

# THE BOYS APPEAL



*News from Boys Home of Virginia*

**Spring 2022**

## *Congratulations*

### **GRADUATES OF 2022!**





# CHRIS DOYLE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



## BOYS HOME OF VIRGINIA

414 Boys Home Road | Covington, VA 24426

540.965.7700 | [info@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:info@boyshomeofva.org)

Website - [boyshomeofva.org](http://boyshomeofva.org)

Dear Friends,

Greetings from "The Hill!" The excitement I initially felt when I became executive director grows with each passing day. The energy is fed by working with amazing young men and a mission-driven staff. As COVID continues to decline in the local area, we have transitioned back to standard operating procedures and protocols. It is great to see smiling faces again and gather as a community for meals, chapel and assemblies.

We continue to be focused on delivering a proven program that provides students with the structure, encouragement and love needed to become successful men. Our residential program develops a strong sense of responsibility, discipline and community. Academically, Boys Home has an independent school that features small class sizes and individualized instruction. The program and the school working in tandem create an ideal environment for students to achieve their full potentials.

There has been an incredible amount of positive activity on campus over the past several months! A highlight in March was Minimester. See page 11 for more details. Let me share some more student activities with you:

- After a winning basketball season, athletics moved into soccer season. The team had success on the field and achieved a winning record. More importantly, players learned the importance of personal accountability and teamwork.
- The student body attended an inspiring workshop led by Build Smart Institute, exposing the students to opportunities for meaningful careers in the trades. A few weeks later, a group of students went to Build Smart in Roanoke for two full days of carpentry classes and a day applying their skills to a Habitat for Humanity project.
- Current juniors and seniors made college visits to area schools including Radford University, University of Lynchburg and Virginia Tech. They also received counseling on navigating the college application process.
- The highlight of our spiritual life was Holy Week. The week included a Palm Sunday service, the premiere of "The Living Last Supper" play, Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service, stations of the cross hike and a beautiful sunrise service on Easter Sunday. The sunrise service was followed by breakfast, a massive egg hunt and games. It was a spiritually moving week and a great Easter celebration.
- On May 21, we celebrated the graduation of four seniors. We look forward to following them in their next chapter as they depart with a strong foundation from Boys Home.

This summer the students will be busy participating in summer school, recreational and work programs, attending camps and visiting homes. The staff will be engaged in planning for the 2022-2023 school year and attending professional development training. Key initiatives for next year include enhancing the reading program, character education curriculum, athletics and recreation programs and music offerings. We are looking for another great year of transforming lives!

Onward,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chris Doyle".

Chris Doyle  
Executive Director

## Mr. Chris Doyle, M.Ed., MBA

*Executive Director*

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

**President:** Mr. John Williams

**Vice President:** Mr. Perry Williams

**Treasurer:** Mr. Kenneth Robison

The Rt. Rev. Mark Bourlakas | Bishop  
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

The Rev. Canon Mark Furlow | Bishop Representative  
Diocese of Southwestern Virginia

The Rt. Rev. Susan Haynes | Bishop  
Diocese of Southern Virginia

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Ms. Kathy Ingram

Mr. Robert Miller

Ms. Ann Patterson

Mr. Dale Reed

The Rev. Chris Roussell

Mr. Bernard Syme

Mr. Ramon Williams

Mr. Robert Mills  
*Alumni Representative*

*Stay up to date!*

Contact Sandra Scruggs to receive the monthly newsletters about campus happenings or the spiritual life at Boys Home.

**540.965.7715**

**sfscruggs@boyshomeofva.org**

## Upcoming Events

- **JUNE 25** | Alumni Meeting
- **JUNE 27 - JULY 2** | Galilee Episcopal Church Sports Camp at Boys Home
- **AUGUST 1** | First Day of Classes 2022-2023 Academic Year
- **SEPTEMBER 6** | Donor Appreciation Drawing (See page 11)
- **OCTOBER 31** | P. Buckley Moss Print Raffle Drawing
- **NOVEMBER 5** | The 6th Annual Boys Home Harvest Hustle

## Harvest Hustle November 5, 2022

Boys Home's 6th annual Harvest Hustle will offer a 5K, 10K and half-marathon! The race will start and end at the Intervale Trailhead of the Jackson River Scenic Trail in Covington. For more information, please visit the race website at [www.runforboyshome.org](http://www.runforboyshome.org) or contact Melinda.

Looking for a way to advertise your business? Boys Home offers event sponsorships at all levels. For more information, contact Melinda.

**MELINDA NICHOLS**

**[mnichols@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:mnichols@boyshomeofva.org) | 540.965.7707**

## The Navigators Boys Home's Legacy Giving Club

Exclusive membership in The Navigators is offered to donors who include Boys Home in their estate plans. As a member, you will receive special recognition for your thoughtfulness and generosity. Unless you instruct us otherwise, your gift will be made part of our trust fund for the students and will go on in perpetuity providing shelter, food, clothing, training and education. Your gift helps each student in achieving the Boys Home mission and vision. Each student is striving toward becoming a productive member of society and positively influencing those around them.

Contact Chris Doyle for more information.

**540.965.7704 | [cdoyle@boyshomeofva.org](mailto:cdoyle@boyshomeofva.org)**



# Meet Class of 2022



## NICK SPOSATO

"I came, I saw, I conquered."

-Julius Caesar



In January 2022, Nick began his first semester at Radford University. Nick is majoring in cybersecurity. As technology is moving digital, he believes this will be a growing field. He wants to leave behind a legacy of a hardworking student, and while at Boys Home often focused that dedication on time in the gym. The biggest area where his hard work paid off was academically. When Nick arrived at Boys Home, he had a GPA of 1.7. He successfully graduated in May with a 2.9 GPA!



## SINCERE PETERS

"Why greatness?  
Why is goodness not enough?"

-Essel/The Green Knight



After graduating from Boys Home, Sincere plans to attend the nursing program at Dabey S. Lancaster Community College. After completion, he will continue his education with aspirations of becoming a pediatrician. As his picture indicates, Sincere has a positive and vibrant personality. While at Boys Home, he played basketball and soccer. He wanted his Boys Home legacy to be one of joy and spreading love.

A successful man has to start somewhere, and for many, that place is Boys Home of Virginia.  
Congratulations Class of 2022! The Boys Home community wishes you the best!

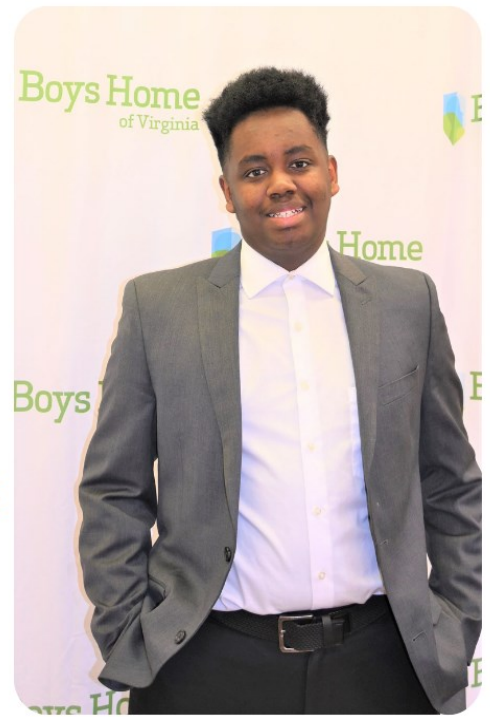




# BEREKET MORRIS

"If you run into a wall, don't turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it."

—Michael Jordan



After graduation, Bereket will return home to Dayton, Ohio. He has aspirations of attending a trade school to become an electrician. He describes himself as laid back but focused. Bereket wants to leave a legacy of a role model and leader at Boys Home. His leadership position in Sams Cottage allowed him to lead by example. In addition, Bereket was the Key Club president where he accumulated one hundred hours of service helping others, more than any other student in Boys Home's history.



# CHRIS HARRIS

"I think the greatest way to learn is to learn by someone's example."

—Tobey Maguire



Chris is currently living in Chester, Virginia, and is preparing for trade school. He has aspirations of attending a program specializing in HVAC or diesel mechanics. Chris wants to leave a legacy of leadership at Boys Home. He has been a positive influence on campus. Chris stepped in and offered writing help to a student suffering from psoriasis. He believes in leading by example and stepping in to assist whenever he is needed.

***Our Vision - A community that inspires young men to positively impact those around them.***

***Our Mission - To help each student strive toward becoming a productive member of society by developing his potential - spiritually, mentally, physically and socially.***



# Commencement and Awards

The fourth annual Boys Home commencement exercise took place on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Boys Home was proud to celebrate the graduation of four seniors. In addition, awards were presented to staff, instructors and other Boys Home residents.

The following awards and recognitions were made:

Teacher of the Year

**Linda Powell**

1st Lt. Joshua Charles Hurley Memorial Award

**Bereket Morris**

Stephen Rogers Memorial Award

**Lynn Bell**

Houseparent of the Year

**Marie Mason**

Joseph D. & Hilda C. Dent Memorial Award

**Bereket Morris**

Highest GPA FOR SENIOR

**Chris Harris**

**Nicolas Sposato**

The Sam Cunningham Award

**Mulu Slawta**

The Marie Lendrum Think About Award

**Skylar Pruitt**

**Bereket Morris**  
**Chris Harris**

Donald "Pete" Dimick Memorial Scholarship

**Tim Kengni**

Key Club Outstanding Service Awards The Bill & Lang Wilson Scholarship Award

**Outstanding leadership – Bereket Morris**  
**Outstanding participation – Josh Eng**

**Sincere Peters**

Madeline S. Mumford Memorial Scholarship

Leadership in Action Award

**Sincere Peters**

The Matthew Foster Honorary Scholarship

**Sincere Peters**

**Bereket Morris**

Berlin & Frances Lineberry Scholarship

E.C.W. Diocese of Southern VA Senior Gift

**Bereket Morris**  
**Chris Harris**  
**Sincere Peters**  
**Nicolas Sposato**

Jhakee Avant Honorary Scholarship

**Chris Harris**

**Sincere Peters**

The Shama Baggott Award

The Jesus Loves You Scholarship

**Bereket Morris**  
**Chris Harris**  
**Sincere Peters**  
**Nicolas Sposato**

**Akon Deng**

The Harrison Resilience Award

Boys Home Scholarship - DSLCC

**Sincere Peters**

**Lynn Bell**

**Chris Silvas-Holguin**

Kiwanis - Paul Siple Memorial Scholarship

**Sincere Peters**

The Michael Folland Award

**Bereket Morris**

The Falling Springs Ruritan Club Scholarship

**Sincere Peters**

The George Floyd Rogers Citizenship Award

**Bereket Morris**







Marie Mason - Houseparent of the Year



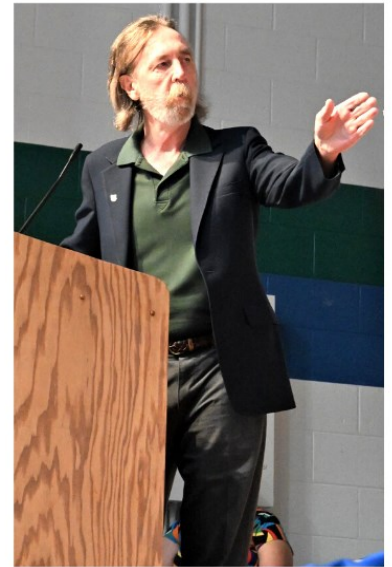
Alumnus Bobby Trice presented Leadership in Action Award



Seniors awarded the Jesus Loves You Scholarship



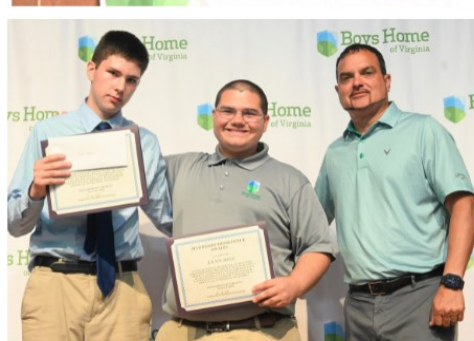
Senior Speaker - Sincere Peters



Alumni Speaker - Danny Cale



Bereket awarded 1st Lt. Joshua Charles Hurley Memorial Award



Sincere received DSLCC Boys Home Scholarship



# SENIOR CHALLENGE

It was a Tuesday evening in early May and the night was filled with rain, thunder and a chill was in the air. While most of the Boys Home students were fast asleep in their cottages, four seniors were camping on Lick Mountain. They were embarking on the two-day senior challenge. The tradition, created by alumni, began in 2018. The purpose was to provide the seniors with an adventure-filled bonding experience that would test their strength emotionally, physically and mentally. A series of tasks are executed over two days, each with a specific purpose. A combination of alumni and staff assist with the execution of the challenge. At completion, each participant is left with a sense of accomplishment and memories that will last a lifetime.

Boys Home is situated on 1,200 acres of land. The mountainous landscape provides the perfect backdrop for this physically challenging event. A group picture was captured at the beginning of the challenge, and that photo is placed in a time capsule that is buried on the mountain for the next class to locate. There is a second opportunity for the current class to leave their mark on the mountain. Since the origin of the challenge, a white painted rock lies at the top of Lick Mountain. After choosing their mascot, the participating class paints their mascot on the rock and signs their names. The class of 2022 chose a phoenix. As the seniors climb the mountain during the challenge, they are given a series of Boys Home history questions and a manual containing the answers. The goal is to educate seniors on the rich history of Boys Home before they exit the program at graduation. The next task required survival skills. During the "disabled truck" task, participants change a flat tire, check fluid levels and push the truck uphill. The "bench-build-and-carry" task tested their strength, trade skills and teamwork. After successfully building a bench marked with their graduating year, each team of two carried their bench back to the lodge on Lick Mountain. The benches will be used by future Boys Home students and staff for activities such as the Easter sunrise service.

The senior challenge aids in transitioning seniors from current students to future alumni, and from boys to men. Boys Home alumni often return to assist with the challenge. As the seniors prepare to depart, the alumni motto rings true: "Few have lived as we." Each student who arrives at Boys Home has a unique story. Boys Home provides a proven path to success for students who need a new way forward. It is a place for them to call **home**. The first picture below tells the story and the essence of Boys Home. The emotion felt by everyone present at this moment was tremendous. As the staff and students cheered, four exhausted seniors finished the senior challenge together, hand in hand and bonded as brothers. It is visual proof of the success that occurs every year at Boys Home of Virginia.





# ALUMNI CORNER | DONNIE COSTIGAN | A RETURN HOME

As a reader you may ask yourself, "Is the Boys Home of Virginia program actually successful?" Although the organization dates back to 1906, what actually happens to students after they depart from Boys Home? Meet Donnie Costigan. Originally from Colonial Heights, Virginia, nine-year-old Donnie arrived at Boys Home in 1987. Prior to his arrival, problems at home began after his parents divorced and his father remarried. The blending of the two families was unsuccessful. That transition left Donnie and his sister Cindy on the outside of a new family. As time passed, there was no longer a place at "home" for Donnie.

Boys Home provided Donnie with the next chapter in his life, where Donnie would stay through 1995. Upon arrival, he had the clothes he was wearing but brought very few personal items. As a child, Donnie describes himself as a "mischievous rugrat." Eventually, he discovered he had a passion for sports. He played football, basketball and baseball. Donnie excelled in basketball for the Boys Home Indians. He earned the record of second all-time leading scorer with 1,687 points. Donnie states, "Sports kept me out of trouble and taught me the valuable life lesson of winning and losing on and off the court." He also found a family with Executive Director Donnie, Mary, Todd and Darren Wheatley, who welcomed him with open arms. "It was like growing up with brothers," is how Donnie would later describe his relationship with Todd and Darren.

While a student, Donnie was vocal about wanting to be known on campus as an individual, not just an athlete. In 1994 and 1995, he received the George Floyd Rogers Award. That award is given to a young man who by his spirit, example and outstanding citizenship exemplifies the ideals of Boys Home. Additionally, in 1995 he received the Michael Folland Award for showing compassion, leadership and unselfishness. After graduation from Alleghany High School in 1995, Donnie continued his basketball career at Bluefield University, a division II school. Donnie successfully graduated from Bluefield University in 2000 with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

After college graduation, Donnie's path led him to work at Roanoke Valley Juvenile Center for several years. In 2003, he returned to work at Boys Home. While at Boys Home, he has served as a houseparent, intake and evaluation manager, campus life coordinator and team leader. Although he enjoyed those roles, he felt called to give back more to Boys Home. In February 2022, he was promoted to director of athletics and recreation. An initial goal in his new role is to move Boys Home into an independent sports league and expand the variety of sports offered on campus. There will also be a focus on providing an opportunity for every student interested in sports to be able to play in some fashion. He is ideal for the role as an alumnus with a true passion for sports. Donnie is married to Robin Costigan, and together, they share three grandchildren. Donnie has a son, Hampton, and two stepchildren, Tayler and JJ. In an interview during his senior year of high school, he stated, "Boys Home provided me with an education, encouragement and showed me the true meaning of *home*."

Is the Boys Home program a success? Donnie Costigan is an individual who exemplifies that a successful man has to start somewhere, and for Donnie and many others, that place is Boys Home of Virginia.







Front row (left/right): Sincere, Pastor Anne Grizzle and Michael  
Back row (left/right): Skylar and Hunter

# Spring Baptism



Sincere prepares for his baptism in Dunlap Creek.  
The water was cold!

On May 1, four Boys Home students made the decision to follow Christ and were baptized in Dunlap Creek. A value instilled in all students is a Godly life that is Christ-centered. The students are required to attend chapel weekly, led by Pastor Anne Grizzle. In addition, scripture and a prayer is offered before each meal. However, the decision to be baptized is a choice of the individual student. Senior Sincere Peters offered a testimony regarding his decision during chapel on May 16. He stated, "Although students are required to attend chapel at Boys Home, I have an individual relationship with God. I choose to nurture that relationship and recommend the same for you. He has seen me through all of my struggles and led me to this moment." Sincere offered a powerful message to current students and perhaps led his peers closer to Christ. The Boys Home community is thrilled to see the spiritual life on campus continue to grow.

## SUMMER WISH LIST

- Navy blue blazers, long sleeve white button-up shirts and khaki pants (boys and mens sizes)
  - NEW pillows
  - Boxes of tissues
  - Red pens
- AAA, AA and 9-volt batteries
  - Jump drives
- Composition notebooks
  - 3-ring binders
  - Expo markers
- Shampoo and body wash
- Combs and hair picks
- Liquid body wash



The executive director wears his coaching hat for a pep talk to the spring soccer team.



Students get hands-on experience with a Habitat for Humanity project in Roanoke, VA.



Juniors and seniors visit Liberty University to tour the campus.

## FARM WISH LIST

- Shovels
- Pitch forks
  - Hoes
- Gravel rakes
  - Leaf rakes
- Manure forks
- Safety glasses
- 18 in. chainsaw



Nick Rogers portrays Jesus in the closing of "The Living Last Supper" play.



# MINIMESTER

The students and staff enjoyed Minimester in March. The week featured morning enrichment classes in a variety of subjects including leadership, art, woodworking, novels in film, driver's education and home economics. Each afternoon consisted of fun activities such as basketball, golf, tennis, martial arts, hiking, equine and paintball.

Several students enjoyed field trips to Luray Caverns and The National Gallery of Art.

The entire community enjoyed an adventure-filled week.



Michael taking a break during the equine program



A basketball clinic with Donnie Costigan



Students explored Luray Caverns.



Leadership class with Monroe Farmer

## *Boys Home of Virginia*

### 2022 DONOR APPRECIATION DRAWING

Any donations made from July 1 through August 31 will be entered to win this beautiful handmade wooden charcuterie board, made and donated by Gary Woods.

**Drawing will be held September 6!**

For more information, please call 540.965.7707 or visit [boyshomeofva.org](http://boyshomeofva.org).







**Boys Home**  
of Virginia

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

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## Boys Appeal | Spring 2022

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



### Boys Home of Virginia P. Buckley Moss Raffle 2022

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

Print #140 - Concord Covered Bridge  
Framed by Loving Art & Frame  
of Covington, VA.

Drawing will be October 31, 2022!



**Boys Home**  
of Virginia

For more information, call 540-965-7707  
or visit [www.boyshomeofva.org](http://www.boyshomeofva.org)!

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I enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ tickets.

**Mail coupon and donation  
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**Boys Home of Virginia  
Attn: Melinda Nichols  
414 Boys Home Rd.  
Covington, VA 24426**

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