Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-One 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 52, Issue 6, - June, 2021 – Cell Phone 620.694.7938

Life Skills!

By Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director

Summer school is now in session. During summer school we do not have a sport going, so there is no practice after school each day and no games to go to. This gives the girls quite a bit more down time. This year the dorm staff is doing an exceptional job of filling that down time with life skills classes. Each day the girls spend at least an hour being taught different life skills. A few of the MANY things the girls are working on this summer is car care (changing oil, changing a flat tire), sewing (how to sew on a button, patch a pair of jeans) budgeting (Dave Ramsey), menu planing, grocery shopping on a budget, cooking, being work-ready, first aid, and so much more! Every dorm staff has taken on different life skills that they teach. They have found so many fun ways to teach the girls all of these important lessons. Some do games and competitions; others have prizes and others do various activities through their teaching. One thing that is a common theme is that they are very hands on lessons. The girls have already practiced checking oil in a car, checking the charge of the battery in a car, sewing on a button, chopping up vegetables, cooking a meal, and so many other things. What a blessing it is to watch the girls continue to learn and grow into incredible Christian women! Please keep praying for them as they finish the summer school session, and then have a summer break for a few weeks. It's always so amazing to me to sit back and watch each of them SHINE in different ways. Please join us in praying for the returning girls, and the new ones that will be coming to Victory Village in August. (more on page four)

Trinity Sampson teaching Auto Mechanics

Madison cooking

Visit the Village, ***with Bill and Carole***

Where are they now?

We like it when our former students send us their pictures, and/or share them on Facebook so we can let everyone know how God is blessing and using them in multiple ways.

We wrote about **Julie Thomas Michael** from Topeka in the October, 2020 Newsletter, but there's more exciting news. Julie is now in Africa! A 1996 Graduate of VVCA, and then Washburn Law School in 2020, you may remember how Bill would tell her as a student that she should become a Lawyer because she liked to argue so much. Julie went to work for a prestigious law firm in Houston, Texas, and they had a connection in Uganda, Africa where her law skills and Christian ministry were both needed. It's pretty easy to tell by this picture how excited the children are to have Julie there.

Sarah Taylor came to VVCA from Fullerton, California in 1997, and graduated in 1998. She worked for a while as a Dorm Assistant, and then met **AJ Finch** in Hutchinson. We were privileged to conduct their wedding in Rice Park. AJ runs his own Drywall Company in Hutchinson. God has blessed them with two daughters**. Caydence** is beginning her sophomore year at Bethel College in North Newton, majoring in social work, and is part of a cheer team that took 12th at nationals this year. **Bella** is a sophomore in high school and a softball player. **Sarah** is a nurse at the Hutchinson Hospital and is about six months away from earning her Master's Degree in Nursing.

Kristen White came to VVCA from Calhoun, Georgia in 2019, and became an enthusiastic participant in Victory Village life. She was active in volleyball, basketball and cross country, and also attended and worked at the Kansas Bible Camp, For her senior year, she stayed with **Anna Nininger** and attended Central Christian School in Hutchinson, where she graduated on May 8. Kristen presently works at Chick fil-A in Hutchinson. We are proud of Kristen for her accomplishments, her good work ethic and her good Christian spirit.

We love it when people choose the Victory Village Chapel for weddings. On May15, **Felecity Kilmer** was married to **Alan Reed**. Felicity is a member of our Dorm Staff. There was a nice group of family, friends, girls and staff.

Our two Great Pyrenes dogs, **Aires** and **Everest**, love it when are able to be out of their compound and take their daily walk! They often stop by our house where they usually get a little treat. On this day, staff member **Michelle Garcia** and student **Ruby** brought them to see us. The dogs are so strong that sometimes it takes two strong people to hold them down! They would love to run all over Reno and Harvey Counties if we let them do so.

The Covid pandemic made some changes in our ministry, but we are thankful to God that we were able to keep going. For the first time in many months, we took the girls to sing and give testimonies in another Church—**Bethany Baptist** near Bentley. This Church has been faithful in supporting Victory Village for many years, under the leadership of Pastor Emeritus, **Larry Oyer,** and present pastor, **Ron Jones.** Our Director, **Kelli Schwarz-Rump** and Maintenance Supervisor, **Scott Hilburn**, have also come from this Church. Several years ago, Pastor Larry Oyer organized a group of American Baptist men to help with special projects here at the Village.

Pictured here the day we visited are 95 year old Pastor Emeritus, **Larry Oyer; Dickie Diehl**, who has a unique ministry with music and helping the homeless**; Harlee Diehl**, one of our students who discovered they are cousins, and **Carole.**

Our Secretary and Office Manager **Barb Hedges** is in charge of the flowers and plants around the school. This year she has outdone herself! VVCA looks so nice with all the geraniums and other plants. Barb has also landscaped the back patio with plants and flowers. We are also thankful for her expertise in so many areas—accounting, banking, bookkeeping, mail, and horticulture too!

We celebrated our Bible Teacher and Cross-country coach, Mr. **Cameron Sorter's** birthday this month. We have enjoyed having him on our school staff this year, but next year he will be on a great adventure, teaching school in Mauritania, East Africa. We will miss him here, but are excited about his new mission opportunity! Go with God, Mr. Sorter!

Freezer Update: We are grateful for those who have expressed interest in helping us replace our 42 year old walk in freezer. At this writing, our Board is still in discussion about how this can best be done, and hopefully will come up with the right answer very soon. We are so grateful for the generous donations of meat that we receive. **Dave Slyter**, from Paola, Kansas, Bill's former classmate at Kansas State University, has been very generous for many years in supplying us with beef. **Roger Stout** from Sterling has also been very helpful in bringing numerous food items including 100 pounds of bacon on one occasion. Therefore, we need to be ready if the old freezer suddenly dies. **Bob Friesen**, Chairman of our Board, is working hard to help us come up with the right proposal, and hopefully we will be able to let you know what it is in the next Newsletter.

We also celebrated **Scott Hilburn's** birthday in May. As Maintenance Director, Scott does so much work on our buildings and grounds. He mows the grass regularly, keeping it looking like a well-tended golf course. He fixes things in all the buildings, being skilled in plumbing, electricity, gardening, fencing and any other maintenance need! He is so much appreciated by all.

Saturday, October 16, is the date our Board has chosen for the long-awaited Anniversary Banquet. We hope you will mark that on your calendar and plan to be with us for this celebrative 51st anniversary event!

Needs List

Comet – Kleenex – Paper towels – toilet paper
Canvases – Acrylic paint – Paint brushes
13 gallon trash bags – 3 ring binders – 1", 1 ½ ", 2"
Tupperware type storage containers

Let us always pray to have eyes
that see the best in people,
Hearts that forgive the worst,
Minds that forget the bad,
And souls that never lose faith in God.

A song our students love to sing—
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored;
And they'll know we are Christians by our love!

Our Task….by Bill

There's a song that expresses the sentiments of our hearts.

To love someone more dearly every day,
To help a wandering child to find their way,
To ponder o'er a noble thought and pray,
And smile when evening falls,
This is our task.

Carole and I love our work, and with good leadership to direct and supervise the many details of Heart Ministries, we are very content to assume a pastoral role in the ministry. While a student at Kansas State University, I also took some courses at Manhattan Bible College (now Manhattan Christian College). One of my assignments was to memorize the 17th chapter of John, which is Jesus' prayer for His Disciples, and then recite it to the President, **Dr. Wilford F. Lown**. One sentence in that prayer says, *My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. (verse 15)* Also in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, He said, *You are the Light of the World,* and *You are the Salt of the earth.* (Matthew 5:13, 14)

It is not our desire, nor would it be wise to make isolated monastics of our students, but rather to protect them and teach them while here, so they will be equipped to enter the "real world" as committed followers of Jesus, adding light and flavor to society. We hope and pray that those who go from Victory Village will do just that. Contacts we maintain with former students are very encouraging, letting us know that what was taught and modeled here is being lived out in the workplaces and in families that have been established by former students.

All of this would not be possible without the prayers and gifts of our many friends. Thank you so much for supporting Heart Ministries, and making our dreams of 50 years ago come true.

Those who gave money, donated tools and machines, and volunteered to help build the woodworking shop will be glad to know what a great addition it has been to our VVCA program.. Here is **Robin Traffas**, the instructor, supervising **Leilani** and **Faith**, with Staff member **Emily Moore** looking on. In the background on the wall you can see a picture of Jesus working in the carpenter shop with His father Joseph. One can imagine the days and hours the Son of God spent in this pursuit.

Victory Village Christian Academy

JUNE, 2021

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Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit No. 3
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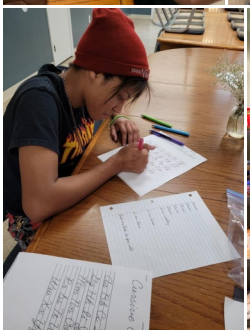
Our 51st Year of Changing Lives, for Jesus Christ and His Kingdom
Jesus said, *I have come that they may have life,*
And...have it more abundantly. (John 10:10)

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, Jessica Owens, Jerry Nininger, Cameron Sorter,** Teachers; **Barbara Hedges**, Office Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, **Wilma Engle**, Accountant; **Sandy Hilburn**, Nurse; **Jessica Kerzner,** Therapist; **Kristi Colvin,** Case Manager; **Heather Smith,** Dormitory Director; **Angela Salisbury Jenna Weimer, Robin Traffas, Shannon Fitzgerald, Emily Moore, Julie Beam, Melynda McNicol, Sue Walters, Janice Janzen, Adrianna Garcia, Candi Wilson, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Michelle Garcia, Filecity Kilmer, Cayleena Pilgreen, Michelle Garcia,** Dormitory Staff; **Loretta Hendrix, Jill Holcomb,** Cooks; **Scott Hilburn,** Maintenance, **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,** Board of Directors.

This Newsletter is printed by Taylor Printing, Pratt, Kansas

The Victory Village Garden is a little picture of Eden. Apple trees are loaded with fruit; peas, onions, corn, potatoes and a hundred tomato plants are flourishing.

Life Skills (continued from page one)



The girls spent a few hours doing some Team Building activities together! It's always so amazing to me to sit back and watch each of them SHINE in different ways. So thankful God sent each of these girls to VVCA