

Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-Four 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

VVCA Girls were again blessed by the Salt City Cowboy Church! They have a group of women that for the second year put together a "prom" for the Victory Village girls.



The girls all had formal dresses. They spent several hours on Saturday doing their hair, makeup and nails. They then took some pictures (inside due to the tremendous wind) before heading towards the Cowboy Church. Their prom was decorated in a Paris theme, and they were served several different types of foods. The group planned games, did a devotional together and had music. It was a night full of fun and laughter--a night of the girls getting dressed up, feeling beautiful and enjoying "prom".



What a blessing for the girls to have this opportunity. Stay tuned as the month of April is still going. There are a lot of events still coming up, from MCC Relief, 5k for our Cross Country girls, to helping volunteer at MCC relief the rest of the day, to Charlotte's Web play put on by VVCA drama class, annual VVCA Field Day, Family Night and Recognition Night, and then ending the month with VVCA High School Graduation.

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Visit the Village....with Bill and Carole *Fruit That Remains (John 15:16)*

Fifty-four years ago, when God led us to begin Heart Ministries, we asked God for some lasting fruit for our labors; changes in lives that would last a lifetime. Those prayers have been answered repeatedly, and here are two examples going back to those early days.



Here are **Charles and Glinda Blank**, who live in Kyle, Texas. Glinda wrote, *You and Carole hold a special place in my heart and I will always love and care about you both. God has blessed my life and I thank Him everyday for all His goodness! Fifty-two years ago, I accepted the Lord Jesus as my Saviour on a Wednesday evening at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Marion, Kansas. I remember crying through the whole sermon. I knew I was lost and that I needed to be saved. Though over the years I was not always faithful in His Word, truly Jesus has always been faithful to be there for me. I will be forever grateful for Heart Ministries and for that simple Bible sermon on February 16, 1972—the Word powerful enough to save a sinner like me. Praise the Holy Name of Jesus!*

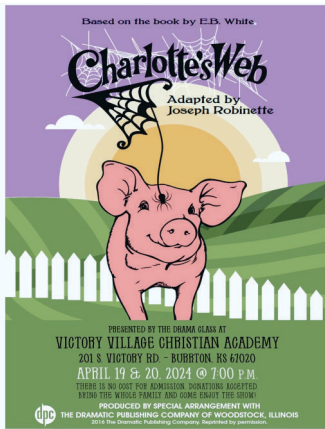
Married to Charles Blank, through the years Glinda has been a successful wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher. God gave her a beautiful singing voice, and while with us she and Carole would often sing duets. Their favorite was, *I'm Nearer Home Than I Was Yesterday!* Glinda was certainly one of the first fruits of Heart Ministries.

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FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)



Please join us in praying for all of the VV girls, from our senior who will begin the next step in her life, to the girls that will be going home and the girls that will be staying at VV for summer school session. Thank you to each of you for all of your prayers, love and support.



Join us!!! Our Victory Village drama class will be presenting the play, Charlotte's Web! There is no price for admission, so please feel free to bring your family to enjoy this play with us!



Needs / Wish List

Bleach -Windex-Trash bags (13 gallon and 4 gallon) Dish soap Paper products (paper towels, Kleenex, napkins, paper plates Paper bowls, plastic cups, plastic silverware) Large bags of Flour, Sugar, Rice, Yeast (most things we make from scratch, and we use a lot of these items) Tape (scotch and packing) Gift cards for summer activities with the girls (surrounding area pools, mini-golf, etc) Griddles, Can opener, Bowls (all sizes)

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)



Julie Hadding came to VVCA in 1981 from Millington, Tennessee. Married to **John Penrose**, they live in Pensacola, Florida. After Victory Village she graduated from Hammond Hills Baptist School of Memphis in 1982, and then studied at Pensacola State College. Julie has worked as a Receptionist at Innovative Open MRI of Pensacola, as a Medical Assistant/Receptionist at West Florida Heart Group, as a Receptionist at America's Best Contacts and Eyeglasses, and at West Florida Cardiology. We were able to visit Julie four years ago on a trip to Pensacola, which is also Carole's birthplace.



April 8 will be a memorable day for many, as we observed the eclipse of the sun. Kelli furnished safety glasses and we also used a welding shield to protect our eyes. A beautiful reminder was shared on Facebook by R. L. Solberg. **An eclipse is a cosmic reminder that the Universe is not a random collection of matter and events that happened by chance. The cosmos is so finely tuned that we can know precisely where every heavenly body will be 200 years from now, down to the minute. These events remind us that the universe is not an accident, and neither are we. God made both, and He is in control.** Another great reminder of God's creative genius is found in Psalm 19. **The heavens proclaim the glory of God. The skies display His craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make Him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard.**

From My Heart, by Carole:



Thanks be to God, for His unspeakable gift of salvation! I am rejoicing in God's wonderful grace and His remarkable plans for my life! I never dreamed God would give me such a wonderful husband who loves me and loves the Lord with me! I could never imagine a place called Victory Village, that has ministered to over 2,000 girls on a beautiful Campus in Central Kansas. God has been good to us and has

blessed us over and over with so many teen girls who have found Victory in Jesus here. And, a big **Thank You** to those of you who support Heart Ministries with prayers and generous gifts to keep us going! God must have had a great plan for helping teen girls! Do you want to also help in this great work? Join us by giving your prayers and your support for Heart Ministries! You will never be sorry!



Garden work continues! Everyone was in the garden at 8 am to plant 225 pounds of seed potatoes! The peas and onions are up well, and the corn has also been planted!



Mystery really likes the bees, so maybe she will be a beekeeper someday!

WE NEED YOUR HELP! By Bill

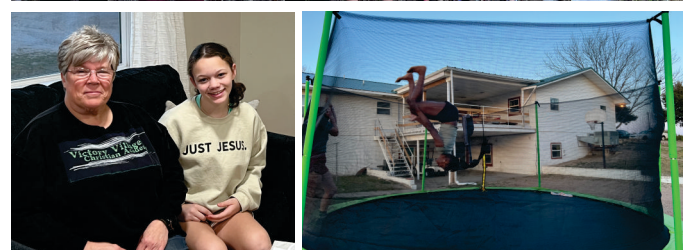
In 54 years, struggles for adequate support are nothing new! And yet, we are still here, and we know our resolve to not charge tuition or room and board for our students is the right way, or the ministry would have ceased long ago. With improvements to our facilities, addition of Staff, and general inflation, it just takes a lot more money than it once did. We

believe with all our hearts that God will continue to meet our needs, but we also believe it is right to let our friends and supporters know about the need, so they can help. If you have some extra money that you would be able to give, now would be a great time to share it with Victory Village. Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, but we believe it is the right thing to share with you the present need. Thanks so much, and may God bless you all.



Dustee is showing her beautiful cutting board that she made in Woodworking class. Dustee is from one of our fine supporting Churches, Immanuel Baptist of Loyal, Oklahoma.

There is always plenty to do at Victory Village, so no one needs to be bored! After breakfast in the morning, and chores are done, our school day starts with Chapel from 8 until 9. Then, it's academic work until noon, and after lunch more classes until 3:00 when **Mr. N (Jerry Nininger)** directs Physical Education. Athletic activities begin at 4, and right now it is Cross Country, coached by **Jenna Weimer**. After supper there is a Study Hall, but also time for some recreational activities. The following pictures were taken on one evening, with a group outside the school, girls on the trampoline, and Staff member Robin Traffas with student Jordain in the Dorm.



Victory Village Christian Academy

April, 2024



Our 54th 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, Grace Skiles, Lauren Holmes, Bri Neal, Becky Valdois, Ahneka Valdois, Brenda Shenk, Dormitory Staff; Emma Foster and Hadassa Foster, Cooks; 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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Aubrey is from Illinois, and is one of our Horticulture students this semester. She is holding a nice bunch of radishes that were grown in the greenhouse.

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We took a trip down Memory Lane on Sunday morning, March 24. **Pastor David Wesner** invited us to the First Baptist Church of Ellinwood to share about Heart Ministries and Victory Village Christian Academy. It was in the mid 1960's in Barton County, and while we were pastoring Calvary Baptist Church of Hoisington, that God increased our vision to help wounded youth. That vision followed us on to the Emmanuel Baptist Church of Marion, where Heart Ministries officially began, and then led us to establish Victory Village near Hutchinson. David Wesner is the son of **Edgar Wesner**, who was pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Stafford, and preached Bill's ordination sermon in 1966. **Josh Wesner**, son of Pastor and Mrs. David Wesner is now Pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church of Marion. ***Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments, and His paths beyond tracing out! For from Him and through Him and for Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen!*** (Romans 11:33, 36)

Thanks for taking the time to read our Newsletter, and thanks for your prayers and gifts to this ministry.