

# THE BOYS APPEAL



Boys Home  
of Virginia

NEWS FROM BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA

Summer 2021



# From Executive Director Donnie Wheatley



Dear Friends,

It has been more than a year of working through the pandemic, and life is still a little different than it was before. We've grown accustomed to things like social distancing, wearing masks, frequent sanitization, and eating meals in the cottages rather than the dining hall. Reflecting on the past year, there have certainly been challenges. But at the end of it, students and staff at Boys Home grew together as a community and learned to rely on each other in a new way. We're thankful for that, and we're thankful that Boys Home has been able to maintain the focus on what's most important: providing students with the education, skills, and resources they need to become successful men.

The 2020-2021 school year ended at the end of May, marking our third year as an independent school. Thanks to our small class sizes, we were able to practice social distancing in the space we have, continuing in-person instruction. Students this year were able to take traditional classes alongside practical and character-building classes, such as construction technology, life skills, and personal finance. We are proud to celebrate our seven graduates! Please join us as we wish them all the best in the next stages of their lives.

On a personal note, I plan to step down from my role as executive director of Boys Home by the end of the year. I am thankful for my time at Boys Home, and I am thankful for the opportunity to give back to an organization that means so much to me. Moving forward, I know that Boys Home will continue to make a positive difference in the lives of current and future residents.

Thank you for your generous support through these past months and years. I hope you enjoy this issue of *The Boys Appeal*, knowing that you've been a vital part of making everything possible here at Boys Home. If you'd like more news and stories

about the incredible young men who live on "The Hill," please sign up for our monthly email newsletter at [www.boyshomeofva.org](http://www.boyshomeofva.org) and click on Mailing List at the top of the page.

I hope you are well. Take care, and God bless.

Donnie Wheatley  
Executive Director



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

**Boys Home of Virginia**  
414 Boys Home Road  
Covington, VA 24426  
(540) 965-7700  
[info@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:info@boyshomeofva.org)  
[boyshomeofva.org](http://boyshomeofva.org)



Dr. Donnie E. Wheatley  
Litterarum Humanarum  
Executive Director

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# Upcoming Events and dates to remember

- **JUNE 19** - BOYS HOME ALUMNI MEETING
- **JULY 19** - FIRST DAY OF CLASSES 2021-2022 ACADEMIC YEAR
- **JULY 23-25** - GALILEE EPISCOPAL YOUTH MISSION TRIP TO BOYS HOME
- **AUGUST 1-5** - ST. MICHAEL'S & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH MISSION TRIP TO BOYS HOME
- **OCTOBER 1** - BOYS HOME OPEN HOUSE
- **OCTOBER 29** - P. BUCKLEY MOSS PRINT RAFFLE DRAWING
- **NOVEMBER 6** - THE 5TH ANNUAL BOYS HOME HARVEST HUSTLE
- **NOVEMBER 30** - GIVING TUESDAY
- **DECEMBER 3** - CHRISTMAS QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING



## Open House October 1, 2021

Boys Home of Virginia is hosting an Open House on Friday, October 1 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

More details will be provided at a later date. Stay tuned to our social media channels, newsletter, and Liaison Links for more information.

We are so excited to finally have guests on campus again! We look forward to seeing you in October!

# Celebrating our Seniors



**Ael Nyamsi**

When Ael arrived at Boys Home, he couldn't wait to go home. He didn't do well academically and didn't connect with anyone. Now, he knows that future success includes building relationships and setting goals. He says his success comes from a change in perspective and the disciplines that are taught at Boys Home. Ael has joined the United States Air Force.



**Bailey Stagner**

Bailey is a focused young man with a plan to enter an apprenticeship program as a heating, ventilation, and air conditioning apprentice. He began at Boys Home two years ago and understands the benefits of Boys Home. He credits Mr. Rick Turner in helping him find his direction. Bailey enjoys his quiet time and looks forward to a successful career and peaceful future.



**Christian Sergent**

Christian has joined the United States Army Reserve. He says that the Army will provide him with the resources and stability he needs to plan for his future. Christian also plans to attend Concord University next academic year. His goals include pursuing a career in social work or as a teacher to help young men like him who reside at Boys Home.

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## Cottage Report - A Message from the Seniors

Our time at Boys Home has had its share of ups and downs. We are proud of the extended family we now can call our own and are thankful for all our family outside of Boys Home. It is with mixed emotions that we come to the end of this part of our journey. While many of us came through some serious struggles, some also came for a stronger education in the areas we needed it most. At



**Clifford (CJ)  
Calhoun**

CJ was able to complete his studies a semester early and is currently working full time in the community. He chose to attend Boys Home because he felt he would have better educational opportunities here. CJ attended as a day student, and he looks forward to the next stage in his life. His plans after graduation include starting his own exterior cleaning business.



**Dau Dau**

Dau has been at Boys Home for four years. He has made significant changes to set himself up for success after graduation. Dau has already started his college journey by taking dual enrollment courses at DSLCC and plans to continue his college education there this fall before transferring to JMU. He plans to pursue a career in computer science.



**Philip Neville**

Philip says that he wasn't a good student prior to coming to Boys Home. However, he knew that Boys Home would be the best place for him to complete his high school education and start on his future path. He now has a strong work ethic. Philip is planning to attend Northwest Lineman College in Florida.



**Seth McClelland**

Seth values his time at Boys Home. It has been home to him for more than two years. He has broad interests and plans to earn his degree as a veterinary technician through Penn Foster's online program. He is also taking a mechanics class from Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg to foster his love of automotive work.

any rate, we leave with thankful hearts, fond memories, and deep appreciation to those who were here day in and day out. Thanks to those of you who support Boys Home, making all of our successes possible.

And so, the next part of our journey begins. ~ 2021 Graduates



# Commencement and Awards



The third annual Boys Home commencement exercises took place on Saturday, May 29, 2021. Seven graduates were honored, and awards were presented to staff, instructors, and other Boys Home residents.

The following awards and recognitions were made:

The George Floyd Rogers Citizenship Award, made possible by the Rogers Family

- Christopher Harris

The Michael F. Folland Award, made possible by Beckie Mullen

- Ael Nyamsi

The Harrison Resilience Award, presented by David Harrison

- Joshua Sielatshom
- Ael Nyamsi

The Shama Baggott Award, presented by Edmund Davidson

- Christian Sergent

The Berlin & Frances Lineberry Scholarship, made possible by Berlin Lineberry

- Seth McClelland

Madeline S. Mumford Memorial Scholarship, made possible by St. John's Episcopal Church, Chester, VA

- Philip Neville

The Donald "Pete" Dimick Memorial Scholarship for athletic camp, made possible by Susan Dimick

- Dudi Awol

The Sam Cunningham Award, made possible by Donnie Wheatley

- Dudi Awol

The Barry D. Mays Memorial Award, made possible by Mary Margaret Hogan

- Jude Dostal

The Steven Rogers Memorial Award, made possible by Scott & Pam Massey

- Bereket Morris

The Joseph D. & Hilda Dent Memorial Award, made possible by Mr. I.B. Dent

- Dau Dau

The Jhakee Avant Honorary Scholarship, made possible by Jhakee & Wanda Avant

- Ael Nyamsi

The Matthew Foster Scholarship, made possible by Mr. & Mrs. Terry Emerson

- Philip Neville

The Bill & Lang Wilson Scholarship, made possible by Mr. & Mrs. Wilson

- Dau Dau

The David C. Hall Memorial Award, presented by Sammie Browning

- Jude Dostal

1st Lt. Joshua Charles Hurley Memorial Award, presented by Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Hurley

- Philip Neville

The Boys Home Scholarship through the DSLCC Educational Foundation

- Dau Dau

The Christ Episcopal Church Women in Danville, VA, gave a gift to each of the graduates.

Helping Hands Award

- Joshua Eng

Best Foot Forward Award

- Mulu Slawta

Both presented by the Boys Home Development Department

School Awards

Highest GPA

- Ael Nyamsi

Most Improved

- Nick Rodgers
- Ephy Morris

Most Accomplished

- Nick Frazier

Highest Accelerated Reader

- Sage Custalow

2020 Teacher of the Year

- Louis Sarratt

Houseparent of the Year

- Aaron Smith

Employees with more than 20 years experience:

- Sandra Scruggs
- Lynda Specht
- Brian Jefferson
- Alisa Hayslett
- Jennifer Holstein

Members of the Tae Kwon Do class, Varsity and JV Soccer Teams, and Key Club were also recognized.

Congratulations to the class of 2021 and all of our Boys Home students.







Senior Speaker - Bailey Stagner



Alumni Speaker - Michael Nunnally



John Williams - Board of Trustees



# Navigators - It's More than a Legacy



To say that Mr. C. E. Andrews has been involved with Boys Home for most of his life would be a simplification of his connection to the institution.

As a resident of the Alleghany Highlands, he attended school, played sports, and was friends with several of the students from Boys Home during his youth. One of his best friends growing up was Bill Siple, son of Paul Siple, former Boys Home Interim Executive Director (1973-1974 and 1984-1985).

The connection continued as his mother was employed at Boys Home for a few years. His sister dated and eventually married a Boys Home alumnus, and Mr. Andrews has served on the Board of Trustees.

While he and his family's connection may be more in-depth and stronger than most, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews are quick to share that they have a heart for Boys Home and the good that can be accomplished in the lives of the students served here. Mr. Andrews has seen students who have come from tragic and life-threatening situations grow and transition to people who prosper, positively

influencing the lives of others. "If Boys Home was not there, if these individuals had not gone to Boys Home, the outcome could have been very tragically different."

The Andrews fully embrace and support the mission of Boys Home because of the difference they have seen it make in the lives of others. "We wouldn't support Boys Home if we didn't believe in the mission and didn't fully recognize the positive influence it has. We like the framework and approach of the institution. It makes it easy to give to Boys Home."

The Andrews' decision to become members of the Navigator's Society by naming Boys Home in their estate plan was an easy one. "It's a natural extension of what we are already doing. We give now. We have a heart for Boys Home. We want to ensure that we continue to give back and have a positive impact on the things that are important to us."

Mr. Andrews stated they feel that creating an estate plan is important, not only for them but also for their family. "We want to make things easier for our loved ones. Our wishes are clear, and the plans are already



Jean and C. E. Andrews

in place." They feel that the better prepared one is, the better it is for those whom they love.

Mr. Andrews also went on to share that one of the best things about estate planning is that it has no immediate impact on their lives. "All of these plans will go into effect after we are gone. We can continue to do all the things we love to do and enjoy our lives now."

Plus, they said, "It just feels good to know that you can continue to do good."

To learn more about how you can become a Navigator, please contact Mr. Wheatley at (540) 965-7704, or via email at [dewheatley@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:dewheatley@boyshomeofva.org).



*I may not be here if it weren't for Boys Home.  
It made me the man I am today.*

# Alumni Corner



Doyet Moore came from a very small community in southwestern Virginia. Poverty was prevalent, and aspirations were few. As a child, he had no electricity or running water.

An Episcopal missionary named Margaret Binns came to his community and spent more than a year talking Moore's mother into sending him to Boys Home. "She wanted me to go to Boys Home. Maybe she thought I was different," shared Moore.

Moore remembers the date he arrived – August 2, 1957. He speaks fondly of his time at Boys Home. He learned how to iron, sew, shine shoes, and make beds. He learned discipline and respect – key traits to becoming a mature adult. Moore mentions home – a recurring theme

when he describes Boys Home and one that clearly invokes emotion in Moore. "Boys Home made me what I am today," he says.

When he first arrived, Moore thought it was the worst place ever created. However, he soon learned that it was just different than what he was used to, and there were many positive aspects of life at Boys Home. He got involved in school, sports, scouting, and student government. Moore made lifelong friends and realized the staff of Boys Home were working to help him become the best possible version of himself.

After eight years, Moore graduated from Boys Home and attended Bridgewater College for a year. He soon found himself in Arkansas where he completed his degree at Arkansas State and joined the ROTC while in college. Moore eventually was stationed in Germany, commanding a nuclear warhead facility. After his time in the military, Moore came back to the states and went to work for NCH Corporation, an industrial chemicals firm. Moore has been employed there for nearly 45 years, with more than 40 years as a regional manager.

Among one of the most important lessons he learned while at Boys Home is something that the then Executive Director Burrowes tried to instill in all the young men: It doesn't make any difference what you do when you leave Boys Home, just do your best. Be the best that you can be.

Moore took this idea to heart. He says Boys Home taught him to be disciplined, do his best, be respectful, and became a good citizen. He also tries to share those same lessons with current Boys Home students when he has the opportunity to visit "The Hill." "I think I get more from the experience than the boys do," states Moore.

Moore is currently the Vice President of the Boys Home Alumni Association.



“Easy check in, facilities, course markings (some of the best I have ever seen), very low entry fees, helpful and friendly volunteers. **Great race!**”

“So much about this race is wonderful!”

# Harvest Hustle

Boys Home of Virginia is excited to announce the 5th Annual Boys Home Harvest Hustle 5K, 10K, and Half-Marathon on Saturday, November 6. This year's Harvest Hustle is scheduled to be the biggest and best ever!

We were thankful to be able to host the event in 2020 with 138 participants from all over the United States. We hope to add some special features to the program this year, such as more awards, more fun, and more food.

All three races will begin and end at the Intervale Trailhead of the Jackson River Scenic Trail in Covington, VA. The event includes aid stations along the race routes offering water and Gatorade. T-shirts and participation medals are included for all of the runners, as well as individual pre-packaged snacks and drinks.

Awards will be given for the top three men and women racers overall and top three males and females in each age category. Age categories are: Under 12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, and 70+.

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5 FROM 4:00-6:00 P.M.

- DRIVE-THRU REGISTRATION AT BOYS HOME, 414 BOYS HOME ROAD, COVINGTON, VA 24426

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2021

- 8:30-9:30 A.M. - REGISTRATION & PACKET PICKUP
- 9:30 A.M. - HALF-MARATHON BEGINS
- 9:45 A.M. - 10K RUN BEGINS
- 10:00 A.M. - 5K RUN BEGINS



**Half-Marathon**  
9:30 a.m.  
\$45  
after 9/15 - \$50

**10K**  
9:45 a.m.  
\$30  
after 9/15 - \$35

**5K**  
10:00 a.m.  
\$25  
after 9/15 - \$30

Jackson River Scenic Trail  
1903 Dressler Drive, Covington, VA 24426

Register at [www.runforboyshome.org](http://www.runforboyshome.org)  
For more information, call (540) 965-7707

\*Register by September 15 for discounted rates.  
\*\*Group discounts are also available for running clubs and teams!

**[www.runforboyshome.org](http://www.runforboyshome.org)**

“The organizers and volunteers did an EXCELLENT job!”



**Boys Home Faculty and Staff 2021**

**Together, we are building better futures.**



**Boys Home of Virginia  
P. Buckley Moss Raffle 2021**

**\$5.00 per ticket or \$45.00 for 10 tickets  
Drawing will be October 29, 2021!**

**Print #7 - Autumn On The Farm  
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**Mail coupon and donation or credit card info to:  
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**For more information, call 540-965-7707 or visit  
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**Boys Home**  
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414 Boys Home Road  
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*A Successful Man Has to Start Somewhere...*

## **Boys Home Christmas Quilt Raffle**

**\$5.00 for 1 ticket or \$45.00 for 10 tickets**

**Drawing will be held on Friday, December 3, 2021!**

Win this beautifully detailed, pieced, and appliquéd quilt called BOYS JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN! This quilt was made and donated by Billie Beaudette of Covington, Virginia. It measures 44" X 61" and features six whimsical 3-D snowmen who are looking forward to spending Christmas with you!

For more information, call Melinda at 540-965-7707.



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

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Mastercard Discover

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CSV# \_\_\_\_\_ I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets.

Please return form to: Boys Home of Virginia, 414 Boys Home Road, Covington, VA 24426.