

# Victory Village Christian Academy

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

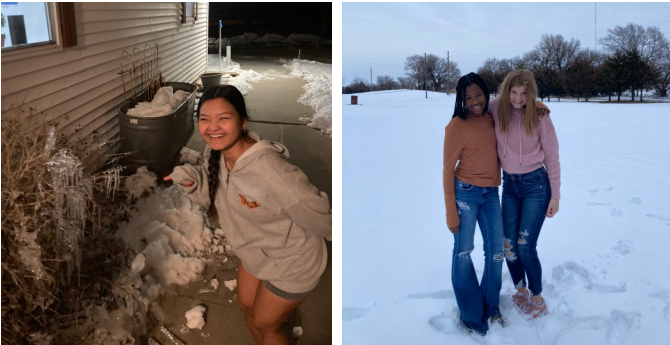
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*Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director; Bill and Carole Cowell, Editors & Administrators*

Newsletter Volume 55, Issue 2, -February, 2024 – Cell Phone 620.694.7938

## From our Director, Kelli Schwarz-Rump

February is already here!! January was a whirlwind month with the girls moving back in, basketball games, and some added snow too.



Ivy, Phica and Aubrey look like they are really enjoying it!



The **VVCA Basketball Team** has another full month of games and finish their season at the end of February



**VVCA Saints** playing the **Newton Panthers** at Moundridge

The girls are busy as ever in school. This semester for electives there is Horticulture, Dance, Theatre, Woodworking and Art. We have added "H.A.D. Time" to the girls' activities during the weekend. H.A.D. stands for Hobbies and Drinks. The girls were given a few choices of which hobby they would like to participate in each Saturday for a time.(more on page 2)

## Visit the Village....with Bill and Carole

Living and working at Victory Village is exciting and fulfilling! There are so many positive things going on, and we love to interact with the Staff and Students. We also love to have visitors who come periodically.



As they have done several times before, **Diana and Teddy Cook** from the **First Baptist Church** of Paola came with beautiful hand-made quilts for our new girls. Girls who were here last year had already received one. The Cooks ate lunch at the Dorm, and then gave out the quilts. Aren't they lovely!



This lovely quilt was made by **Carol Fisher** of the **Immanuel Baptist Church** of Loyal, Oklahoma. It blesses my heart every time I see it! How many hours of hard work it must have taken to finish! It is the most beautiful hand-made quilt that has ever been on our bed!

**Immanuel Baptist Church** of Loyal has been extremely good and generous with Victory Village. We first knew about them when we were pastoring Churches in the North American Baptist General Conference over 50 years ago. We would see their pastor at that time, **Rev. Martin DeBoer**, at The South-western Association meetings. **Rev. Randy Overton** is now their pastor, and **Dustee**, one of our present girls, is from this fine Church. (continued on page two)

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued from page one)

The girls now spend some time each Saturday with the group of girls that are doing/learning the same hobby as them and enjoying a fun drink like a gourmet hot chocolate or Italian soda. The idea of this is to teach the girls different positive ways to spend their spare time. Some girls are doing book study and some are learning to knit. There will be various hobbies introduced throughout the year. The girls are also now assigned a group and a meal each weekend. During their assigned meal, their group is responsible for cooking and cleaning up from that meal for everyone. It is a great way for them to continue to grow their cooking and baking skills. What a blessing it is to walk alongside these girls pouring God's love onto them while teaching them various skills that they can take and use throughout their life.

**Thank you** to each of you for your continued prayers, love, and support. **Here is a Wish list** of things that we could use.

- Dictionaries – Large crock pot 7 + quart – Paper towels
- Kleenex – Storage containers for food – 3 ring binders
- Folders – Electronic possession arrow – Regular poster board
- Gridded poster board – Trash bags (13 gallon & 4 gallon)
- New basketball uniforms – 15 new twin mattresses
- Liquid laundry soap – Storage bags (sandwich, quart, gallon)



**A Fun Fashion Show** the girls did at the Dorm



**Essi** playing her guitar



**Kalea** with staff, **Karen Chatterton**

*"Wait on the Lord;  
Be of good courage  
And He shall  
strengthen  
Your heart;  
Wait, I say  
on the Lord."  
(Psalm 27:14)*



**Alyssa** stopped by the office to chat. We enjoy interacting with the girls between classes, at Chapel, lunchtime and any other times when they have a few extra minutes to spare.



**Chaplain David Denlinger**, of the Pleasant View Home in Inman, invited us to bring the girls to sing and give testimonies. We first enjoyed some singing of hymns by everyone, accompanied by **Hazel Zink** on the accordion. Then the girls sang several songs and many of them gave testimonies. A former assistant in our school, **Rosella Funk** and her husband **Paul** were there, and it was so good to be able to visit with them! Everyone was so kind and a great time was had by all.

## FROM MY HEART, by Carole

One of my favorite passages in the Bible comes from Isaiah 40. There is not room to include all the verses of blessing there, but we will pick out some high lights! What about verse 22 – **God sits above the circle of the earth. The people below seem like grasshoppers to Him. He spreads out the heavens like a curtain and makes His tent from them.** God alone knows the number of the stars—no scientist does! He even knows all their billions of names. Verse 26 – **Look up into the heavens. Who created all the stars? He brings them out like an army, one after another, calling each by its name. Because of His great power and incomparable strength, not a single one is missing.** We say **YES!** Verse 28 – **The Lord is the Everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth!** Verse 29 – **He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.** I can do hard things! God says I am so loved. I am strong. I am worthy. I am protected. I am forgiven. I am never alone. God has great plans for my life. Philippians 4:13 - **I can do all things through Christ, Who strengthens me.**

## THE POWER OF LOVE, by Bill

The words of an old German song describe our modus operandi at Victory Village Christian Academy.

*O Power of love, all else transcending,  
In Jesus present evermore.*

*I worship Thee, in homage bending.*

*Thy Name to honor and adore;*

*Yea, let my soul, in deep devotion,*

*Bathe in love's mighty boundless ocean.*

It sometimes seems like genuine love is in short commodity these days, but thankfully it still exists. Our Leaders and Staff do their best to show God's love to all. In the early 1970's when we were beginning the work at Victory Village we had our first banquet in the month of February, and with a Valentine theme. **Eli** and **Katy Helmuth**, of the Dutch Kitchen Restaurant, prepared and served the meal. It was a festive evening and **Levi Suderman**, who had been our music Director at Emmanuel Baptist Church of Marion, brought a quartet to present part of the program.

On down through the years we have tried to shower our students with God's love, believing it to truly be the most powerful force for change. A girl who left us a few times in those early years came back and said, "I can no longer run away from love!" Our dedicated Staff model God's love, employ loving discipline, and teach our students how to follow Jesus, and be genuine Christians. Those of you who pray and give to the ministry are also a very vital part of changing lives. You are showing God's love through your prayers and gifts. The 2023 year ended well financially, but things have been hard the first part of 2024. We could sure use some special help right now in order to get us back on top again. Thanks for your prayers and gifts, and may God bless you all.



We like it when the little people come with their mothers to work. Here is **Grace Skiles** and little **Sunny!**

## OUR TEACHERS AT VICTORY VILLAGE

**We want you to meet our teachers!** They are the best! They are well prepared to teach, have a servant heart and they love our students. Classes are small, allowing for students to get the individual attention that best helps them in the learning process. Our school curriculum and program allow us to graduate students with a State certified diploma, meaning they can attend the college of their choice. A first-class athletic program and classes teaching several skills make for a very complete educational experience.



**Mrs. Marla Johnson** teaches Social Studies and is pictured here helping **Ivy**.



**Mrs. Larissa Hawkinson** teaches Senior English, Bible and Theatre. Left to right is **Olivia** (her daughter), **Carolina**, **Larissa**, **Brilee** and **Jordan**.



**Katy Nininger** teaches Math and Biology, and is assistant Basketball coach. She is pictured here with **Phica** and **Kalea**.



**Jerry Nininger (Mr. N)** teaches Science, English and Physical Education, and is Head Basketball Coach. He is pictured here with **Essi**, **Mystery**, **Julia**, **Aubrey** and **Dustee**.

# Victory Village Christian Academy

February, 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, Kayla Felix, 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.**

The Newsletter is printed by Taylor Printing, Pratt, Kansas



Two Staff Members, **Trinity Sampson** (seated at the desk), **Bri Neal** (standing in the middle of the back row), and students, **Alyssa, Carolina, Aubrey** and **Jordan**.

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Post Office Box 2068  
Hutchinson, KS 67504-2068

Nonprofit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
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**These happy faces** reflect a basketball victory at Manhattan, where our Saints played **Flint Hills Christian Academy**.



They were treated following the game. A good sized group from **First Baptist Church** of Silver Lake traveled to Manhattan to watch the game. **Pastor Deron Johnson** and the people of First Baptist are very generous to Victory Village with monetary support, and with their response to our needs list.



Here are the supplies the Silver Lake people collected and brought to the game in Manhattan for Victory Village.



**Welcome to lunch! Emma Foster** is serving corn on the cob, from last year's Victory Village garden, pork chops, a biscuit and apple crisp! We have great cooks at Victory Village!