



*News from Boys Home of Virginia*

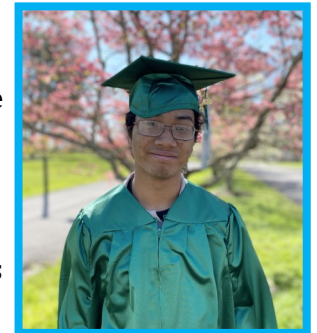
*Summer 2020*

## **Congratulations Class of 2020!**



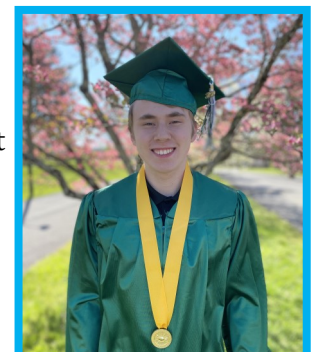
Carlos Brown has been at Boys Home for five years. Carlos came to Boys Home because he was struggling with academics. After he graduates, he will begin working a summer job remodeling homes, then hopes to find a job in construction work. While being at Boys Home, Carlos has learned respect, maturity, and good study habits. His favorite memory at Boys Home is getting his first off-campus job and going to town on the weekends. He will miss all of his friends and the staff at Boys Home.

Khean Mikkelson has been at Boys Home for four years. Khean came to Boys Home because he was not doing well in school and had poor attendance. After he graduates, he will attend Dabney S. Lancaster Community College and study cyber security. Khean says he has learned to be responsible and to think before acting. His favorite memory at Boys Home is going hiking, although he said he did not enjoy the stinging nettles he encountered! Khean will miss all of his friends at Boys Home.



Christian Bass has been at Boys Home for four years. He came to Boys Home because of family problems. After Christian graduates, he wants to join the military but has not completely decided what branch. He says Boys Home has taught him to follow directions and take advantage of opportunities. His favorite memory is going to the Roanoke Rising Stars basketball games. Christian will miss going to the gym and playing basketball with his friends.

Andrew Roland has been at Boys Home for two years. He came to Boys Home because he was getting into bad habits at home. Andrew says Boys Home has taught him a good work ethic, to be closer to God, and how to get along with others. After graduation, he will attend Dabney S. Lancaster Community College for general studies, then transfer to Virginia Tech and study meteorology. His favorite memory at Boys Home was living in Darling Cottage. Andrew says he will miss the students and houseparents and all of the bonds built throughout his years at Boys Home.



**Boys Home of Virginia**  
Founded by  
The Rev. George Floyd  
Rogers  
Rector, Emmanuel  
Episcopal Church

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## *From the Executive Director*

### *Donnie E. Wheatley*

This spring has certainly been different for Boys Home of Virginia as well as for the nation. I sincerely appreciate the support and kindnesses that you have offered so generously. I hope each of you are doing well and staying healthy.



In accordance with state guidelines, we have made necessary changes to day-to-day life on campus. From social distancing to eating meals in the cottages, it has been quite an adjustment! The students have shown incredible resilience. They continue to do what needs to be done in a way that is inspiring. For more information, visit [boyshomeofva.org](http://boyshomeofva.org) and look at the April 16 post under the "News" heading. There, you will find a video where I explain more about what's taking place with education, campus life and other details regarding COVID-19 and Boys Home.

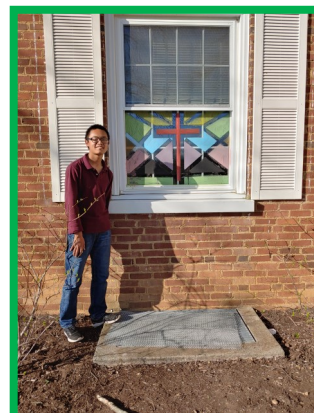
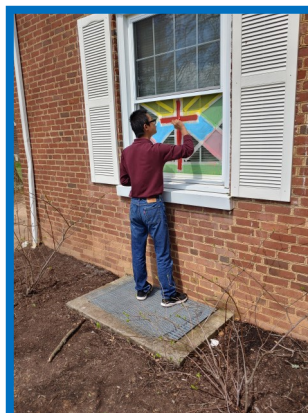
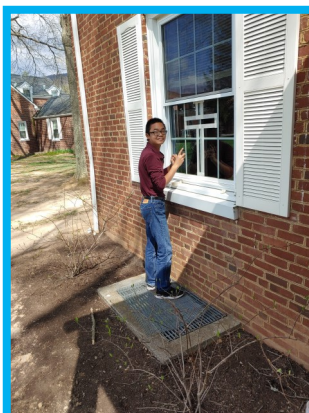
In this issue of *The Boys Appeal*, we celebrate our new graduates, introduce you to staff members who have lived at Boys Home themselves as youth, and update you on programs and events that I hope you find informative and inspiring. Most postponed events have been rescheduled—see the banquet information on page 6—and we are moving forward in good faith that we can join together in person in the near future. Thank you for your interest in this vital mission to offer young men a second chance at success. Boys Home continues because of your partnership.

Again, I want to wish you good health as we navigate the coming months. We remember you in prayer and hope that you will remember us as well.

Take care and God bless,

Dr. Donnie E. Wheatley  
*Litterarum Humanarum*

Here's our most "liked" Facebook post for April. Joshua created a beautiful "stained glass" piece for Easter. To see more posts like these, like us on Facebook under Boys Home of Virginia.





## Seniors 2020 continued...



Phillip Scott has been at Boys Home for nearly a year and a half. After graduation, Phillip wants to pursue a pipefitting apprenticeship in his hometown. Phillip says his favorite memory at Boys Home was the senior challenge. He says he has learned patience and structure.



John Smith has been at Boys Home for a little over two years. After graduation, John wants to work and save money for college. While he was at Boys Home, he served on the worship team of a local church and worked there as a custodian.

## Alumni Corner

One of the most valuable resources at Boys Home is the staff. The Boys Home mission comes full circle when men who were residents in their youth return to “pay it forward” for the boys who live here now. Only they can uniquely relate to the challenges and struggles the students face.

Administratively, the most well known of the group is Executive Director **Donnie Wheatley**. Mr. Wheatley has led the way through capital campaigns, the creation of Boys Home School and the applied trades program and has become the resident expert on Boys Home’s history. It’s a big responsibility, but he always has time to say hello or share a piece of advice with the boys. **Chad Whitmer**, associate director of program, builds relationships with each boy and helps them develop leadership skills. On many weekends, he can be found leading a group of students through mountain passes on camping trips and teaching them life skills. **Bobby Trice** serves as director of support services and joined the staff in 2017 when he retired from the Army as a Master Sergeant after 20 years of service. Although Bobby’s full-time job keeps him busy seeing that the campus infrastructure is running smoothly, he makes it a point to know the students and spends time with them. He is also willing to come to your area and share his story about how Boys Home has made a difference in his life.

**Danny Cale** is the facility maintenance manager. Danny is a skilled organizer with his team and applies that same efficiency when teaching his home wiring class to students. Check out the December 20 post to the News section of the [boyshomeofva.org](http://boyshomeofva.org) website to see how this hands-on class causes students to begin to think like business owners. **Rick Turner** came to Boys Home after selling a successful heating and air-conditioning business. He teaches those same skills to students, also keeping busy with maintenance projects on campus. It’s also possible to catch Rick in a snappy Santa Claus outfit at the Boys Home Christmas Tree Farm!

None of Boys Home’s programming would be possible without houseparents. After graduation from college, **Donnie Costigan** and **Milliyon Fesseha** found their way back to Boys Home to share their experience and wisdom. Their influence for good in the lives of the boys is inspiring. **David Powers** also returned to Boys Home and worked on the farm. He has recently accepted a position in law enforcement, and we wish him all the best in that new endeavor.

Lastly, **Mike Nunnally** became the Hilltopper’s basketball coach in 2018. A retired teacher and coach, he now impacts both players and spectators with his professionalism, work ethic, fairness, and general good humor. He excels at not only building basketball skills but at building character in team members.

The presence of these men on campus demonstrates the success of the mission of Boys Home. They bring depth and a breadth of experience that is invaluable as we offer today’s students a second chance at success.



*Left to right first row: Donnie Wheatley, Bobby Trice, Milliyon Fesseha  
Second row: David Powers, Rick Turner  
Third row: Mike Nunnally, Chad Whitmer, Danny Cale, Donnie Costigan*

**Yes! I'll join the Carpenter's Crew, Boys Home of Virginia's monthly giving club, with a tax-deductible gift of:**

Select one:

- ☐ \$500 Spike Level  
☐ \$200 Bolt Level  
☐ \$100 Nail Level  
☐ \$50 Rivet Level  
☐ \$20 Tack Level

Please send the following thank you gift:

- ☐ Sweatshirt ☐ Beanie hat  
☐ Coffee Mug ☐ Baseball cap

Select as Appropriate:

- ☐ I'd like to give monthly through my bank account.  
☐ My first month's donation check has everything you need to get started. (NOTE: If preferred, you may attach a voided check.)  
☐ Please charge my monthly gift to my credit card below:

- ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa  
☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security code: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: The security code is the 3-digit code on the back of your card or the 4-digits on the front for AMEX.)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

(required for both options)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

As a member of the Carpenter's Crew I wish to remain anonymous: ☐ YES ☐ NO

I authorize automatic monthly contributions in the amount indicated. My bank account (or credit/debit card) will be charged on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of the month (or next business day). I understand that my gifts are tax-deductible as authorized by law.

## Introducing The Carpenter's Crew

Boys Home invites you to join our new monthly giving club, the Carpenter's Crew!

When a supporter joins, they agree to make an automatic gift each month to Boys Home with a minimum gift size of \$20.00. There are several ways this gift may be made, but most donors are using their credit cards. To join online, go to the main website ([boyshomeofva.org](http://boyshomeofva.org)), click on "Carpenter's Crew" in the upper right-hand corner, and follow the simple instructions. To send your information through the mail, fill out and return the form on the right. Or if you prefer, you may call Sandra Scruggs at (540) 965-7715, and she will be happy to assist you.



Why is automatic monthly giving important to Boys Home? The Carpenter's Crew will make a big difference to Boys Home by providing a steady stream of income, allowing us to concentrate more on our mission and less on revenue. The money will be used to feed, clothe, house, and educate the young men in our charge.

Why is automatic monthly giving important to you, a supporter and donor? By making a regular monthly gift, automatically, you don't have to worry about sending a donation through the mail. No looking for stamps and no check book calculations. Everything is taken care of automatically. Most of our donors find this gives them a wonderful peace of mind.

Carpenter's Crew members are entitled to a choice of one of four welcome gifts, which are available only to Carpenter's Crew members. You may see these gifts on the webpage; they are: baseball hat, winter knit cap, travel mug, or a high collar sweatshirt.

Most importantly, you will be standing shoulder to shoulder with the boys, providing them with the resources they need to become the extraordinary young men they were meant to be.

Please join today and know that you're making a difference!

# Sammy Bowen of Chattanooga Joins The Carpenter's Crew

I welcome the opportunity to tell folks about Carpenter's Crew! When I first heard of this new Boys Home monthly giving club, I was immediately intrigued. I thought to myself, "How much money each month do I spend on unnecessary items?" After a brief mental calculation, I decided that the figure was at least \$100 per month. I decided it would be a good thing to redirect that money to boys that, through no fault of their own, have needs that won't be met were it not for Boys Home and its donors, like me. Decision made, I did not procrastinate; I pulled out my cell phone and joined Carpenter's Crew at the \$100 level. It took me about three minutes to join; I was actually sitting in a business meeting at the time! I feel good about Carpenter's Crew every time I think of it. It's very convenient, very efficient and I like that, as a member, I get a very nice gift with the Carpenter's Crew logo on it. It's just like me putting my arm around a boy's shoulder to let him know that we are in this thing called life together—and we are going to be successful.



*Sammy Bowen hard at work  
for Service Electric Company*

My connection to Boys Home is deeply spiritual. The question often heard today, "What would Jesus do?" is important to me. I know in my heart that Jesus wants me to help these boys. They are desperate for structure and guidance. They want and need to be cared for, respected and loved. These are

not bad boys and young men. Some may have learned bad behaviors or merely gotten off the track they should be on. Well, I want to be Jesus' "man on the ground" in this effort to help get them back on the right track. For me, there simply isn't anything more important.

## **Good news! We are accepting packages now!**

### **Summer Wish List**

- Copier paper
- Jump drives
- Notebook paper
- Composition notebooks
- Pencils and pens
- Desk size pencil sharpeners (need 10)
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes
- 3-ring binders (1- and 2- inch)
- TI-83 and TI-84 graphing calculators (need 5 to 10)
- 4-function calculators
- Expo markers
- 3-ring folders
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Sunscreen
- Shaving cream
- Socks
- Chapstick
- Individual toothbrush holder tubes

## **Dates to remember...**

**Summer Break:** May 8-July 6

**Quilt Drawing:** June 5

**Alumni Day:** June 13

**First day of school:** July 6

**Board Meeting:** July 30 and 31

**Mr. Wheatley's 35th  
Celebration:** September 19

**Industry Day:** October 9

**Church Day:** October 20

**P. Buckley Moss Raffle  
Drawing:** October 30

**Harvest Hustle:** November 7

## **The Boys Appeal**

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by the Boys Home of  
Virginia Development Office.

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Virginia 24426

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[info@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:info@boyshomeofva.org)

[www.boyshomeofva.org](http://www.boyshomeofva.org)

For your convenience, you can  
now donate to Boys Home at  
[give2boyshome.org](http://give2boyshome.org).

**Please remember us in your will  
and trusts!**



# Boys Home of Virginia invites you to a fundraising banquet

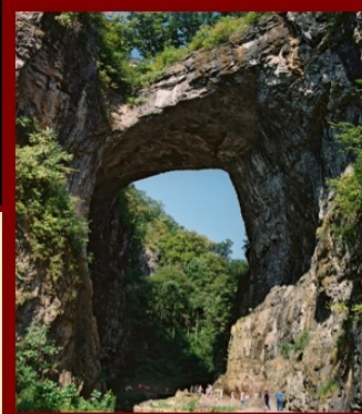
and celebration of our executive director,  
Mr. Donnie Wheatley's, 35 years of service!

**Saturday, September 19, 2020**

Natural Bridge Historic Hotel & Conference Center  
15 Appledore Lane, Natural Bridge, VA 24578

**Seating is limited to 300**

5:30 p. m. Cocktail reception and silent auction  
7:00 p. m. Dinner and dessert (see below)



**Please return the registration form by September 1, 2020!**

Make sure to register to  
**ROAST or TOAST**  
Mr. Wheatley for  
\$35.00.



A cash bar will be available all evening. Live music & dancing by the  
Swing South Band! Enjoy a photo booth and 35/65 raffle. There will be  
other fun and exciting fundraising opportunities throughout the night!  
Cocktail attire preferred.

If you cannot attend, but would like to make a donation,  
please contact our office or notate your donation as DEW35.

**Cheers to 35 Years! Our fundraising goal is \$35,000 for the night!**

The Natural Bridge Historic Hotel and Conference Center has  
offered us a discount on rooms for this event - **\$99.00 per room**  
Please call 800-533-1410 or 540-291-2121 by August 19th.  
Use discount code: Boys Home

If you would like to donate an item, a stay, or  
an experience to our silent auction,  
please contact Melinda at 540-965-7707  
by July 31st.

Please return this form with payment or register online at: <https://dew35.eventbrite.com>

Single \$60.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$115.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze table of 8 \$475.00 \_\_\_\_\_

Gold table of 8 \$550.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (front row, two bottles of wine) Silver table of 8 \$500.00 \_\_\_\_\_ (second row, one bottle of wine)

1. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
Please list any dietary restrictions: _____			
2. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
Please list any dietary restrictions: _____			
3. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
Please list any dietary restrictions: _____			
4. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
Please list any dietary restrictions: _____			
5. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
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6. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
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7. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
Please list any dietary restrictions: _____			
8. _____	Beef _____	Chicken _____	Vegetable Lasagna _____
Please list any dietary restrictions: _____			

You may pay via  
check or CC:

Credit Card#

\_\_\_\_\_ ~ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ~ \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

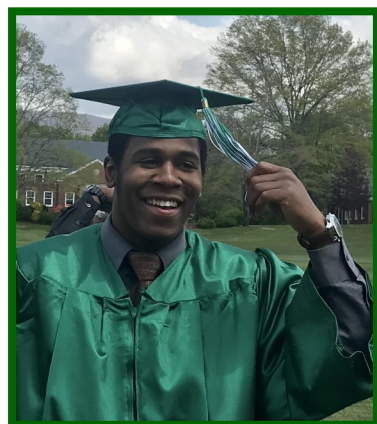
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Mail to:  
Boys Home of Virginia  
Attn: Melinda Nichols  
414 Boys Home Rd.  
Covington, VA 24426



## Life at Boys Home During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Our students have done a fantastic job adjusting to the “new normal.” Below are some images that we thought you may enjoy. Many of you have reached out to us to check on the boys, and we are so appreciative of your concern and compassion.



**Thank you**  
for making a  
difference in the  
life of a boy!

## Terri Slusser Named Teacher of the Year



*Terri Slusser and  
Principal Teresa  
Johnson at the  
Alleghany Highlands  
Chamber dinner  
meeting in March*

Terri Slusser was named Teacher of the Year for Boys Home of Virginia at the 41<sup>st</sup> annual Alleghany Highlands Chamber of Commerce and Tourism dinner meeting in March.

She was hired at Boys Home in August of 2014 as a long-term substitute. Terri is currently teaching language arts, math, science, and social studies to grades 2-4. Her favorite thing about teaching at Boys Home are the small classes because she can build a relationship with the students. Terri states, “it has been proven when the teacher has a positive relationship with the students, they are more successful.”

Boys Home students and staff are very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Terri and appreciate her positive, caring, and upbeat nature!





**Boys Home**  
of Virginia

414 Boys Home Road  
Covington, Virginia 24426  
(540) 965-7700  
[www.boyshomeofva.org](http://www.boyshomeofva.org)

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## **Boys Appeal - Summer 2020**

*A successful man has to start somewhere...*

### **2020 Boys Home P. Buckley Moss Raffle**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip

(\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

**At \$5 per ticket or  
\$45 for ten tickets  
Drawing is October 30.**

I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for Boys Home.

**Mail to: Boys Home of Virginia  
Attn: Moss Raffle  
414 Boys Home Rd.  
Covington, VA 24426**

### **Moss Raffle Natural Bridge Visitors #169**

The setting of Natural Bridge Visitors is located in the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley in Natural Bridge, Virginia. The Natural Bridge has been hailed as one of the nation's most visited natural wonders and known as one of the seven natural wonders of the modern world.

Tickets are \$5 each or 10 for \$45. We will draw the winner on October 30th. Best of luck winning this beautiful print!



*The raffled print will  
be professionally  
framed.*