

Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-Three Years of Showing God's Unconditional, Healing Love to Teen Age Girls

Heart Ministries, Inc., 201 S. Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020; Phone 620.463.6112; www.victoryvillagechristianacademy.org

Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director; Bill and Carole Cowell, Editors & Administrators

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From our Director, *Kelli Schwarz-Rump*

October is here and so is Fall! The Victory Village volleyball team has been busy with practices and games.

We recognized our Senior, **Sophia**, during a home game at the end of September. Sophia's parents were both able to be there at the game, which was very special to Sophia. The volleyball team will be playing in several games and tournaments throughout the month of October. **GO SAINTS!**



There was a fall party for the girls. It was held outside, enjoying the weather. The girls enjoyed charcuterie boards filled with meats and cheeses and vegetables, as well as a dessert bar. They spent time painting pumpkins. They were each given a card with a character trait of God and these were read aloud and discussed with them. It was an evening of listening to music, relaxing, eating, painting, and laughing.



(continued on page two)

Visit the Village....with Bill and Carole

OPEN HOUSE AND FALL FUNDRAISER COMING IN NOVEMBER, by **Bob Friesen**, Chairman of the Board

The school year is off to a good start. The Campus here at Victory Village is once again a busy place with chapel, academics and sports filling up each day. We have an exciting Open House planned for Sunday, November 19, beginning at 5:30 pm, with snacks, campus tours given, followed by a special program at 7:00.



HEARTS FOR HIM, a vocal ensemble, based out of Hesston, Kansas, is a nine-man ensemble and will fill the Chapel with Gospel music, hymns and solos--sure to be a blessing! Come and enjoy! A free will offering will be taken for Victory Village. Thank you for your prayers and support.

God continues to bless Victory Village Christian Academy, and He meets our needs through many of you who read this Newsletter. It takes a lot of money to pay the bills, and we do not charge girls or their parents. We pray, and God supplies through many of you who read this Newsletter. It is a blessing that our girls begin to really love God and want to serve Him. To this we say, **Hallelujah** and **Praise the Lord!** We are sharing a short interview that Carole had with one of our present girls, now in her second year at VVCA, as there is no better proof than a personal testimony.

Question: How do you feel about being here at Victory Village? **Answer:** *I feel loved! It is my home away from home.*

Question: What has God done in your life since you came? **Answer:** *He gave me Jesus and He sent me here to feel loved.*

Question: Have you made many friends? **Answer:** *Yes, lots of friends.*

Question: Do you like the Staff? **Answer:** *Yes, very much! They have open arms. They are all very loving and forgiving.*

Without your help in giving and praying, testimonies like this would not be possible. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly!

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)



Here are some more pictures from the Fall Party

The girls that have all A's and B's are rewarded for their grades with fun little prizes, outings, etc. This last week the group of girls that had all A's and B's went to a local Coffee shop, enjoying hot drinks and having a fun time.



Katy's Biology class had a fear factor experiment. They blindly tasted and touched various things, trying to guess what it was.

Needs List

- 13-gallon Trash Bags – Paper Towels**
- Liquid Laundry Soap – Shark Vacuums - Bleach**
- Leather Women's Basketballs**
- Science Lab Supplies—Beakers, Graduated cylinders**
- Ph testing strips, balances**



The volleyball team went out and enjoyed some ice cream after one of their away games



Dustee, Sophia, and Lola enjoying special chocolates that a supporter generously gave to all the girls.

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)



Wilma Engle, Carole's cousin, and our Accountant at Victory Village Christian Academy, is also an ordained American Baptist minister. She was given the prestigious **Legacy Award** for ministry at the Annual Meeting of the American Baptist Churches of the Central Region, September 29, held at the First Baptist Church of Lawrence, Kansas.



It looks like Larissa Hawkinson's Home Economics Class had a lot of fun making Mini-burlap wreaths!



Carole has enjoyed teaching girls how to crochet over the years. **Phica**, one of our new students, is the latest one who wanted to learn. It looks like she is off to a good start!



In last month's Newsletter we featured **Laura Beth Scott Froman** and **Lisa Andreski Broadnax**, 1999 Graduates of VVCA. Lisa went on a mission trip to Thailand with us in 1999, and is shown here with a Thai girl on that trip, and then with **Ivy**, who is one of our present students, and from Thailand.



Here are **Essi, Brilee, Alyssa** and **Jordan** in Woodworking Class, and their teacher **Robin Traffas**. The girls are learning new skills and gaining a healthy respect for the power tools!



Meet **Sunny Mae Skiles**, born in August to **Pete** and **Grace Skiles**. Isn't she sweet! Grace is one of our Dorm Staff.



CHAPEL TIMES AT VVCA, by Bill

As a boy on the farm in Clay County, Church attendance was a priority--Sunday morning and night, and Wednesday night. Nothing kept us from going except sickness, muddy or snow blocked roads, and when that happened, we had Church at home! Guess who was the preacher?

In like manner, Chapel times are an integral part of our school program at Victory Village. The Bible and the Hymnal are both essential books for our worship and study. Carole and I consider it an honor and privilege to lead hour long Chapels six times each week--at 8:00 am Monday through Friday, and at 10:30 am on Sundays. Daily Chapels consist of reading the Bible, singing of Hymns and Gospel songs, a time of prayer with students voluntarily taking part, and showing a portion of a movie that teaches Biblical values, morals and Christian character. Sunday morning chapels include student participation--lighting candles, reading Old Testament and New Testament Scripture, sharing news of our missionaries, providing special music, leading a prayer time and helping with our weekly observance of communion. Attendance at Chapel is required, but spiritual commitments are voluntary, otherwise they would be less than genuine. Occasionally we are invited to take the girls to one of our supporting Churches, where they can share in music and testimonies, and meet new friends.

Our Staff also lead the girls in Bible studies and prayer times in the evenings at the Dorm. We believe spiritual teaching and training, along with good academics and athletics will result in well-rounded and productive lives. Our students must still voluntarily decide whether or not they are going to follow Jesus, but we do all we can to encourage them to do so.

Our first two full time pastorates were at the **Calvary Baptist Church** of Hoisington and the **Emmanuel Baptist Church** of Marion, both churches of the **North American Baptist General Conference**. While we were in both of those churches, God was working in our hearts by giving us a vision for **Victory Village Christian Academy**, now in its' 53rd year. Recently we have been invited to bring the girls and share in two other North American Baptist Churches in the coming weeks. On October 22, at 10:45 am, we will be at the **Strassburg Baptist Church**, 2249 Pawnee Road, Marion, KS, for their annual Harvest Mission Festival. On November 12, at 10:30 am, we will be at the **First Baptist Church of Lorraine**, located in the town of Lorraine, KS, where **Zach Ullom** is Pastor. If you live near these Churches and do not have commitments and responsibilities elsewhere, we invite you to join us for a program of songs and testimonies from the girls.

Victory Village Christian Academy

October, 2023



Our 53rd Year of Changing Lives for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom; Jesus said "I have come that they may have life and have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Our Mission is to serve as the hands and feet of Jesus. Inspired by His Gospel, we seek to make God's amazing love and compassion real to teenage girls, serving them without charge to their families by providing a clean and safe home, a good Christian and State certified education, nutritious meals, training in life skills, outdoor and indoor activities and sports, opportunities to be involved in the ministry of helping others, and an introduction to Jesus, who will love them forever. We affirm the worth of all, without prejudice, partiality or intimidation. **Victory Village Christian Academy** is located at 201 S Victory Road, Burrton, KS 67020, and is licensed by the State of Kansas, with State certified teachers and curriculum. Credits are transferable, high school diplomas are earned and recognized for entrance to colleges. **Rev. Bill and Carole Cowell, Founders and Administrators; Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director and Principal; Katy Nininger, Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, Marla Johnson, Jerry Nininger, Larissa Hawkinson, Teachers; Barbara Hedges, Office Manager and Secretary-Treasurer, Wilma Engle, Accountant; Jessica Kerzner, Therapist; Kristi Colvin, Case Manager; Heather Smith, Dormitory Director; Jenna Weimer, Robin Traffas, Shannon Fitzgerald, Emily Moore, Amanda Herd, Janice Janzen, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Cayleena Pilgreen, Elise Gaeddert, Grace Skiles, Lauren Holmes, Bri Neal, Becky Valdois, Ahneka Valdois, Kayla Felix, Brenda Shenk, Dormitory Staff; Emma Foster, Cook; Scott Hilburn, Maintenance, Board of Directors; Bob Friesen, Chairman, Rev. Bill and Carole Cowell, Becky Goering, Larry Chapman, Gordon Goering, Rev. John Williams, Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Dr. Jessica Kerzner.**

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We are happy when friends and supporters stop by to visit. Here are **Vicky and Richard Swaim** from one of our most faithful and generous supporting Churches--**First Baptist Church** of Silver Lake, pastored by **Rev. Deron Johnson**,

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The Little River Congregational Church, pastored by **Rev. Ted Weis**, has supported VVCA for many years. We were invited to their annual Chicken and Noodle dinner on October 8, proceeds of which were given to Victory Village (more pictures next month). Members of the Church are **Bill and Jean Kruse Oswalt**, whose wedding Bill conducted 55 years ago at **The First Baptist Church** of Lorraine.



Mrs. Marla Johnson, who has been one of our teachers at VVCA for several years, is a lover of animals, especially cats. She and her husband make many trips from town to make sure the cats are being fed and cared for. She reminds us of St. Francis of Assisi, who was known as a lover of the animals.

We are very grateful to all of you who pray for this ministry, and who send donations to help keep the ministry going. The decision we made 53 years ago not to charge tuition or room and board has proven to be the right decision. That doesn't mean it has been easy. We sometimes fall behind, and keep praying for God to supply. God has never failed us, and though times change and the challenges may be greater, we are committed to keep on going. Your giving and praying is what helps us continue. May God bless you all abundantly!