

Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty-Two 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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An Exciting New Beginning

By Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director

The girls are back and the school year has begun!



VVCA campus is full of talking (LOTS of talking), teaching and laughter again! The girls are moved in and settling into the routine. They started their first day of school the day after moving in. Volleyball practice also started that day. All 16 girls chose to participate in Volleyball this year. They begin their season with an away game at the end of August and then will be playing several times throughout the next couple of months. Stay tuned for pictures and updates on the team! We have three new students and thirteen returning students at VVCA this year. I am so excited to see what God has planned for each of them throughout this school year.



This is **Anna Ninger's** Horsemanship class – they were showing me the calluses on their hands from helping to build a fence. Though it was hot they seemed to enjoy the hard work. They are very excited for the horses to arrive.

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Visit the Village, with Bill and Carole



What a great way to begin the VVCA school year! **Maddie** declared her desire to follow Jesus at the end of last school year. She asked to be baptized, but wanted her parents to be present. Since they live 450 miles away, we waited until they brought her back to Victory Village for the new school year. We rejoice for her faith in Jesus, and her changed life as a new Christian.

Among the churches we visited during summer break was **Strassburg Baptist** near Marion, a sister North American Baptist Church to **Emmanuel** in Marion where we pastored and where Heart Ministries was founded 52 years ago. What a surprise and blessing we had waiting! We entered the sanctuary and sat down behind a fine-looking young couple--**Allan** and **Jandee Kruse**--very much a part of our ministry. It was over 50 years ago when a young girl, **Mitzi McElroy** came to us from the State of Alabama. She was pregnant and her baby was adopted by **Dwight** and the late **Jerrie Kruse** of the Strassburg Church. Allan keeps in contact with his mother and we also talked to Mitzi after our visit.



Allan is a leader in the Church and was leading singing that Sunday. Pictured here with Allan and Jandee is their son and wife, **Trevor** and **Krisde Kruse**.

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AN EXCITING NEW BEGINNING (continued from page one)



The Drama Class, under the direction of **Larissa Hawkinson** had a lot of fun going through costumes and trying on some different things. There was laughter heard throughout the school during this "try on time."



Masha was excited to see **Katy** when moving in.



Craft time



Girls playing with cats and a game at the same time

NEEDS LIST

Dryer Sheets – Magic Erasers – Windex, Pine Sol, Comet
Clothes Line with poles – Basketball cart – Picnic table
Benches – Flower Pots – Mush Ball – Large Wifle Balls
Organist for Chapel Services
Staff for the Dormitory

Check out our Amazon Wish List
<https://www.amazon.com/registries/custom/4FS1DEDJBKXH/guest-view>

VISIT THE VILLAGE (continued from page one)



We just can't say enough good things about the **Hutchinson** and **Burrton Fire Departments!** They helped us so much during the fire in March, saving lives and buildings and homes. Then before school started, they came bearing loads of school supplies for our students! Aren't they the greatest Fire Fighters ever! We thank them all so much!



When we needed help to bag and store our bountiful potato crop, **Elias** and **Rueben Harder** were just the right ones! Sons of **Pastor Willmar T. Harder** and wife **Hannah Neufelt**, of the Buhler Mennonite Church, the boys got the job done in record time! Our friend, **Freddie Moore**, of the Hutchinson Bag Corporation, supplied us with some bags, and the potatoes are now stored in our walk-in cooler and should last us all year!



The **Barn** in **Burrton** has become a favorite restaurant for many, with people coming to eat from quite a distance away. They recently started a **Mission Monday Project**. On certain Monday nights they donate 10% of their income from 4 until 9 pm to a chosen mission. We were blessed when they chose Victory Village Christian Academy to receive the benefits on August 29! We are so thankful for these neighbors and their help! We hope many of you might find it possible to eat at the Barn and you can find information and a menu online

The Challenge of a New School Year...by Bill

Victory Village is a unique and exciting place. Welcoming 16 girls for the new school year, coming from different backgrounds and places, all with their own set of unique characteristics, takes a lot of hard work and planning on the part of our Director Kelli, and her team. It also takes a lot of money to buy groceries and school supplies, fill the propane tanks, make needed maintenance repairs, pay our dedicated Staff regularly, and many other necessary things. Current economic realities affect our work just as they do the average family. Imagine how many groceries it takes to provide three balanced meals every day, seven days a week for Staff and Students. Imagine the electric bills that come every month, and when winter arrives the extra amount of propane needed for heat. We also want to pay our Staff a decent wage, but the fact is they could get better paying jobs elsewhere without the pressure and hassle that comes with a work of this kind. Why then do they want to work here? It's certainly not for the monetary benefits, but rather for the satisfaction of being able to love and minister to young girls, helping them navigate their way through a society so sick with increased social ills and all sorts of turmoil.

The summer was tough financially and we appreciate so much all who gave to help us make it through. One of our supporting churches gave a very generous extra gift to help make up the deficit and we are very grateful. Now, the challenge of keeping up in the new school year confronts us. There are also new challenges like being able to provide our staff with some kind of health insurance. This would make it easier to find qualified staff and give our employees an extra sense of security and appreciation. A foundation grant, or just a large donation designated for this purpose would be so much appreciated.

Thanks to all who give, and we know not everyone is able to increase their giving. We need new donors, and more churches to become partners with us in this exciting work. Lives are being changed and girls are receiving a good high school education with a state certified diploma so they can enter college or trade school. We hope many more of you will get on board with your prayers and gifts and help us make this new school year the greatest one yet.

We are currently in need of more Staff ladies to work in the Dorm, including a cook. Those interested will find an application on our web site – www.victoryvillagechristianacademy.org.

Our Annual Victory Village Banquet will be held November 5 right here on the Victory Village campus. It will be a great time of fellowship, with singing and testimonies by the girls, and a good meal together. Mark your calendars and let us know if you will be coming.

If you come to the **Kansas State Fair**, September 9-18, be sure to stop at our booth along the south corridor of the Meadowlark Building. This is the 50th year for us at the Fair, and our booth will have an exciting new look.



Woodworking Instructor, **Robin Traffas** showing **Essie** and **Ruby** how to use the planer. The girls learn many useful skills in our elective classes.



Fifty-seven years ago we began pastoring churches in the North American Baptist General Conference, and became acquainted with the **Immanuel Baptist Church** of Loyal in central Oklahoma, and their pastor at that time, **Rev. Martin DeBoer**. Immanuel Baptist is now a faithful and generous monthly supporter of VVCA, and is pastored by **Rev. Randy Overton**, pictured here with his family. During our summer break, Carole and I were their guests, preaching and updating them on our ministry. We thank God for this Church and many others who help us reach out with God's love to teen age girls.



We were blessed by a visit from **Margaret Lansdowne**, 98 years young, her daughter in law **Kathy Landsdowne** and a friend **Barbara Sundquist**. Margaret and her late husband **Bob** were members of the College Baptist Church (now Grace Baptist) in Manhattan where Bill attended as a K-State student over 60 years ago, and that later licensed him to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Also notable historically is that Evangelist **Billy Graham** had a part in the founding of that Church when he held meetings in Manhattan in the 1950's.

Victory Village Christian Academy

SEPTEMBER, 2022



Our 52nd⁺ Year 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, Melynda McNicol, Sue Walters, Janice Janzen, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Cayleena Pilgreen, Elise Epp, Grace Smith, Loretta Franz, Brynn Foster, cook, Dormitory Staff; 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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Mrs. Marla Johnson, Social Studies Teacher, is meeting with her class outside on this beautiful day.

HEART MINISTRIES, INC.
Victory Village Christian Academy
Post Office Box 2068
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Our new Greenhouse is up and about ready for use. We are so thankful for **Pastor Roy Jaye** and several men from Hutchinson's **First Southern Baptist Church** who came to help our Maintenance Director **Scott Hilburn** put it up. The old Greenhouse lasted several years, but the new one is twice as big. We are excited about growing more plants and some salad crops in the cold season.



Jim and Betty Murawski from Northern Wisconsin were faithful and much-loved Dorm parents at Victory Village in the 1980's. Their son **Jim** fell in love with our oldest daughter **Mary Beth**, and they were married. We had a good visit and dinner with them at Mary Beth and Jim's home near Milford Lake.