

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

Newsletter Volume 54, Issue 8, - September, 2023 – Cell Phone 620.694.7938

From our Director, Kelli Schwarz-Rump

September is flying by! The girls are all settling in to life at Victory Village. They have gotten use to their new routines and are keeping quite busy between chapel time, school, volleyball, daily chores, and various activities.

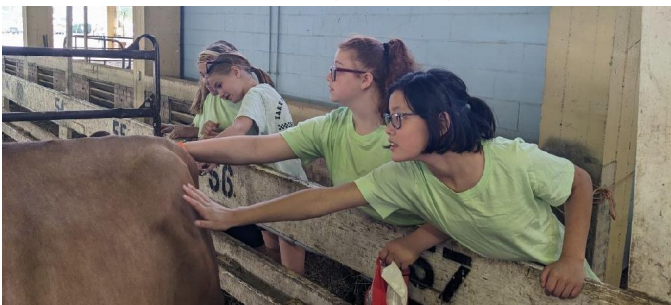
In Kansas, September means the State Fair. This year the girls went on an educational field trip to the Kansas State Fair here in Hutchinson. They did a lot of walking, learning about various things throughout the day, and saw some animals too.



At the Victory Village booth in the Meadowlark Building



Larissa and Nahaniel Hawkinson and some of the girls
It was really a fun day!



Reaching out to touch the animals
(Continued on page two, column one)

Visit The Village....with Bill and Carole

We are glad when our Staff members have opportunities to go on mission trips, and bless people in other places. **Trinity Sampson** had such an opportunity just recently, and we will let her tell you about it.



The week of September 2-9, I went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with an organization called **Makers and Means International**. That's me in the picture on the far right. There were 12 of us who went to a housing development area called Villa Esperanza which is located in the town of El Carrizal, in the Azua Providence.

We arrived on September 3rd after spending a day in the capital city of Santo Domingo. When we arrived at the mission house we were immediately greeted and loved on by many neighborhood children. Throughout the week, the men helped build a 3 bedroom home for the selected family. This home was bigger than most of the other homes that have only 2 bedrooms. While the men were spending many hours each day helping build the home, the women were doing a variety of different tasks. In the morning we helped serve breakfast to the school kids before helping another organization called **One More Child** package food to be delivered to 313 families. In the afternoon, the women ran a VBS for around 100 kids. During the trip, a man named Antonio was saved during a home visit with four members of our mission group and a local Pastor, **Jose**.

I was beyond blessed to have gone on this mission trip, spending nearly a week within this community, **building relationships, and spreading the love of Christ** with the children and families in Villa Esperanza. I am excited to see what the Lord does within this community and the surrounding communities as well.

(continued on page two, column two)

FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)



The Fairgrounds covers a big area with a lot of buildings, so there was a lot of walking from one place to another.



Nathaniel Hawkinson and Jerry Nininger (Mr. N) also went along to help



The Volleyball season is in full swing. Here is a picture of prayer time with the opposing team before the game started. The team has multiple games and a tournament coming in September and October.

Fall is almost here. Check back next month on more exciting things the girls are doing and learning. Thank you to each of you for your continued love, prayers and support. God has big plans for each of these girls.

Needs List

- Paper towels - Foil
- Parchment paper - Ziplock bags (all sizes)
- Trash bags (13 gallon) - Play dough - Dish soap
- Graph/grid poster board- Laundry soap
- Agility tools-ladder, etc.
- Black & white Tachikara Volleyballs

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)

This has been our 51st year to have a booth for Heart Ministries at the Kansas State Fair! We started out on the second floor of the grandstand, and that was a challenge. The noise of the monster trucks on one side and of the carnival on the other made quite a combination of noise. We did have some good neighbors though. The late **Richard Burson** of the local **Gospel Chapel** and **Kansas Bible Camp** was set up right next to us. We have been in the Meadowlark Building for many years now, and that has been a much better place to meet more of the Fair attendees. Kelli has included some good pictures in her column, showing our Victory Village girls and some Staff at the Fair.



It is always special when former students come by to see us. Here is Carole with former student, **Carolina Considine**.



We were especially honored and blessed by a visit from two of our VVCA graduates, **Laura Beth Scott Froman** from Arkansas City, Kansas, and **Lisa Andreski Broadnax** from Colorado Springs. Both girls are married, have families and enjoyed their reunion and seeing all of the improvements that have been made at Victory Village since their graduation.



Nathaniel and **Larissa Hawkinson**, pictured here at the Fair with **Grace Nather**, are Staff Directors at the Kansas Bible Camp, and they are also very involved with our work at VVCA. Larissa is one of our teachers, and Nathaniel and their three children come frequently, sharing in music and generally helping to liven up the place. It reminds us of when our five children were young and similarly involved.

Relationships lasting a lifetime are precious. When we pastored the **Calvary Baptist Church of Hoisington**, 1965-68, **Fred and Opal Schlegel** were faithful and hardworking members of the Church. Their daughter **Carol Jean** was a student at the University of Kansas and married **Loren Walter**.



Carol and Loren live in Texas, and stopped to visit and see Victory Village on their way to Great Bend.



The Equine Program, directed by **Anna Nininger** is still very popular and well-liked by our students. The class meets on Thursdays, but the horses are cared for by the girls daily, and ridden frequently in their free time.



We are so thankful for our friends whom God uses to meet our needs at Victory Village. **Rosie Prochaska** came with 210 pounds of Ground Beef. She and her husband **Brett** live and farm in Ottawa County and are members of the **Antioch Baptist Church** in the small town of Ada. They are generous and faithful supporters and also gave us a new Cub Cadet zero turn mower last year.

The First Baptist Church of Salina is one of our fine supporting Churches. They had a large part in the construction of our Woodworking Shop / Therapy building through financial donations and by sending a work group to help with the building. A couple of years ago we had a drama team that

acted out the story of Job from the Bible, and were invited to present it in their Church at Salina. Just recently we had a



visit from **Pastor Kevin Hazelton** and **John Thelander**, bringing a large amount of meat for our freezer, and a generous check from the Church. Everyone enjoyed their visit and appreciated the special gifts they brought with them.



Thursday afternoons are reserved for fun, and educational elective classes. Here is **Larissa's Home Economics Class--Ivy, Julia, Lola, Phica and Kaylea**, with burlap wreaths they made. It looks like they had a lot of fun.!

A Safe Place in a Troubled and Confused World

By Bill and Carole

No doubt you will agree that the pictures we show of the girls and their activities here at Victory Village portray them enjoying themselves and living happy, normal lives. We believe they feel safe and loved by our leaders and staff. When the time does come for them to leave the safety of this place, we trust that they will have learned important lessons from the Bible, and from the faithful and wise teaching and example of our teachers and leaders, so they will be able to withstand the contrary winds of a society that seems to have lost its moorings. It is certainly disheartening to witness the rejection of Biblical and common sense values that for so many years were taken for granted by the citizens of our country. Here the girls work hard in mastering their required academic subjects, and also in acquiring the skills taught in our elective classes. School days begin by spending an hour in Chapel, where the Bible is read and taught, and songs, hymns and spiritual songs are sung and learned. We believe that nearly all of our students learn the basics of the Christian faith and how to become faithful followers of Jesus for the rest of their lives. Those of you who pray and give are a vital part of our team. Thank you so much for all you are doing to help.

Victory Village Christian Academy

September, 2023



HEART MINISTRIES, INC.
 Victory Village Christian Academy
 Post Office Box 2068
 Hutchinson, KS 67504-2068

Nonprofit Organization
 US Postage Paid
 Permit No. 3
 Burrton, KS 67020

(Address Service Requested)

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, Kayla Felix, Brenda Shen, 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.**



Payton Lingwall from Salt Lake City, Utah, graduated from VVCA in 2018. She is married to **Garrett Simpson**, and they have a baby girl, **Remmi**.



Former VVCA Staff member, **Elise Epp Gaddert** and her husband **Cyson**, have a beautiful new baby girl, **Rosemary Carolee**. What a wonderful gift from God. Rosemary's great, great Grandpa, **A. R. Epp**, lived close to Victory Village and occasionally attended our meetings many years ago.

The Newsletter is printed by Taylor Printing, Pratt, Kansas



Harlee Diehl, one of our 2023 VVCA Graduates, lives close enough so visit, and is pictured here with Staff members **Katy Nininger, Heather Smith and Cayleena Pilgreen**.



Sarah Newberry, 2018 VVCA Graduate, who lives in McPherson, has been a great help during the Kansas State Fair by spending many hours taking care of our booth in the Meadowlark Building.