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

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We Have a Full House!

By Kelli Schwarz-Rump, Director

The girls are back! The school is busy with girls remembering logins and getting the dreaded Homework! The gym is full of physical activity between PE class and Volleyball. The dorm is far from quiet! We are full this year with 16 students. Wow! What a difference that makes!

Hannah, Masha, & Andinet fixing French toast for breakfast

Katy busy getting the computers ready for a new year

There is so much going on at the Village right now! It is a new school year and I cannot wait to see all that God has planned! Please join me in praying for the 16 girls as they begin this new year here at Victory Village Christian Academy.

The Girls on a scavenger hunt

Please pray also for our entire ministry team and that we serve this ministry fully through God's will not our own. Thank you for your continued love, prayer and support!

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

VVCA Graduates can be found in many places, doing great things, showing God's love in practical ways, shining the Light of Jesus and blessing those with whom they come in contact.

While grocery shopping in Dillon's Marketplace we heard a voice calling out, "Bill and Carole!" Turning around we saw **Sarah Newberry**, a 2018 Graduate of VVCA. Since her graduation, Sarah has made a number of trips here from her home in McPherson, often bringing cookies and other delightful treats for our staff and students. She is working at Dillons part time, attending Hutchinson Community College and living in the Dormitory there. Sarah is a great model of Christlike servanthood and encouragement to many.

Our 51st Anniversary Banquet will be Saturday, November 13 at 5:00 p.m. in the VVCA Gymnasium.

We apologize for changing the date so many times, but scheduling conflicts made this necessary. Please come and help us celebrate this milestone in Heart Ministries and Victory Village Christian Academy.

If you are coming to the Kansas State Fair, September 10-19, please stop by our booth along the south corridor of the Meadowlark Building. This will be our 48th year at the Fair.

School started the same day as Volleyball Season! All 16 girls went out for practice! **Katy Nininger** is the Coach, and **Elise Epp** the Assistant. Over twenty matches are scheduled; both here in our gymnasium and elsewhere, plus the annual Midwest Invitational Tournament.

We had a bumper crop of Apples this year—more than we could possibly use. We made it known there were free apples for the picking and many folks came. Families came and picked apples together.

Here is our Therapist, **Dr. Jessica Widd-Ker**, her husband **David** and their four children having a great time picking apples one evening.

Scott Hilburn, **Jerry Nininger** and **Bill** made many gallons of delicious apple cider with our old cider press.

We have an Equine class and horses on campus again! **Anna Nininger** is teaching a class on how to ride and take care of horses. Two of the horses stay in our pasture, and Anna brings two more so the girls have hands-on experience with horses. We really appreciate all the effort Anna puts into the class.

Emily Moore and **Melynda McNicol**, two of our faithful Dorm Staff ladies look like they are planning something in the kitchen! Emily teaches school full time in Hutchinson and she and Melynda work some evenings at the Dorm.

We visited one of our former students, **Carrie Schlesinger,** at Kansas State University in Manhattan. Carrie is a certified nurses aid at Meadowlark Hills Retirement Community and a restaurant server at Carlos O'Kellys, along with a full academic load. She has a nice apartment with two cats and many college assignments. Carrie is originally from Guatemala, and it was so good to see her again and encourage her in the Lord.

Needs List for those who want to give Gifts in Kind

Toilet Paper, Paper towels, Kleenex – Comet – Dish soap
Liquid hand soap – 13 & 39 Gallon Trash Bags
Liquid Laundry Detergent – Leather Indoor Volleyballs
New Volleyball Uniforms – Genuine All Leather Basketballs
Hardwood scraps or larger pieces of lumber for Woodworking
Circuit machine and supplies

We visited the **First Baptist Church of Alden** during our summer break this year. They are one of our faithful supporting churches who really help us. Although a small Church, they have a big heart to help those in need along with several mission works, including Victory Village. Their former pastor, Kansas State Senator, **Rev. Bob Bethell,** took a special interest in Victory Village before his death several years ago, and their present pastor, **Rev. Matt Hendricks** picked up the mantle and continues to encourage both the **Alden Baptist Church** and the **Raymond Baptist Church** in their support of this ministry. We were asked to share about VVCA in the service at Alden.

After the service at Alden, we were invited to lunch, with good friends and supporters from the Church, at Dos Amigos Restaurant in Sterling. **Roger** and **Paula Stout** and Roger's sister **Mary Kretschmer** have been staunch supporters of VVCA in the past few years, and were very instrumental **in the** construction of our new building that houses the Woodworking shop, the Art room and the Counseling office. This building has been a great addition to our campus, and we thank God for people who have a vision to help provide such facilities.

We also visited another of our supporting Churches, **First Baptist of Kingman,** where **Pastor Michael Stephens** graciously asked us to give an update about the ministry.

Active members of the Church in Kingman are **Kevin** and **Denise Burrow**. Our relationship with Kevin goes all the way Back to the start of Heart Ministries at the **Emmanuel Baptist Church** of Marion, where some boys stayed for a time in our home. **Kevin Burrow** and his brother **David** were two of those boys. What a blessing and encouragement to find Kevin and Denise so active in the Lord's work at the Kingman Church.

We thank God for our Faithful and Dedicated Teachers. Four of them and their classes are pictured here.

Mrs, Jessica Owens teaches grades 6-12 English, Tourism and Hospitality.

Mrs. Marla Johnson teaches US Government and Geography

Mrs. Larissa Hawkinson, who with her husband **Nathaniel** is Staff Director at Kansas Bible Camp, teaches Bible at VVCA.

Mr. Jerry Nininger teaches Math, Science and Phys Ed.

Those not pictured are **Robin Traffas**, Woodworking and Health; **Sue Walter**, Calligraphy, **Karen Chatterton**, Dance, and **Anna Nininger**, Equine.

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HEART MINISTRIES, INC.
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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, Larissa Hawkinson,** Teachers; **Barbara Hedges**, Office Manager, Secretary-Treasurer, **Wilma Engle**, Accountant; **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, Candi Wilson, Karen Chaterton, Trinity Sampson, Michelle Garcia, Cayleena Pilgreen, Michelle Garcia, Elise Epp,** Dormitory Staff; **Loretta Hendrix, Jill Holcomb,** 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**

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We are thankful for the way God has met our needs in 2021. Only recently have we experienced some financial shortage, and we ask for your prayers and any special help you might be able to give to help make 2021 a triumphant year all the way through. We have been allowed to stay open through the Covid crisis! A $60,000 long-standing mortgage was released from the Victory Village property! Many lives have been changed! Students have graduated and taken the next step in their lives. Kelli and her fellow Staff members are doing a great job, and for the fifth year in a row we had a perfect score on our Annual State Inspection. While maintaining our Christian distinctives we have also been able to comply with the health, safety and sanitation standards required by our State license. Thanks to God, and to all of you who support us in prayer and with financial gifts.

Celebrating God's Blessings for 51 Years!

"The desert and parched land will be glad! The wilderness will rejoice and blossom….It will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. …They will see the glory of the Lord, the splendor of our God."

Though Isaiah's prophecy does not directly apply to Victory Village, we can still borrow those words to describe what God has done on an overgrazed, ragweed infested piece of land He led us to 50 years ago! The woods and rolling sandhills were beautiful, and even more so today. Our teacher at that time, **Edna Neufelt** said, "The very location is therapeutic!" We agree!

Here is an aerial picture we took from our daughter **Becky** and son-in-law **Rod Goering's** plane, before the Woodworking shop was built. Below is the crowd of about 70 people who gathered with us on a snowy day in November, 1972, to dedicate the land.