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THORNWELL
home for children



The last three months of the calendar year, which were also the first quarter of our 2010-2011 fiscal year, have been busy, challenging, exciting months. We had scores of opportunities to visit with individuals and congregations who are in partnership with us through their prayers and their gifts. We enjoyed a campus wide Thanksgiving dinner together, and we were blessed by our annual Christmas dinner and program coordinated by Finley Sutton, our Christian Educator, with lots of help from her friends. Then a beautiful snow blanketed the campus in early January to give the children a week out of school; and snow people (both women and men) appeared on the lawns of the cottages all across the campus.

I continue to be impressed by, and grateful for, the remarkable staff we have at every level of our life together. The men and women who nurture, teach, and care for the children; those who maintain the buildings and grounds; those who cultivate relationships and financial support; those who manage the business affairs of Thornwell; – all of these people willingly and graciously have accepted new duties and responsibilities as we have worked to improve our operating efficiencies in these challenging times. Let me share several things we can celebrate at the beginning of this New Year:

- Our care for the children entrusted to us remains strong and exemplary in character and quality.
- The children enjoy abundant opportunities for worship, Christian education, fellowship, mission and service as they grow spiritually.
- Through our Learning Center, our children have excellent support and encouragement for academic success. They are doing well in their studies as well as in their social and athletic endeavors.
- The Leadership Team continues to work together to ensure that the strength of our programs is matched by the quality of our stewardship of resources and the integrity of our fiscal management. We are grateful for the support of Trustee John Anderson whose fresh perspective and wisdom have been most helpful.
- We received a major gift commitment of \$350,000 for renovating and upgrading the historic Anita Cottage, a project that is in process and should be completed later this year.
- We have recruited outstanding new people to our Board of Trustees: Dr. Stan Walsh of Clinton, SC; the Rev. Dr. Mickey Shealy of

Dalton, GA; Mr. Robert Lindquist of Tallahassee, FL; and Mr. Tom Vorpahl from Bradenton, FL. Others are in process, and we are excited about the talents these people bring to our work together.

- Through December and January our financial support trends have been strong, particularly from individuals and from Presbyterian churches. Also, from October through January, we have been informed of bequests and estate gifts that will exceed \$2 million and that are in process.
- The special committee appointed for the purpose has initiated conversations with Presbyterian College and the City of Clinton regarding potential opportunities for partnerships and collaborations that could be mission-compatible and mutually beneficial.
- Our Presidential Search Committee, with the guidance of BoardWalk consultants, is working hard, interviewing candidates in early February, and anticipating a call to an outstanding candidate to be Thornwell's next President this spring.

I continue to be grateful to the Board of Trustees for allowing me the privilege of serving in this interim capacity. Thornwell's ministry is truly remarkable as we give back to the children the childhood that has been taken from them. It is one of the most important things the Presbyterian Church in this region does, and it is a joy to be a part of it.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Elliott

Charles D. Elliott, Interim President
Thornwell Home for Children



Stewart Cottage Snow Day!

Campus and Cottage

February 2011

The last six months have brought changes and transitions within our department. At the end of December, we bid farewell to long time Family Teachers, Jim and Becky Brown, and Bonnie Shadduck, and support staff, Mary Hamilton and Sue Entrekin. Several other support staff members left during August and September.

For quite some time, we have wanted to expand our ministry to reach more children and families. As a first step, we will begin offering parenting classes in March. We are partnering with two of our local elementary schools to offer classes that will cover a range of topics and issues parents face. We expect to expand this offering to other community agencies in the coming months.

Megan Laird has moved into the newly created position of Director of Evaluation and Community Outreach. Megan brings much experience and knowledge to this position. She served as a Family Teacher for four years, a Consultant for two, and four years as an Evaluator within the Teaching Family Model. Megan will direct evaluation, recruit and train mentors for our children from the community, and lead the community based programs that we expect to contract through the Department of Social Services. She just completed three days of training at state office of DSS to qualify to be a Family Group Conference Coordinator. The Coordinator's job is to help a family in crisis identify strengths and resources within the family and community to

ameliorate the stressors. The family learns to problem solve and to develop a plan that addresses safety, permanence, and well-being for children in foster care or who are at risk of entering foster care due to parental abuse or neglect.

Chris Broecker, one of our Family Teachers, is helping us in recreation. Chris has organized many activities for the children in the last five months including karate classes, trips to hockey games, and circus outings. Tickets were donated for the hockey games and circus. During the holidays, the children enjoyed a trip to the ice skating rink. The campus community has also enjoyed pizza meals at the MAC as well as a Super Bowl party.

The Learning Center

Our basic philosophy behind helping our children improve their reading comprehension is to encourage them to spend more time reading and to read a variety of literature. Common sense and research tell us that students who read daily become better readers. We also know that reading nonfiction books does more to develop good readers than a steady diet of just fiction.

For about eighteen years, we have used the Accelerated Reader Program as a tool to evaluate our students' reading abilities, to set reading goals, and to monitor their progress. Students select books from our library, read the books, and then take computerized tests on the books. The goals require students to earn a certain number of points each grading period. Twenty-five percent of their total points earned should be nonfiction. At the end of the grading period we have a celebration party to honor those who met their goals.

This past grading period eighty-four percent of our students participated in the Accelerated Reading Program, and

fifty percent met their reading goals. Congratulations go out to the following students who made the second quarter honor roll.

Principals Honor Roll-2nd 9 weeks

Amanda Jones
Katlyn Krivenko
Chantel Reynolds
Alexis Sons

A/B Honor Roll-2nd 9 weeks

Kenyon Brown
Alexis Deal
Tammie Krivenko
Destiny LaCount
Jada McAbee
Caroline Michouchi
Katelin Moore
Mary Katherine Nichols
Amber Proctor
Markeisha Roberts
Joseph Rodriguez
Silas Romines
Devon Westbury



Faith Development and Christian Nurture

February 2011

The Youth at Thornwell have been busy in January and February.

- January 9 - Family Teacher Jon Biron led part three on *Why We Worship God*, Family Teachers and PC youth leaders led praise songs.
- January 16 - Thirty-five Thornwell youth and Family Teachers went to First Presbyterian Church, Laurens for supper and to hear Tony Eubanks, chaplain of the Clemson football team.
- January 23 - First Presbyterian Church, Clinton invited our youth for supper and a program called "Choices."
- January 30 - The youth watched the Bluefish DVD: *Conflict: Overcoming Stress in Your Relationships*. The PC youth leaders led discussion.
- February 6 - Super Bowl Sunday the youth collected \$222 and 421 cans of food for the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. The food and money have been donated to United Ministries and Laurens Cluster food banks.

The Big Brother/Big Sister Program with PC students who are assigned to our Thornwell kids will have a Valentine party for all pairings of big and little brothers and sisters on Sunday, February 13.

One of our Thornwell Board of Trustees, Dr. Terry McInnis, and her church donated a large number of Christian Books and DVDs for our children to read. Several of our cottages have found Joyce Meyer's book, *The Battlefield of the Mind for Teens* particularly helpful. We send a big "Thank You" to Dr. McInnis and her church friends.

Thornwell staff member, Marcia Bronson, has begun a worship team. Three Thornwell youths are participating. The worship team will learn about leading worship as they practice praise music and prepare to become leaders in the praise bands at their churches.

During the big SNOW in January we made crafts at the MAC. The children and youth painted wooden initials and made crazy creatures out of pipe cleaners. Fun!



Fundraising and Development:

During this first quarter of our new fiscal year 2010-11, we are very encouraged by an increase in giving across appeals and constituencies.

1st Quarter Numbers:

- Individual giving up \$43,234
- Church giving up \$4,960
- Church group giving up \$3,728
- Foundation giving up \$43,994

Overall, gifts to the 2010 Christmas appeal were up \$40,425. These numbers are particularly encouraging, given that the Advancement Department is working with less than half the staff it held just six months ago.

One area of giving that we saw decline was the bequests category. Bequests gifts the first quarter of 2010-11 were down by over \$171,000 compared to that same time last fiscal year. However, on February 8, we received and booked an unrestricted bequest gift of \$1,389,825 that alone will exceed our bequest revenue projection for this fiscal year. Other significant bequests are currently in the pipe-line. We are grateful to these special friends who have made Thornwell a part of their estate plans.

We have also added a new legacy fund to our permanent endowment. The Samuel T. Roach Memorial Fund for Children was established by Mrs. Pat Roach of Hilton Head, SC.

Cultivating gifts, large and small, takes time and talent. Beginning March 1, we will be pleased to have Mrs. Vicki Rhodes join our Advancement team. Vicki will be using her expertise in communications and development to establish relationships and increase support for Thornwell. Please join us in welcoming Vicki to campus.

We would also like to thank our Thornwell friends, near and far, for their fundraising efforts. Many thanks to Thornwell alum David Rivers for his phenomenal efforts on Facebook to raise dollars and awareness for Thornwell's mission. David and his Facebook friends raised over \$50,000 for Thornwell!

We would also like to thank WPCC 1410 AM, the Jacobs Highway Study Club, and Musgrove Mill Golf Club for sponsoring a barbecue fundraiser this past November that raised nearly \$2000 in support for our ministry. How nice it is to have such great support in our community.

Communications and Public Relations:

On Monday, February 7, we launched our newly-updated website and introduced our new Thornwell Facebook and Twitter pages to our friends. If you haven't already done so, take a minute and visit our new site and social media pages at www.thornwell.org.

Other dates to remember:

Feb. 18 – the 2011 Annual Fund Appeal and Gift Catalog will arrive in mailboxes

March 13 – Berkeley Renovation Dedication Ceremony - 2:00 pm

April 15 – Spring/Summer Thornwell Life arrives in mailboxes

April 28 and 29 – Annual Board of Visitors Meeting on campus

April 30 – Pig-Pickin' hosted by Bennett Brown, owner of Lowcountry Barbecue, Smyrna, GA.



During the months of January and February, Thornwell was notified of the following gifts:

On February 8th, the assets of a very generous bequest totaling \$1,389,825 were transferred to Thornwell; and additional significant gifts from other bequests are anticipated within the next 60 – 90 days.

We have received the first \$100,000 of a pledge of \$350,000 for the renovations/additions at Anita Cottage. A portion of that gift – approximately \$70,000 will go to endowment to help underwrite maintenance of Anita. Work has already begun on the project.

We have witnessed the remarkable dedication of our staff as we continued to review and manage the operating budget. Asked by the Board to develop a contingency plan in the event it became necessary to reduce the operating budget further by as much as \$500,000, the staff has identified and implemented \$274,000 in actual budget reductions and savings already, while maintaining our residential capacity to care for up to 72 children. Projected reductions in the 2011 – 2012 fiscal year are likely to exceed \$500,000.

With the participation of Board members skilled in the area of healthcare benefits, we are working to assess Thornwell's medical insurance plan and other benefits to identify additional cost savings while ensuring fair and appropriate benefits for employees.

Clearly there are many unknowns about our financial projections, as is the case with every non-profit organization today. We know we are not alone in having to make adjustments to the new economic environment. And we are working long and hard, both in the development department and in financial management and all other departments to demonstrate our commitment to good stewardship, fiscal responsibility, and management integrity.

Please join us for the Berkele Cottage Renovation Dedication Ceremony!

When: Sunday, March 13, 2011
2:00 pm

Where: Thornwell Home for Children
(Berkele Cottage)

RSVP to: berkele@thornwell.org
or call 864.938.2148

Many thanks to the following Thornwell friends whose gifts made the Berkele Cottage renovation possible:

Mr. Jerry Black, Carolina First Bank, Joann Collins, Lynn & Jeral Cooper, Billy and Ann Crockett, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Endsley, The Graham Foundation, Jim and Jan Temple and First Scots Presbyterian Church Town and Country Koinonia, John I Smith Charities, Inc., George and Ladson Kesler, Lipscomb Family Foundation, Bob and Ann Markley, Dean and Sara Lynn Sellers, Southern Mutual Church Insurance Company, and Steve and Laurie Weideman.

