

Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-Two 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

April was a month full of activities! We ended the month with our **Annual Field Day, Family Night, Recognition Night** and then **Graduation!**



Field day was a fun day full of running, jumping, throwing, and laughing. We open our field day to anyone that wants to compete and it is always such a fun time to see supporting church families, VV staff and students all compete in various events throughout the day.

The **Considine family** graciously provided a yummy lunch for everyone involved when all of the competition was over. The next day was filled with preparation for the afternoon and evening. In the afternoon was the last showing of VVCA drama class' **The Emperors New Clothes**; followed by a meal with all of the VV students and families, and then ended with **VVCA Recognition**. Recognition night is always a treat to see each of the girls be recognized for all of the things that they worked on and accomplished throughout the year. Some special awards were given out; one award was the **VVCA Staff Servant Leader Award**.



This award is voted on solely by the students. A very deserving **Mr. Jerry Nininger** was the recipient this year. Mr. N, as he is known as at Victory Village, exemplifies a servant leader in so many ways. One example is how he is always willing to come early, stay late or skip his lunch hour to help a student.

(continued on page two)

Visit the Village, with Bill and Carole

We found a quote that resonated with us because of the beauty all around here at Victory Village. **There will always be flowers in the world for those who have a garden in their souls. Truly, God has made everything beautiful in His time.** (Ecclesiastes 3:11)



Lawanna Kohlman, Carole's English teacher at Lincoln High School, had her class memorize these words of James Russell Lowell, from the Vision of Sir Launfal, and Carole says *They are now forever imprinted on my heart!*

**And what is so rare as a day in June,
Then if ever come perfect days;
When Heaven tries Earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays.
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur or see it glisten.**



The Bible says, **Good News from far away is like cold water to the thirsty** (Proverbs 25:25). Let us introduce you to **Debra Bennett Norcross**, who came as a student in 1989 from Arboles, Colorado. Married to **Lane Norcross**, they have a ranch in the hill country of Texas, where they raise sheep, goats, and cattle, selling directly to consumers healthy meat options. Lane has also been a software developer for 25 years. They have two children, **Marshall** 18, planning to join the army and be a helicopter mechanic, and **Jennifer** 17, who wants to become an historian. Debra says they are active in Church and dedicated to Christ's Kingdom.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)

The Student Servant Leader Award is voted on solely by the staff of Victory Village. This year's recipient was **Mystery**. Mystery is growing into an incredible young lady. She has a great work ethic and is always willing to help out with anything that is needed.



There were two scholarships that were also awarded. **Ruby** and **Harlee** were both awarded \$500 from the **Ann Blackburn Scholarship**, and **Harlee** was awarded \$500 from the **Maddie Kroeker HOPE Scholarship**.



We ended the month with Graduation for our 4 seniors, **Alexys, Harlee, Ruby** and **Leilani**. It was a beautiful morning that started with a reception for the graduates at the dorm. Several family and guests came and enjoyed donuts as they congratulated them. The graduation followed at the chapel with speeches by **Harlee**, valedictorian and **Alexys**, salutatorian. A slide show of the girls from growing up to their time at VV was shared with everyone, and then



Nathanael Hawkinson was our guest speaker. He gave an inspiring speech to the graduates. It was a wonderful morning celebrating **Alexys, Harlee, Ruby** and **Leilani**. I am so proud of them and cannot wait to see where God leads them next.

May has been a very different but busy month. The dorm is currently in the middle of renovation. It will be so nice once it is all complete. Thank you to all that have given towards our

fundraiser for this project. If you are still interested in giving please text **Spring23** to (202) 858-1233, or send it by mail. As always, thank you to each of you for your love, prayers and support. Please be in prayer for all of the VV students and staff as they prepare to begin summer break.

Needs List

*Foil - Parchment paper - 15 gallon trash bags
Borax - Dish soap - Softball gloves*

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)



We enjoy having the girls stop by our house to visit. Here are **Lola, Essi**, and **Mystery**, who will be with us again next school year, and **Lex**, who will be a first year student at Sterling College. Lola is from Nebraska, and was originally from Latvia. Mystery, a rodeo enthusiast, is from Oklahoma. Essi is from Colorado. We are proud of all the girls that come to VVCA, and we thank God for them. They are all unique in their own way. God gives gifts and talents to each individual, and we encourage them to glorify God in all that they do, and to help make a difference in the world.



Eva Reilly, one of our 2021 VVCA Graduates, lives and works in Hutchinson. We were so glad to see her when she came to the Graduation.



This is **Sophia** and her family from Grand Rapids, Michigan. Sophia will be a VVCA Senior next school year.



Larissa Hawkinson is one of our teachers at VVCA. She and her husband **Nathaniel** are Staff Directors at the Kansas Bible Camp. Our summer school girls are spending part of the time at Victory Village, and the other part at KBC.



KBC has fine facilities and a lovely location on Cow Creek west of Hutchinson. Historically, KBC has been part of our lives, as it was through acquaintances made there over 60 years ago that we met each other in Chicago. We were also privileged to have known the late **Richard Burson**, Pastor of the Gospel Chapel, and Director of KBC for many years.



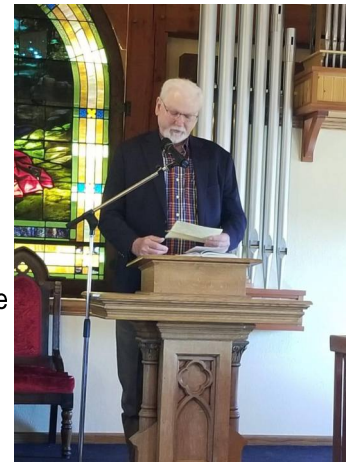
We have a lovely garden this summer. The Horticulture class has helped, but **Scott Hilburn**, our Maintenance Director, also does a lot of the work. It looks like we are going to have a bumper crop of potatoes, corn, peas, and tomatoes. One of the first water wells we dug at the Village 50 years ago has been converted to an irrigation well for the garden. It also looks like this is going to be another year when we have a big crop of apples. We'll again be making a lot of apple cider!



It was good to have former VVCA teacher, **Cameron Sorter**, and his fiancé **Sarah**, here for Graduation. Cameron is now teaching school in Northwest Arkansas.

Summer Time, by Bob Friesen, Chairman of the Board

There is a different rhythm on campus: instead of energetic voices in the hallways, we hear hammering and sawing, similar to a construction zone. Scott, our maintenance director, is well on the way with the dorm remodeling project. By the time the girls come back in August, everything will be cleaned up and painted. After 45 years, the dorm Needed some upgrading.



God has richly blessed this ministry over the years. With all the love and nurturing that is foremost in the daily teaching of these girls, it is amazing to see the transformation in their lives. Our beautiful chapel is where their day begins. Victory Village is very blessed to have some very dedicated long-term teachers and staff. We covet your prayers and thank you for your support. Pray for rain!



Our Staff-Student camaraderie at Victory Village is amazing! Here is a good example with students **Carolina, Lola, Alyssa, Essi** and **Leilani**, and staff **Carole, Barb** and **Kristi**. It was a random meeting of these eight between the school and Shop/Therapy building. Positive relationships have a lot to do with emotional and spiritual healing. Rudyard Kipling said, *When Captains and Crew understand each other to the core, it takes a gale and more than a gale to blow that ship to shore!*



50 years ago when looking for a place to establish Victory Village, Carole asked if we could find a place that had trees. God led us here, with 107 acres of woods and beautiful meadows. Our teacher Edna Neufeld told us the location itself was therapeutic. The miracle continued, with a school, chapel, dorm gym, woodwork shop, therapy office, parsonage, shop, garden, orchard and miles of running and walking trails.

Victory Village Christian Academy

June, 2023



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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, 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, 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, Lyndal Penner, Rev. John Williams, Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Dr. Jessica Kerzner.**

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Scott Hilburn, Robin Traffas and Katy Nininger hard at work on the renovation project.

This baby, **Mollie Mae Goering**, is an answer to many prayers! Her parents, our grandchildren, **Andrew**, and **Laura Goering**, lost a baby last year, and we were all fervently praying that God would send them another baby! Here she is, all 3 pounds and 10 ounces! Mollie Mae is so sweet and like a little doll. We praise God for answered prayer.



Carole and her friend, **Louise Hutchison** have been friends since the 2nd and 3rd grade, growing up in Lincoln, Kansas. Louise is an artist and meets weekly with other local artists at the Hutchinson Art enter. They occasionally ask us to bring some of our students so they can pose as models and the artists can sketch them. **Mystery, Essi and Lola** are shown here, along with Carole and Louise, excited about their pictures that were made and given to them.

Summer is a time when we often struggle the most to have adequate income for paying our Staff and keeping up with all of the other expenses necessary to keep the ministry going. If you could help with some special gifts during June and July, we would be most grateful. Even though we mention this repeatedly, just a reminder that we do not charge for tuition or for room and board, and must raise all our operating expenses by the gifts you send. Thank you so much, and may God bless you all.