Victory Village Christian Academy

Fifty 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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Happy New Year!

By Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director and Principal

It is hard to believe it is 2020! The girls are back from Christmas Break and the Winter semester has started! There are lots of exciting things coming up for this year as we work on planning the celebration of our 50th Anniversary (Stay tuned for more info)! We are blessed with some incredible young ladies and I cannot wait to see what all God has in store for them this year! I never question or doubt that God has BIG plans for this ministry, and this year is no different. He continuously amazes me with how He orchestrates so many wonderful things day by day. It takes a great deal of money and support to keep the ministry alive and going, and I am so grateful for all of you that support us. Thank you so very much for your continued support! I greatly appreciate all of the love, prayers and donations that we receive.

The Basketball team traveled to Manhattan, KS for a 3 Day Tournament right before Christmas Break. In the past the team has stayed in the hosting schools gym overnight. However, this year we were able to rent an Airbnb for the time of the tournament. The girls absolutely LOVED the house that they stayed at. It allowed everyone to sleep in an actual bed, and there were bathrooms for showers, and a laundry room to do their laundry each night. During their time in Manhattan the team did several team building activities including a grocery shopping team building competition. They watched a team bonding movie, cooked together and just enjoyed their time together. It was a great weekend, full of learning and growing. The team played hard on the court but did not win any games. There was one game where the other team had terrible sportsmanship and was cursing out our girls, pushing, hitting, throwing balls in their face, etc. Our girls though upset did a wonderful job of working together and pushing through despite the character of this other team. Both coaches **Katy Nininger** and **Heather Smith** were very proud of the way the girls handled the situation. It was a great teaching moment for them. I could not be prouder of the girls. Win or lose does not matter to me, all displaying Christian Character throughout the tournament, especially in a touch game like they had, is worth far more than any win. Way to go girls!! The Saints have a packed schedule January and February with games and tournaments.

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem, Shine On!

By Bill and Carole Cowell

Now that we've had 50 years of trying to show God's amazing love to teenage girls, learning many lessons along the way, there's no time or reason for retreat! With **Kelli** very capably at the helm as Director, **Barb** a well-seasoned Office Manager, **Scott** an excellent Maintenance Superintendent, **Katy** leading at the School and **Heather** at the Dorm, our sails are set to keep going on this exciting journey. We have no plans to retire, except to "put on new tires" and continue in the pastoral and executive role as long as we are physically and mentally able, and as long as the Board of Directors will let us. Our leaders could not do the job alone, so God has added a team of faithful and dedicated teachers and workers, all committed to our main mission—**showing God's amazing love to teen-age girls**. Those of you who pray and support the ministry must also be included, for without you we could not continue.

The responses are very gratifying. Letters, phone calls, Facebook messages, positive words from parents and visits from former students all confirm that we are on the right track. Our Board of Directors is harmonious, and individuals and churches who pray and give for the support of VVCA are all on the team that makes the dream work. We must also be sure to say that the One most responsible for the success of the ministry is God. He started it, and sustains it, but uses many to do so.

The Lights on our campus were particularly beautiful this year! The Cross shows Who we serve—Jesus! The sign shows what we are—Victory Village Christian Academy! The Star speaks of our great Creator God Who ***Determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.*** (Psalm 147:4)

Geraniums in January? Yes indeed! These are some that we wintered over in the Greenhouse and they bloomed and thrived! Bill also planted some seeds for an early start with vegetables like cabbage, peppers and broccoli, and even some tomatoes that we will have to protect from the cold a long time.

Our children knew that Bill wanted to start having bees again, so they bought him a hive and the bees will be coming later. **Scott** is "busy as a bee" putting the hive together. These little insects are so good at pollinating, and are actually essential for the environment. Sadly, many are dying because of pesticides.

We love having company, and our Board Chairman **Bob Friesen** brought his family over recently to tour the campus.

Everyone is eagerly anticipating lunch! In order to get dessert though, you have to eat your vegetables!

The new Woodworking, Art and Counseling building is nearly finished, and should be in use by the time you receive this Newsletter. We are grateful for those who made it happen. **Roger Stout** and his sister **Mary Kretschmer,** from the **First Baptist Church** of Alden, and the congregation of the **First Baptist Church** in Salina all had a major part in the financing. The project was envisioned by **Katy Nininger** and is becoming a reality through the generosity of these friends of the ministry.

On three occasions, workers have come from **First Baptist** in Salina to lend a hand. They also support VVCA monthly. We are also grateful for all the tools brought from Clay Center's **Helping Hands** group, as reported in last month's newsletter.

Mrs. **Jessica Owens** teaches a class on Tourism and Hospitality, and they have really had a busy year already! They did an outstanding job at the Open House and Silent Auction in November. The girls did most of the set-up and take-down, and were great ambassadors of good will to all the guests who came.

In November we were invited to bring the girls and share in song and testimony at the **Immanuel Baptist Church** of Newton. **Pastor Michael Ronan** and their people expressed appreciation and served us a delicious dinner. On February 2, at 10 a.m.. we will be sharing at the **Kingdom Life Church** in Hesston, where **Scott Miller** is Pastor and former Board member **Don Stutzman** and his wife **Eleanor** are members.

Fifty Years of Memories!

We need to make a correction about an announcement that was made in the December Newsletter. WE HAVE DECIDED TO POSTPONE THE BANQAUET AND CELEBRATION that was announced for February 13. It will be rescheduled for a later time, but we will make sure to give enough time for you to plan on attending this very special event.

Those who visit our school find the main hallway lined with pictures from the past. Former students have fun looking for themselves. We thank God for memories, and for lives that have been changed through the past 50 years. While writing this Newsletter a former student stepped in to say hello, to reminisce and to bring us up to date on their life.

It was a cold, snowy day in November, 1972, when a group of friends gathered with us on the hill where the Dormitory now stands. Heart Ministries actually began two years earlier while we were pastoring the **Emmanuel Baptist Church** of Marion. God has blessed the ministry and continues to do so with faithful and dedicated Christian leadership and Staff.

Barb is busy as usual, shown here in her office with a stack of outgoing mail! She has been at Victory Village for over 30 years and counting. We thank God for her taking care of the office, greeting guests, making payroll, figuring taxes, taking girls to appointments, etc., ad infinitum!

Grateful for Your Support

To God be the glory, great things He has done! Those are words we often sing, and can also say we have experienced in the past 50 years. God has honored the resolve made that long ago to offer help to those who came without making a charge. We could not do it, however, without the faithful help in praying and giving from Churches, families and individuals who care about this ministry and want to help teen age girls experience the love of God and learn to follow Jesus.

There are many costs involved in maintaining the ministry. There are salaries for workers, groceries, utilities, maintenance costs, educational materials, insurance and dozens of other costs required to run a family home, only multiplied many times. There have been financial crises along the way, but God has always seen us through them.

We are grateful for the extra support that came the end of the year, but the needs go on through the whole year, and 2020 is a whole new challenge. We thank all who have given, and want you to know how much we appreciate your help. There are always some who reach the end of their lives and are no longer able to help. There are others who run into financial crises of their own, and either need to cut down on the amount of their gifts or stop supporting all together. This is why we need to encourage those who can to keep giving, but also enlist new donors to take the place of ones who are no longer able to help. Gifts of all sizes are needed so when put together will make up the total amount required. If you are only able to give a few dollars that is great! If you are able to give hundreds, or thousands, we need those amounts too, in order to maintain the work. We are hopeful that some day we will also be able to offer an insurance plan to our employees. Many good prospective workers find themselves having to look elsewhere for employment because of the high costs of health care. If an individual or a foundation could help us complete that goal, we would be so grateful. Thank you for being a part of the ministry through prayer and giving, and may God bless you.

Needs List

Copy Paper – Paper Towels – Napkins – Toilet Paper
High Jump Mat – Track Uniforms – Lysol – Pine Sol – Comet
30 Wood Dining room Chairs – Dryer Sheets – Post it Notes
16 Nice Solid Wood Dressers – Volleyball Ball Cart
Gatorade Athletic Water Bottles – Woodworking Tools
39 Gallon Trash Bags-13 Gallon Trash Bags – 5k Chip System

The Value of compassion cannot be over-emphasized. Anyone can criticize. It takes a true believer to be compassionate. No greater burden can be borne by an individual than to know no one cares or understands. -Arthur H. Stainback

Caring for a child or a teenager should be a part of the relationship that doesn't change. We may not always like what they do, but we still care. -Elizabeth Skoglund

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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 Director, **Marla Johnson, Jessica Owens, Jerry Nininger, Tish Horton, Wendy Morland,** Teachers; **Barbara Hedges**, Office Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, **Wilma Engle**, Accountant; **Sandy Hilburn**, Nurse; **Jessica Kerzner,** Therapist; **Kristi Colvin,** Case Manager; **Heather Smith,** Dormitory Director; **Jamie Schmidt**, **Robin Traffas, Shannon Fitzgerald, Emily Moore, Julie Beam, Melynda McNicol, Ashley Penner, Sue Walters, Janice Janzen, Adrianna Garcia, Candi Wilson, Dale Rae Dockins,** Dormitory Staff; **Loretta Hendrix, Jill Holcomb,** Cook; **Scott Hilburn,** Maintenance, **Bob Friesen, Rev. Bill** and **Carole Cowell, Becky Goering, Larry Chapman, Gordon Goering, Lyndal Penner, Rev. John Williams, Kelli Schwarz-Rump,** Board of Directors.

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God has blessed us with two fine artists on our staff. **Tish Horton** teaches art classes, and often displays and sells the students work at the Metropolitan Coffee House in Hutchinson. **Sue Walter** is gifted in drawing portraits, making each of the students one for Christmas. Here are **Eva** and **Kristen** showing their portraits.

An early employee in the 1970's once commented that the very Victory Village location is therapeutic. We agree, and appreciate the beauty of nature God has has put all around us.

Over three miles of walking / running trails traverse these 107 acres, taking one through beautiful woods and over the gently rolling terrain of the sand hills where one may see a deer or a flock of turkeys., and enjoy the yucca and other plants.

The peaceful solitude of the small pond enables one to reflect on the peace that is ours through a relationship with Jesus, while all around the world may be in turbulence. **Mr. Nininger** likes to take his Science students to the pond to observe the beauty and appreciate quietness. Amy Carmichael, that legendary missionary to India's young girls, said it well.

What room is there for troubled fear!
I know my Lord, and He is near
And He will light my candle, so
That I may see the way to go.
Lord, grant to me a quiet mind,
That trusting Thee—for Thou art kind—
I may go on without a fear,
For Thou, my Lord, art always near.