, “No one has ever cared for me as much as you all.” Additionally, she went to her mother in law who had made arrangements for her little man to be cared for by the Tucks to keep him from the state foster system. Now on that Sunday morning, one could have heard a feather drop in the room as she gaped and cried for joy upon seeing the beautiful smile from her precious baby.

She dashed to where Isaiah was being held by Melissa Tuck, and could hardly control her enthusiasm. During her absence, the Tuck family had tended to Isaiah as if he was their own, and now they returned him to his mother. But the relationship was not finished. This was now the beginning of a support system for both baby Isaiah and Ashley as they would be mentored and uplifted by the Tucks. Additionally, Ashley and Isaiah are being welcomed into the PHFS Homes of Hope, where they will gain real-life skills to navigate this difficult world.

For those who were blessed to witness this reunion, tears were shed, hugs were exchanged, and praises were lifted to the God of seven-times-seventy chances. This was more than a heartwarming moment; it was the beginning of a new life and opportunity for a mother and baby because Christ-followers understood their God-given mandate to take care of the widows and orphans. The Word of God was not just conveyed through empty speech, but demonstrated through selfless acts of love.

This was an example and the pinnacle of the mission of SFFC: the reunification and stabilization of the family. Even further, it was the reinvigorated display of the early Church of Acts 2 where believers came together to help one another, and through Christian love, many souls were converted and eternal destinies were altered.

Where would this mother and baby be today if believers did not step up and embrace the Great Commission to show Christ’s love to all the world? What message would be sent to a hurting world if the Church simply turned its back on the weakest and smallest? And greater still, what can each of us do to ensure Christ’s love is shown as well as spoken?
PHFS Welcomes Three New Board of Trustee Members:

Ann Cassell • Jim D. Childress III • William R. Showalter

Michael Davidson has been an integral part of Patrick Henry Family Services for 24 years. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in May 1993 and joined the Executive Committee in June 1999. In June 2012, he became President of the Board.

“We owe a great debt of gratitude to Mike Davidson,” said CEO Robert Day. “His long-serving commitment for the care and betterment of the children and families we serve is unwavering. I join the staff and Trustees in thanking him for his leadership and excellent service to PHFS.”

Mr. Davidson is the Director of Economic Development for Campbell County and is on Virginia’s Region 2000 Workforce Development Board. He and Brenda, his wife of 46 years, have two daughters, two sons-in-laws, and six grandchildren.

Beverley English Dalton has served on the Board of Trustees for PHFS since 1999. In 2006, she was elected to the PHFS Executive Committee, where she continues to serve. Before joining the Board, she joined the Dr. O.E. Howe Board in 1993. The Dr. O.E. Howe Board not only built the girls home in Rustburg, but aids significantly in funding the operating budget of the home known as the Dr. O.E. Howe Cottage.

Mrs. Dalton’s loyalty to PHFS follows in the footsteps of her parents, W. Curtis and Louise Towles English and her Uncle Edward R. “Red” English. Since 1953, a member of the English family has been deeply committed to PHFS. On June 13, 1961 the English brothers made a challenge offer to build and donate a cottage on the Brookneal campus if the citizens of Campbell County would match their gift with a building of the same size. In 1963, eleven excited boys moved into English Cottage!

“I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Board of Patrick Henry Family Services. Far too many children and families today face significant challenges and it is an honor to be a part of an organization that can truly have a meaningful, positive, and direct impact on their future,” said new Board of Trustee member Ann Cassell.

As Director of Development in Hampden-Sydney College’s Office of Institutional Advancement, Cassell oversees alumni relations, annual fund, and Parents Council programs. Under her leadership, fundraising initiatives have increased significantly for the college’s Hampden-Sydney Fund. Formerly, Cassell served as Director of Alumni Relations at Hollins University where she was instrumental in building a vibrant and diverse alumni relations program and was an important leader in their $161 million capital campaign, the largest fundraising success in the history of any southern woman’s college. She is a sustaining member of the Junior League of the Roanoke Valley and serves as President of the Virginia Tech Roundball Club.

Cassell holds a BA with Distinction in Political and Social Thought from the University of Virginia and has completed coursework for a Masters of Liberal Studies from Hollins University.

In January 2015, Jim D. Childress III opened his law practice in Rustburg. Before doing so he served with distinction in both the Danville and Pittsylvania Counties Commonwealth Attorney’s offices, as well as being appointed Special Assistant US Attorney where he was the facilitator of Sexual Assault Response Teams.

“I serve as Guardian ad litem (GAL) for children, it’s the least paying part of my job, but I feel it is necessary in order to make sure those who can’t speak for themselves, have a voice in the courtroom,” said Childress. “I’ve lived in Campbell County most of my life; therefore, I’ve always known about PHFS and learned more specifics during my time as a GAL. I was surprised to know that PHFS was entirely gift/endowment based, which made me want to get involved all the more. Basically, I wanted to be involved in PHFS’s programs in any way I could because I know of the difference PHFS has made in my community, as I have placed several youth in their program.”

Childress is a graduate of Lynchburg College and Appalachian School of Law. He and his wife, Amy, have three beautiful little girls.

At age 14, while attending Fuqua School, William R. Showalter started working in his family’s business in Farmville. The Carpet House and Paint Center, a business that has been serving flooring and paint needs of both homeowners and commercial businesses across Virginia for over 48 years. Working in his family’s business provided him a strong work ethic and skills which he treasures. Following graduation from Hampden-Sydney College in 2009, Will decided to make The Carpet House and Paint Center his career.

“Children are very important to both my wife and me,” said Will Showalter. “When I look at our wonderful little girls, I am thankful for the lives they have. I know that there are many children that are not as fortunate, and often have to deal with difficult situations, including abuse. I am honored to now serve on the board of PHFS, a non-profit that is serious about serving the needs of children and families.”

Will and his wife Lauren have two girls, Kinsley and Tessa.
DON’T HIDE YOUR SCARS
They Tell an Incredible Story

By Jim Urban
Licensed Professional Counselor
Manager of Clinical Services

Several years ago a young woman I’ll call “Sophie” shared with me the story of her facial reconstructive surgery following an abusive relationship with a boyfriend. The story started when she was 18 and met a charming young man who made many grand promises to her, and convinced her to move out of her mother’s home. Her eyes misted as she told of how her heart was filled with so much hope, anticipation, and joy as she made the big decision to trust this man and his damaged ego fed by abusing another person. The story of their relationship ended the night she awoke in the hospital having had her face literally put back together again, but not the story of her strength, recovery, and inspiration to others was only just beginning.

Sophie acknowledged to me that she knew her face was asymmetrical, and that her left eye had a noticeable droop. She showed me pictures of what she looked like before, and the difference was dramatic. What was different today, though, was that her face was somehow more radiant, her eyes had this uncanny ability to penetrate into people’s souls, and her spirit seemed happy and at peace. What was different today was that her scars gave her a gift—the gift of a purpose and mission for her life—the gift of a story that could rescue other women, breathe life—the gift of a story that could rescue other women, breathe hope to the hopeless, and give inspiration to the hurting.

Scars are often thought of as a thing to be rid of in our society. We pay people thousands of dollars to make our bodies look unscathed by life experiences that leave their marks on us. We compare ourselves to the most beautiful, flawless, and privileged people portrayed in media. Many people hide their scars as though they are something to be ashamed of.

Hiding your scars is certainly an option thanks to advances in medicine. I’m not here to say there is anything wrong with making that choice. But there are some scars, both on the body and in the soul, that absolutely have the power to heal others if they are not covered or hidden in shame.

You see, being hurt in life is inevitable; it’s a fate we all share. Pain leaves its mark, but how we respond to that pain, how we allow it to reshape the story of our lives, how we heal and become stronger, gives us an incredible opportunity to be a healing force in the world. Our deepest cuts can heal, and turn into scars, which then turn into our story.

Sophie’s scars, and her determination not to let them rob her of joy in life, led to her telling her story in churches, and becoming a huge inspiration to many people. She has cried with men and women who have found themselves in similar situations she once faced. She has laid out for others a path they can follow when they are at their lowest. She has chosen to become better, not bitter; to choose happiness over hate. Her scars gave her a miraculous ability to heal the pain of others by simply having the courage to display them, and not hide them.

I can’t help but think of the story of Jesus, after the crucifixion and resurrection, where he appeared to the remaining 11 disciples in order to show Doubting Thomas his scars. In this beautiful story, Jesus chose not to allow his rising from the dead to rob him of the scars that came from being executed in a most horrendous fashion. He chose forever to bear the scars in his hands, feet, and side. He chose forever to display the scars that tell his incredible story of boundless love, total sacrifice, and offer of healing to all mankind.

You and I could choose to cover our scars in shame, and opt for a more “beautiful” appearance. But perhaps the most powerful choice we could ever make is to show those scars to others, and tell the story of how we’ve healed and overcome. Perhaps your scars hold God’s greatest purpose for your life and your greatest opportunity to minister healing to a world filled with pain.

For more information or to make an appointment, please telephone (434) 239-4949.

Words of Hope Now
Our Hope for Tomorrow counseling centers located around the state help families cope with all manner of stresses, conflicts, and emotional difficulties.

But now, Hope for Tomorrow has introduced a new resource that can be an ongoing blessing to you and your family—even if you don’t feel the need for counseling.

It’s a new blog: WordsOfHopeNow.com

On this blog site, you’ll discover a rich variety of short articles to encourage, inspire, and motivate you in your daily life. With universal topics such as “5 Better Ways to Help Your Friends,” “Ending Envy,” and “6 Ways to Build Resilience,” WordsOfHopeNow.com offers valuable guidance for readers of every age.

Most of the posts and devotions are written by Patrick Henry staffers, and all proceed from a solidly Biblical worldview. New posts are added frequently... so visit often and be sure to share this resource with your friends!

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Success Reigns at the 47th Annual Awards Ceremony

June 2, 2017 was a particularly bright and beautiful day on the Brookneal campus of Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes.

A perfect day for celebrating the extraordinary ways in which our youth face and overcome life’s challenges. As trustees, award sponsors, family, staff, partners, and friends gathered for the 47th Annual Awards Ceremony, they did so in recognition of the residents’ commitment to better tomorrows and the efforts of these incredible young individuals. Whether excelling academically or in the workplace, overcoming challenges, or shining athletically, individuals. Whether excelling academically or in the workplace, overcoming challenges, or shining athletically,

This year’s Annual Awards Ceremony included the following awards:

The Christie Pariss Hite Memorial Ambassador Award recognizes the contribution of the female resident who best represents PHBGH at churches, civic clubs, and special occasions by her testimony or talent. Nicole was this year’s recipient.

The Kenneth L. Sr. and Lucy Woodall Harris Ambassador Award recognizes the commitment of the male resident who best represents PHBGH at churches, civic clubs, and special occasions by their testimony or talent. Timothy was this year’s recipient.

The Shaffer Academic Leadership Award recognizes the commitment of the male resident who best represents PHBGH at churches, civic clubs, and special occasions by their testimony or talent. The recipient must be an individual who has maintained the highest grade point average for the first three quarters of the school year. This year’s recipient was Chase.

In recognition of school accomplishments, Education Coordinator Danika Dova recognized each youth that had received not only academic recognitions, but also recognition for athletic participation and those that participated in the Unbridled Grace riding program. It was rewarding to see that a majority of the PHBGH residents had received various recognitions.

PHFS Trustee and Chair of the PHBGH Scholarship Committee, Lucy Woodall Harris, presented awards to the students.

Archer Carr Satterfield Work Ethic Awards are presented to a boy and a girl in the PHBGH program who exhibit the best all-around work ethic in all endeavors, including, but not limited to, cottage responsibilities, yard work, academic work, extracurricular and athletic participation, and community service. Paid employment is also considered, when applicable. This year’s recipients were Kaitlyn D. and Caleb.

The Sgt. Jason C. Carr Memorial Academic Improvement Award is a competitive progress award for a resident who has shown the most improvement during the academic school year. The recipient will be competing with himself/herself to show sustained improvement during the year, and the resident making the greatest improvement will receive this award. Caleb was this year’s recipient.

The Dr. O. E. Howe Board Most Virtuous Woman Award is given in recognition of the boy or the girl who uses and demonstrates his or her talent for the best purposes. The criteria for judging the recipients of this award based on overall performance, use of abilities, development of talent, and participation in areas where the music is demonstrated. The attitude and use of abilities is strongly considered. Yasmeen was the recipient of this year’s award.

The Diamond Hill Presbyterian Church Godly Man Award is given to encourage growth and Christian maturity in the male residents of PHBGH. It is presented to the one boy in the program who best exemplifies the biblical description of a godly man and who seeks to be a testimony and an example to others through his words and deeds. This year’s recipient was Joel.

The Dr. O. E. Howe Board Most Virtuous Woman is given to encourage growth and Christian maturity in the residents of the girls’ homes. It is presented to the one girl in the program who best exemplifies the biblical description of a virtuous woman and seeks to be a testimony and an example to others through her words and deeds. Katlynn H. was this year’s recipient.

(Due to space limitations, we are unable to include the names of trustees and other presenters pictured above.)
God’s Great Outdoor Award is presented to a boy or girl who has demonstrated a love of nature and the outdoors. “I lift up my eyes toward the mountains – where does my help come from?” – Psalms 121:1-2. This year’s recipient is Caleb.

The Joann Johnson Garner Memorial Perseverance Award is presented to a boy or girl who has demonstrated the character trait of perseverance. The recipient exhibits the ability to overcome adversity and to work diligently toward a goal. “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved,” – Matthew 24:13. This year’s recipient is Devinaire.

The Robert and Lois McCullough Character Award is presented to the youth who represents the strongest character trait of perseverance. The recipient exhibits the ability to overcome adversity and to work diligently toward a goal. “But the one who endures to the end, he will be saved,” – Matthew 24:13. This year’s recipient is Devinaire.

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The Norman B. Dennis Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award was established by Mrs. Patricia L. Dennis in memory of her late husband. It is presented to a worthy graduate who demonstrates courage and faith throughout their transition into the PHBGH program. “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,” – Psalm 27:14. This year’s recipient was Amira.

C. Warren Green, Jr. Memorial Award for Determination and Integrity are presented to young adults in recognition of their personal integrity in hopes that as years go by they will continually “pay-it-forward.” Josh and Ryan received the 2017 awards.

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The Courage of Daniel Award is presented to a youth who demonstrates courage and faith throughout their transition into the PHBGH program. “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord,” – Psalm 27:14. This year’s recipient was Amira.

The Carl Mylius Awards were established by Mrs. Wanda Seagroves in memory of her late husband. It is presented to residents graduating from high school, pursuing additional education, and having a need for financial assistance. The 2017 recipients are Beanna and Caleb.

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God’s Great Outdoor Award is presented to a boy or girl who has demonstrated a love of nature and the outdoors. “I lift up my eyes toward the mountains – where does my help come from?” – Psalms 121:1-2. This year’s recipient is Caleb.

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The Journey Continues ...

Surviving the kind of oppressive poverty, neglect and terrifying abuse Robert Day suffered as a child implores the question asked by so many: “How did you get out... how did you find healing?”

Childhood trauma leaves an intensely painful wound on the adult, long after the child is grown. In this edition, his second of a three-part series, Robert shares the emotions, mistakes, and often excruciating steps necessary to find, and eventually embrace, that place of “wholeness.”

“From my perspective, the local church seems to have lost sight of its mission. Somehow over time, congregations started serving a particular model of doing church, and drifted away from the unique call of being the church. I know it sounds kind of boorish to say, but I do think it is the fundamental issue. I firmly believe the single greatest issue in our world today is not hunger or homelessness. It’s not child abuse or bad schools. It’s not the breakdown of the family, the scourge of drugs, or out-of-wedlock births. It’s not even crime or terrorism. While all of those things are horrific problems, none of them are the problem. The single greatest need in the world today is for the church to be the church again. If I were granted the power to fix one thing in this broken world, I would use it to correct the mission drift of the Church. Everything else is a symptom of a church off mission.” Page 60

“...I know you’re avoiding counseling because it’s going to hurt. You don’t want to dig up all that pain you’ve been suppressing for so long. I totally get that. Think of it this way, though— the pain of therapy is controlled and measured. The pain of self-destruction is not. You can afford the price of counseling. You may not be able to afford the high cost of your life unraveling.” Page 82

Excerpts from Desperately Healed ... My Journey to Wholeness:

“I know you’re avoiding counseling because it’s going to hurt. You don’t want to dig up all that pain you’ve been suppressing for so long. I totally get that. Think of it this way, though—the pain of therapy is controlled and measured. The pain of self-destruction is not. You can afford the price of counseling. You may not be able to afford the high cost of your life unraveling.” Page 82

“No matter what mess or pain you are in today, I want you to know something: the cause of that mess, the cause of that pain, is not decisive in explaining them. The cause doesn’t matter. Certainly there are causes. Some of those causes may be your fault. Some of them may be the fault of others, and some are simply the result of living in a fallen world. It rains on the just and unjust alike. The point is this: in God’s Kingdom, it’s the purpose for the pain, not the cause of the pain, on which we focus.” Page 110

Robert’s series of book-signing appearances continues with his next stop:

Barnes & Noble
Longwood University
116 South Street, Farmville, Virginia
Saturday, September 16, 2017
10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Robert’s series may be purchased through Amazon and Barnes & Noble online. Books may also be purchased at the following local bookstores:

- Lynchburg - Givers Books • Appomattox - Baines Books
- Farmville - Barnes & Noble

For more information, please telephone (434) 372-2006 ext. 104
Further emphasizing lessons learned, as noted at the end of each camper’s weekly adventure booklet:

This week in our quest for wisdom we have spent a lot of time learning about wisdom. We have seen that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. We have seen that the Bible is full of wisdom, that we should be wise about the effects of sin and the wisdom of the parents God puts in our life.

Being wise is really about trusting in God. Trusting in who He is and what He is, that He is a good God who cares deeply about us, that He loves us unconditionally, that He is all-knowing (Omniscient). We have a choice in life. We can rely on our own thinking, our own self or we can choose to trust in the Lord Almighty.

As the cabins were closed up for the summer, fishing poles stored, canoes placed back on their racks, etc., Hat Creek Camp staff left with a renewed commitment to provide next year’s campers with the same enriching experience of God-centered purpose, connectedness with others, and respect for all. Watch out, who knows what adventure lies ahead in 2018!

In its fifth year, Hat Creek Camp continued to give each youth served an opportunity for extraordinary summer fun. Yes, all the traditional summer activities were a part of the summer adventure such as hiking, canoeing, swimming, high and low ropes, musical theater, rock wall climbing, shooting sports, woodworking, fishing, laughing, bonding, etc., yet this summer campers experienced more.

Hat Creek Camp 2017 brought on a new and exciting quest, Ninja Mania! Ninja training was a must and Ninja games were challenges to conquer!!! During each of the nine weekly sessions, Hat Creek campers experienced such fun as Chopstick relay, Samurai Warrior survival, Ninja stealth, Dueling Dojos, and Shuriken Subterfuge.

“Our campers were fully engaged this summer on their quest, not just their quest as ninja’s, but also their quest in discovering more about what God has purposed for their lives: I am grateful to be able to witness first hand the impact this camp is having in changing the lives of children, and I look forward to what we will be able accomplish in the summers ahead!” said Jon Isaman.

On the closing day, the Path of Wisdom was summed up in key Bible verse from Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.

“My kids had such a wonderful time at camp. Great fun and attentive counselors! Great activities with a focus on connecting, kindness, and fun. 5/5 stars from this Momma!”

JANICE S.
MISSION POSSIBLE

With big hearts and a resolve to make a difference in the lives of others, Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes youth accompanied by staff set out on their annual local mission day event. First stop: the Salvation Army’s Center of Hope in Lynchburg, a center offering emergency shelter for homeless men, women, and families. There the PHBGH volunteers worked to package and serve lunches to those living at the facility and to the homeless people who came through the line off the street.

“Serving at the Salvation Army was really meaningful,” said Katlynn. “While I may not live with my family, I have all I need at PHBGH and I especially do not have to worry about food. Most of the people we served did have to worry about having enough food, yet they smiled and were grateful for our help. I will never forget that!”

After a bit of lunch, the next stop was Gleaning for the World. Here they packaged bedding and made hygiene kits for girls and women in Africa.

“Learning that teenage girls and working women can miss twelve weeks of school or work each year in developing countries because of lack of hygiene products was sad,” continued Katlynn. “This obviously causes anxiety and loss of self-esteem, education, and income, which makes them vulnerable and exploited. We made menstrual hygiene kits for the Wings project.”

“I was so very impressed with the youth from PHBGH,” said volunteer Coordinator, Gleaning for the World, Danielle Sarchet. “Not only were they extra polite, but their work ethic was incredible!”

“My heart was full of joy seeing these young kids and teenagers so committed to helping others,” said Mercy Clements, Institutional Advancement Administrative Assistant and Event Coordinator. “The entire day they were more than willing to do whatever was asked of them! Like a proud parent, it was especially rewarding to be told time and time again by administrators at the two volunteer organizations how proud they were of these hard-working youth.”

After 22 years with Bethany Christian Services, Patrick Henry Family Service’s new Chief Operating Officer, Jeff Nitz, decided it was time to take on a new adventure. “It started with a telephone call from a former colleague, PHFS Chief Program Officer Claudia Fletcher, someone I respect and with whom I very much enjoyed working while she was with Bethany,” said Jeff Nitz. “I loved my job, my church, where we lived, and my life, but something about the direction of PHFS caught my attention.”

As Senior Vice President of Adoption and Family Services, Nitz was responsible for advancing Bethany’s operations, service diversification, and growth strategies across 21 states with the oversight of approximately 300 staff. “I see coming to PHFS as returning to a similar-sized organization that is on a similar development and growth trajectory as when I first cut my eye-teeth in social work. Doing so gives me the opportunity to apply my blend of administrative, coaching, and personnel management skills, and years of experience in non-profit management, to advance the strategy and results of this strong, mission-centric organization.

Also, I see my move to PHFS as an opportunity to be a part of an organization with a deep commitment to protecting children and strengthening families. Doing this while intentionally seeking to bring glory to God in all that is achieved together resonates very strongly with me. In response to what we felt was God’s clarion call, both my wife and I clearly felt God had an amazing adventure cut out for us in Lynchburg, Virginia, so we started packing!”

“When you meet Jeff Nitz you just know he is the right man for the job,” commented CEO Robert Day. “Not only is he a strong collaborative leader with excellent executive skills, he is an encouraging listener with a wealth of experience related to our mission of keeping children safe and families strong.”

After graduating with honors from Wheaton College in 1984, Jeff Nitz received his Masters of Social Work with a 4.00 GPA from Rutgers University in 1990. In addition, he received his Pennsylvania Licensed Clinical Social Worker certification in 1998.

“I look forward to using the gifts and experiences that God has enabled me to have to help advance Robert Day’s vision and an organization with a great mission. Equally, I look forward to working with an excellent team that enjoys and has fun working together and is passionate about their ministry’s mission,” concluded Nitz.
Supporters of Patrick Henry Family Services are far more than donors; they are partners. Their contributions partnered with the ministry’s commitment to children and families served allow staff to enrich countless lives. On June 8, PHFS had the opportunity to recognize several donors at a luncheon in South Hill in appreciation of their continued support and commitment to our ministry. “We were delighted to see friends from Richmond, Blackstone, Chase City, and North Carolina at our appreciation luncheon,” said Director of Philanthropy Adam Spencer. “Historically, more children have come to live at Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes from South Hill than from anywhere else. We are grateful for the compassion and generosity of so many special people who have partnered with our ministry, some for decades. It is their support that is bringing hope and healing to the children and families we serve.”

PHFS receives no government assistance; therefore, it is because of the enduring generosity of our donors that we are able to make a difference in the lives of the children and families served for over fifty-five years. For more information about philanthropic opportunities with PHFS, please telephone Adam Spencer at (434) 376-2006, extension 201.

Photographed from top to bottom: Adam Spencer, Daphne Copley and daughter Betty Copley Estes, and Community Development Coordinator George Nail; Kathy Brehme and Steve Blowman; PHFS Danville Representative Patty Hamrick with Deborah and Doug Matze; Scott Winn, George Nail, and Debbie Winn; and CEO Robert Day with Mrs. Florence Cummins.

IN HONOR OF:

B
Eugenia Grace Bailey’s Marriage to Marty Lloyd Campbell
Medical Services Department at Central Virginia Training Center
Nancy W. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall H. Osborne
Thomas J. Bradwell for his Birthday
Mr. Adam Spencer
Tracy Burgess
Mr. and Mrs. Preston H. Andrews

C
Marty and Gina Campbell
Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Cheatham
Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Goff
Daphne W. Copley for her Birthday
Ms. Elizabeth C. Estes
Rhonda Cundiff
Mr. and Mrs. Preston H. Andrews

D
Robert Day
Mrs. Margaret B. Beckman
Mr. and Mrs. John Norris Moreau
Ms. Phyllis Womack Dowdy for her Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

E
James R. Ferguson
Mrs. Heather Comett

F
Theron (Barbara) Hall
The Virginia Society Dames of the Court of Honor
Hannah Murray Hite
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

G
Clarke C. Jones’ Birthday
Dr. and Mrs. W. P. Morissette III

H
Mrs. Margaret B. Beckman
Mr. and Mrs. John Norris Moreau
Roy A. Moon
Ms. Margaret A. Moon
Mothers of Liberty Church
Liberty Church Woman’s Missionary Society

I
Ms. Phyllis Womack Dowdy

J
Thomas Grey Overton
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton
Willie Lee Overton
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

K
Mr. and Mrs. Preston H. Andrews

L
Fathers of Liberty Church on Father’s Day
Liberty Church Woman’s Missionary Society

M
Ted MacVaugh
Mrs. Margaret B. Beckman
Roy A. Moon
Ms. Margaret A. Moon
Mothers of Liberty Church
Liberty Church Woman’s Missionary Society

N
Ms. Elizabeth C. Estes

O
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

P
Mr. and Mrs. Preston H. Andrews

Q
Mr. and Mrs. Preston H. Andrews

R
Mr. and Mrs. Preston H. Andrews

S
Karlin Schrock
Mr. Lynn Martin

T
he following donors made honor or memorial gifts to Patrick Henry Family Services in recognition of those who have made a difference in their lives. These gifts not only help our ministry, but they also live on as a lasting legacy to those who are honored. In fact, many people have been introduced to Patrick Henry Family Services through honor and memorial gifts.

When honor and memorial gifts are received, our office promptly notifies the honoree, or the family of the deceased, and provides the name and address of the donor of each gift.

Photographed from top to bottom: Adam Spencer, Daphne Copley and daughter Betty Copley Estes, and Community Development Coordinator George Nail; Kathy Brehme and Steve Blowman; PHFS Danville Representative Patty Hamrick with Deborah and Doug Matze; Scott Winn, George Nail, and Debbie Winn; and CEO Robert Day with Mrs. Florence Cummins.

A visiting our nation’s Capital in Washington D.C. was an extra special honor for Matthew.
Pastor Reggie Warren came to Hat Creek Camp each week to educate campers about beekeeping. His lessons provided some memorable connections to the camp’s theme of seeking God’s wisdom.

Betty Shamburger for her Birthday
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

Donald E. Simmons
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Hall

Dean and Linda Spencer, Happy 50th Anniversary
Mr. Adam Spencer

Sgt. Mark Spencer for his Birthday
Mr. Adam Spencer

Assaf Sternberg and Sara Dabney Tisdale, Best Wishes and Congratulations on your Wedding
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

IN MEMORY OF:

A
William C. “Bill” Abbitt for Father’s Day
Mrs. Patricia O. Abbitt C. W. Abbitt, Jr. Sons, Inc.

Donna Adams
Providence United Methodist Church

William Dudley Allen, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Norman D. Wagstaff, Jr.

Cleo Rickman Anderson
Clayton and Sheila Garmo

Mr. and Mrs. J. Hudson Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. John H. Anderson, Jr.

Anthony Michael Arrighi, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

B
Logan Bagby
Miss Ellen Pittenger

Taylor and Erunice Bailey
Cody and Faye Mathews

Dr. Emerson Daniel Baugh, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Atkinson III

Mr. and Mrs. Mele T. Adams III
Ms. Clarice U. Baugh

Cecile Lovelace Boswell
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

Frank A. Bowers
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

James Bowers
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Tommy Brankley
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Jane Brockenbrough
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

Cecile Lovelace Boswell
Mr. and Mrs. Newton C. Crump, Jr.

John Bohannon
Mr. and Mrs. Newton C. Crump, Jr.

Logan Bagby
Miss Ellen Pittenger

Taylor and Erunice Bailey
Cody and Faye Mathews

Dr. Emerson Daniel Baugh, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Atkinson III

Mr. and Mrs. Mele T. Adams III
Ms. Clarice U. Baugh

Cecile Lovelace Boswell
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Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

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Frank A. Bowers
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Tommy Brankley
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Jane Brockenbrough
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

Claudia Watkins Belk
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

Floyd R. Bennett
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall K. Osborne

Mary S. Bennett
The Family of Bob Bochman

William Oscar Bennett, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Joel Cohen

Mr. Edward R. Harris
Sandi and Jim Kiger

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Lareau
Ms. June B. Quisenberry

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy F. Simmons
Mrs. Sue S. Wright
Ms. Dawn D. Young

Frederick Stanley Black
Pat and Jim Burgess

Mr. and Mrs. Harry L. Mapp, Jr.
Mr. Eddie M. Powell
Dr. and Mrs. Lucien W. Roberts
Mr. and Mrs. William L. Welons

Bobby L. Blanks
Lamb’s United Methodist Church

Jeffrey Charles Blevins
Mr. and Mrs. Newton C. Crump, Jr.

John Bohannon
Mr. and Mrs. Newton C. Crump, Jr.

Logan Bagby
Miss Ellen Pittenger

Taylor and Erunice Bailey
Cody and Faye Mathews

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Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Jane Brockenbrough
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

C
David R. Caldwell, Sr.
Mrs. Virginia T. Caldwell

Jerry Carter
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Mildred Williams Carter
Mr. and Mrs. Mele T. Adams III

Herb and Gertrude Carwile
Liberty University

Doris V. Choppell
Mrs. Jane S. Baynes

Carl Childress
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence N. Iby

Lois Murphy Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burton

Mr. and Mrs. Lester Guthrie
Patsy and Bobby Long

Audrey G. Cocke
Mrs. Gail C. Ferguson

James Alfred Lee Condrey
Barbara and Cecil Welsh

Marjorie Givens Cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence N. Iby

Dr. T. Harold Crowder, Jr.
Mrs. Lucy H. Fuller

Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

Newton and Lottie Crump
Mr. and Mrs. Newton C. Crump, Jr.

Andrew Bradley “Brad” Culpepper
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

Mr. Henry Chaplin Brown, Jr.
Anne and Wayne Meadows

Erselle Bryant
Mrs. Norma B. Powers

Jack Burnett
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

D
Nancy Hightower Davis
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Samuel Turner Dawson
Cody and Faye Mathews

William W. Dickerson, Jr.
Mr. G. H. Jameson, Jr.

Augusta M. “Jo” Franklin Dobson
Mrs. Ione Hagan Hauss
Ms. Benita S. Sheets and Gladys Shue

Ruth Drinkard
Mrs. Charlynn Flippin

Alex and Madeline Driskill
Mrs. Eva D. Gardner

Archer B. and Wallace B. Duffey
Mrs. Elinora W. Duffey

Minnie Frances “Bonnie” Hancock Duffey
Mrs. Elinora W. Duffey

Pat Durkin
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

Pastor Reggie Warren came to Hat Creek Camp each week to educate campers about beekeeping. His lessons provided some memorable connections to the camp’s theme of seeking God’s wisdom.
When living at Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes our youth become family to one another. Photographed above are Sydney, Devinaire, and Caleb.

Kisean Attends SHELTON LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes youth Kisean Boyd was one of twenty-six high school students along with nine counselors that attended the six-day Shelton Leadership Challenge at Hampden-Sydney College. While there, Kisean was immersed in what it means to be a servant leader. As reported in The Farmville Herald newspaper, “The program, which was founded fifteen years ago by former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and retired four-star General Hugh Shelton, focuses on cultivating values-based leadership skills in young people that they can then take to their respective communities.

When asked about his experience, Kisean immediately responded, “Not only was it a meaningful week based on leadership principles such as honesty, compassion, social responsibility, and integrity, it was an opportunity for me to be around positive role models and leaders that I aspire to be like. On top of it all, I was coached into being a much better public speaker.”

Kisean’s experience at the Shelton Leadership Challenge was underwritten by Dr. and Mrs. Robert C. Wade of Farmville.
Homes of Hope (HOH) is brimming with baby JOY! Currently, at max capacity, the home has four mothers and five children. Three of the mothers have strong full-time jobs and the fourth, while only just arriving, is out applying with hopes of becoming gainfully employed soon. “Sometimes it definitely gets a bit crazy, especially when all the babies are hungry!” smiled HOH Supervisor, Debbie Musselman. “However, it is so rewarding to watch these young mothers work hard to learn new skills in weekly parenting, budgeting, and group counseling sessions as well as Bible Study, with their goal being to become the mothers they want to be for their precious children. I love my job!”

Joseph Marlow Lacks
Clayton and Sheila Garmo

L

Carl Stephen Mason
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Morgan III

James “Rusty” Massengail
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Irene and Gilbert Mays
Mr. and Mrs. Monte Mays

Dr. Robert W. McCullough
Rev. Jerry M. Newbold, Jr.
Sons Of The American Legion Squadron B

Charles McGinnis
Eddie and Kristi Gregory

Gail McVey
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence N. Iby

Mrs. Gail McHally
Mr. and Mrs. Monte T. Adkins III

Edward Hobson “Hop” Meeler Sr
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Leggett

Kathryn D. Middleton
Mr. Andrew C. Middleton

Tom Lukas
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 270

M

Christopher C. Markham
Ms. Carolyn M. Markham

J.W. Markham
Frank and Patty Hodnett

Grace Thompson Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. Julian Adkins
Ms. Nancy Marshall Alder and Family
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Callis
Ms. Leona B. Hazelwood
Ms. Kerrie K. Hillman
Ms. Leona B. Hazlewood

Corey Morgan
Mr. and Mrs. David A. Wilbourn

Rudy Morgan
The Family of Bob Bochman

Gladyss Hamilton Moschler
Ms. Vickie P. Hite

Ruby and Charles T. Moses, Jr
Mr. and Mrs. Monte Mays

Vivian Moss
Mr. and Mrs. Nonnam D. Wagstaff, Jr.

Paul Munn
Mr. and Mrs. Nonnam D. Wagstaff, Jr.

O

Mr. and Mrs. David Osborne, Sr
Mr. and Mrs. Marshall K. Osborne

Maynard Hagood Osborne
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Burton
Old Halifax School Classmates
Frances Martin and Dave and Cheryl Dalman

Haywood Jacobs
Anne and Wayne Meadows

Stanley “Bucky” Phillips James, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Cecil B. Arthur
Mr. Bernard C. Baldwin III
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Carrington III
Ms. Elizabeth Forsyth Harris
Ms. Nancy T. Edwards
Mr. S. Cabell Dudley, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Timothy A. Doss
Mr. Leighton B. Dodd
Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. Cobb
Mr. James E. Cleland, II
Mr. and Mrs. Donald M. Giles
Mrs. Anne G. Gianakos
Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Spencer, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carson

Peggy Jacobs Newton
Charles and Betty Bass

Olivia Noblin
Mr. and Mrs. William H. Carson

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Bochman

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony L. Overton
Earlier this summer the quilters of the Woman’s Missionary Union from Crewe Baptist Church delivered seven beautiful handmade quilts to the youth of Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes. This dedicated group of quilters has been providing quilts to not only PHBGH, but wherever there is a need in the region for over twenty years.
No Excuses

Often motivational speakers are invited to deliver inspirational messages to the youth of Patrick Henry Boys and Girls Homes. In the spring, Youth Pastor and Liberty University Master’s candidate Mark Simpson delivered powerful words of encouragement to our boys and girls.

Born in Bombay, India with deformed and twisted legs to a mother and father he never knew, he was left on the steps of one of Mother Teresa’s orphanages. At age two and a half he was adopted by David and Cheryl Simpson, who had previously adopted four other children with special needs. Fortunately, his adopted parents loved him unconditionally as he worked through many emotional and rebellious issues—lying, cheating, stealing, deceiving, and even a suicide attempt. After a close family friend, a Christian deceive him, he realized the pain he was causing, accepted Christ as his real savior, and

At age 16, after years of pain and grief due to his twisted legs he was told by the Shriner’s Hospital, “Do you want to live your life with pain, or do you want to have your legs amputated to live a better life?” At age 17, Mark had both his legs amputated. In his own words, “And life has never been the same since!”

Our youth listened intently as he summed up his positive approach to life:

No Legs - No Limits - No Excuses

“When you stop saying I can’t, you can. If you turn your “I can’t” into “I can” then you get to see what God can then do!” he encouraged.

As the evening came to a close, one of our youth said, “I need an attitude adjustment, if he can do so much with no legs, I certainly can do more than I am if I stop making excuses.”

For more information about Mark Simpson, please visit his website at MarkSimpson@ec.wixsite.com/unlimited2911

In 1983, April was declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation. This spring, Patrick Henry Family Services (PHFS) held a special ceremony in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month on April 10 where 667 pinwheels were placed on the hillside across from the administrative offices at 1621 Enterprise Drive in Wyndhurst.

“Sadly, each pinwheel placed on the hill represented one child who was abused in the city of Lynchburg last year,” said Patrick Neff, Director of the Safe Families for Children-Virginia program. “It is heartbreaking to know that during 2016 there were 667 substantiated cases of child abuse, just in our city alone.

“PHFS has dedicated 56 years to keeping children safe and families strong across central Virginia, therefore this program was a natural fit for our Safe Families for Children outreach,” said CEO Robert Day. “We were pleased with the turn-out to raise local awareness and to encourage the community to get involved in helping to prevent child abuse. We were also thankful to our honored guests who attended in support of this serious cause. In attendance were Delegate Kathy Byron, City Councilman Jeff Helgeson and Police Chief Raul Diaz.

“I am honored to be with you this morning,” said Councilman Jeff Helgeson. “Patrick Henry was a Presbyterian preacher who often cited scripture in his public addresses. Today it is fitting, as we think about the 667 children in Lynchburg that suffered abuse last year, that we hear the words of Jesus as found in Mark 9:42: ‘and whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hung about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.’"

“I believe that there is nothing more evil than the harming of innocents. That’s why government’s highest calling is public safety. And likewise, that is why what PHFS does is so critical to our community. Thank you for the work that you do and helping keep children safe and for being a voice for those who cannot speak for themselves,” concluded Helgeson.

In 2008 the pinwheel was introduced as the national symbol for child abuse prevention through Pinwheels for Prevention as noted on the Prevent Child Abuse website, PreventChildAbuse.org. Ten years later the bright blue colored pinwheels spin as a reminder of our need to work to prevent child abuse.

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Jeffrey R. Fulgham, CFRE
Chief Advancement Officer
(434) 239-6891

For more information or to discuss giving opportunities to Patrick Henry Family Services, please contact:

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