

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*



The VVCA Volleyball team was able to go and watch a Sterling College volleyball game. It was a fun evening of supporting the Sterling Warriors and watching some fun college volleyball.

I received this picture from a parent of one of Victory Village girls that was at the volleyball tournament. She included this text with it and I just had to share with everyone.



"The beauty of all their skin colors together; the beauty of each one needing healing from their background; the beauty of each learning to trust one another as a teammate."

The VVCA volleyball team played their last tournament of the season at the end of October. It was a great weekend in Abilene, KS. They played all afternoon and evening on Friday and then were able to fellowship with the other teams over dinner on Friday evening. They then stayed all night in Abilene. Saturday morning they were back at it on the court. The team learned and grew a lot through the season.



The VVCA team was selected as the winner of the sportsmanship award at the Abilene tournament....

(continued on page two)

Visit the Village....with Bill and Carole

It's Thanksgiving, and we are thankful that in a troubled world we can be messengers of God's peace. Jesus said there would be wars and rumors of wars. We are thankful God raised up Victory Village and called our great team of workers to show His love and peace to young lives. Youth are especially vulnerable to the turmoil in society, and though we can only help a few, we are thankful for the girls God brings here to experience His love, and find peace in their hearts through a relationship with Jesus Christ. Those of you who read our Newsletter and support VVCA with prayers and gifts are also very important partners with us in this ministry. As you look at the pictures and read the words along with them, may God encourage your own hearts as you see what your prayers and gifts are doing here for Christ and His Kingdom.



On a beautiful Sunday morning we took the Girls back to Marion County, where this ministry began 53 years ago. We were invited to share in song, testimony and message at the annual Harvest Mission Festival of the **Strassburg Baptist Church** near Marion. **Alan Kruse**, a Church leader, was born to **Mitzi McElroy Davidson** from Alabama, one of the first girls to stay in our home while we pastored the **Emmanuel Baptist Church** nearby in Marion. Alan was adopted and raised by loving parents, **Dwight and Jerrie Kruse** of the Strassburg Church. He and his wife **Jandee**, their son **Trevor** and wife **Krisde** are all active in the Church. They keep in contact with Mitzi, who could view the service from her home in Alabama.



(continued on page two)

FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)

There is no greater award to win at a tournament, than for being kind, showing good sportsmanship both off and on the court and throughout the weekend. Wins are always fun, but what the girls learn through being a team and growing in character are the things that are most important. Our tradition of ending the season with a Staff versus Team game happened on Halloween and fun was had by all. The girls will have a short break and then start the basketball season.

There are a lot of activities and events coming up for the girls at VVCA, from helping at a Veterans breakfast, to a 5k at VVCA, to a fundraising concert by a group of Christian men at the Chapel, and then Thanksgiving break. Stay tuned next month for pictures of all the fun events. Thank you for your continued love, prayer and support.



Congratulations to **Julia** and **Phica** for being selected to the All-Tournament Team at the tournament in Wichita.



Congratulations to **Essi** for also being selected to All-Tournament Team in Abilene.



Lola and **Ivy** after one of The volleyball games.



At the Tournament

Needs List

New Twin Size Mattresses and Box Springs x 15
Large Trampoline with safety net - Paper Towels
Liquid Laundry Soap - Aluminum foil - Saran Wrap,
Parchment paper - Aluminum foil pans

We have four outside furnaces that heat the Dorm. One of these is badly in need of replacement, and the estimated cost is \$7,000.

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)

Jerry and Debbie Ninninger and their family are such a blessing to Victory Village Christian Academy. Having spent 20 years on the mission field in Arizona and New Mexico, they returned to the Hutchinson area where they were both raised. Jerry teaches English and Science and helps coach our athletic teams. **Debbie** helps with the score table at our games. Daughter **Katy** is our Assistant Principal and also teaches and helps with athletics. Daughter **Anna** is in charge of our Equine program, which the girls enjoy so much. Son **Clifford** is a nurse in the local medical community, but he and wife **Lacy** and their children come to Victory Village often for special events.



Son **Jesse** and wife **Rebecca** and their family are also very involved with VVCA. They recently organized a 5k run/walk on our Victory Village trails over the sand hills and through the woods. Our trails have been acclaimed ideal for such an event, and one runner said it was the best 5k ever!



There were 78 registrations and a number of observers. With no registration fee, still a good amount of money was raised for VVCA by donations from the participants.



Students and Staff served chili and cinnamon rolls in the gym afterward. Local community leader and editor, Dan Deming, helped promote the event.

We are extremely grateful to the Ninningers and all who helped make this event possible. The Ninninger family is also very involved with Hutchinson's **Gospel Chapel**, that supports and cooperates with Victory Village. Bill and Jerry have a couple of common acquaintances from the past who have been a significant encouragement to our ministry. Local Pastor, the late **Leroy Lawler** invited us to have meetings at

the Faith Baptist Church in 1972. We drove nightly from Marion, bringing our own family and the girls who were living with us at that time. **Richard Burson**, founder of the Kansas Bible Camp and the Gospel Chapel came to Manhattan to speak at Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship meetings while Bill was a student there. Both Carole and Bill attended events at The Kansas Bible Camp in our school days, and this also played a part in our meeting each other in Chicago 62 years ago. That is a story too long to tell here, but ask us sometime and we will give you the exciting details.



We are very grateful to **John Thelander** from the First Baptist Church of Salina, who took on a project to get a good, slightly used golf cart for Victory Village. The old one was well-used, to the point where the roof was falling off! John went around gathering up funds from several individuals and businesses in the Salina area. We use it daily, going from one place to another at VVCA, and it also saves so much gas and wear and tear on the cars.



Carole, Mystery and Essi, are standing by the eight mail containers, containing nearly 4,000 newsletters, ready to be taken to the post office in Burrton. The girls are always excited to see the new copy each month and find out if they might have made the news! The Newsletter enables us to keep in touch with friends and supporters on a monthly basis. Besides going into the mail, it is also posted on our Victory Village web site, so people all over the world can see it. The Newsletter has a long history. It began 58 years ago when we were pastoring North American Baptist General Conference churches in Hoisington and Marion. We used a typewriter and a mimeograph to get it printed! In Hoisington, we had a "bicycle brigade" of kids deliver the Newsletter to Church members and others all over town. For many years now it has been printed by Taylor Printing in Pratt, and we are so pleased with their work. We once had to paste the pictures and articles together, drive 60 miles to deliver it to Taylors in Pratt, and then go back to pick it up. Today we send it by email, but still have to pick it up. If you are in need of a printer, we heartily recommend Taylor Printing, 405 South Main, Pratt. KS 67124.



Mrs. Marla Johnson teaches Geography and World History at VVCA. She is very creative in thinking of ways to make her classes more interactive and interesting. A recent guest she invited was **Lisa Teachman**, meteorologist for KSN, Channel 3. After the visit Lisa wrote how impressed she was with how interested the students were about meteorology. She hopes to inspire the next generation of meteorologists, and said, "Please keep me in mind for future visits."



Bob Friesen, Chairman of our Board, is a farmer who lives a few miles from Victory Village. He brought his trailer and some straw bales and gave the girls a hayrack ride around our 107 acres. They all had a lot of fun.

Our honeybees made some good honey, but we were late in taking our share, and the bees didn't want to let it go. Bill got a few stings, but Benadryl and Calamine Lotion fixed them up. We appreciate the electric extractor our children bought for us. One can fill it with frames and then go off and do something else while the honey is being extracted.



Time to move the plants into the Greenhouse for the winter.

Victory Village Christian Academy
Thanksgiving - November, 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.**

The Newsletter is printed by Taylor Printing, Pratt, Kansas

We have several very good cooks on our Staff and they are teaching the girls to also be good cooks. Here is **Lola** helping make some delicious scones. They sent some to our house and they were so good that we asked if we could have some more! Of course, they said yes, but they were soon gone, too!



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God is a Master Artist, and He gives us beautiful seasonal displays of beauty, especially as summer transitions into Fall. The Maples on the right were planted in memory of longtime supporters, **Paul and Dorothy Handkins of Kingman.**



Scott Hilburn, our good Maintenance Director works hard, but our Buildings and Grounds are large and he really appreciates extra volunteer help from time to time. Here are **Bobby Bisterfeldt** from Whitewater, and **Jason Schmidt** from Rose Hill helping Scott put a new ceiling on the back porch.

We hope you will join us in a true spirit of Thanksgiving at this special season, which then leads us on into the Days of Christmas. These two holidays have great meaning for followers of Jesus. He was born in a time when there was tremendous political upheaval, just like there is today. Thank God we have something greater being prepared for us beyond this world. We are happy our students can spend Christmas with their families, and that our Staff can also have a special time with their loved ones. Thank you for remembering Heart Ministries in your end of year giving. May God bless you all!