

THE BOYS APPEAL



News from Boys Home of Virginia

Fall 2020

Ice Cream Social and Back to School on “the Hill”

Prior to kicking off the 2020-2021 school year, Boys Home held an ice cream social on Friday, July 24 for the students and staff. Thanks to a generous donor, everyone on “the Hill” enjoyed lots of ice cream with an array of toppings! Students wore leis and even added fun umbrellas to their ice cream sundaes. It was a very hot, sunny day, so it was the perfect treat.

Classes began on Monday, July 27. New classes offered this year are auto maintenance, electronics, and robotics. When asked, the students said they are most excited about the new classes, as well as math class, Spanish class, potential field trips, and seeing their teachers again. Teachers completed their training during the week of July 20th. They are happy to be teaching in the classroom and seeing their students face-to-face every day.

Despite all of the safety precautions, everyone is excited for the upcoming school year and settling back into a bit of normalcy.



Mulu enjoys his ice cream sundae in his favorite Ducks sweatshirt



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

Dr. Donnie E. Wheatley
Litterarum Humanarum Doctor
Executive Director

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From the Executive Director Donnie E. Wheatley

Dear Friends,

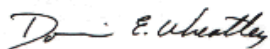
Greetings from "the Hill!" I hope you are staying happy and healthy.

The past few months been interesting and occasionally difficult, and everyone is looking forward to the fresh start that comes with a new school year. Following all the governor's recommendations to keep everyone safe, some adjustments continue across campus. Students and teachers wear masks and maintain social distance in the classrooms, students continue to eat individually-packed meals in their cottages, and large gatherings have been postponed. Through all of this, however, everyone on campus has shown a willingness to adapt and move forward in a positive direction.

Regrettably, we made the decision to cancel the 35th anniversary fundraising banquet, previously scheduled for September 19th. Continuing concerns about the virus, combined with the restrictions that the venue now has to follow, simply made the event untenable. However, I hope you'll join us on October 15th - 16th to help raise \$35,000 in celebration of 35 years.

Thirty-five years is a long time. Why stay for so long? For the paycheck, or because the work is easy? On the contrary, leading a nonprofit organization is never lucrative or easy. The past 35 years have had their share of ups and downs, and I've been here through all of them. I am here because Boys Home was here for me when I needed it, many years ago. Boys Home gave me the start I needed to be successful. Now it's my turn to make sure Boys Home is here for every young man who needs it in years to come. Your partnership makes that possible.

Take care, and God bless,



Donnie Wheatley



Our mission is to help each student strive toward becoming a productive member of society by developing his spiritual, mental, physical, and social potentials.

Phone: (540) 965-7700 | Fax: (540) 965-7702
info@boyshomeofva.org | www.boyshomeofva.org

Join the Hustle!



Boys Home
of Virginia

4th Annual Boys Home Harvest Hustle Saturday, November 7, 2020



5K, 10K and Half-Marathon

Races will begin and end at the
Intervale Trailhead, Jackson River Scenic Trail at
1903 Dressler Drive, Covington, VA 24426

To Register: www.runforboyshome.org

More info: (540) 965-7707

All proceeds to benefit Boys Home of Virginia

Half-
Marathon
9:00 a.m.
\$45.00
After 10/5
\$50.00

10K
9:15 a.m.
\$20.00
After 10/5
\$25.00

5K
9:30 a.m.
\$15.00
After 10/5 - \$20.00



Register today!
runforboyshome.org

Ways to Help:

- Remember Boys Home in your will
- Make a donation at www.give2boyshome.org
- Send Coca-Cola Give rewards to 414 Boys Home Road, Covington, VA 24426
- Join Kroger Community Rewards Program at www.kroger.com/communityrewards
- Join Amazon Smile at www.smile.amazon.com
- Donate a used car or van in good working condition

For more information, contact the development office at (540) 965-7715 or sfscruggs@boyshomeofva.org

Dates to Remember

October 15-16th: **Donnie Wheatley's 35th Celebration.** See page 6.

October 30th: **Moss Raffle Drawing**

November 7th: **Boys Home Harvest Hustle**

The CARES Act

The CARES Act passed on Friday, March 27 impacts charitable giving for 2020. We appreciate your considering Boys Home of Virginia as you contemplate your year-end giving. It's always a good time to help a child. Thank you for your generosity.

Fall Wish List 2020-2021

- Copier paper
- AAA, AA, and 9-volt batteries
- Jump drives
- Notebook paper
- Composition notebooks
- Pencils and pens
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant wipes
- 3-ring binders (1- and 2-inch)
- Expo markers
- 3-ring folders
- Shampoo
- Body wash
- Deodorant
- Shaving cream
- Socks
- Chapstick
- Individual toothbrush holder tubes



Boys Home Christmas Tree Farm



Open House

November 28th

10 am - 4 pm

Open 10 am - 4 pm

Fridays - Sundays

Nov. 27 - Dec. 20

Santa: Dec. 5, 6, 12, 13

1118 Bear Wallow Flat

West Augusta, VA

540-939-4106

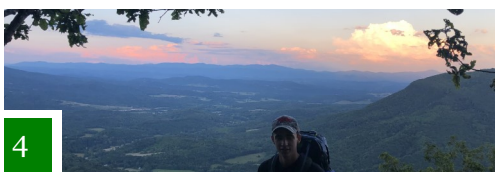
Due to potential COVID-19 restrictions, please check for updates at: www.boyshomeofva.org/our-tree-farm



More content online!

Please send us your email address.

Call (540) 965-7715 or email sfscruggs@boyshomeofva.org



A Cabin on the Mountain



Louis Sarratt with the cabin

In the 1970s, a staff member particularly enjoyed being outdoors and wanted to share his experiences with the residents. With the help of the students, he built a cabin on the mountain at Boys Home by hand using pine logs.

Since then, the cabin has fallen down. Special projects coordinator and teacher Louis Sarratt stumbled upon the cabin remains during a hike. He removed as much material from the original site as was salvageable. Now, Mr. Sarratt is working with students to build a new cabin. It has a couple sets of bunkbeds for the students to enjoy, and a porch overlooking the beautiful mountain views.

Mr. Sarratt also incorporated the surrounding trees into the structure rather than cutting them

down. When complete, students and houseparents will be able to spend time enjoying the great outdoors in the cabin on the mountain.

In coming years, Mr. Sarratt hopes to build several more cabins with his carpentry classes.

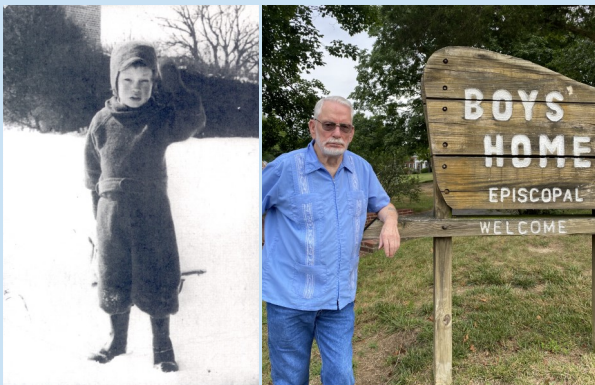


Student Justus taking a break during the beginning stages of the cabin project

Alumni Corner: featuring Bill Barber

Bill Barber arrived at Boys Home in 1945 when he was just six years old. He was living in Dublin, Virginia, when his adoptive father passed away, and his adoptive mother could no longer care for him. A few days after his arrival, staff members realized he was missing and began looking for him. They quickly found him walking down the hill on campus. The six-year-old boy told them he didn't want to be here, and he was leaving. However, that mindset quickly changed. As time passed, he became very fond of Boys Home and says it was the best thing that ever happened to him.

Mr. Barber was at Boys Home until 1958, almost 13 years total. At 19 years old, he enlisted and served in the United States Navy for four years. He said, "Here I was this big 19-year-old guy enlisting in the Navy, and I cried when I had to leave Boys Home! It was the only home I ever knew."



Bill Barber in 1945

Bill Barber today

After four years of service, he came back to Boys Home and worked as a staff member for one year before beginning his career at Westvaco, now WestRock. When asked what brought him back to Covington after the Navy, without a pause, he said, "Because this (Boys Home) is my home." Mr. Barber said Boys Home taught him so much about life and he often thinks about the summers on "the Hill," fishing and swimming.

Mr. Barber currently lives in Covington with his wife. It isn't unusual to see him driving through the parking lot, where he will roll his window down and say kindly, "I just wanted to come home."

Hiking, Camping, and Kayaking, Oh My!

This summer, students and staff enjoyed three off-campus backpacking and camping trips. The first trip was an eight-mile hike at North Mountain/Pete's Cave. The boys really liked this trip in particular because of the views, the rock formations (Pete's Cave), and the hike was relatively easy even though it is eight miles.

The second trip was in Greenwood Point Campground at Lake Moomaw. This trip was 6.5 miles total, but the hike into the campground was fairly challenging. Even though the strenuous hike was a bit of an obstacle, the young men loved this one because they got to swim, fish, and cook a steak fajita dinner!

The third adventure was to The New River Junction campground. Students were enthusiastic about this trip, because they didn't have to hike in, the fishing was outstanding, and they had pizza for dinner! Students and staff did have to ride out a few storms in the vehicles, but at last the rain stopped, allowing for fellowship around the campfire.

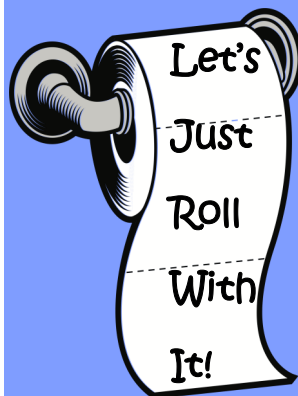
The staff and students have also had seven kayak trips this summer. Six were on the Jackson River, where everyone had a great time paddling, fishing, swimming, and attempting to flip each other over in the boats.

The seventh trip was on the Cowpasture River. Students put the boats in the river at Boys Home teachers Colonel and Katherine Farmer's home and floated to teacher Anita Proffitt's camp. The boys really liked this boating trip because the water was so much warmer than the Jackson River, so they did quite a bit of swimming. At the end, Mrs. Proffitt had a grilled hot dog lunch ready for the group.



Change of Plans in 2020?

No way!



Unfortunately, it's true! 2020 has become a year of change for everyone, and Boys Home is no different.

The best we can do is just roll with it! Due to COVID-19 restrictions for large events and the restrictions put on our venue, we have cancelled the Fundraising Banquet and Silent Auction, in honor of Mr. Wheatley's 35 years of service. It was our hope to raise \$35,000 for Boys Home at that event.

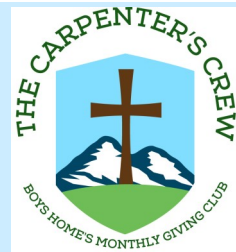
However, we have a new plan!

Donations in honor of Donnie - October 15th & 16th

Two days of giving: On October 15th and 16th, we invite you to call 540-965-7704 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to speak with Mr. Wheatley personally, offer your congratulations to him and pledge an amount towards our \$35,000.00 goal!

"Stick it to Mr. Wheatley!": This fundraiser will allow donors, students, and staff members to stick Mr. Wheatley to the wall with duct tape! More information will be coming soon!

Your
monthly
gift makes
programs
like this
possible.



[www.boyshomeofva.org/
carpenters-crew/](http://www.boyshomeofva.org/carpenters-crew/)
(540) 965-7715

EVENT CANCELLATIONS



Unfortunately, due to continuing concerns about COVID-19, **Church Day** and **Industry Day** have been cancelled. We feel this is the best option to keep our students and community safe.



Why "Navigators?" Because they are the ones leading the way!

Exclusive membership in the Navigators, our Legacy Giving Club, is offered to those who include Boys Home in their estate plans. Members receive special recognition for their thoughtfulness and generosity. Unless instructed otherwise, gifts are made part of the trust fund, which provides shelter, food, clothing, training, and education in perpetuity to the young men at Boys Home.

If you would like to enroll in the Navigators, or learn more about planned gifts and how to make one, please contact Mr. Wheatley at (540) 965-7704, or via email at dewheatley@boyshomeofva.org.

From "Agriculture Ball Queen" to "Navigator"

Planned Giving Profile: Margaret Woolwine

Article by Jim Secrist

Boys Home came into my vocabulary years ago. I was a school guidance counselor at the high school in Buena Vista. There was a young man there who was not doing well. He had some problems, and the high school was not able to give him what he needed. Arrangements were made, and off he went to Boys Home in Covington. I don't recall his name now, but I do clearly remember how much he loved Boys Home and how well he turned out. It was like he went to Boys Home, and a miracle happened! It made all of us stop and take notice of this place called Boys Home of Virginia. I've been an educator all my life, and I see how schools form young people into stable, responsible adults. Thank God for Boys Home.

I grew up in a Christian home and experienced the practical and spiritual strength it has provided through my lifetime. It makes me proud that my gifts are helping Boys Home do a great job educating and preparing the boys for life. The Boys Home newsletters and other messages I read in detail, and I enjoy seeing how my gifts are helping these boys as I see their many accomplishments. It's very heartwarming. Being an educator, I especially appreciate the emphasis that Boys Home is putting on education. Schooling is like money in the bank, and it is such a difference maker in one's life.

Boys Home is included in my trust. The work of Boys Home is so important, and I

am happy to be a part of it. They tell me that makes me a member of "The Navigators," and that suits me fine. I love the fact that my gift will go into perpetuity supporting boys who need a little extra help. Forever is a long time, and it is comforting for me to know that even when I am gone, I will still be helping. I hope more people will take the time to put Boys Home in their wills and estate plans. They will love the peace of mind!



Miss Margaret Woolwine as "The Agriculture Ball Queen" at Virginia Tech in 1955. Her "friends" are prime examples of a first-class beef steer and a top-drawer milk cow. (This photo taken from the front page of a Virginia Tech newsletter from 1955.)



Boys Home
of Virginia

414 Boys Home Road
Covington, Virginia 24426
(540) 965-7700
www.boyshomeofva.org

Change Service Requested

Boys Appeal - Fall 2020

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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

P. Buckley Moss Raffle

Natural Bridge Visitors #169

The setting of *Natural Bridge Visitors #169* 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 has been included in several "Seven Natural Wonders of the World" lists.



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.