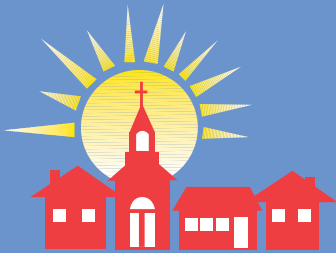


Table of Contents

Introduction	Cover
Cottage News	Page 2
Thornwell Learning Center	Page 2
Faith Development and Christian Nurture	Page 3
Advancement	Page 4



THORNWELL
home for children



Dear Thornwell Friends,

This summer was a buzz of activity on the Thornwell campus. Like your children and grandchildren, your kids here at Thornwell enjoyed attending church camps and conferences and Vacation Bible School. For many of the children in our care, the opportunity for a real “family” summer vacation was a first-time experience. We are grateful to all of you whose financial support helps our children make memories that will last a lifetime.

Our Board of Trustees held their summer meeting on campus July 21-22. Working with the Thornwell leadership team, the Board has set a number of priorities for the coming months, including exploring collaborations with other mission compatible ministries and working to achieve a balanced budget for 2012.

Our top priorities for the coming year will be to focus on our core mission (providing children in need with a safe, loving, Christian home), to balance our budget, and to explore ways to expand the ministry beyond our campus setting. In our community and across the country, children and families who were already fragile before the recession have been especially hard hit. Poverty is a leading factor in child and spousal abuse. At a time when more and more families are experiencing the stresses of joblessness, homelessness, and other family crises, the ability of ministries like Thornwell to respond is critical. However, given the challenges of this new economy, our ministry is faced with its own challenge of how to accomplish much more with much less.

What does this all mean going forward? It means that Thornwell is committed to continuing to provide a high quality, structured residential child care program utilizing the Teaching-Family Model. It means that we must redouble our efforts to educate state agencies and other referral sources as to what Thornwell has to offer. It means that we must clearly communicate our financial needs with our donors and other stakeholders.

It also means that we must look at ways to expand our ministry by providing a variety of community based services such as foster care, family preservation and support services, parent training, and other programs that meet the contemporary needs of today’s children and families. While such efforts will require a significant investment of time and resources, our ability to provide such a full-service continuum of care will ensure the faithfulness and relevancy of Thornwell’s ministry for years to come.

You are a vital part of Thornwell’s bright future. Yes, we believe this is God’s ministry, but it is the response of people of faith like you - your prayers, your expertise, and financial support that will make all the difference as we move forward together. Where there is a challenge there is an equal opportunity. I look forward to working with each of you to grow and expand Thornwell’s opportunities for ministry.

For all God’s Children,

Rev. Elliot M. Smith
President



Campus and Cottage

August 2011

A brother and sister, ages 7 and 8, were placed at Thornwell Friday evening, August 5, after an emergency removal from their foster home became necessary.

As adults, we can hardly conceive of being suddenly uprooted from our home and placed in a strange environment. Imagine the impact this has on children. I believe the trauma is mitigated somewhat by the kind, nurturing response of the Thornwell staff. Removals by DSS happen very quickly and children come in with fear, mistrust, and grief. We are exploring the feasibility of opening a crisis cottage on our campus to minister more effectively to these children.

The staff and children enjoyed a covered dish luncheon on Wednesday, August 10. We celebrated the many achievements of our children, i.e., reaching ARP goals, learning to swim, and earning belts in

karate. It is always fun to have our staff and children together for fellowship.

Seven of our staff members attended a DSS sponsored seminar on August 9 to learn about new initiatives for working with children and families. In addition to the parenting classes and family

group conferencing we are doing, we will explore more ways to serve families and prevent children from entering the DSS system. There is a need for intervention before unresolved family issues reach a crisis state.



The Learning Center

Learning continues for Thornwell students during summer break. When children were not away at camp or on vacation, they came to the Learning Center for fifty minutes per day on Mondays through Thursdays to maintain or improve their math and reading skills. Our post-tests for math have not yet been completed so we cannot report on those gains, but we can report on the number of students meeting their summer reading goals.

Eighty-five percent of our children satisfactorily participated in the Accelerated Reader Program, and fifty-nine percent met their goals. The children who met their goals will be invited to a celebration party with pizza, ice cream sundaes, and prizes.

We only had one high school student who wanted to take a course over the summer. She came to the Learning Center four days per week to complete an online course in economics. Most of the time she worked independently with

only a little help from a tutor. We are happy to report she earned a very high grade in this challenging course. Completing this course over the summer will lighten her course load this coming school year.

Our guidance counselor, Ann Howell, has been meeting with our rising seniors over the summer to help them

get a head start on their college applications. We are fortunate to have her services to help these students through a time in their lives that is often filled with stress and uncertainty. She brings a very encouraging approach that helps give our children confidence in their decisions.



Faith Development and Christian Nurture

August 2011

“As youth and adults, we respond to God’s call through the Holy spirit to be connected to each other, the church, and the world so that our lives proclaim with joy that Jesus Christ is Lord!”

Mission Statement of Presbyterian Youth Connection

As our children attended camps and conferences this summer they lifted up the message of Christ. Our little ones just finished Pandamania, Vacation Bible School brought to us by volunteers from First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville, South Carolina. Thirty-three children attended with 12 youth helpers. The theme was “God is Wild about You” based on Psalm 139. In three days the children learned many songs, dances and Bible Stories, and made crafts. The last day ended with a slide show, pizza lunch and pool party. Thank you First Presbyterian Church, Hartsville!

“On The Move” was the theme of the Montreat Middle School Conference at Presbyterian College, July 20-24. Twelve Thornwell youth and two adults attended, learning that God is with us on our journeys. The focus each day: Fasten your Seatbelt, Road Trip, Rest Stop, and Let’s Get Moving, keeping everyone on the edge of their seats. Small Groups were the highlight of the conference giving our youth opportunities to get to know other youths and adults from all over the south.

Three of our children enjoyed attending Camp Buc, while 24 attended Camp Fellowship this summer.

Now our children are looking forward to youth groups, Bible studies, retreats and lots of fall fun. We always appreciate your prayers for the children. Please continue to pray that the message of Christ may dwell in their hearts through faith.



I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Ephesians 3:16-18

New International Version (NIV)

Giving for the month of July showed an increase in both the individuals and bequests categories. The number of donors as well as the number of gifts received for the month also showed an increase over the same period last year. We continue to be thankful for our faithful Thornwell friends!

We are also grateful for a recent legacy fund established by Ms. Betty McDonough of Juneau, Alaska, in the amount of \$100,000. The Horace S. Blount Memorial Fund for Children was established to honor Ms. McDonough's brothers who spent part of their young lives at Thornwell decades ago.

A very special thank you to Board of Visitors members, Mr. and Mrs. George F. Kesler of Hoschton, Georgia, for joining our Jacobs Society by making a provision in their estate plans for Thornwell's ministry.

Our Friends for Thornwell campaign concluded on August 7 and has earned over \$27,000 in additional support for Thornwell's children! This campaign goes a long way in helping us meet the needs of our children over the summer months. Thanks so much to those of you who became Thornwell friend-raisers and fund-raisers over the summer. You all did a fantastic job!

Our Back-to-School appeal arrived in mailboxes during the first week of August. Having all the school supplies necessary for a good start to the school year is so important to our children and youth. Please remember Thornwell's children as your own children and grandchildren go back to school through your prayers and financial support.

In mid-July, your church should have received a letter from Thornwell requesting their participation and number of materials needed for the Thornwell Annual Thanksgiving Offering. Please check-in with your church office or Missions Coordinator and offer to help with and/or encourage your church's participation.

Thornwell 2012 Calendars will be available for distribution by the last week in August. To order your copy, call 1-888-310-9387 or send an email to Lorain at lcrowl@thornwell.org.

Last month, all Board of Visitors members should have received a letter from Advancement Officer Vicki Rhodes. Vicki will be our Board of Visitors contact person, working to foster current relationships with our BOV members and grow our Board of Visitors' membership program. She looks forward to working with our BOV members and can be reached by email at vrhodes@thornwell.org, or by phone at 864.938.2711.

